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30 Marcel Guigal (left) and son Philippe

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White de l'Orée 2020  
98 POINTS, \$449



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# Love the La La's

**F**or our cover story in this issue, Kristen Bieler, senior editor and lead taster on the wines of France's Rhône Valley, visited Philippe Guigal and his family at their winery and labyrinth of underground cellars in Ampuis.

Philippe is the son of Marcel and grandson of Etienne Guigal, the namesake of family-owned wine business E. Guigal. While the Guigals own estates throughout the Rhône Valley, including in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Tavel, and also source grapes for their popular Côtes du Rhône, the family is deeply rooted in the Northern Rhône appellation of Côte-Rôtie.

It is in Côte-Rôtie that Etienne first set his sights on La Mouline, a steep, terraced vineyard of old Syrah vines. Coupled with the family's subsequent single-vineyard cuvées of La Landonne and La Turque, the three Guigal bottles pictured on our cover are together known as the "La La" wines and are among the most coveted trophy wines from the Rhône. The 2019 cuvées, the current vintage release, achieved two 96-point scores and a 97 in recent *Wine Spectator* blind tastings, once again affirming their reputation for excellence and collectability.

In contrast to these lavish wines, which retail for around \$700 each, Bieler found the hardworking Guigal family to be humble about their accomplishments. "What I find as impressive as their success is their reputation throughout France. Friends, competitors and neighbors not only admire and respect them, but feel a genuine fondness for the Guigal family. Their integrity and humility are second to none."

Indeed, the producers of the Rhône are collectively indebted to the Guigals for laboring to raise the prestige of the region across many decades. In tasting nearly 650 wines for our annual Rhône Valley report (beginning on page 46), Bieler found a wide range of quality across the 2021 vintage, which was fraught with challenges, including spring frost, rain and cool weather. She rates the overall vintage 87 in the North and 88 in the South.

A vintage like this requires selectivity in buying, but bright spots do exist among winemakers who declassified fruit to bolster their lesser wines or practiced highly selective sorting. The best wines show elegance, and optimism remains for many of the top producers who have yet to release their 2021s.

**T**he 2021 vintage delivered challenges of a different nature in Washington state, where senior editor and lead taster Tim Fish chronicles the hottest growing season on record. However, his initial tastings are encouraging, with a projected vintage rating of 90–93 and a number of vibrant Rhône-style red blends and Syrahs topping the list.

Beginning on page 80, Fish profiles Yakima native and screen actor Kyle MacLachlan, who is also a hands-on wine producer.



His Washington label, Pursued By Bear, has earned the admiration of fellow winemakers and consistent scores of 90 points or higher in *Wine Spectator*'s blind tastings.

Finally, I'd like to direct your attention to an exciting update from Ireland and the world of whiskey. The current renaissance taking place in Ireland has resulted in scores of new and innovative distilleries. At the same time, veteran producers like Bushmills and Jameson are upping the ante with luxury whiskeys aged in excess of 20, 30 and even 40 years. Jonny McCormick, contributing editor and senior taster for our sibling magazine *Whisky Advocate*, has rounded up some of the superpremium pours that may change your perception of this spirit.

I hope you enjoy this issue and share it with your friends.

Marvin R. Shanken  
Editor and Publisher



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## Wine Trapped in Retailer Bankruptcy

BY PETER HELLMAN

In a section of a Napa Valley warehouse, more than half a million bottles of wine rested on pallets stacked 30 feet high until last month, when workers slowly began sorting through them. Every bottle was purchased by customers of Underground Cellar, an Internet retailer boasting 24,000 clients. Among a variety of perks, Underground Cellar promised it would store wine for free until customers requested delivery.

But last April, one of Underground Cellar's lenders called in an \$8 million loan, pushing the firm into bankruptcy. All that stored wine, instead of belonging to the firm's customers (who had already paid for it), abruptly shifted to the control of a court-appointed trustee. That set up an ugly legal fight.

Underground Cellar was founded by Jeff Shaw, 38, with a tempting promise: Buy wines at good prices and you might get better wine than you paid for. A company subsidiary acquired wines in bulk purchases from wineries, distributors and auctions. It then packaged the wines by themes. The firm attracted customers with a twist—they might get upgraded to wines worth more than what they paid, including exclusive cult wines like Harlan, Bond and Screaming Eagle.

Shaw was removed as CEO of Underground Cellar by its board in March 2022. He says the board was looking for a “moonshot, maybe even being the next Snapchat.” A new CEO was brought in, and the \$8 million loan was secured from a large financial firm called TriplePoint Capital. (Neither TriplePoint's CEO nor its counsel responded to request for comment on this story.)

The company had been doing well during the pandemic, when people were drinking more at home. But last April, a message first appeared atop the company's homepage stating that it had “shut down for all future ordering and shipping.”

The loss of the right to their wine did not sit well with many customers. “I want to clearly state that the stored goods are my property,” one of the disgruntled customers told a Delaware bankruptcy court judge at a hearing in October.

“Having paid for something is not the same as owning it,” retorted a lawyer for TriplePoint. Until the stored wine was physically delivered to purchasers, TriplePoint argued, it was still owned by the debtor's

estate. As such, the wine was subject to TriplePoint's lien on the assets of the bankrupt firm.

The trustee's original plan had been to sell Underground Cellar's assets (negligible except for wine) to Liquid Lotus, a new entity formed by Shaw. The cash portion of Shaw's offer was \$600,000. Shaw agreed to allow all Underground Cellar customers to recover their wine free of charge. But then several other potential buyers stepped in, ready to pay more. That meant the trustee was obligated to conduct an auction. TriplePoint filed a winning bid of almost \$5 million. Only \$500,000 of that bid was cash—the rest is a “credit bid” of \$4.5 million, a portion of the unpaid loan.

Initially, TriplePoint floated a plan requiring customers to pay a hefty 30% surcharge over a wine's suggested retail price, plus shipping costs, before releasing it. Customers appealed to the trustee. In the testy battle that followed, TriplePoint agreed to reduce its surcharge to 21% of the actual price paid by customers for their wine. All requests to buy back customer wine had to be received by email or postmarked by Dec. 8. After that, the wine belonged to TriplePoint. Many customers complained about stiff shipping fees. As of January, workers were scrambling to try and fulfill the orders they had received.

Had Jeff Shaw won back the company he created, he says his ultimate goal was to “rebuild the brand and its community of wine buyers.” Instead, he is now just another customer with wine stranded in the warehouse—“about 50 cases, mostly Napa Valley Cabernet.” Will he pay 21% of their value, plus fees, to retrieve them? Shaw thought a moment before responding, “I don't know if I'll even bother to do that.” □



Underground Cellar's founder Jeff Shaw, seen here in 2017, was pushed out of the company in 2022.



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# Allegrini Family Divides Wine Company

One of Italy's top wine families is dividing its company in two as a new generation plays a larger role.

The Allegrini family, one of the leading names in Amarone wine, is restructuring its estates and companies in Veneto's Valpolicella region and Tuscany's Bolgheri and Montalcino areas. Once the arrangement is finalized, brothers Francesco, Giovanni and Matteo Allegrini will acquire majority holdings of the Allegrini estate in Valpolicella and its négociant label, Corte Giara, managing the companies with their cousin Silvia Allegrini.

Their aunt, Marilisa Allegrini, and her daughters Carlotta and Caterina Allegrini, will shift their winemaking focus to Tuscany, retaining ownership of Poggio al Tesoro in Bolgheri and Poggio San Polo in Montalcino. They will also continue to run the family's chief hospitality operation, the Villa della Torre luxury hotel in Fumane, Valpolicella.

It's a dramatic separation in a premier wine family, and reaching an agreement was challenging. "The choice to take a different path from that which was traced historically by the Allegrini brand was not easy," said Marilisa, "especially on a sentimental level."

"For some time now, my brothers Giovanni and Matteo, and myself, have embarked on a journey that has formalized with the acquisition



From left: Matteo, Silvia, Giovanni and Francesco Allegrini



Marilisa Allegrini (right) with her daughters, Carlotta (left) and Caterina

of the majority of Allegrini and Corte Giara—an important step, born with the aim of ensuring a solid future and an innovative push to the companies, driven by our enthusiasm and based on significant foundations built over time," said Francesco Allegrini.

The surviving senior family member, Marilisa has dedicated four decades to growing Allegrini's production, sales, name recognition and overall success. Following the death of her father, Giovanni, in 1983 at just 63 years old, a young Marilisa worked alongside her brothers: Walter, who died unexpectedly in 2003, and Franco, who succumbed to cancer in early 2022. Silvia is Walter's daughter; Francesco, Giovanni and Matteo are Franco's sons.

The company produces more than 300,000 cases of wine annually from its Veneto and Tuscany estates, with annual sales of more than 30 million euros.

In addition to the wine estates in Tuscany, the Villa della Torre property includes 40 acres of vineyards. Marilisa also owns 25 acres in Veneto's white wine-producing Lugana appellation. "So my family company—me with [my daughters] Carlotta and Caterina, we will have plenty of things to do," she said.

—Alison Napjus

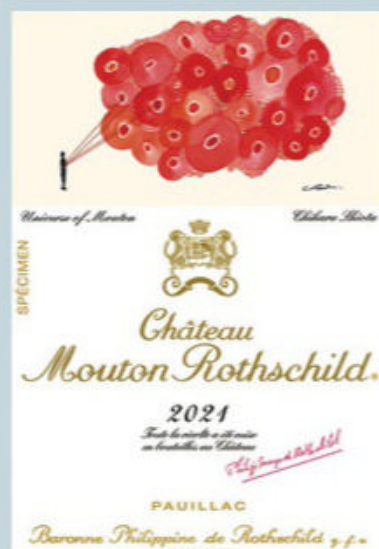
## Mouton Rothschild Lets the 2021 Vintage Soar

Château Mouton Rothschild has unveiled the artwork for its 2021 label, featuring a painting by award-winning artist Chiharu Shiota. The art depicts the silhouette of a single human figure holding strings attached to an exuberant floating cluster of what could be balloons or grapes, evoking the fragile balance between nature and humans.

"The four lines connecting the human to the environment represent the four seasons—winter, spring, summer, autumn—and all the emotions linked to them—solitude, hope, achievement," said Shiota. "It is like preserving the memory of the year in the wine. I find this very fascinating because I also believe that the objects that surround us accumulate our memories and existence."

Shiota was born in Japan and currently lives in Berlin. Her work has been displayed in leading art institutions around the world, including the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the National Museum of Asian Art at the Smithsonian, the National Museum of Art in Osaka and the Power Station of Art in Shanghai. "When I visited Château Mouton Rothschild, I was very inspired by their relationship with nature. They depend on the weather and do not interfere with Mother Nature. They accept the conditions in which the grapes grow. I think Mouton is holding onto the balance of human and nature."

—Suzanne Mustacich



Chiharu Shiota



# Palm Beach Food & Wine Festival Dazzles With Sips and Sunshine



More than 5,000 food and wine lovers attended the festival, which included 26 events across four days in sunny South Florida.

**BY JEFFERY LINDENMUTH**

Sunshine and fine wine were on the menu as top names from the world of food and wine gathered for the 16th annual Palm Beach Food & Wine Festival. Founded in 2007 by David Sabin and Lindsay Autry, the festival has grown steadily and marks another big leap forward with its first year in partnership with *Wine Spectator*.

This year's festival took place Dec. 7–10 and attracted more than 5,000 attendees across 26 world-class events at prestigious venues including the Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach, The Breakers, Marcello's La Sirena, Café Boulud, Buccan and more.

An annual highlight, the Grand Tasting presented by The Palm Beaches, attracted more than 2,000 revelers to the Palm Beach County Convention Center, where they were greeted by delicious bites and sumptuous sips from more than 50 restaurants and 64 wineries, each pouring a wine rated 90 points or higher in by *Wine Spectator* editors in their blind tastings.

The showcased wines spanned 10 countries. Among the many gems were Bodega Numanthia Toro Termanthia 2015, Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2013, Château Pichon Baron Pauillac 2018, Diamond Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Volcanic Hill 2019, Kistler Chardonnay Sonoma Mountain McCrea Vineyard Athearn Estate 2020 and Quinta do Noval Vintage Port 2018.

The event also gave guests the opportunity to meet some of the amazing people behind the outstanding wines. Among the many wine-makers in attendance was Gianlorenzo Neri from Casanova di Neri, pouring his Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova 2018. "I think it is a very nice and entertaining format," he said as music pulsed in the background. "It's not just a tasting but an experience."

*Wine Spectator* subscribers Bob and Kathy Schlesinger traveled from Philadelphia to attend the festival, including the Grand Tasting. "It's been a surprise for me to see how upscale the wineries are here. Most of the time you just don't see that at this type of event," said Kathy while sampling two of the California Pinot Noirs on hand, bottlings from Bouchaine Vineyards and Merry Edwards Winery.

Bill Terlato, CEO of Terlato Wine Group and Terlato Wines, divided his time at the tasting among several wineries from his portfolio, including California's Sanford and Chimney Rock, and Lanson Champagne, which poured its 2012 vintage.

"I didn't know what to expect, but there are a lot of very knowledgeable people here," Terlato said. "And the food is really exceptional. You can tell the chefs are very excited to show their expertise." Delectable bites included something for all tastes, from sushi to truffled grilled cheese and Korean spare ribs to beet tartare.

Great food has been the cornerstone of the event since its founding, and over the four days of the festival, guests had the chance to attend numerous lunches and dinners with some of the world's most





Top restaurants served up small plates



The Grand Tasting at Palm Beach County Convention Center



Festival co-founder David Sabin (left) with Hazel and Marvin R. Shanken



Gianlorenzo Neri from Montalcino's Casanova di Neri (right) with a guest

renowned chefs, including Daniel Boulud, Marc Forgione, Stephanie Izard, Alon Shaya, Mason Hereford and Michelle Bernstein, to name a few.

Chefs from out of town partnered with local restaurants for the meals, allowing guests to see collaborations such as Boulud joining chef Marcello Fiorentino in the kitchen at the *Wine Spectator* Grand Award-winning restaurant Marcello's La Sirena for a blockbuster dinner.

The Grand Tasting provided a bold finale to the weekend's festivities. "We have decades of experience in building signature wine events such as the New York Wine Experience," said Marvin R. Shanken, editor and publisher of *Wine Spectator*, as he attended the event. "I see here great potential to bring a new group of consumers to fine wine in a way that is fresh and fun for everyone."

Bringing live entertainment to the stage were two competitions—a Mixology Contest and the Grand Chef Throwdown presented by

Creekstone Farms. Jenna Crum, a mixologist at Florie's at the Four Seasons, won the cocktail battle. And chef Diego Suero of Honeybelle, a restaurant at PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, took home the Throwdown prize.

***"I see great potential to bring a new group of consumers to fine wine in a way that is fresh and fun."***—MARVIN R. SHANKEN

A portion of ticket sales went to the designated charity for the event—the Els for Autism Foundation. Co-founded by Shanken, Ernie Els and Liezl Els in 2009, the foundation operates the Els Center of Excellence, a world-class, 26-acre campus and learning center in Jupiter, Fla., for individuals with autism. The festival raised approximately \$50,000 for the charity.

It also raised \$25,000 for the Robert Irvine Foundation, which benefits military families and first responders, and \$10,000 for Season to Share, a community program that helps families in need in Florida's Palm Beach and Martin counties.

The 17th annual Palm Beach Food & Wine Festival will take place Dec. 12–15, 2024. □



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# Jasper Hill Farm: An American Original

BY DAVID GIBBONS

In 1998, Andy and Mateo Kehler, then in their late 20s, bought an old farm way up north in Greensboro, Vermont.

Then they hatched a plan.

“Andy and I had a two-year conversation, and what we arrived at was ‘meaningful work in a place we love,’” recalls Mateo, now 54, one year his brother’s senior. Jasper Hill Farm, which was named after a previous owner and lay dormant, is not far from Lake Caspian, where their family has summered since 1924.

Though five other local dairy farms failed the same year, the Kehlrs chose farmhouse cheesemaking as their vehicle. They sold their first batch in mid-2003 and quickly won accolades as up-and-comers in the American artisan movement. A contract with the large farmer-owned coop Cabot to age and market its clothbound Cheddar soon followed.

In their first two decades, the Kehlrs cemented Jasper Hill’s reputation as an industry leader. And they took giant steps toward achieving their dream of reviving the local economy: Now the largest employer in Greensboro, with a staff of about 75, Jasper Hill supports six small area dairies, paying them a premium for their milk to supplement the output of its own 200 cows.

Jasper Hill’s lineup of American originals to compete with their European counterparts delivers on its motto: “a taste of place.” Perhaps most impressive is the Kehlrs’ knack for not only launching delicious new cheeses but continually improving on enduring favorites.

Though relatively large for a farmstead, Jasper Hill exhibits a characteristic of smaller industry colleagues: Its cheeses consistently proffer rich, fundamentally sweet and mild yet persistent flavors of fresh farm milk and cream, with added notes of earthiness and grassiness. This reflects the Kehlrs’ focus on pasture management.

“We crop almost 1,000 acres,” explains Zoe Brickley, the farm’s director of communications and e-commerce. “We don’t own all of it, but we’re able to be good stewards of our local landscape, so we can get a better feed product and avoid having to truck in a lesser one.” To up their pasture game, they pursue regenerative strategies such as carbon sequestration, soil-building and greater plant diversity.

In 2016, the Kehlrs initiated a microbiology program based on studies of their cheeses’ rinds by Drs. Rachel Dutton and Benjamin Wolfe (see “Rind Me Up: Turophilic Microbiology,” Sept. 30, 2017, issue). Dutton gave them a gene sequencer to identify exact strains of microbes. “It allows us to harness our *terroir* in a less chaotic way,” explains Brickley.



Andy (left) and Mateo Kehler with their new Comté vats



Andy Kehler handling curds



Part of the Jasper Hill herd

Their response to the pandemic was typically bold: In 2021, they expanded their on-site creamery, doubling down on production. Since 2019, Jasper Hill’s annual output of raw milk cheeses has nearly tripled from 160,000 to 470,000 pounds.

As part of this expansion, they salvaged copper-lined vats from a Comté-maker and connected them to an automated curd-handling system, which mimics traditional techniques while eliminating much of the backbreaking labor. One of the first batches of a new cheese made in those vats, Whitney, won Best in Show at the 2022 American Cheese Society gathering—a rapid ROI to say the least.

Augmenting the new creamery, they built a kitchen to propagate their own starter cultures and rennets, another method of incorporating indigenous microflora to maximize flavor potential that’s rare among U.S. cheesemakers. “To me, it’s the coolest and most legit thing we’ve done in the past few years,” says Brickley.

“These are all investments in the tools that enable us to push our quality to the next level,” says Mateo Kehler. “Deliciousness and qual-





Jasper Hill's on-site "Green Machine" waste management and nutrient recovery facility (left) and creamery (right)

ity are our only competitive advantages. Focusing on deliciousness is the most important aspect of what we do."

This spring brings the launch of two new cheeses—Caspian, a French tomme style, and Withersbrook Blue, which is dosed with a Québécois-style hard ice cider. A recent tasting of a Withersbrook prototype showed it to be unique, with stellar potential. Meanwhile, a Caspian preview

was another highlight: With a delightful semisoft consistency and smooth, fudgy texture, it delivered a dollop of lactic tang balanced by pleasant chalky notes, some earthy hay/straw ones and hints of fried onions. Meanwhile, its rind gave off some intriguing raisinlike aromas and a whiff of wet autumn leaves. (For more info, go to [jasperhillfarm.com](http://jasperhillfarm.com).)

*David Gibbons is co-author of Mastering Cheese.*

## A TASTE OF JASPER HILL FARM

**1 ALPHA TOLMAN** (*raw cow's milk Alpine-style; \$17 for 8 ounces*) Some lurking barnyardy funk is wonderfully encapsulated in sweet lactic and nutty flavors, resolving to a distinctly Gruyere-like aftertaste.

**2 BAYLEY HAZEN** (*raw cow's milk natural-rind blue; \$18 for 8 ounces*) To rival the finest Stilton, elegant and restrained, with plenty of alkaline bite and saltiness balanced by bitter-sweet, sweet cream, herbaceous and nutty notes.

**3 CABOT CLOTHBOUND CHEDDAR** (*pasteurized cow's milk; \$17 for 8 ounces*) Loaded with masterfully balanced, well-integrated flavors, including a good measure of mouthwatering acidity offset by some creamy sweetness; a hint of musty cellar ferment; and chocolatey, nutty and savory meaty notes.

**4 MOSES SLEEPER** (*pasteurized cow's milk Brie-style; \$34 for 1 pound*) Starting out demure, sweet and mild, with a whisper of lactic tang, it fills your mouth with rich, creamy heft while its rind imparts subtle woody and briny aromas.

**5 WHITNEY** (*raw cow's milk; \$17 for 8 ounces*) Made in the style of raclette, it's mild and mellow, with well-integrated complexity and outstanding balance between lactic sweetness and tang with a touch of fruitiness for good measure.

**WILLOUGHBY** (*pasteurized cow's milk washed-rind; \$18 for 8 ounces*) With a pretty pinkish-orange tint, it retains all the mild, creamy sweetness of its Brie-like sibling, Moses Sleeper, adding some peaches-and-cream fruitiness, a bit of extra tang, some yeasty funk and meaty heft.

**6 WINNIMERE** (*raw cow's milk washed-rind bark-wrapped; \$35 for 13 ounces*) Lively herbaceous, bright floral, piney and citrusy notes rest on a creamy foundation, with added hints of lactic tang, savory meat—think grilled hot dog with mustard—and some stimulating funk.

## HOW TO GET IT

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# Hospices de Beaune Raises \$27.4 Million

BY KENNY MARTIN

Few things are as captivating to Burgundy lovers as a packed auction selling more than 750 barrels of the Côte d'Or's greatest wines from the latest vintage. The historic Hospices de Beaune wine auction, conducted by Sotheby's, raised a grand total of \$27.4 million at its 163rd sale in November. The amount marks the second-highest total in the event's history, behind 2022's \$32 million total. Proceeds will support winery modernization and the construction of new buildings at the Hospices Civils de Beaune—which has operated charity hospitals for nearly 600 years—and will fund medical research on aging and longevity.

The annual sale is often considered an indicator of how the new Burgundy vintage will be priced. Mounir Saouma, who makes wine in Burgundy and the Rhône and has supported the auction since 1995, told *Wine Spectator* that since 2005, the wines of the Hospices have been “in the top of the hierarchy in terms of finesse and quality.” The auction, he continued, is “a great event [that reminds] us that wine is also charity.”

Albéric Bichot, proprietor of Albert Bichot and a longtime supporter of the auction, said in a statement, “The results of the Hospices sale are extraordinary, and I'm delighted to see the mobilization of the industry in support of this institution and the fine causes it supports.” Bichot was the top bidder of the auction and purchased 156 barrels in total, including 43 from *grands crus*.

Average barrel prices were down by about 16% for reds and 13% for whites this year. There were also almost 50 fewer barrels sold compared with 2022. The drop in prices may indicate some reservations over the quality of the 2023 vintage, which was marked by a rainy spring and a hot, stormy summer. To Bichot, the lower prices aren't necessarily a bad thing: “For many wines, we're back to prices that will arouse the interest of former aficionados of the event, which is rather pleasing.”



The latest Hospices de Beaune wine auction sold 753 barrels of Burgundy from 2023.

Auctioneers rotated over seven hours to sell 753 barrels of 2023 Burgundy. More than 700 participants from 24 countries bid on 51 different cuvées sourced from across the Hospices' 150 acres of vineyards, which are in their final year of being converted to organic farming. In a sign of buyers' continued enthusiasm for white Burgundy, three barrels of Bâtard-Montrachet *grand cru* Cuvée Dames de Flandres sold for more than \$380,000 each, and the five total barrels of Bâtard-Montrachet on offer surpassed the price of last year's equivalent barrels by 14%.

One highlight of the sale, at more than \$380,000, was the *Pièce des Présidents*, a unique barrel specially designated each year by the Hospices to support particular charities. This year, proceeds will support the Foundation for Medical Research and the Initiative for Research on Healthy Longevity. The wine is a Mazis-Chambertin *grand cru* that will age in a barrel crafted with leftover wood from one of the 220-year-old oak trees used to restore the spire of Notre Dame cathedral.

Notably, this year's average price decrease is the first since 2016. But Saouma reflected that auction results don't always give clear signals on future pricing: “The human factor is very important.” □

## Music Legend and Wine Lover Quincy Jones Puts Rare Bottles Up for Sale



Wine and music lovers had a rare chance to snag a delicious piece of history in December. In its last auction of the season, Christie's sold bottles from the personal wine collection of music legend Quincy Jones, whose

career includes playing trumpet with Lionel Hampton, producing Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, arranging for Frank Sinatra and Count Basie and more.

The online sale featured more than 150 lots from Jones' cellar, including Bordeaux first-growths, *grand cru* Burgundy and top names in Champagne, Napa and more—many in large formats. “We eagerly anticipate celebrating not just the wines but also the enduring passion of a true maestro,” said Bonnie Brennan, president of Christie's Americas.

Jones, 90, has had a free-ranging career spanning music, film, publishing and beyond. After getting his start as a trumpeter, he became a sought-after conductor, arranger and producer, working with the most influential musicians of the 20th

century. He has been nominated for a record 80 Grammy Awards and won 28.

He discovered a passion for wine during his travels abroad as a young touring musician. In a statement, he remembered, “When I was embarking on my first trip to Europe as a young trumpeter in Lionel Hampton's band in 1953, the great saxophone player Ben Webster pulled me aside and gave me some of the best advice a 19-year-old who had never traveled outside of the country could ever receive. He told me that the soul of a country is identified by its music, its food and its language and that ‘wherever you go, eat the food the real people eat, listen to the music the real people listen to, and learn 30 or 40 words in every language.’” —K.M.



## Italy's Bounty

These reds and whites showcase some of the grape varieties traditional to Italy's diverse wine regions. If you've never tried Cannonau, Greco Nero or Gaglioppo (the basis for Vincenzo Ippolito's I Mori), here's your chance.

**FRATELLI REVELLO** Barbera d'Alba 2022 (92, \$27) Succulent; blackberry, black currant, violet

**SALVATORE MOLETTIERI** Aglianico Irpinia Cinque Querce 2019 (92, \$30) Cassis, blackberry coulis, licorice, vanilla, sandalwood; harmonious

**SALVATORE MOLETTIERI** Fiano di Avellino Apianum 2022 (91, \$25) Balanced, saline; melon, apricot, beeswax, floral, pink grapefruit pith

**SALVATORE MOLETTIERI** Greco di Tufo 2022 (91, \$25) Baked melon, dried white cherry, green almond, pink grapefruit, honey; plump, graceful

**TERREDORA DI PAOLO** Fiano di Avellino CampoRe Riserva 2018 (91, \$24) Fragrant; melon, hazelnut, honey, herb, toast, mineral

**ARGIOLAS** Vermentino di Sardegna Is Argiolas 2022 (90, \$22) Ripe apple, melon, grated ginger, pink grapefruit zest; round, juicy

**CANTINA SOCIALE DI SANTADI** Vermentino di Sardegna Cala Silente 2022 (90, \$25) Lithe, well-cut, delicate; yellow apple, lemon sorbet, mineral

**CANTINE LAVORATA** Greco Nero Calabria 2017 (90, \$23) Mulberry, boysenberry, mint, rosemary, cracked peppercorn; plush, chewy

**LIBRANDI** Calabria Megonio Tenuta Rosaneti 2021 (90, \$25) Fresh, harmonious; black cherry, mulberry, *macchia*, orange peel, almond blossoms

**MASTROBERARDINO** Greco di Tufo 2022 (90, \$27) Apple, pear, pink grapefruit, mineral, herbs; crisp, tangy

**VINCENZO IPPOLITO** Calabria I Mori 2021 (90, \$25) Refined; crushed cherry, strawberry, tea rose, eucalyptus, graphite

**ARGIOLAS** Cannonau di Sardegna Costera 2021 (89, \$19) Ripe strawberry, milk chocolate, fresh thyme, orange peel; bright, pretty

**CANTINA SOCIALE DI SANTADI** Vermentino di Sardegna Villa Solais 2022 (88, \$17) Lightly creamy, zesty; baked pineapple, melon, grapefruit, salinity

**LIBRANDI** Cirò White Segno Librandi 2022 (88, \$15) Floral, apple, nectarine, spices, citrus; light-bodied, easy-drinking

## On the Rhône

Here's a selection of wines from France's Rhône Valley that are perfect for winter-time, offering plenty of personality and robust flavors without breaking the bank.

**BERTRAND STEHELIN** Gigondas 2021 (91, \$29) Silky, generous; mulled plum, peppercorn, baking spices, iron, toasted anise, apple wood

**FERRATON PÈRE & FILS** Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Laudun 2022 (91, \$20) Creamed pear, lemon curd, fleur de sel, smoke, crushed stone, sweet buttercream; broad, opulent

**M. CHAPOUTIER** Viognier Collines Rhodaniennes La Combe Pilate 2020 (91, \$25) Juicy, savory; quince, apple, lychee, smoke, flint, green herbs, dried hay, chamomile

**ALAIN VOGÉ** Côtes du Rhône Les Peyrouses 2021 (90, \$25) Raspberry, cassis, meaty, iodine, incense, baked earth, graphite; racy, vibrant

**BERTRAND STEHELIN** Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Sablet 2022 (90, \$25) Inviting, intense; melon, creamy pear, flint, floral, chamomile

**BROTTE** Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Domaine Grosset 2022 (90, \$19) Cherry, red licorice, graphite, mineral; ripe, energetic

**CHÂTEAU DU TRIGNON** Roussanne Côtes du Rhône 2022 (90, \$20) Broad, seductive; honeydew, jasmine, white peach, floral, quinine, flint

**LAVAU** Rasteau 2021 (90, \$26) Plum, fig, cherry, black pepper, loam, graphite; juicy, concentrated

**BROTTE** Cairanne Création Grosset 2021 (89, \$18) Pure, driven; cherry, raspberry, graphite, dried lavender, anise, black pepper

**LAVAU** Côtes du Rhône Koudiat 2022 (89, \$18) Mulled plum, red licorice, sweet baking spices, woody, iron shavings; harmonious, strapping

**CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON** Côtes du Rhône Réserve 2021 (87, \$14) Muscular, gutsy; black licorice, blackberry, cherry, peppercorn, apple wood

**M. CHAPOUTIER** Lubéron White La Ciboise 2022 (87, \$15) Floral, nectarine, stone; fresh, juicy

## Global Values

This potpourri of options from three different continents features regional specialties from each appellation.

**TWO VINTNERS** Grenache Columbia Valley 2021 (91, \$28) Precise, tense; black raspberry, smoked meat, cracked pepper

**BODEGAS ONDARRE** Rioja Valdebarón 2021 (90, \$28) Blackberry paste, mandarin orange peel, tobacco, smoke, game, sandalwood; silky, savory

**BARNARD GRIFFIN** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 (89, \$17) Appealing; black cherry, licorice, savory

**BODEGAS IZADI** Rioja Crianza 2020 (88, \$19) Mulberry, spices, herbs; fresh, balanced

**LA POSTA** Malbec Tupungato Fazzio 2022 (88, \$20) Juicy; berries, apple wood, chicory

—Bruce Sanderson



**FINCA DECERO** Cabernet Sauvignon Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2020 (92, \$25) **SMART BUY** Rich, contoured; berry, cassis, mace, graphite, floral

## SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



**95 HYDE** Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Larry Hyde Hyde Vineyard 2020 \$85 CALIFORNIA This stunning version delivers salted toffee,

grilled peach, buttery apricot pastry, lemon verbena and plump ripe melon flavors, while a vibrant, mouthwatering thread of acidity keeps the flavors fresh and focused.

### COLLECTIBLE



**96 QUILCEDA CREEK** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 \$250 WASHINGTON This compelling red is rich and polished yet impeccably structured, delivering expressive flavors of blackberry, espresso and clove that build tension and texture toward refined tannins.

### SMART BUY



**91 BODEGAS IZADI** Rioja Reserva 2019 \$22 SPAIN Well-balanced and silky on the palate, this classy red

features a beam of ripe mulberry fruit, with creamy tannins and aromatic hints of dried flowers, crushed pine and sandalwood.

### BEST VALUE



**88 BODEGAS SALENTEIN** Malbec Uco Valley Killka Collection 2022 \$12 ARGENTINA A light- to medium-bodied red, with rooibos tea accents to the fresh Alpine strawberry and raspberry core, while fresh mineral acidity fills out the finish.

### IN THIS ISSUE'S BUYING GUIDE

You'll find **45 classic wines** and nearly **375 outstanding wines** from among reviews of more than **475 new releases**. Tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with **hundreds of additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, can be found at WineSpectator.com using the Wine Ratings search, a members-only service.



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# FRANK FAMILY VINEYARDS

Wine Spectator

## TOP 100

2018 RHF Cabernet Sauvignon  
#61 Wine of 2023, 95 Points





# Tone Woods and Wine

While researching for a new acoustic guitar, I came across a lot of information about the various types of woods used in guitar-building. It occurred to me that tone woods are to an acoustic guitar what grape varieties are to wine.

Grapes have certain flavors, structures and profiles, based on variety and where they are grown, that impact the wines made from them. Woods used in the construction of guitars impact the sound, frequencies, balance, sustain, appearance and finish of the instrument.

And like a person's preference in grape varieties, the desired sound of a guitar is subjective, a matter of personal taste and experience. Also as with grapes, even if made from the same woods, each guitar has its own voice.

Generally speaking, hardwoods like rosewood, mahogany, walnut, maple and more exotic woods like African blackwood, cocobolo and ziricote are used for the back and sides of an acoustic guitar. They act like the cabinet of a speaker. The top, or soundboard, is typically a softer wood like spruce, cedar or redwood. The top vibrates when the strings are plucked, creating the sound.

Most acoustic guitar tops are spruce, however the stiffness of the wood varies depending on whether it is Sitka spruce, Adirondack spruce or Alpine, sometimes called "moon" spruce. Alpine spruce is sourced from high-elevation forests in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. It grows slowly, therefore is tight-grained, and it is harvested during a moon phase when the sap flow is inactive. After cutting, the tree rests with the top facing downslope to drain its sap. It reputedly makes a stiffer soundboard that is more responsive.

Spruce's combination of light weight, stiffness, strength and elasticity makes it ideal for clarity and brightness of notes. It's also straight-grained, for even distribution of sound, making it an all-round choice for strumming, flatpicking or fingerstyle guitar playing. Cedar and redwood deliver softer, rounder tones while retaining clarity, often sought by fingerstyle players.

Rosewood is popular for the back and sides of an acoustic guitar for its projection of and length of sound, or sustain (think "finish" of a wine). Brazilian rosewood is the most highly prized,



*Researching an acoustic guitar purchase, it occurred to me that the woods used in its crafting are what grapes are to wine.*

however since 1992, it has been protected by CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species), making it difficult to find and expensive. From time to time, guitar makers will offer special-edition acoustic guitars made with Brazilian rosewood from stocks purchased prior to 1992; most often, East Indian rosewood is used.

If you really want to geek out about tone woods, look to Chris Alvarado of Driftwood Guitars, who feels not all Sitka spruce has the same characteristics and sound, despite being fantastic wood for a guitar's soundboard. He speaks about the differences in each piece of wood, depending on its age and source. Similar to grapes and wine, Alvarado likes to know the "story" behind the piece of wood, where it grew, what the climatic conditions were; higher elevation, windblown trees tend to grow slowly and be more flexible. He cites four examples of Sitka spruce, including one from a bridge in Alaska built at the turn of the 20th century and another from a 3,000-year-old log buried

under a glacier, also in Alaska. The latter had minerals and soil leached into it, giving it a unique color and sonic properties.

Analogous to a fine wine's evolution, the best acoustic guitars sound different over time. Both wine and wood are "alive" in the sense that they are influenced by changes in humidity, temperature and air pressure. Over time, the soundboard becomes drier and thus more resonant. The wood also becomes more stable and resistant to environmental factors. Though there are scientific explanations for these changes, the changes in tone and responsiveness of a guitar are subjective—much like whether one prefers young or aged wine.

If you're wondering about the result of all this research, in 2019 I purchased a dreadnought with a Sitka spruce top and East Indian rosewood back and sides. It has a glossy finish. My new acoustic is an OM (orchestra model) body shape, with moon spruce top and mahogany back and sides and satin finish. It looks completely different, but more importantly, sounds different, with less highs and lows, but very tight, clear and crisp mid-range tones. The dreadnought is a beast, with a little longer sustain; the OM more elegant and punchy. It's fun to play both.

*Senior editor Bruce Sanderson has been with Wine Spectator since 1993.*



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Argiolas  
Barone Ricasoli  
Bindi Sergardi  
Boscarelli  
Brancaia  
Ca' del Bosco  
Caiarossa  
Caparzo  
Carpineto  
Castellare di Castellina  
Castello di Albola  
Castello di Ama  
Castello di Fonterutoli  
Castello di Monsanto  
Castello di Volpaia  
Cecchi  
Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona  
D'Angelo  
Damilano  
Fattoria dei Barbi  
Felsina  
Ferrari Trento  
Feudo Maccari  
Fontanafredda  
Fontodi  
Fuligni  
Giovanni Rosso  
Il Borro  
Jermann  
Lamole di Lamole  
Livio Felluga  
Marchesi Antinori  
Marchesi di Barolo  
Marchesi Frescobaldi  
Masciarelli  
Masi  
Massolino  
Nino Franco Spumanti  
Nino Negri  
Pasqua  
Pio Cesare  
Planeta

Poderi Aldo Conterno  
Poggio al Tesoro  
Renato Ratti  
Rocca delle Macie  
Ruffino  
San Felice  
San Filippo  
Siro Pacenti  
Tasca d'Almerita  
Tenuta San Guido  
Tenuta Sette Ponti  
Tolaini  
Valdicava  
Vallepiciola  
Vietti  
Zenato

### PORTUGAL

Adriano Ramos Pinto  
Croft  
Fonseca  
Quinta do Vale Meão  
Quinta do Vallado  
Taylor Fladgate  
W & J Graham

### SPAIN

Bodega Pradorey  
Bodegas Alto Moncayo  
Bodegas Avancia  
Bodegas Borsao  
Bodegas El Nido  
Bodegas LAN  
Bodegas Muga  
Bodegas Vatan  
El Coto de Rioja  
Familia Torres  
Merum Priorati

### URUGUAY

Bodega Garzón

### USA

#### CALIFORNIA

Beaulieu  
Brandlin Estate  
Cakebread  
Chalk Hill Estate  
Chappellet

Charles Krug  
Chimney Rock  
Donum Estate  
Dutton-Goldfield  
Far Niente  
Ferrari-Carano  
Fess Parker  
HALL  
J Vineyards & Winery  
Kendall-Jackson  
Louis M. Martini  
Merry Edwards  
Merryvale  
Mt. Brave  
Orin Swift  
Pahlmeyer  
Patz & Hall  
Roederer Estate  
Sanford  
Schramsberg  
Seghesio  
Siduri  
Silverado  
Stag's Leap Wine Cellars  
Tensley  
The Calling  
Three Sticks  
WALT  
Whitehall Lane

### OREGON

Archery Summit  
Bergström  
Elk Cove  
Lingua Franca  
Penner-Ash  
Résonance  
Zena Crown

### WASHINGTON STATE

Chateau Ste. Michelle  
Col Solare  
DeLille  
Gorman  
Klipsun

*a partial list*





# Italian Label Lingo

**A**t the end of last year I spent some time visiting wineries in Italy's most northerly wine region, Alto Adige, where I had a chance to catch up on the region's most recent major initiative: the introduction of Unità Geografiche Aggiuntive (UGA), or additional geographic units, to wine labels.

UGAs, first approved under Italian wine law in 2016, are a way for DOC- and DOCG-designated appellations to further define the larger region via delimited growing areas. The process takes into account naturally occurring regional and geographic boundaries, historical and cultural factors. For example, Chianti Classico divided the 30-mile-long appellation and 17,000 acres of vines into 11 UGAs for its *gran selezione* wines.

The genesis of UGAs lies with Menzioni Geografiche Aggiuntive (MGA), or additional geographical mentions. MGA was introduced prior to UGA and now is an accepted term under the UGA umbrella; Contrade in the Etna DOC and Rives in the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco DOCG are other examples of UGAs. Beginning in 2007, Barolo drove the adoption of MGAs when cartographer Alessandro Masnaghetti set out to map the region, ultimately identifying 181 MGAs that were codified under Italian wine law in 2010.

But even before UGAs, producers in Alto Adige were looking for ways to further define their wines. Elena Walch winery began using "Vigna" on relevant wine labels in 2014 after the term was approved to signify a single-vineyard bottling (usually with stricter production regulations) a few years earlier. "We were very strong believers [in putting Vigna on the label] because in Alto Adige there is no DOCG. So we finally had a tool to show that our [sites] were approved, true single-vineyard names, as opposed to fantasy names," said Karoline Walch, referring to the prevalence in Alto Adige of using non site-specific cuvée names on labels.

Alto Adige also has six approved subzones that producers adhering to specific regulations and with vineyards within these subzones may use to bring greater definition to the DOC. Subzones and UGAs may seem similar, and in terms of identifying where a wine is from within a larger appellation they serve the same purpose. However, the approval process for subzones is even more



*UGAs allow vintners in DOC- and DOCG-designated appellations to further define their wines amid the larger region.*

difficult: They go beyond geographical boundaries to recognize only wines of a certain style and character, and while subzones have the possibility to one day become their own DOC, UGAs do not.

Despite these labeling provisions, the majority of the appellation's wines are bottled simply as Alto Adige, making it challenging to understand its diversity of wine styles in the context of *terroir* and origin. Alto Adige is long and narrow, with vineyards spanning roughly 90 miles from north to south and encompassing 11,000 acres of vines. With 12 high quality cooperatives in the region, that vineyard acreage is spread among 5,000 growers, with many owning tiny slices of vineyards. The Dolomites create an interplay of sun and shadow over the vines that has a dramatic impact on the finished wines, as do prevailing winds from the mountains and nearby Lake Garda. Add to that a complex patchwork of soils and a wide variety of both red and white grape varieties, about 20 in total.

All of these factors suggest that Alto Adige would benefit from the approval of UGAs, but getting there wasn't easy. Mapping the individual UGAs happened relatively quickly, with consensus among area producers and the regional consortium reached in 2017. But approval by the Italian ministry of agriculture didn't come until 2020 and finalizing implementation took additional time; 2024 vintage wines will be the first allowed to utilize the UGA labeling, which means we won't see them in the U.S. until 2025 at the earliest.

Ultimately, 86 UGAs were approved for use on the labels of Alto Adige wines. About 25 are in use on labels at the moment—without being identified as UGAs—by wineries bottling wines produced from grapes sourced from tighter vineyard areas. But many other wineries already have well-established cuvée names that have nothing to do with the location of the wine's grape sources, typically blending grapes from multiple sources. Adjusting the blend to allow for the use of a UGA may not be worth it for these wineries.

I'm always in favor of additional information on wine labels, and I hope more wineries will add UGAs to their labels. But even after all of the hard work to establish the UGAs, only time will tell just how widespread and impactful the initiative will be.

*Senior editor Alison Napjus has been with Wine Spectator since 2000.*





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# THE ENDURING GREATNESS OF Guigal

With a new “La La” cuvée and an expanding foothold in the Southern Rhône, Côte-Rôtie’s most important family writes its next chapter

BY KRISTEN BIELER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY THILO WEIMAR







Philippe Guigal in the historic, old-vine La Mouline vineyard, the first of the family's "La La" sites for single-vineyard Syrah, debuting in 1966.



**T**he story of Guigal begins with La Mouline, a small plot of ancient vines that cling to the steep slopes of Côte-Rôtie in the Northern Rhône. Wine lovers recognize the name as one of the most cultish, cherished wines in the world—it’s the original of Guigal’s trio of icon wines, followed later by La Landonne and La Turque (together referred to as the “La La” cuvées).

Long before La Mouline fetched more than \$500 a bottle upon release, and even many decades before its 1966 debut vintage, which kick-started Côte-Rôtie’s revival, this parcel of vines captured the imagination of a 14-year-old Etienne Guigal. It was the 1920s and he was working as a migrant farm laborer, hired to pick apricots nearby, when he first set eyes upon the gnarled old Syrah vines held in place by Roman-built terraces. At the time, Côte-Rôtie’s vineyards had been largely abandoned—they were considered too difficult to farm and there was no market for the wines in a war-ravaged France.

“Etienne was bored with apricots—he was fascinated by the hill-sides and the vines,” says Philippe Guigal, Etienne’s grandson, who today is at the helm of Famille Guigal. “Locals would say that the vines in La Mouline made better wines, so it became his dream to one day own that vineyard.”

With a tenacity that turns out to run in the family, Etienne worked tirelessly for decades, and by 1946 he’d saved enough money to start his own domaine, E. Guigal. Two decades later, in 1966, he and his son, Marcel, finally made good on his childhood vow to purchase the 1-hectare La Mouline plot on the Côte Blonde hillside of Côte-Rôtie. “We are a family of workaholics,” Philippe confesses. “My grandfather made wine for 67 vintages, and even two hours before his death in 1988 he was still tasting in the cellars.”

The rebirth of Côte-Rôtie and its ascendance to the pantheon of the world’s most rarefied wines can be credited largely to Etienne, Marcel and Philippe Guigal. Today they own 10% of Côte-Rôtie’s vineyards and their empire has expanded well beyond those borders, with estates throughout the Northern and Southern Rhône. The Guigals have also built a thriving négociant business, buying grapes and young wines from a network of growers. In recent years, growth has only accelerated, with the 2017 purchase of Châteauneuf-du-Pape’s Château Nalys and Château d’Aqueria in Tavel in 2022. All together, the Guigal family produces close to







La Mouline (foreground)



10 million bottles a year, about 3% of all Rhône wine.

“When I became winemaker in 1997, we were at 2 million bottles; we owned just 9 hectares of land and now we have 250 hectares,” Philippe shares, adding that he’s careful not to boast of the company’s exponential expansion under his leadership. Years ago, Philippe’s father bragged to his own father, Etienne, when he reached the 1 million bottle mark. Etienne’s response: “I grew the company from zero to 17,000 bottles. No one can beat that rate of growth.”

**G**UIGAL’S TOP CUVÉES are opulent, commanding, hedonistic and showy, but the family is the opposite of all these things. Success and succession have done remarkably little to change the family’s culture and connection to their humble origins. “We are people that always have a little bit of earth on the bottom of our shoes; we are very close to our land and our soils,” Philippe explains.

Watching Philippe trek up the vertiginous terraced vines of the La Reynarde vineyard—the fourth and yet-to-be-released La La cuvée in the family—it’s easy to see why locals had wanted to ditch vineyard work for factory jobs and fruit trees. Côte-Rôtie’s slopes are pitched at more than 45 degrees in many places and vines appear to defy gravity. Navigating the zig-zag pattern of stone walls in the La Moulaine vineyard feels like climbing an upright corn maze; La Reynarde’s rows are much more orderly by comparison. But it’s all still extreme viticulture, requiring difficult and time-consuming hand labor.

Philippe explains how the La Reynarde site had lain fallow for a century before he decided to plant vines here in honor of the birth of his twin boys, Etienne and Charles, in 2010. Flanked on both sides by vineyard parcels owned by the Jamet brothers, La Reynarde offers stunning views of the Rhône river below and the small town of Ampuis, the Guigals’ spiritual and literal home.

The new La La vineyard serves another strategic purpose, Philippe shares: to engage the fourth generation in the family business. It’s a trick he stole from his forebears. “My father and grandfather were very smart—they planted La Landonne when I was born, and always told me that it was my vineyard, so as a child I always wanted to walk there and felt a deep sense of pride for that place.”

## THE ICONIC LA LA TRIO BECOMES A QUARTET



These single-vineyard cuvées put Côte Rôtie on the map for wine collectors decades ago. Comparing and contrasting each wine’s profile and personality has become a sport for many wine lovers. Stay tuned, fans: In 2026, the inaugural release of a fourth La La will join the lineup. ▶



## La Mouline

**THE BACKSTORY:** A tribute to the first generation, it's the original "La La" and the single-vineyard wine that changed the course for Côte-Rôtie with the debut 1966 vintage.

**THE VINEYARD:** The oldest vineyard site in Côte-Rôtie, a 1-hectare parcel on the Côte Blonde with vines dating to 1893.

**THE WINE:** Considered the most finessed and elegant of the three La La cuvées, thanks to Blonde's lighter soils and the addition of 11% Viognier. Spends 42 months in new oak. Philippe describes it as the "most Burgundian" of the trio.

**IN ART:** Philippe compares La Mouline to *The Birth of Venus* by Sandro Botticelli, which shows the goddess of love and beauty arriving on land, illuminated with divine light and showered with roses. "This classical painting illustrates the subtle balance of La Mouline, its delicacy and elegance," says Philippe.



## La Landonne

**THE BACKSTORY:** Planted in 1975 by Marcel to commemorate the birth of Philippe; the first vintage was 1978. "Because it was planted for my birth, I've always seen it as my cuvée," says Philippe.

**THE VINEYARD:** In the La Landonne *lieu-dit*, on the Côte Brune and planted to 100% Syrah in iron-rich soils. With southeasterly exposure and 45 degree incline, grape skins grow thicker.

**THE WINE:** Brooding, massive and firmly structured, the most powerful of the La Las, with incredible longevity in the cellar. The only one of the three to be fermented with 100% whole cluster, and this extra tannin structure explains the power and weight. It's also the only La La named for the specific *lieu-dit* it is in (the others are cuvée names).

**IN ART:** Philippe compares La Landonne to *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer, a simple portrayal of beauty featuring a mysterious girl before a dark background with a direct gaze. "Classical illustration of a local character, we are seduced by the simplicity and the power that this painting provides. It reminds me of the famous sentence: an iron fist in a velvet glove. So typical of La Landonne," says Philippe.

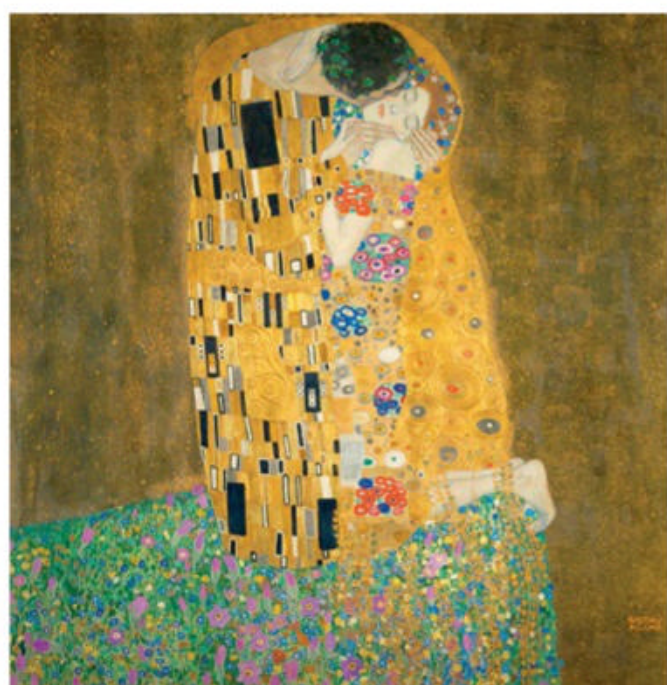
## La Turquie

**THE BACKSTORY:** The third La La, this launched with the 1985 vintage and honors the "genius of the second generation."

**THE VINEYARD:** Acquired with the purchase of Vidal Fleury in the early 1980s and planted to 93% Syrah and 7% Viognier. *Terroir* is Côte Brune, but it's very close to the Côte Blonde side, which imparts elegance.

**THE WINE:** In between La Mouline and La Landonne in terms of power, with pronounced spicy character. Powerful, with deeper color and richer profile than La Mouline, and velvety tannins.

**IN ART:** Philippe compares La Turquie to *Under the Wave off Kanagawa* by Hokusai, an intense yet simple illustration of a tsunami in motion, with a sharp foam tip. "The representation of Hokusai is not as classical as it seems, expressing the energy, the dynamic, of La Turquie," says Philippe.



## La Reynarde

**THE BACKSTORY:** The fourth La La to join the family, planted for the birth of Philippe and Eve's twin sons, Charles and Etienne, in 2010. Named after the stream that runs between *lieux-dits* Côte Brune and Côte Blonde.

**THE VINEYARD:** Parcel of 100% Syrah located on the Côte Brune side in the *lieu-dit* of Fongéant, nestled between plots owned by Jean Paul Jamet and Jean-Luc Jamet.

**THE WINE:** Philippe wanted to wait until a "great vintage" to bottle the first release. The debut 2022 will be released in 2026. Forty months in new *barriques*. "For me, it's between La Turquie and La Landonne in style," says Philippe. Silky, polished tannins and a lot of dark, smoky power and density.

**IN ART:** Philippe compares La Reynarde to *The Kiss* by Gustav Klimt. A hymn to love, it's a dreamlike scene filigreed with gold of an abstract couple, evoking passion and tenderness. "The harmony of this famous painting highlights the echo between the couple, balancing density, power and extreme refinement in La Reynarde," says Philippe.





Philippe and Marcel sample in the cellar



Twin brothers Etienne (left) and Charles with their dad, Philippe, at La Reynarde vineyard

Collectors won't be able to get their hands on a bottle of La Reynarde until 2026, when the inaugural 2022 vintage will be released. Barrel tastings in Guigal's cellar already reveal a wine with extraordinary concentration and depth—highly unusual for vines so young. “*Terroir* expresses very quickly from this site, even in young vines,” Philippe explains. “La Reynarde has shown me that vine age is important, but not totally essential, particularly in such special *terroirs*.” Like the other La La cuvées, La Reynarde will possess nearly unmatched aging potential, he is confident; longevity is a Guigal hallmark.

Of course, achieving character and complexity at this apex comes at a cost: In addition to being expensive to farm and harvest (Philippe estimates labor costs are three to six times higher here than on flatlands), the soils are unstable and terraced stone walls are required to keep vines from eroding and washing down the slope in a rainstorm.

“We employ a team of 18 people year-round to rebuild all of our walls—it is a crazy, never-ending job because they are always crumbling in places,” he explains. “We spend 700,000 euros a year on wall construction—it’s a cost that no other region has.” A living monument to the Côte-Rôtie, the walls are a patchwork of history, with original parts built by the Romans, Art Deco-style sections dating to the 1920s, and some stretches just completed. “This is difficult viticulture. But if you don’t do it, you will lose your vineyard. If you don’t invest in walls, you are not investing in your future.”

It’s a ROI calculation that makes sense with the prices Côte-Rôtie cuvées fetch today, but must have seemed like insanity in Etienne’s early days when he was trying to revive the hillside viticulture and





Clockwise from top: Vidal Fleury harvest 1935; Marcel and his mother, Marcella, 1956; Marcel and Etienne, 1977.

one-man locomotive in an appellation that stalled for decades. While he busily replanted vines and acquired new hillside plots, three-quarters of Côte-Rôtie's vineyards remained deserted. The price of orchard fruit continued to command more than twice the price of wine grapes. Yet he remained convinced of the region's greatness, observing firsthand how grapes from the slopes yielded more intensely flavored, concentrated wines than those harvested on the valley floor. Literally translated as "roasted slope," Côte-Rôtie benefits from maximum sun exposure and wind protection, which allows Syrah to ripen in an unusually cool climate.

When Etienne went blind in the early 1960s, his only child, Marcel, left school to take over in the cellar. He was just 17 years old. "This was the worst time for the appellation," Marcel, now 80, recalls. "Everyone said Côte-Rôtie was finished." While Hermitage, the other famous slope in Northern Rhône, was enjoying increasing international celebrity, the wines of Côte-Rôtie remained largely invisible.

Changing this equation would require massive quality upgrades, Marcel knew. "I

wanted to continue with my father's vision, but the few producers here were not focused on quality. We would have to work very hard to change the reputation."

**I F THERE WAS AN INFLECTION POINT** for the region, it was Marcel's decision to bottle the grapes from La Mouline as a single-vineyard wine, after an unusually long *élevage* in new oak. This would become Côte-Rôtie's first trophy wine—though certainly not overnight.

"In the 1960s we were selling Côtes du Rhône for \$1.99 a bottle and Côte-Rôtie for \$4.95," recalls Guigal's first U.S. importer, Fred



the market for the wines was nonexistent. But hardship and hard work were not foreign for Etienne. Working since the age of eight, he never attended a single day of school. "My grandfather told me stories of tending cattle barefoot in the snow, because they had no money for shoes," Philippe recalls.

Etienne landed a job working as a cellar hand at Vidal Fleury in 1924 when he was just 14 and eventually climbed the ranks to cellar master. He married Marcelle, a maid at the nearby historic Renaissance manor of Château d'Ampuis, and was later forced to take a break from making wine to fight in WWII on the Tunisian front.

After launching E. Guigal upon his return, Etienne became a





Château d'Ampuis

Ek. “I tasted the first vintage of La Mouline in barrel and it was very good, but we had to charge \$12.95 a bottle for it—and that was expensive, so it was a hard sell in the U.S.” Ek had discovered the Guigal family by accident, on a detour making his way from Burgundy to Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and they developed a lifelong friendship. “The Guigals are a very special family, very remarkable people—incredibly loyal and humble. The secret to their success? Hard work. The pressure on their business is extraordinary, but they have not changed in character since they began.”

Their style of wine has also remained unaltered. “I found old books from the beginning of the last century that described how Côte-Rôtie’s best wines were aged for a very long time in new oak barrels,” Marcel recalls. “I knew that long *élevage* was very important for these wines.” The debut 1966 vintage of La Mouline spent 40 months in oak barrels—long by today’s standards, but decidedly radical back then. This is exactly how the wine is made today.

Meanwhile, Etienne’s intuitive understanding of *terroir* remained his superpower, despite his lack of eyesight. While Marcel was busy upping quality in the cellar, Etienne was hunting for prime *terroir*. He tracked down the multiple owners of a steep, abandoned vineyard in the La Landonne *lieu-dit* on the iron-rich soils of Côte Brune, purchasing small parcels bit by bit in order to connect a 1.8 hectare plot. Marcel and Etienne planted its vines in 1975, to celebrate the birth of Philippe, and the first vintage of their La Landonne was 1978. The *lieu-dit* has become one of the most famous in the Rhône, and Guigal’s vineyard has many famous neighbors today, including Delas, Gerin and Rostaing, who all make single-vineyard La Landonne cuvées. In 1985, La Turquie was born,

**“The first vintage of La Mouline [1966] was very good. But we had to charge \$12.95 for it. That was expensive.”**—Fred Ek, importer

completing the La La trilogy. By then the world was taking notice and the tectonic shift for the region was in motion.

With interest in Côte-Rôtie growing, Marcel knew the appellation had to expand in size in order to accommodate the new vigneron. In the 1980s, he persuaded the head of the INAO (the French organization that regulates wine regions) to allow Côte-Rôtie to grow by 5% each year—French law limits growth to 1% annually. “Growing five times the national average—this is how we made the appellation,” Marcel says. “You need a young generation, it was essential for the Côte-Rôtie. And I was very pushy.”

The Guigal family’s advocacy for the region is not lost on their neighbors across the Rhône. “Their influence on the Northern Rhône is second to none. I have so much admiration,” says Marc Perrin of Château de Beaucastel. “They care only about the long term. They never compromise on quality and cultivate their own style—they are one of the greatest families in the world of wine.”

Success funded additional acquisitions. In 1984 the Guigals bought Vidal-Fleury, where Etienne had started working when he was 14, and in 1995 they acquired Château d’Ampuis where Etienne’s wife, Marcelle, had once labored as a maid. Today, this is the personal home of Philippe and his family, as well as the name



## THE MUSEUM OF LE CAVEAU DU CHÂTEAU

“To fully understand Côte Rôtie you have to understand the past,” says Philippe. “And you appreciate wine more when you understand how much effort it takes to produce it.” In 2019 the Guigals opened their wine museum in Ampuis, which introduces visitors to the history of vineyards and winemaking in the Rhône dating back to Roman times. The collection was built over 60 years by the Guigal family and contains historical tools and memorabilia connected to winemaking—worth a stop for any visitor in the region. Post-tour tastings are a must: Walk-ins can sample around 30 wines from across the Guigal range in the Tasting Room, and themed tastings for small groups with top cuvées can be arranged in advance. | 6 Route de la Roche, Ampuis



of an important cuvée. They tripled their vineyard holdings in 2001 with the purchase of Domaine Jean-Louis Grippat and Domaine de Vallouit, which enabled them to craft their first Hermitage in 2001: the Ex-Voto white and red, produced only in exceptional years. In 2006 they purchased a Côte-Rôtie neighbor, Domaine de Bonserine. Guigal owns in almost every Northern Rhône appellation. “All that is missing is Cornas,” Philippe says, adding, “We will buy in Cornas.”

**CÔTE-RÔTIE** is often described as the most Burgundian of the Rhône *crus*. While Guigal’s wines—muscular, powerful, richly structured—sit decidedly outside the Burgundy paradigm, the approach to viticulture is analogous. “People talk about the many distinct *lieux-dits* in Burgundy, but the diversity of *lieux-dits* in Côte-Rôtie is unmatched,” says Philippe. Whereas in Burgundy the differences in *terroir* have been cataloged over centuries by Cistercian monks, the specificity and uniqueness of Côte-Rôtie’s 77 *lieux-dits* are still being discovered.

Syrah is the red grape of all Northern Rhône appellations, from Hermitage to St.-Joseph to Cornas, but it expresses itself differently in Côte-Rôtie, showcasing the grape’s signature blackberry, raspberry and violet matched with a distinctive, earthy savoriness marked by wet leaves, smoked bacon fat and a wild gamy character. It’s the only Northern Rhône appellation that permits a small

amount of the white Viognier grape to be co-fermented with Syrah, which explains the exotic floral note that many wines possess.

Yet Guigal’s wines occupy their own stylistic sphere, on the far right of the powerhouse spectrum, their individuality emblazoned by their long *élevage* in barrel, carried out in the name of longevity. Barrel aging is so important to their wines that the Guigals built their own cooperage at Château d’Ampuis in 2003 to have full control over the entire barrel-making process.

“Our vision for long *élevage* is what we believe gives our wines the ability to age for many decades—but it also means they need a lot of time before they are ready to drink,” says Philippe. While many producers have evolved their winemaking to craft wines that are more accessible upon release, Guigal has never wavered. “New oak is not something we seek out, but what we feel works with the balance of our wine.”

This oak signature melds into the framework of the wine with time in bottle, becoming less pronounced. La Landonne, which spends three and a half years in new oak, can require more than a decade in bottle to reveal its extraordinary potential. Guigal’s top cuvées are not for the impatient collector.

What was once a modern approach now places Guigal firmly in the traditionalist camp. In many fine wine regions, there is a shift away from excessive new oak, which detractors feel obscures the imprint of *terroir*. “It’s true that some people find the oak



intrusive, but I do think they manage to preserve the character of the place,” says Patrick Will, vice president at Vintus, who has known the Guigal family for decades. “Marcel is very reflective and thoughtful about the use of oak. It’s important for him that oak not get in the way of origin—Côte-Rôtie should taste like Côte-Rôtie. As they age, you see how the *élevage* actually elevates the character of the wine.”

Regardless of one’s palate, it’s impossible to deny the rare beauty of an aged La La. Philippe opens a bottle of the 1978 La Landonne, its first vintage, which now has spent four and a half decades in bottle, for the family’s mid-day meal. Not exactly a lunch wine, it somehow pairs perfectly with his mother’s black truffle scrambled eggs and *cervelas*, a smoked sausage unique to Lyon. “What I love about this wine is that it’s not over yet,” Philippe observes. “There is still so much life and freshness; the wine continues.”

**T**HAT PHILIPPE should be so immune to succumbing to the whims of winemaking fashion surprises no one who knows him—his chief hobbies outside of work are competitive ballroom dancing and antiques restoration. Still, when he joined the family business in 1997, having studied biochemistry at University of Lyon and enology in Burgundy, followed by a masters degree where he traveled the world for two years making wine in 17 countries, he returned with a desire to mix things up in the cellar. “I came back with a lot of new ideas,” he shares. “But over time I learned that what was done here was very solid.”

Marcel encouraged Philippe’s experimentation. Introduce concrete tanks in place of stainless steel? Sure, try it, son. Why aren’t we doing *délestage* (the rack-and-return process of draining red wine from the skins and pumping it back to soften tannins and extract flavor)? I don’t think it’s the best for Syrah, Marcel would say, but invited Philippe to see for himself through trial. “Each time I would return and report to my dad that he was right, the way he had long been working was better for these wines.”

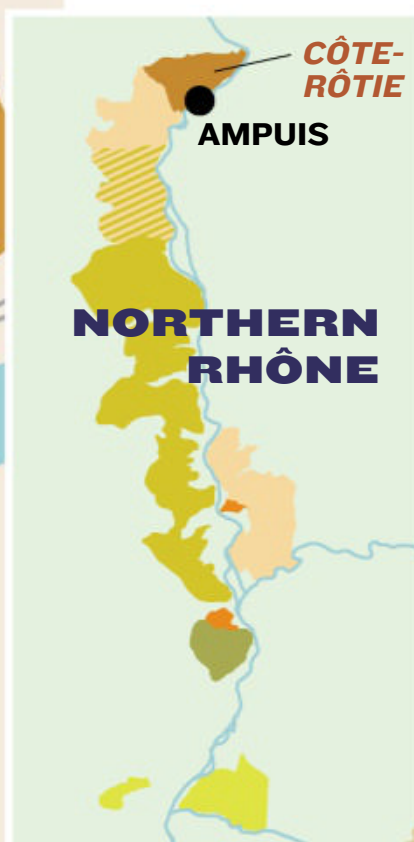
There is a remarkable closeness between father and son. “We are



Head winemaker Jacques Desvernois

extremely different but we are extremely close—and we have the same vision for the wines. Our palates are totally aligned, we don’t even need to speak when we taste together,” Philippe describes. He

## GUIGAL IN CÔTE-RÔTIE



### CÔTE BLONDE VS. CÔTE BRUNE

Côte-Rôtie’s historic center is famously divided into two sides, **Côte Blonde** in the south and **Côte Brune** in the north, which yield very different styles of Syrah. Expect more elegance, delicacy and silkiness in wines from granite and gneiss soils in Blonde (often with the addition of Viognier), while the iron-rich, schist vineyards in Brune give brawnier, fuller-bodied and more muscular reds. Legend has it that these two adjacent hillsides were named by the 16th-century owner of Château d’Ampuis, who had two daughters, one blond and one brunette. Guigal created its “Brune et Blonde” cuvée with an aim to harness the best of both *terroirs* in a single blend.





Marcel in the winery office in Ampuis

grew up in the winery, as a young child following his grandfather from barrel to barrel in the family's serpentine cellar under Ampuis, pipette in hand. When he got older, he joined his father and grandfather in the cellar for their 90-minute tasting each day.

In the main office connected to the family home, there is a triangular desk with one corner for Marcel, one for his wife, Bernadette, (she joined the business when they married in 1973) and one for Philippe. He met his wife, Eve, in Corsica where she was born and raised, and she has become a commanding presence at the estate, juggling everything from French sales to marketing to winery tours. With 64 vintages under his belt, Marcel still proudly beats everyone to the office, seated at his desk by 5 a.m. every day.

**W**HILE THE GUIGALS' TOP CUVÉES give them prestige status, it's their success with Côtes du Rhône which has made the business a powerhouse. "Côtes du Rhône is 50% of what we do—5 million bottles in most years," says Philippe. "I truly love working on the Côtes du Rhône, there is so much fantastic opportunity and the challenge is keeping the quality high with volume. Consistency is everything for us."

Every year, they audition around 150 different growers across the

## SELECTED RECENT RELEASES FROM E. GUIGAL

WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews using the online Wine Ratings search.

SCORE	WINE	PRICE
97	Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2019	\$700
97	Ermitage Ex Voto 2019	\$650
97	Ermitage White Ex Voto 2019	\$350
96	Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2019	\$700
96	Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2019	\$700
95	Côte-Rôtie Château d'Ampuis 2019	\$210
94	Condrieu La Doriane 2022	\$150
94	Hermitage 2020	\$118
94	St.-Joseph Vignes de l'Hospice 2020	\$155
93	Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2020	\$105
92	Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2018	\$62
92	Crozes-Hermitage 2020	\$35
92	Gigondas 2020	\$42
89	Côtes du Rhône 2020	\$19
88	Côtes du Rhône Rosé 2022	\$19
88	Tavel 2022	\$25

**“[The Guigal family’s] influence on the Northern Rhône is second to none. I have so much admiration.”—Marc Perrin of Château de Beaucastel**



Southern Rhône, tasting an extraordinary amount of young wine samples for weeks on end in order to find the best sources to build their Côtes du Rhône, often selecting just 1.5% of what they taste, and getting the wines in house as fast as possible in order to control the *élevage*. “My grandfather had a strange habit, he would taste the Côtes du Rhône in old glass mustard jars. They are terrible glasses for tasting wine! When people asked why, he would say, ‘If a wine tastes good in a mustard glass, then it’s a really good wine.’”

In challenging years, they keep quality high by selecting only the best and simply making less wine—production fell by 80% in the difficult 2021 vintage, for example. “It’s mind-blowing how much work it is to build this wine from scratch,” says Vintus’ Will. By comparison, many négociants simply purchase large tanks of finished wines and bottle directly. “That they have the same standards here that they do for their top cuvées is testament to their integrity as producers, it’s emblematic of their whole approach,” says Will. In 2018 they hired the immensely talented Jacques Desvernois, formerly of Jaboulet, as head winemaker.

Quality hinges on access to the best growers, relationships they have spent decades building. “The Guigals have great respect for their sources and always paid them well,” explains Ek. “Most other companies would work on credit with long terms for paying the growers, but the Guigals pay when they purchase the wine, which is extremely unusual.”

**AFTER YEARS OF HUNTING** for the ideal property in the Southern Rhône, the Guigals finally found their foothold with the 2017 purchase of the historic yet under-achieving Château Nalys in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Ralph Garcin was installed to craft the wines, which already shine brightly, and a massive construction project is currently underway to transform the winery into an architectural showpiece. Next, they snatched

**“I am very happy the Guigal family has landed in Châteauneuf and Lirac. They will be a steam engine for these appellations.”**

—Pierre Fabre of Mont-Redon

up another Southern Rhône gem with the purchase of Château d’Aqueria with holdings in the *crus* of Tavel and Lirac. “I am very happy that the Guigal family has landed in Châteauneuf and Lirac,” says Pierre Fabre, the fourth generation to helm Châteauneuf’s Château Mont-Redon. “They have an immense sense of work and effort and they will be a steam engine for these appellations, especially

Lirac which is clearly underrated.”

They are expanding in the opposite direction as well, pioneering cooler vineyard sites in St.-Cyr-sur-le Rhône north of Ampuis, which was long considered above the limit where Syrah could sufficiently ripen. “Two decades ago you could not ripen grapes here, but with the warming climate, which we all see, it’s impossible to work the same way as the past, we need to be thinking of the best sites for the future,” Philippe says.

Like his father and grandfather, Philippe seems unable to resist the siren call of the next great vineyard. He’s also motivated, he admits, by an ever-so-slight chip on his shoulder. “We are in a dynamic region but I’m convinced we still have a lot of things to prove. People speak of Bordeaux and Burgundy with a reverence you don’t hear about when they speak of the Rhône. Rhône doesn’t have the same magic—not yet.”

All the ingredients are there, he believes, with icon wines from Condrieu, Côte-Rôtie, Châteauneuf and Hermitage. “And we have great Côtes du Rhône at affordable prices—this is something that is disappearing in Burgundy.”

Compared to top Burgundy, of course, even the La La wines are affordable luxuries. Elite wines from more revered regions are often purchased for investment or for status, rather than pure enjoyment in the glass. Wine lovers seek out Guigal wines to collect and to drink foremost because they are delicious and reflect the soul of a region and an incredibly passionate family. The world is a better place for wines like this. □



Rendering of future Château Nalys site

THIS PAGE: AMELIA TAVELLA/IMAGE ALLEURS STUDIO





Marcel and his wife, Bernadette, flank Philippe's wife, Eve, Philippe, and their sons Etienne (left) and Charles at Château d'Ampuis.



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# The RHÔNE COOLS OFF

There are bright spots to be found amid the disappointments of the cold, challenging 2021 vintage

*By Kristen Bieler*






In cooler vintages, many winemakers deploy the term “classic” to describe their results, harkening back to an earlier era before climate change, when wines were leaner, racier and less ripe.

For the Rhône Valley wines now hitting the U.S. market from the 2021 vintage—one of the most excruciatingly difficult years in recent memory—that buzzword is in regular rotation. After a string of warm vintages, the 2021 growing season was unusually cold and wet across much of France. Growers were beset by devastating frosts, a cold summer and mildew-inducing rains at harvesttime. Yields were drastically reduced

throughout the region, while alcohol levels were also down—by 1% on average.

It’s a polarizing vintage, with some vintners finding bright spots amid the challenges. “The wines are more naturally balanced than in a warm year,” says Rodolphe de Pins of Château de Montfaucon in the Southern Rhône’s Lirac appellation. “Even if the wines don’t taste as intense when they’re young, they’ll evolve well long term.” Others offer more complicated assessments: “2021 was an empty vintage—low yields, low tannin, low acidity,” says Mounir Saouma of Rotem & Mounir Saouma in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. “Still, I like years like 2021 that are full



The granite hillside slopes of Hermitage coped particularly well in 2021 despite the year’s difficult growing conditions, including the iconic vineyards of Paul Jaboulet Aîné, which yielded outstanding wines under the estate’s Domaine de la Chapelle label.





At leading Côte-Rôtie estate Domaine Jamet, the setbacks of the 2021 vintage—including an early frost, a cool summer and autumn rains—led Jean-Paul Jamet (right) and his son Loïc to rely on extensive sorting in the vineyard and the cellar to eliminate rot-impacted grapes.

of energy, compared to 2020, which had too much of everything.”

Having reviewed nearly 650 wines in blind tastings at our New York office since my previous report (“The Rhône Faces the Heat,” Jan. 31 - Feb. 28, 2023), I found an incredibly wide qualitative range among the 2021s compared with other recent vintages. In addition, the year played out very differently for Northern Rhône producers than for their colleagues in the south. (Note: Many top producers have yet to release their 2021s, so their wines were not officially reviewed for this report.)

The gap between producers and *terroirs* is more apparent in years such as 2021, which makes this a vintage to approach with a little more discernment than usual. Although decidedly a step down from the excellent 2020 and 2019 vintages, the 2021 harvest still delivers a number of very good wines. In some of the best examples, the vintage offers an opportunity to see a different side to the Rhône, particularly in the south, where consumers have grown accustomed to opulent ripeness and warmth in the glass.

It’s worth keeping in mind that what may seem like a lean vintage reflects a big shift in our perception, insists Marc Perrin of Château de Beaucastel in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. “I like to remind people that 2021 was warmer than 1978, and that was considered a warm year in the 1970s!”

## THE NORTHERN RHÔNE

**T**he past decade of warmer vintages has allowed Syrah to showcase its more voluptuous side, making the struggle to ripen grapes seem like a thing of the past. Then came 2021.

Trouble began in early April with one of the worst frosts in the past century, with many growers recording their lowest temperatures since 1938. “We lost 80% of our grapes in Condrieu and 30% of all our Syrah in Côte-Rôtie to frost,” reports Georges Vernay winemaker Emma Amsellem. Côte-Rôtie’s high-elevation vineyards were severely impacted, with many sites completely decimated. Domaine Rostaing lost half its crop.

Persistent rain followed, which led to mildew and rot—and thinner-skinned, more vulnerable grapes. A cold summer and fall meant ripening was delayed significantly, leading growers to pick an average of two weeks later than usual. Many were still forced to chaptalize (the winemaking practice of adding sugar to fermenting grapes to amp up alcohol and texture).

Stéphane Ogier, who has emerged as one of most talented winemakers in the Northern Rhône, chose not to produce any of his single-vineyard cuvées, a series of wines highlighting the specificity of Côte-Rôtie’s diverse *lieux-dits*. Instead, he blended that fruit into lesser wines—a decision many producers made. “I needed the remaining fruit from those top sites to bring richness to my regional Mon Village 2021 blend, which, as a result, is quite good.” (Stay tuned for that wine’s upcoming release.)

Extensive sorting to eliminate diseased grapes meant more work for already exhausted growers. “It was necessary to sort in the vineyards and in the winery—there was so much rot,” says Loïc Jamet, who works with his father, Jean-Paul, at iconic Côte-Rôtie estate Domaine Jamet. “I like the spirit of the 2021 vintage—it reminds me of what the essence of Côte-Rôtie is, with soft tannins, elegance and freshness. For sure, it’s less impressive than other years yet still

**“I like the spirit of 2021—it reminds me of what the essence of Côte-Rôtie is, with soft tannins, elegance and freshness.”**

—LOÏC JAMET





Delas winemaker Jacques Grange produced a range of outstanding reds and whites across the domaine's 2021 lineup, led by a classic-rated Condrieu.

better than 2008 and 2014. But I don't want to do it again."

Like many top producers in the Northern Rhône, Jamet has yet to release its 2021 wines. A tasting of the vintage at the domaine in November 2023 revealed the beautiful combination of finesse, purity and texture that makes Jamet one of the most revered names in the Rhône. Loïc is joined by his sister, Fanny, and brother, Dorian, and it's clear the third generation is committed to staying true to the Jamet style, employing whole-cluster fermentation, with very little new oak, and bottling the wines unfiltered.

High up on a plateau in the heart of the Côte-Rôtie hills, the winery offers views of snowcapped Mont Blanc and the Alps on a clear day. Most of Jamet's holdings are in the Côte Brune side of Côte-Rôtie, which was one of the only places to suffer no frost damage in 2021, Jamet says. Dark schist soils result in a structured, dark fruit style of Syrah, one that ages phenomenally well. Jamet's flagship 2020 Côte-Rôtie (96 points, \$210) is a star of this report.

**O**verwhelmingly, I find that the 2021 Northern Rhône reds showcase a leaner profile. The best are high-toned and aromatic, lighter-bodied and quite elegant, dominated by red fruit rather than black, with a refined tannin profile and racy acidity. The less successful versions are astringent, tart and diluted.

Dilution, in fact, is the vintage's biggest problem, according to Jean-Louis Chave, who represents the 16th generation to run his family's namesake domaine in Hermitage. "It was the first time for me to see such a vintage—there was so much rain," he says. "The problem isn't just lack of sugar or ripeness. The rain dilutes acidity and tannins, too, so the wine is just floating." He adds that this



was a particular issue for the flatter vineyard sites in Crozes-Hermitage. "The hills made all the difference, where rain can run off and, of course, there are older vines that are more resilient."

This explains the success of Hermitage, arguably the most elite hill in the Rhône Valley, whose granite slopes escaped frost damage while shedding excess water. "Hermitage was very strong in 2021—it is still the hill of Hermitage," says Chave. "In the end, it's not about people but the place." As with most Hermitage producers, he has not yet released his 2021s, but tasting the vintage with Chave in his cellar proved his point—the wines show impressive depth and concentration, if a somewhat racier edge. Chave believes the vintage offers more of an easy-drinking style, perhaps better suited for earlier consumption, but he also says the wines may surprise us in their ability to age: "We have had a few of these vintages, like 1981, which age well in a more Pinot Noir way."

At Delas, based in Tain-l'Hermitage, winemaker Jacques Grange holds the opinion that most of 2021's harvest was best suited to "a vinification process aimed at producing fresh, fruity wines that should be enjoyed young." But, like Chave, he's also curious about longevity from some top sites, believing that the higher acid levels





Maxime (left) and Mathilde Chapoutier represent the younger generation at their family domaine, whose laser focus on capturing the *terroir* of its Northern Rhône vineyards continues to produce some of the region’s highest-rated wines.

in 2021, which he describes as close to “pre–climate change vintages,” suggest “an interesting aging potential.”

Delas won’t be releasing any single-vineyard cuvées in 2021. However, Grange reports that the domaine’s hillside vineyards in Hermitage, St.-Joseph and Cornas “coped particularly well with the difficulties of the vintage,” and growers who picked late were rewarded with high quality wines. “Patience was the order of the day at harvesttime—the latest harvests brought out the best wines,” he says. “The Hermitage Les Bessards, like the St.-Joseph Ste.-Epine, were only brought into the winery in the very last days of September.”

Picking late can be dangerous and expensive, as producers risk losing more grapes to rot, but it made all the difference for growers in Cornas in 2021. “It was a year to pick as late as possible, despite

the risks,” says Lionel Fraisse, wine-maker and co-owner of Alain Voge, one of the appellation’s finest estates. Cornas was hit hard by frost in its upper vineyards, but lower-altitude sites and flatlands had it worse, with some vineyards losing everything.

“The *lieu-dit* of St.-Pierre, the highest position in the appellation, was the most adapted to this vintage,” Fraisse says. “Yields are always low, so the site could achieve some concentration.” Indeed, the Alain Voge Cornas Chapelle St. Pierre 2021 (95, \$125) is the highest-scoring Northern Rhône red from the 2021 vintage in this report.

One noteworthy silver lining for the vintage is the quality of the year’s white wines. “The 2021 vintage offers a very interesting balance both analytically and aromatically,” explains Vernay’s Amsellem. In the famed white wine appellation of Condrieu, the Viognier grape can easily veer into cloying, unctuous territory, yet the 2021s avoid these pitfalls entirely. Precise and vibrant, they offer, in Amsellem’s words, “a beautiful bouquet of white flower, citrus and stone fruit—reminiscent of the 1980s and 1990s in freshness and moderate alcohol.” She notes that “the balance of the vintage also promises good aging potential.”

In the rest of the Northern Rhône, whites are based on Marsanne and Roussanne, which can also become blowsy and unbalanced in very ripe years. “The fresh, rainy, late vintages bring a beautiful tension to Marsanne grapes—they show a Burgundy, flinty nose,” says Fraisse, who has invested heavily in St.-Péray, a small white wine appellation near Cornas. Although Fraisse lost half his crop to frost in 2021, his two cuvées, the St.-Péray Fleur de Crussol (94, \$70) and St.-Péray Harmonie (92, \$40), showcase that profile.

## Rating Northern Rhône Vintages

2021	87	Syrah suffered in this cold, rainy vintage. Volume is down due to frost and mildew, and many reds are lean, underripe and diluted. Exceptions include top hillside sites with granite <i>terroirs</i> , where some elegant wines were made. By contrast, whites are standouts, marked by high acidity and beautiful freshness supporting ripe fruit	Drink or hold
2020	96	One of the earliest harvests on record, with cooler nights allowing Syrah to ripen evenly and retain freshness. Despite record-setting heat and drought, the wines show classic elegance and finesse. Silky tannins mean early drinking pleasure, while good acidity and structure mean ageability. A truly great year for both reds and whites	Drink or hold
2019	96	Reduced crop due to windy conditions at flowering, hail in Crozes in June and a hot, dry growing season overall, but August rains helped alleviate maturity blockages and harvest was completed under ideal conditions. Reds are very concentrated and defined, with copious fruit; whites are more inconsistent	Hold
2018	92	Similar to the south, with an early season marred by wet weather, leading to severe mildew pressure through June. Summer was hot and dry but without heat spikes. Reds are caressing and forward; whites are showy and unctuous	Drink or hold
2017	97	The north enjoyed a long, warm and dry season with cool nights and well-timed rains near the end to help finish ripening; no serious weather issues as in the south. Reds are ripe and seductive; whites are juicy and well-detailed	Hold
2016	97	An admirable follow-up to 2015. A wet spring led to a late-running season; Hermitage was hit by hail in April, reducing the crop, yet hot weather from July through September spurred ripening and an Indian summer persisted through October. Reds are ripe, focused and pure; whites are scintillating, with freshness and purity	Hold

Older vintages of exceptional quality: 2015, 2010, 2009, 2005, 2003, 1999, 1998, 1995, 1990, 1989, 1985, 1982, 1979, 1978, 1976, 1969, 1966, 1964, 1961, 1959

**Vintage ratings:** 95–100, classic; 90–94, outstanding; 85–89, very good; 80–84, good; 75–79, mediocre; 50–74, not recommended **Drinkability:** “Drink” means most of the wines of the vintage are ready to drink; “hold” means most of the ageworthy wines have yet to fully mature; “past peak” means most of the wines are declining rather than improving.





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Julien Bréchet staked the 2021 vintage at his Gigondas estate, Domaine des Bosquets, on the risky decision to pick as late as possible.

Limestone soils and high-altitude *terroir* have both contributed to the exciting rediscovery of St.-Péray as a premier appellation for whites.

Hermitage whites also benefited from additional acidity, says Chave. “This was a vintage for whites—they show terrific mineral intensity, whereas in some years they can be too heavy,” he adds. “The 2021s will age well.” Michel Chapoutier, too, praises the classicism of the year’s whites, believing that in cooler vintages the *terroir* has a better ability to express itself. While both Chave and Chapoutier are waiting until next year to release their 2021s, they are currently selling their 2020 whites, which are, unsurprisingly, some of the most exceptional wines in this report.

For a particularly racy version, seek out the Hermitage White Le Chevalier de Sterimberg from Paul Jaboulet Aîné. Caroline Frey, who has directed winemaking there since her family purchased the Jaboulet estate and vineyards in 2006, has decided to create a separate brand for the two top Hermitage cuvées—Le Chevalier de Sterimberg and its red counterpart, La Chapelle—starting with the 2021 vintage. Going forward, the wines will be labeled under the name Domaine de la Chapelle to distinguish them from the rest of the Jaboulet lineup.

Frey’s style is one of restraint and elegance, and the taut, mineral-driven Sterimberg (93, \$108), aged in concrete, offers a much crisper style of Hermitage blanc, even in warm years. “I pick earlier, reduce the percentage of new oak and try to prevent oxidation,” Frey says.

**“Many people thought that this vintage would be without complexity, but we have ripe, full-bodied wines that show a beautiful elegance.”**

—VÉRONIQUE MARET



“I’m trying to preserve the purity.” The red La Chapelle is also medium-bodied and unadorned, with very discreet oak. The Frey family is building a new winery at the base of Hermitage dedicated to the production of the two cuvées. “Our new chapter is to more completely tell the story and experience of this *terroir*.”

## THE SOUTHERN RHÔNE

**F**ans of richer, more opulent styles from the Southern Rhône should take note: 2021 is not the year for you. But for those eager for a break from the run of powerful, concentrated, drought-influenced vintages that ran from 2016 through 2020, there is a lot to discover this time around.

“There is a freshness and structure to the vintage—a sharpness to the wines,” says Isabel Ferrando of the 2021s from her namesake domaine. Her Châteauneuf-du-Pape St.-Prefert 2021 (94, \$115) shows a beautiful vibrancy, while her Colombis 2021 (95, \$210), a top cuvée from 100% Grenache sourced from 80-year-old vines and whole-cluster fermented, is plush and alluring. Neither lacks for generosity or power.

“Many people thought from the start that this vintage would be without complexity, without concentration—that’s wrong,” says fourth-generation vintner Véronique Maret of Domaine de la Charbonnière, who has overseen a notable rise in quality since taking the reins in 2012. “We have ripe, full-bodied wines that show a



beautiful elegance. They are softer, more approachable early on, but with a great acidity that will help them age.” Whereas Maret lost much of her crop to frost in Vacqueyras and Côtes du Rhône, most of her fruit in Châteauneuf was unharmed. In fact, Châteauneuf overall was spared much of the devastating frosts and excessive rot of surrounding areas (thanks to the famously powerful mistral wind), only down 25% in volume.

“The vintage is more Burgundy style—with freshness, polished tannins and an herbal character,” says Vincent Maurel of Clos St.-Jean. Yet those who prefer Châteauneuf to Burgundy need not fear, since the 2021 Clos St.-Jean cuvées offer all of the decadence and sunny Mediterranean character that have made them favorites of wine fans.

Older vines were a big advantage in 2021, says Maurel. His La Combe des Fous cuvée (95, \$140), made from 60-year-old vines and gently extracted in the cellar, is a standout. Another secret weapon was late-ripening varieties, particularly Mourvèdre, which makes up 40% of the blend in Clos St.-Jean’s Deus Ex Machina (96, \$140), one of the top-scoring wines of the 2021 vintage.

Others chose not to make their top cuvées in 2021. Pierre Fabre of Mont-Redon, for example, didn’t craft his Le Plateau cuvée, as he couldn’t reach the style he wanted to achieve. (A late-release bottling, the Le Plateau 2018 (94, \$163) is the current vintage on the market.) But Fabre is very happy with the elegance and balance in his other 2021 wines: “2021 is comparable to 2013 for freshness, but with the power of 2015. In the ’90s or ’80s, 2021



The team at historic Southern Rhône estate Pierre Amadieu—Jean-Marie, Marie, Pierre, Henri-Claude and Claude Amadiou—navigated the difficulties of the 2021 vintage to produce outstanding reds from both Gigondas and Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

would be considered a great vintage, as we had no comparison possible with such vintages like 2019 or 2016.”

All of the vintners I spoke with agree that Châteauneuf-du-Pape blanc is a vintage highlight. “The whites are extraordinary, with excellent natural acidity and moderate alcohol,” says Fabre, whose 2021 Châteauneuf white received 93 points (\$53). Freshness and acidity can be in short supply in warm years, and white varieties benefited from the added energy. Isabel Ferrando’s old-vine Clairette (95, \$420); Château de Beaucastel’s fascinating Vieilles Vignes (94, \$191), made from 100% Roussanne; and Château La Nerthe’s exuberant Clos de Beauvenir (93, \$136), a Roussanne-based blend, are top 2021 bottles worth seeking out.

Although far better known for its reds, Domaine de Marcoux also crafts a stunning Châteauneuf white, whose 2021 bottling is among

## Rating Southern Rhône Vintages

<b>2021</b>	<b>88</b>	Not as disastrous as the north, yet growers in the south suffered from frosts that reduced yields. Grenache was particularly fragile, and mildew pressure further reduced volumes. Quality is mixed, with many wines lacking concentration and others finding success in a fresher, lower-alcohol style; whites are energetic, vibrant and balanced	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2020</b>	<b>93</b>	A mild winter followed by a hot, dry summer with slightly cooler nights led to wines with good freshness and balance. Ideal harvest conditions resulted in a stress-free vintage with solid yields. With generous, supple fruit profiles and accessible tannins, the wines stand out for their immediate drinkability, though quality is more heterogeneous	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2019</b>	<b>94</b>	A wet winter set the table for the region’s vineyards to get through the hot, dry growing season, with Grenache and Mourvèdre excelling as harvest lingered into early October. Reds are rich, ripe and expressive, with refined textures. A gorgeous vintage that just lacks the spine to be among the truly elite years	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2018</b>	<b>92</b>	Growing season marred by spring rains that led to severe mildew pressure, which severely hampered Grenache yields. Summer was hot and dry, with nights not as cool as usual, but there were no heat spikes. Reds are supple and velvety, low in acid, offering flattering, forward fruit	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2017</b>	<b>92</b>	A difficult flowering resulted in drastically reduced yields on Grenache. Crop ripened quickly in hot, dry conditions, leading to inconsistent quality. Best spots were cooler and later-ripening, with Syrah and Mourvèdre playing key roles	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2016</b>	<b>99</b>	This truly rare vintage is a new benchmark. The growing season was warm during the day but cool at night, with an unusually large diurnal swing that led to slow, even ripening across all varieties while maintaining acidity. Reds are laden with fruit, yet extremely racy and fresh in feel; whites are pure, brimming with energy	<i>Hold</i>

Older vintages of exceptional quality: 2015, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1995, 1990, 1989, 1981, 1979, 1978, 1970, 1967, 1966, 1961

**Vintage ratings:** 95-100, classic; 90-94, outstanding; 85-89, very good; 80-84, good; 75-79, mediocre; 50-74, not recommended

**Drinkability:** “Drink” means most of the wines of the vintage are ready to drink; “hold” means most of the ageworthy wines have yet to fully mature; “past peak” means most of the wines are declining rather than improving.





# Spain's Toro

## WINES WITH HISTORY AND PERSONALITY

In the annals of history, there is a record of Christopher Columbus carrying the wines of Toro on his voyage to the New World, making these opulent Spanish wines the first from Europe to reach the Americas.

From pre-Roman settlements along the Duero River in western Spain to the tables of royal courts through the centuries, the wines of Toro have impressed the masses and critics alike.

“Much of Toro’s prestige is due to our indigenous grapes, old vines and our extraordinary weather,” says Felipe Nalda, president of the Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Toro. “But it is the rustic beauty of the Tinta de Toro grape and the pedoclimatic qualities of each vineyard site that have made Toro wines an exciting choice for anyone who enjoys a beautiful glass of wine with a meal.”

### TORO'S HISTORY

Toro’s reputation for producing excellent wines began with the Romans, who were the original champions of winegrowing throughout western

Spain in modern-day Castilla y León and continued the tradition through the centuries.

Toro is one of the oldest recognized wine regions in Spain. Throughout history, these exhilarating wines have found their way to the tables of Flanders and the courts of Spanish kings, among others.

Following the devastating phylloxera epidemic in the 19th century, during which the wines from Toro were widely exported to satisfy shortages throughout Europe, the region underwent a dramatic transformation.

The bold black Tinta de Toro grape lead the charge. Many of these ungrafted vines still produce some of Toro’s best wines. More than 2,000 of the 5,438 hectares registered under vine are more than 35 years old, qualifying them as old vineyards.

In 1932, Toro was acknowledged as a Denominación de Origen (DO) for the first time, making it one of the oldest recognized wine regions in Spain, along with Jerez and Rioja. In 1987, Toro received its official certification as one of Spain’s finest DOs.



## TORO'S SOILS

The character of Toro wines is the result of its dynamic location on the western Iberian Peninsula, the semiarid continental climate with Atlantic influences, and a pastiche of soils found throughout the region.

The Duero River winds through this fertile territory, which boasts eight unique soil compositions with excellent drainage and varying concentrations of sand, gravel, boulders, sandstone, clay, limestone, silt and detritic loam—each of which contributes to the wealth of colors and flavors in Toro wines.

Vineyards are planted between 620 m to 870 m amsl. At this elevation, wines have great balance and ripeness. Every vineyard site adds a distinctive signature to wines made with Tinta de Toro.

## TORO'S GRAPES

In 1990, the government of Castilla y León embarked on a selection and cloning initiative to save the region's native varieties.

There are several grape varieties permitted in the Toro DO, but the star of the region is the Tinta de Toro.

**Tinta de Toro** delivers deep color, powerful aromas and intense flavors with significant balance and ripe tannins. Nearly half of all vineyards in Toro are planted with ungrafted indigenous clones.

**Garnacha Tinta** is exalted for its inviting aromas and the supple qualities it brings to blends.

**Verdejo** is a light white wine known for its pleasant fruit profile.

**Malvasia-Castellana** is delicate and fruity. The grapes often spend some time macerating.

**Albillo Real** produces fresh and elegant wines with an aromatic profile of stone fruits and white flowers.

**Moscatel de Grano Menudo** is a highly aromatic white wine with a floral profile, fragrances of dried fruit, a high alcohol content and residual sugar.

## TORO'S WINES

There is a wide range of outstanding white, rosé and red wines being produced by more than 60 wineries working under rigorous quality standards for Toro's indigenous varieties.

Tinta de Toro is the most popular black grape in the region, representing 95% of red wines in every style, including youthful Joven and Joven Roble wines, vibrant Crianzas, and reserva and gran reserva wines.

"Our commitment to quality considers the entire process, with specific rules that range from the planting of a vineyard and cultural practices to the sale of every bottle carrying the Toro name," says Nalda.



## WHERE IS TORO?

The Toro DO is located southeast of the province of Zamora and southwest of the province of Valladolid, in western Castilla y León.

The hillside town of Toro has innumerable treasures: centuries-old wineries, historic palaces, the magnificent Collegiate Church of Santa María la Mayor and the Alcázar de Toro—a castle constructed in the 13th century with views of the Duero River.

[www.dotoro.com](http://www.dotoro.com)





# Wines From Toro To Discover



## LAS PARVAS 2018

This wine is made with rare and exceptional Tinta de Toro grapes originating from a single vineyard: Las Parvas. Planted in 1880, this unique vineyard dates back more than 140 years. This excellent and limited-edition masterpiece is brimming with an expressive personality that's full of emotion.

[www.coralduero.com](http://www.coralduero.com)



## DÍSCOLO 2020

Aged 22 months in french oak, Díscolo 2020 is an elegant wine offering sweet tannins and fruit on the finish.

[www.vinodisco.com](http://www.vinodisco.com)



## LA JOTA DE TO VIÑAS VIEJAS 2020

Made with 100% Tinta de Toro grapes sourced from centennial vineyards and aged 12 months in French oak barrels, this wine is best paired with hearty meat dishes, roasted or grilled meats, stews, game dishes and cured cheeses. The label also includes the recipe for a wine mixology cocktail.

[www.bodegasdiezgozmez.com](http://www.bodegasdiezgozmez.com)



## DOMINIO DEL BENDITO LAS SABIAS 2021

Another facet of Tinta de Toro, this wine incorporates more structure, which is not contrary to subtlety and elegance, without falling into absurd power. This is fruit in another aromatic register—more complex and with a more subtle balance.

[www.bodegadominiodelbendito.com](http://www.bodegadominiodelbendito.com)



## ERNESTO DEL PALACIO 2019

Offering a complex nose, this wine is elegant and intense, showing black fruit in harmony with notes of spicy cloves, black pepper, hardwood, toasted licorice and cocoa, plus a mineral touch.

[www.ernestodelpalacio.com](http://www.ernestodelpalacio.com)



## MAZAS ROBLE 2020

This rustic, flavorful wine shows a nose of bitter chocolate and black cherry that carries through to dark fruit notes. With a savory edge and silky tannins on the long, chewy finish, this offers excellent value and great food pairings. 90% Tinta de Toro and 10% Garnacha.

[www.bodegasmazas.com](http://www.bodegasmazas.com)



## NUMANTHIA 2018

Numanthia, our estate's signature wine, offers a unique balance of elegance, freshness and power. Numanthia's style depends on selecting exceptional vines, aged between 50 and 100 years old, ungrafted and nonirrigated. Year after year, their low yields deliver grapes of extreme concentration, fruit and structure.

[www.numanthia.com](http://www.numanthia.com)



## OROT 2019

Tinta de Toro, sourced from old vines, ages 12 months in American and French oak barrels and another 12 months in bottle before being released to market.

[www.bornosbodegas.com](http://www.bornosbodegas.com)



## PALACIO DE VILLACHICA TORO 2017

An intense cherry red color, this wine offers a nose of ripe black fruit, plus woody aromas of vanilla, brioche and toast. Aging 12 months in French-American oak barrels gives this its nose and a long, sweet palate. Medium bodied, with a long-lasting finish and smooth tannins, this complex wine improves over time.

[www.grupopalaciodevillachica.com](http://www.grupopalaciodevillachica.com)



## ANTONA GARCIA 2019

A new vision of Tinta de Toro, this links red fruit and floral notes with delicate spices such as clove from its time aging in barrels. This is smooth and velvety in the mouth—a true reflection of an exceptional vineyard.

[www.rejadorada.com](http://www.rejadorada.com)



## LAS TIERRAS EL PEGO 2020

This wine comes from El Pego, where the fruit matures late and the vineyards produce wines with perfect balance. Aged in American and French oak barrels for a minimum of 12 months, this medium-bodied Tinta de Toro shows aromas of blackberry and notes of vanilla and chocolate on the unctuous, long and fresh finish.

[www.rodriquezysanzo.com](http://www.rodriquezysanzo.com)



## SAN ROMÁN 2020

This is the synthesis of our most complete *terroirs*. Exuberant, opulent and mineral, this wine keeps innovation, excellence and a deep respect for the vine at the forefront. Bottled in November 2022 after spending 24 months in new and used 225- and 500-liter French and American oak barrels.

[www.bodegasanroman.com/en/](http://www.bodegasanroman.com/en/)



## TARDENCUBA 2021

Made with Tinta de Toro grapes from old vineyards with a loamy foot and sandy terrain, this wine has matured in 300-liter French oak barrels. We look for variety and *terroir*, relying on nonaggressive aging that preserves the expression of the fruit over time—we do not want to lose the essence of Toro.

[www.bodegamonramos.com](http://www.bodegamonramos.com)



## MARQUÉS DE PEÑAMONTE COLECCION PRIVADA 2021

Made with grapes from 80-year-old vineyards located at 750 meters, this warm, balanced and delicate Tinta de Toro varietal displays complex aromas of fresh black fruits and notes from the *terroir's* vines, planted in gravel and alluvial soils in an area battered by cold winters and hot, dry summers.

[bodega@bodegastorreduero.com](mailto:bodega@bodegastorreduero.com)



## VALBUSENDA ABIOS 2018

100% Tinta de Toro grapes from the Golden Mile of the D.O. Toro, manually harvested and aged 14 months in Bordeaux barrels, have produced a wine with harmonious tannins and aromas of black fruit, toasted cocoa, and coffee. Offering blackberry on the long finish, this velvety wine pairs perfectly with red meat and pasta.

[www.bodegasvalbusenda.es](http://www.bodegasvalbusenda.es)



## PIEDRAS Y PRINCESAS 2020

This is the crianza gourmet of the winery, although its aging in barrels can be considered almost that of a reserva due to its more than 14 months of aging. Variety: 100% Tinta de Toro; clonal selection vineyards: Pago Valdecarretas; age of vineyards: 30 to 35 years.

[www.vegasaucos.es](http://www.vegasaucos.es)



@vinodetoro | [www.dotoro.es](http://www.dotoro.es)





At famed Châteauneuf-du-Pape domaine Clos St.-Jean, the key to success in 2021 involved a reliance on older vines as well as later-ripening varieties such as Mourvèdre.

*Wine Spectator's* Top 100 Wines of 2023. “The cooler summer was honestly better for the vines,” says Sophie Armenier, who runs her family’s winery, now joined by her son, Vincent Estevenin. “Because of that we were able to make wines with more freshness and a bit less alcohol than these last vintages.”

**O**utside of Châteauneuf, quality was a mixed bag, with some outstanding wines and others lacking ripeness or depth. In Vacqueyras, more than 75% of the vineyards suffered frost damage, while heavy September rains created serious mildew problems. “Growers who machine-harvest weren’t able to sort in the vines, so they brought a lot of mold into the winery and ended up with poor-quality wines. Hand-picking was very important in 2021,” observes de Pins of Montfaucon. “Difficult vintages increase the gap between vigneronns.”

Gigondas was impacted in lower-lying vineyards by record-breaking April frosts, but higher-elevation sites in the hillsides of the Dentelles de Montmirail mountains fared better. Those who picked later made the best wines. At Pierre Amadieu, Jean-Marie Amadieu reports that they didn’t pick even the white varieties until Oct. 8. “This brings us back to the ripening dates of the 1990s!” he says. “By waiting, we were able to achieve good ripeness, along with salinity and fine-grained tannins.” Amadieu’s 2021 Domaine Grand Romane (93, \$45) is a sleek, voluptuous case in point.

In tasting through the vintage, it’s evident which producers rolled the dice and waited to pick later versus those who harvested early. “I’ve never taken this much risk,” says Julien Bréchet of Domaine des Bosquets. Along with Louis Barruol of neighboring

Château de St.-Cosme, Bréchet was among the last in Gigondas to pick. “The signature of the *terroir* is all in the skins—it was critical for me to wait until full ripening, but it was really stressful.”

*Terroir* mapping is an obsession for Bréchet, who spent a decade exploring the various sites across his 64 acres, many of which he bottles as single-vineyard wines. In 2019, he decided to make a micro-cuvée of small selections from his very top sites. Called Le Regard Loin, the 2021 (95 points) shows the vintage at its most powerful and lush—a sign that his late-picking gamble paid off.

As usual, Louis Barruol’s Château de St.-Cosme cuvées were some of the best of the vintage. His single-site wines—Le Poste, Le Claux, Hominis Fides—reveal the unmatched excellence of ancient vines in limestone soils. “The top sites can give concentration even in difficult years,” Barruol says. “They taste great upon release, and they also age well—this was even true in my father’s era. This is St.-Cosme.”

The beauty of Gigondas is in the range of styles and expressions one can achieve from its diverse soils and elevations. For stylistic contrast, Benjamin Gras at Domaine Santa Duc continues to evolve the house style toward a more restrained, mineral-driven profile. A vintage like 2021 accentuates the differences in producers’ philosophies, he says: “It’s a difficult vintage that is best described as a *‘millésime de vigneron,’* as the choices we make shape the future of the wine.” He decided to ferment his 2021s 100% whole cluster, and the wines offer a peppery, savory delicacy. “It’s totally different from 2020 but just as interesting, in my opinion.”

As with any vintage, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. For wine drinkers eager to get back to the string of riper, more homogeneously high quality vintages, fear not: 2022 and 2023 offer a return to the Rhône’s new normal.

Senior editor Kristen Bieler is *Wine Spectator’s* lead taster on the wines of the Rhône Valley.



#### FREE ALPHABETICAL LIST

Get scores and prices for the nearly 650 wines reviewed for this report online [WineSpectator.com/RhoneAlpha033124](https://www.winespectator.com/RhoneAlpha033124)



# Kristen Bieler's Recommended Wines From the Rhône Valley

Nearly 650 wines were tasted for this report. An alphabetical guide begins on page 62; an online version is available at [WineSpectator.com/RhôneAlpha033124](https://www.winespectator.com/RhôneAlpha033124). WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews using the online Wine Ratings search.

## 2021 NORTHERN RHÔNE REDS

WINE	SCORE	PRICE	WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>ALAIN VOGÉ</b> Cornas Chapelle St.-Pierre 2021	95	\$125	<b>GRAEME &amp; JULIE BOTT</b> Côte-Rôtie 2021	92	\$153
<b>JEAN-LUC COLOMBO</b> Cornas La Louvée 2021	94	\$115	<b>GRAEME &amp; JULIE BOTT</b> St.-Joseph 2021	92	\$67
<b>JEAN-LUC COLOMBO</b> Cornas Les Ruchets 2021	94	\$115	<b>JEAN-LUC COLOMBO</b> Cornas Terres Brûlées 2021	92	\$75
<b>DELAS</b> Cornas Chante-Perdrix 2021	94	\$70	<b>DOMAINE COURBIS</b> St.-Joseph Les Royes 2021	92	\$55
<b>DUMIEN-SERRETTE</b> Cornas Henri 2021	94	\$83	<b>EMMANUEL DARNAUD</b> Crozes-Hermitage Les Trois Chênes 2021	92	\$40
<b>DOMAINE DU TUNNEL</b> Cornas 2021	94	\$75	<b>DELAS</b> Crozes-Hermitage Domaine des Grands Chemins 2021	92	\$49
<b>ERIC &amp; JOËL DURAND</b> Cornas Empreintes 2021	93	\$60	<b>DELAS</b> Hermitage Domaine des Tourettes 2021	92	\$99
<b>PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ</b> Hermitage La Chapelle 2021	93	\$220	<b>DUMIEN-SERRETTE</b> Cornas Patou 2021	92	\$60
<b>R. ROSTAING</b> Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2021	93	\$190	<b>ERIC &amp; JOËL DURAND</b> Cornas Premices 2021	92	\$50
<b>DOMAINE DU TUNNEL</b> Cornas Vin Noir 2021	93	\$80	<b>FERRATON PÈRE &amp; FILS</b> Cornas Lieu-Dit Les Eygats 2021	92	\$66
<b>LES VINS DE VIENNE</b> Cornas Les Barcillants 2021	93	\$77	<b>R. ROSTAING</b> Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde 2021	92	\$200
<b>LES VINS DE VIENNE</b> Côte-Rôtie Lieu-Dit Les Grandes Places 2021	93	\$216	<b>TARDIEU-LAURENT</b> Cornas 2021	92	\$49
<b>ALAIN VOGÉ</b> Cornas Les Chailles 2021	93	\$68	<b>TARDIEU-LAURENT</b> Hermitage 2021	92	\$80
<b>ALAIN VOGÉ</b> Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes 2021	93	\$92	<b>TARDIEU-LAURENT</b> St.-Joseph Vieilles Vignes 2021	92	\$34
<b>GRAEME &amp; JULIE BOTT</b> Cornas 2021	92	\$109	<b>PIERRE-JEAN VILLA</b> St.-Joseph Préface 2021	92	\$51

## 2021 NORTHERN RHÔNE WHITES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE	WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>DELAS</b> Condrieu La Galopine 2021	95	\$65	<b>LES ALEXANDRINS</b> Hermitage White Maison 2021	93	\$93
<b>FERRATON PÈRE &amp; FILS</b> Ermitage White Le Reverdy 2021	95	\$100	<b>DOMAINE FAURY</b> Condrieu Le Mornieux 2021	93	\$69
<b>GRAEME &amp; JULIE BOTT</b> Condrieu Lieu-Dit L'Aleau 2021	94	\$162	<b>PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ</b> Hermitage White Le Chevalier de Sterimberg 2021	93	\$108
<b>DELAS</b> Hermitage White Domaine des Tourettes 2021	94	\$99	<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b> Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall 2021	93	\$89
<b>ST.-COSME</b> Condrieu 2021	94	\$100	<b>PIERRE-JEAN VILLA</b> Condrieu Jardin Suspendu 2021	93	\$80
<b>TARDIEU-LAURENT</b> Hermitage White 2021	94	\$64	<b>PIERRE-JEAN VILLA</b> St.-Joseph White Saut de l'Ange 2021	93	\$65
<b>ALAIN VOGÉ</b> St.-Péray Fleur de Crussol 2021	94	\$70			
<b>LES ALEXANDRINS</b> Condrieu Maison 2021	93	\$75			

## OTHER NORTHERN RHÔNE

WINE	SCORE	PRICE	WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage L'Ermite 2020	98	\$559	<b>JEAN-PAUL &amp; JEAN-LUC JAMET</b> Côte-Rôtie 2020	96	\$210
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage White de l'Orée 2020	98	\$449	<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Hermitage White Chante-Alouette 2020	95	\$134
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage White L'Ermite 2020	98	\$999	<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> St.-Joseph Les Granits 2020	95	\$119
<b>JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE</b> Hermitage White 2020	98	\$375	<b>JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE</b> St.-Joseph 2020	95	\$128
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage Le Pavillon 2020	97	\$599	<b>JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE</b> St.-Joseph Clos Florentin 2020	95	\$180
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage White Le Méal 2020	97	\$379	<b>JEAN-LUC COLOMBO</b> Cornas La Louvée 2020	95	\$115
<b>JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE</b> Hermitage 2020	97	\$375	<b>JEAN-LUC COLOMBO</b> Cornas Vallon de l'Aigle 2020	95	\$272
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2019	97	\$700	<b>DUMIEN-SERRETTE</b> Cornas Henri 2020	95	\$83
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Ermitage Ex Voto 2019	97	\$650	<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b> Condrieu Les Vieilles Vignes de Jacques Vernay 2019	95	\$141
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Ermitage White Ex Voto 2019	97	\$350	<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b> Côte-Rôtie Bertholon 2018	95	\$193
<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b> Côte-Rôtie La Belle Hélène 2018	97	\$552	<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b> Côte-Rôtie But de Mont 2018	95	\$193
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage Le Méal 2020	96	\$399	<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b> Côte-Rôtie Côte-Bodin 2018	95	\$193
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Ermitage Les Greffieux 2020	96	\$289	<b>LES VINS DE VIENNE</b> Condrieu Lieu-Dit Jean Raude 2022	95	\$120
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2018	96	\$700	<b>LES VINS DE VIENNE</b> Condrieu Lieu-Dit Poncin 2022	95	\$120
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2019	96	\$700	<b>ALAIN VOGÉ</b> Cornas Les Vieilles Fontaines 2019	95	\$170
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2019	96	\$700	<b>ALAIN VOGÉ</b> Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes 2020	95	\$90
<b>E. GUIGAL</b> Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2018	96	\$700			



2021 SOUTHERN RHÔNE REDS

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>DOMAINE DE MARCOUX</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	96	\$199
<b>CLOS DES PAPES</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	96	\$120
<b>CHÂTEAU DE ST.-COSME</b> Gigondas Hominis Fides 2021	96	\$160
<b>CLOS ST.-JEAN</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Deus Ex Machina 2021	96	\$140
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage Jacques Perrin 2021	95	\$450
<b>DOMAINE DES BOSQUETS</b> Gigondas Le Regard Loin... 2021	95	\$310
<b>FAMILLE ISABEL FERRANDO</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Colombis 2021	95	\$210
<b>ROGER SABON &amp; FILS</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Secret des Sabon 2021	95	\$230
<b>CHÂTEAU DE ST.-COSME</b> Gigondas Le Claux 2021	95	\$160
<b>CHÂTEAU DE ST.-COSME</b> Gigondas Le Poste 2021	95	\$160
<b>CLOS ST.-JEAN</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Combe des Fous 2021	95	\$140

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>CLOS ST.-JEAN</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	95	\$68
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	94	\$102
<b>LE CLOS DU CAILLOU</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Réserve 2021	94	\$225
<b>DOMAINE DE LA CHARBONNIÈRE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Mourre des Perdrix 2021	94	\$86
<b>FAMILLE ISABEL FERRANDO</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape St.-Prefert 2021	94	\$115
<b>DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	94	\$125
<b>ALAIN JAUME</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur Le Miocène 2021	94	\$62
<b>DOMAINE DE LA MORDORÉE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Reine des Bois 2021	94	\$207
<b>CHÂTEAU DE ST.-COSME</b> Gigondas 2021	94	\$65
<b>CLOS ST.-JEAN</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	94	\$68
<b>TARDIEU-LAURENT</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Spéciale 2021	94	\$64

2021 SOUTHERN RHÔNE WHITES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>FAMILLE ISABEL FERRANDO</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Vieilles Clairettes 2021	95	\$420 1.5L
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	94	\$110
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b> Roussanne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	94	\$191
<b>DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White La Crau 2021	94	\$94

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	93	\$53
<b>CHÂTEAU DE NALYS</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	93	\$125
<b>CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	93	\$77
<b>DOMAINE ST.-GAYAN</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Belle Jean 2021	93	\$50

OTHER SOUTHERN RHÔNE

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage Jacques Perrin 2020	97	\$563
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac 2020	96	\$95
<b>CLOS DES PAPES</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	96	\$114
<b>ROTEM &amp; MOUNIR SAOUMA</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Arioso 2019	96	\$270
<b>ROTEM &amp; MOUNIR SAOUMA</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Magis 2020	96	\$155
<b>DOMAINE LA BARROCHE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure 2020	95	\$162
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	95	\$100
<b>M. CHAPOUTIER</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Croix de Bois 2020	95	\$88
<b>DOMAINE DE LA CHARBONNIÈRE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hautes Brusquières Cuvée Spéciale 2020	95	\$97

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>DOMAINE DE CRISTIA</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2020	95	\$116
<b>DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Prestige 2022	95	\$178
<b>CHÂTEAU DE MONTFAUCON</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Baron de Montfaucon Cuvée Bimard 2020	95	\$59
<b>CHÂTEAU DE NALYS</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	95	\$137
<b>CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée des Cadettes 2019	95	\$180
<b>ROTEM &amp; MOUNIR SAOUMA</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2020	95	\$125
<b>DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Vin de la Solitude 2022	95	\$105
<b>CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU</b> Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Clairette de Gabriel 2022	95	\$110

RHÔNE VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>CHÂTEAU DE MONTFAUCON</b> Lirac Baron Louis 2019	92	\$29
<b>FRANÇOIS VILLARD</b> Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes L'Appel des Sereines 2020	92	\$20
<b>LES ALEXANDRINS</b> Crozes-Hermitage Maison 2021	91	\$29
<b>DELAS</b> Crozes-Hermitage White Les Launes 2021	91	\$28
<b>DOMAINE DES BOSQUETS</b> Côtes du Rhône Les Bosquets 2022	90	\$24

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>BROTTE</b> Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Domaine Grosset 2022	90	\$19
<b>CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON</b> Lirac 2020	90	\$21
<b>DOMAINE DE MOURCHON</b> Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Tradition 2020	90	\$19
<b>ST.-COSME</b> Côtes du Rhône 2022	90	\$21
<b>TARDIEU-LAURENT</b> Cairanne Vieilles Vignes 2022	90	\$22



Do You Have An Award-Worthy Wine List?

Enter the  
**Wine Spectator**  
**Restaurant Awards Program**  
and let diners know about it!



Sistina in New York City, a Grand Award winner since 2018. Photo by Shannon Sturgis

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## Wine Lists Are Judged For One Of Three Awards



**Award of Excellence:** Wine lists that offer a well-chosen selection of quality producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. They range in size from 90 selections to several hundred, emphasizing focus and discovery.



**Best of Award of Excellence:** Wine lists that display excellent breadth across multiple regions and/or significant vertical depth of top wines, along with superior presentation. Typically offering 350 or more wine selections.



**Grand Award:** Wine lists typically offer 1,000 or more selections, deliver serious breadth of top producers, outstanding depth in mature vintages and a selection of large-format bottles. Along with excellent harmony with the menu and superior presentation, these restaurants offer the highest level of wine service.



If you've got a great wine list, flaunt it! Join more than 3,500 restaurants worldwide that have been honored by *Wine Spectator* for their wine programs. There are three levels—Award of Excellence, Best of Award of Excellence and the Grand Award—and all recipients will be featured in the Aug. 31 issue, as well as year-round on WineSpectator.com and on our free Restaurant Awards app.



*"The Wine Spectator Award recognizes not only exceptional wine lists, but restaurants with an overall commitment to hospitality and elevating the guest experience. Receiving this award means our guests can be confident in our list and commitment to an excellent wine experience."*

—Amy Racine

Wine Director for John Fraser Restaurants (7 Award Winners)  
and Tatiana by Kwame Onwuachi

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***Wine Spectator's* wine list award provides the seal of approval our readers and your diners are searching for!**

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Application Deadline:  
**March 15, 2024**

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**Early Bird  
Pricing  
until  
February 15!**

For more information or to submit your wine list, go to:

**WineSpectator.com/Restaurants**





Château d'Aquéria

# Alphabetical Guide to RHÔNE VALLEY WINES

Nearly 650 wines were tasted for this report. An in-depth analysis begins on page 46.  
WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews using the online Wine Ratings search.

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
<b>LES ALEXANDRINS</b>		
Condrieu La Caille Domaine 2020	\$99	93
Condrieu Maison 2021	\$75	93
Cornas Maison 2020	\$69	93
Côte-Rôtie Maison 2020	\$98	93
Crozes-Hermitage Les Chafians Domaine 2020	\$45	93
Crozes-Hermitage Maison 2021	\$29	91
Crozes-Hermitage White Les Garennes Domaine 2020	\$54	91
Crozes-Hermitage White Maison 2021	\$35	91
Hermitage Maison 2020	\$100	94
Hermitage White Maison 2021	\$93	93
St.-Joseph Les Ponts Domaine 2019	\$55	93
St.-Joseph Maison 2020	\$39	92
St.-Joseph White Maison 2019	\$45	93
Viognier Vin de France Le Cabanon des Alexandrins 2021	\$17	89
Viognier Vin de France Maison 2021	\$18	88
<b>PIERRE AMADIEU</b>		
Cairanne Les Hautes Rives 2021	\$25	89
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Paillousse 2021	\$60	91
Côtes du Rhône Grande Réserve 2021	\$22	89
Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2021	\$45	93
Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2020	\$55	93
Gigondas Romane Machotte 2021	\$40	91
<b>CHÂTEAU D'AQUÉRIA</b>		
Lirac 2022	\$25	89
Lirac 2020	\$22	90

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Lirac White 2022	\$20	89
Tavel 2022	\$20	89
<b>PAUL AUTARD</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$50	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée La Côte Ronde 2020	\$65	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Juline 2020	\$100	94
<b>DOMAINE LA BARROCHE</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$63	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure 2020	\$162	95
Vin de France Liberty 2020	\$35	89
<b>LOUIS &amp; CHERRY BARRUOL</b>		
Côte-Rôtie Fongean 2020	\$90	93
Côte-Rôtie La Boisselée 2019	\$94	96
Côte-Rôtie Les Roses 2020	\$90	94
Hermitage La Pierrelle 2020	\$95	94
Hermitage White La Pierrelle 2020	\$95	95
Vinsobres Château de Rouanne 2020	\$30	91
Vinsobres Château de Rouanne Guerin 2020	\$75	92
Vinsobres Château de Rouanne Les Côtes 2020	\$75	93
Vinsobres Chateau de Rouanne Rouanne & Les Crottes 2020	\$75	93
<b>LA BASTIDE ST.-DOMINIQUE</b>		
Cairanne Les 2 Arbres 2020	\$28	90
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$50	92
Côtes du Rhône 2020	\$23	88
Côtes du Rhône White 2022	\$52	90

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
<b>CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$102	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$100	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage Jacques Perrin 2021	\$450	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage Jacques Perrin 2020	\$563	97
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	\$110	94
Roussanne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$191	94
<b>DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$74	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$67	93
Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$24	88
Rasteau 2021	\$35	90
<b>CLOS BELLANE</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Urganien 2019	\$68	91
Côtes du Rhône-Villages La Petite Bellane 2020	\$17	89
<b>DOMAINE BENEDETTI</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$57	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Larmes Papales 2020	\$80	93
Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2020	\$25	89
Côtes du Rhône White 2022	\$25	88
<b>DOMAINE BOISSON</b>		
Cairanne Les Trois Terroirs 2021	\$24	89
<b>BOSQUET DES PAPES</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$59	92

COURTESY E. GUIGAL



WINE	PRICE	SCORE
DOMAINE DES BOSQUETS		
Côtes du Rhône Les Bosquets 2022	\$24	90
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Seguret Côte Inverse... 2021	\$76	93
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Seguret Réserve 2021	\$32	91
Gigondas Le Regard Loin... 2021	\$310	95
Gigondas Les Roches... 2021	\$88	93
Gigondas Les Routes... 2021	\$88	93
Gigondas Réserve 2021	\$55	92
GRAEME & JULIE BOTT		
Condrieu 2022	\$109	93
Condrieu Lieu-Dit L'Aleau 2021	\$162	94
Condrieu Lieu-Dit L'Aleau 2020	\$162	92
Cornas 2021	\$109	92
Côte-Rôtie 2021	\$153	92
St.-Joseph 2021	\$67	92
Syrah Vin de France First Flight 2021	\$43	91
Viognier Vin de France First Flight 2022	\$43	91
DOMAINE LA BOUÏSSIÈRE		
Gigondas 2021	\$45	92
Vacqueyras 2021	\$41	91
BOUTINOT		
Cairanne La Côte Sauvage 2020	\$32	90
Cairanne Les Deux Barriques 2019	\$65	91
Cairanne Les Six 2022	\$30	91
Cairanne White Argiles Blanches 2022	\$30	89
Côtes du Rhône White La Fleur Solitaire 2022	\$18	87
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Les Coteaux 2021	\$20	87
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Les Coteaux 2020	\$20	90
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Les Coteaux Schisteux 2020	\$26	91
BROTTE		
Cairanne Création Grosset 2021	\$18	89
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Barville 2022	\$45	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Barville 2021	\$45	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hauts de Barville 2022	\$35	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Secret Barville 2022	\$60	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Hauts de Barville 2022	\$35	93
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Domaine Grosset 2022	\$19	90
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Laudun Bord Elegance 2022	\$16	89
Gigondas La Marasque 2022	\$25	91
DOMAINE BRUSSET		
Cairanne Les Travers 2021	\$22	89
Cairanne Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$26	88
Gigondas Les Hauts de Montmirail 2021	\$55	92
Gigondas Les Secrets de Montmirail 2020	\$80	94
Rasteau La Bastide 2021	\$30	90
DOMAINE DE CABASSE		
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Sablet Les Deux Anges 2021	\$15	87
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Cuvée Garnacho 2021	\$16	88
Gigondas 2020	\$24	90
DOMAINE DE LA CHAPELLE		
Hermitage La Chapelle 2021	\$220	93
Hermitage White Le Chevalier de Sterimberg 2021	\$108	93
M. CHAPOUTIER		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac 2020	\$95	96
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Croix de Bois 2020	\$88	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine 2020	\$63	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White La Bernardine 2021	\$75	92

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Carnas St.-Pierre 2020		
Cornas Temenos 2020	\$70	94
Côtes du Rhône Belleruche 2021	\$18	87
Côtes du Rhône Rosé Belleruche 2022	\$18	86
Crozes-Ermitage Les Varonniers 2020	\$109	93
Crozes-Hermitage Petite Ruche 2020	\$38	90
Crozes-Hermitage White Petite Ruche 2021	\$34	92
Crozes-Hermitage White Petite Ruche 2020	\$34	92
Ermitage L'Ermite 2020	\$559	98
Ermitage Le Méal 2020	\$399	96
Ermitage Le Pavillon 2020	\$599	97
Ermitage Les Greffieux 2020	\$289	96
Ermitage White de l'Orée 2020	\$449	98
Ermitage White L'Ermite 2020	\$999	98
Ermitage White Le Méal 2020	\$379	97
Hermitage Monier de la Sizeranne 2020	\$149	94
Hermitage White Chante-Alouette 2020	\$134	95
Lubéron White La Ciboise 2022	\$15	87
St.-Joseph Le Clos 2020	\$224	94
St.-Joseph Les Granits 2020	\$119	95
St.-Joseph White Les Granilites 2020	\$61	93
St.-Joseph White Les Granits 2020	\$129	94
Viognier Collines Rhodaniennes La Combe Pilate 2020	\$25	91
DOMAINE DE LA CHARBONNIÈRE		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$60	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$60	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Mourre des Perdrix 2021	\$86	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Mourre des Perdrix 2020	\$86	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Vieilles Vignes 2020	\$91	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hautes Brusquières Cuvée Spéciale 2020	\$97	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$60	94
Vacqueyras 2020	\$40	92
Vacqueyras Cuvée Spéciale 2020	\$45	91
CHÂTEAU LA CROIX DES PINS		
Gigondas Les Dessous des Dentelles 2021	\$30	91
CHÂTEAU LES MESCLANCES		
Méditerranée Rosé Charmes 2022	\$16	86
JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE SÉLECTION		
Côtes du Rhône Mon Coeur 2021	\$26	90
Côtes du Rhône Mon Coeur 2020	\$25	90
Hermitage Farconnet 2019	\$78	94
Hermitage White Blanche 2019	\$78	94
St.-Joseph Offerus 2020	\$29	93
JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE		
Hermitage 2020	\$375	97
Hermitage White 2020	\$375	98
St.-Joseph 2020	\$128	95
St.-Joseph Clos Florentin 2020	\$180	95
CHÊNE BLEU		
Vaucluse Héloïse 2015	\$98	93
Vaucluse Rêve de Scipion 2018	\$65	90
Vaucluse Rosé Le Rosé 2022	\$42	90
Ventoux Abélard 2015	\$98	91
CLOS DE L'ORATOIRE DES PAPES		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$85	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019	\$85	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Choregies 2018	\$155	94
CLOS DES PAPES		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$120	96
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$114	96
LE CLOS DU CAILLOU		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Réserve 2021	\$225	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Quartz 2021	\$115	92

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Safres 2021	\$75	92
Côtes du Rhône Les Quartz 2021	\$42	89
CLOS DU MONT-OLIVET		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$55	92
Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$24	88
Lirac 2021	\$24	89
CLOS ST.-JEAN		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$68	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Deus Ex Machina 2021	\$140	96
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Combe des Fous 2021	\$140	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$68	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$65	93
DOMAINE LE COLOMBIER		
Vacqueyras Cuvée G. 2021	\$35	89
Vacqueyras Tradition 2022	\$30	89
Vacqueyras White 2022	\$36	90
DOMAINE DU COLOMBIER		
Crozes-Hermitage 2019	\$33	91
JEAN-LUC COLOMBO		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Bartavelles 2022	\$68	90
Condrieu Amour de Dieu 2019	\$92	92
Cornas La Louvée 2021	\$115	94
Cornas La Louvée 2020	\$115	95
Cornas Les Ruchets 2021	\$115	94
Cornas Les Ruchets 2020	\$115	94
Cornas Terres Brûlées 2021	\$75	92
Cornas Terres Brûlées 2020	\$75	93
Cornas Vallon de l'Aigle 2020	\$272	95
Côtes du Rhône Les Abeilles 2021	\$15	87
Côtes du Rhône Les Forots 2020	\$25	87
Côtes du Rhône White La Redonne 2021	\$25	89
Côtes du Rhône White Les Abeilles 2021	\$19	88
Crozes-Hermitage Les Fées Brunes 2021	\$43	89
St.-Péray La Belle de Mai 2022	\$38	92
St.-Péray La Belle de Mai 2021	\$38	91
Syrah Méditerranée Les Collines de Laure 2020	\$22	87
LAURENT COMBIER		
Crozes-Hermitage Clos des Grives 2021	\$80	89
FAMILLE COULON		
Vin de France Rosé Le Petit Renard 2022	\$22	88
DOMAINE COURBIS		
Cornas Champelrose 2021	\$60	91
Cornas Champelrose 2020	\$57	92
St.-Joseph 2022	\$38	92
St.-Joseph 2020	\$35	92
St.-Joseph Les Royes 2021	\$55	92
St.-Joseph Les Royes 2020	\$50	92
DOMAINE DE CRISTIA		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$54	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Renaissance 2020	\$89	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2020	\$116	95
Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$20	89
CROUS ST-MARTIN		
Gigondas Les Espaliers 2019	\$45	90
EMMANUEL DARNAUD		
Crozes-Hermitage Basatus 2021	\$40	91
Crozes-Hermitage Les Trois Chênes 2021	\$40	92
Crozes-Hermitage Mise en Bouche 2022	\$35	91
St.-Joseph La Dardouille 2021	\$61	91
CELLIER DES DAUPHINS		
Grenache Blanc-Viognier Côtes du Rhône White Les Dauphins 2022	\$12	86
Grenache-Syrah Côtes du Rhône Les Dauphins 2021	\$12	86



WINE	PRICE	SCORE
<b>DELAS</b>		
Condrieu La Galopine 2021	\$65	95
Cornas Chante-Perdrix 2021	\$70	94
Cornas Chante-Perdrix 2020	\$67	93
Côte-Rôtie Seigneur de Maugiron 2021	\$99	91
Côtes du Rhône St.-Esprit 2021	\$15	89
Côtes du Rhône White St.-Esprit 2022	\$15	88
Crozes-Hermitage Domaine des Grands Chemins 2021	\$49	92
Crozes-Hermitage Le Clos 2020	\$67	93
Crozes-Hermitage Les Launes 2021	\$28	90
Crozes-Hermitage White Les Launes 2022	\$34	92
Crozes-Hermitage White Les Launes 2021	\$28	91
Hermitage Domaine des Tourettes 2021	\$99	92
Hermitage White Domaine des Tourettes 2021	\$99	94
St.-Joseph François de Tournon 2021	\$50	91
St.-Joseph Les Challeys 2021	\$34	90
St.-Joseph White Les Challeys 2022	\$38	93
<b>DOMAINE DES ASSALINS</b>		
Gigondas 2020	\$40	92
<b>DOMAINE DUCLAUX</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2017	\$55	92
<b>DUMIEN-SERRETTE</b>		
Cornas Henri 2021	\$83	94
Cornas Henri 2020	\$83	95
Cornas Patou 2021	\$60	92
Cornas Patou 2020	\$60	93
St.-Péray Grand Gachet 2021	\$38	90
Syrah Vin de France Le Moulin 2022	\$30	89
<b>ERIC &amp; JOËL DURAND</b>		
Cornas Empreintes 2021	\$60	93
Cornas Prémices 2021	\$50	92
St.-Joseph White 2022	\$40	93
St.-Péray 2022	\$40	92
Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes 2021	\$25	89
<b>EQUIS</b>		
Cornas 2019	\$75	90
Crozes-Hermitage Domaine des Lises 2020	\$37	90
Crozes-Hermitage Equinoxe 2022	\$75	91

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Crozes-Hermitage White Domaine des Lises 2020	\$53	92
<b>CHÂTEAU D'ESTOUBLON</b>		
Méditerranée Roseblood 2022	\$24	89
<b>DOMAINE FAURY</b>		
Condrieu Le Mornieux 2021	\$69	93
Côte-Rôtie Les 3 Brunes 2021	\$82	91
St.-Joseph Vieilles Vignes La Gloriette 2021	\$55	90
St.-Joseph White Les Ribaudes 2021	\$40	91
Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes L'Art Zélé 2020	\$39	90
Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes Les Hautes Ribaudes 2022	\$28	89
<b>FAMILLE ISABEL FERRANDO</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Colombis 2021	\$210	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape F 601 2020	\$862	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape St.-Prefert 2021	\$115	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White St.-Prefert 2022	\$115	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Vieilles Clairettes 2021 <i>(1.5L)</i>	\$420	95
<b>FERRATON PÈRE &amp; FILS</b>		
Cornas Lieu-Dit Les Eygats 2021	\$66	92
Côte-Rôtie L'Églantine 2021	\$80	90
Côtes du Rhône Samorëns 2022	\$17	88
Côtes du Rhône White Samorëns 2022	\$17	88
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu 2022	\$20	89
Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Laudun 2022	\$20	91
Crozes-Hermitage White La Matinière 2022	\$34	90
Ermitage White Le Reverdy 2021	\$100	95
St.-Joseph La Source 2022	\$35	89
St.-Joseph Lieu-Dit St.-Joseph 2021	\$70	91
St.-Joseph White La Source 2022	\$35	92
St.-Joseph White Les Oliviers 2021	\$45	92
<b>DOMAINE DE FONT-SANE</b>		
Gigondas Tradition 2021	\$32	91
<b>DOMAINE DE FONTBONAU</b>		
Côtes du Rhône 2020	\$45	91
Côtes du Rhône Les Chaux 2020	\$25	89
Côtes du Rhône White La Lence 2021	\$NA	88

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
<b>CHÂTEAU FORTIA</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée du Baron 2020	\$54	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Secret des Terres 2016	\$105	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition 2020	\$42	92
<b>GASSIER</b>		
Grenache Costières de Nîmes Rosé Brise 2022	\$20	87
<b>MICHEL GASSIER</b>		
Costières de Nîmes White Lou Coucardié 2020	\$45	89
Costières de Nîmes White Nostre País 2021	\$28	90
<b>DOMAINE GIRAUD</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$62	93
Lirac Les Sables d'Arène Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$29	89
<b>ALAIN GRAILLOT</b>		
Crozes-Hermitage 2021	\$49	90
Crozes-Hermitage La Guirauda 2020	\$75	93
Crozes-Hermitage White 2022	\$45	91
<b>DOMAINE DU GRAND TINEL</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$49	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2020	\$55	93
<b>DOMAINE DU GRAPILLON D'OR</b>		
Gigondas 2020	\$32	92
Gigondas 2019	\$32	93
Gigondas Excellence 2020	\$56	93
Gigondas Excellence 2019	\$56	94
<b>E. GUIGAL</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2018	\$62	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2020	\$62	91
Condrieu 2022	\$80	93
Condrieu La Doriane 2022	\$150	94
Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2020	\$105	93
Côte-Rôtie Château d'Ampuis 2019	\$210	95
Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2019	\$700	97
Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2018	\$700	96
Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2019	\$700	96
Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2018	\$700	95
Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2019	\$700	96
Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2018	\$700	96
Côtes du Rhône 2020	\$19	89



Domaine Jaume



WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Côtes du Rhône Rosé 2022	\$19	88
Côtes du Rhône Rosé 2021	\$19	88
Crozes-Hermitage 2020	\$35	92
Ermitage Ex Voto 2019	\$650	97
Ermitage White Ex Voto 2019	\$350	97
Gigondas 2020	\$42	92
Hermitage 2020	\$118	94
Hermitage White 2019	\$87	93
St.-Joseph Vignes de l'Hospice 2020	\$155	94
St.-Joseph White 2020	\$40	92
Tavel 2022	\$25	88

HALOS DE JUPITER

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$60	92
Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$20	89
Gigondas 2021	\$35	89
Vacqueyras 2021	\$30	90

OLIVIER HILLAIRE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$48	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Petits Pieds d'Armand 2020	\$120	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Terrasses 2020	\$95	92
Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$17	86

PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ

Côtes du Rhône Parallèle 45 2019	\$15	86
Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert 2021	\$39	90
Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert 2015	\$35	90

DOMAINE JAMET

Côte-Rôtie 2020	\$210	96
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DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$70	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chaupin 2021	\$100	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$125	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$68	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Prestige 2022	\$178	95
Côtes du Rhône Les Garrigues 2020	\$54	90
Côtes du Rhône Réserve 2021	\$22	88
Côtes du Rhône White 2022	\$24	90
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Terre d'Argile 2021	\$30	89
Viognier Principauté d'Orange 2022	\$28	89

ALAIN JAUME

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur Le Miocène 2021	\$62	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur Les Origines 2021	\$81	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$133	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Grangette des Papes 2021	\$55	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieux Terron 2021	\$56	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Domaine Grand Veneur Le Miocène 2022	\$62	91
Côtes du Rhône Domaine Grand Veneur Les Champauvins 2021	\$29	88
Gigondas La Grangette des Garrigues 2021	\$45	93
Gigondas Terrasses de Montmirail 2021	\$46	91
Lirac La Grangette des Garrigues 2020	\$30	91
Tavel Le Crétacé 2022	\$29	89
Vacqueyras La Grangette des Garrigues 2021	\$32	91

DOMAINE JAUME

Vinsobres Altitude 420 2021	\$23	89
Vinsobres Clos des Échalas 2019	\$53	92
Vinsobres Courtois La Grange 2021	\$23	90
Vinsobres Vinéa Natura Sans Sulfites 2022	\$30	91

JOLIE-PITT & PERRIN

Méditerranée Rosé Studio by Miraval 2022	\$16	87
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WINE	PRICE	SCORE
FAMILLE LANÇON		
Côtes du Rhône La Solitude 2021	\$16	87
Côtes du Rhône-Villages La Solitude Réserve 2020	\$23	87

LAVAU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$40	92
Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$20	88
Côtes du Rhône Koudiat 2022	\$18	89
Côtes du Rhône White 2022	\$22	88
Gigondas 2021	\$34	91
Rasteau 2021	\$26	90
Vacqueyras 2021	\$30	91

LES MAITRES VIGNERONS DE LA PRESQU'ILE DE ST-TROPEZ		
Méditerranée La Jolie Fleur Rosé 2022	\$18	86

MALMONT

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Petit Blanc 2022	\$19	89
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Petit Rouge 2021	\$22	90
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Rouge 2021	\$28	89
Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Séguret 2022	\$24	91

DOMAINE DE MARCOUX

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$80	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$199	96
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$80	94

JEAN-CLAUDE MARSANNE

St.-Joseph 2019	\$55	92
St.-Joseph White 2020	\$61	93

MAS DE BOISLAUZON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$55	94
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CHÂTEAU MAUCOIL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$38	89
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$43	91

GABRIEL MEFFRE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape St.-Théodoric 2021	\$45	91
Costières de Nîmes Rosé Château Grand Escalion 2022	\$19	87
Gigondas Ste.-Catherine 2021	\$40	92
Tavel St.-Férréol 2022	\$29	88
Vacqueyras St.-Barthélémy 2022	\$30	89

CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$NA	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019	\$46	93

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Plateau 2018	\$163	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$33	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	\$53	93
Côtes du Rhône Réserve 2021	\$14	87
Côtes du Rhône White Réserve 2022	\$17	87
Gigondas Réserve 2019	\$31	92
Lirac 2020	\$21	90
Lirac White 2022	\$19	90

CHÂTEAU DE MONTFAUCON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Baron de Montfaucon 2020	\$49	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Baron de Montfaucon Cuvée Bimard 2020	\$59	95
Côtes du Rhône White Baron de Montfaucon 2021	\$21	88
Lirac Baron Louis 2019	\$29	92
Lirac Vin de Monsieur Le Baron de Montfaucon 2019	\$55	94
Lirac White Comtesse Madeleine 2021	\$26	89

DOMAINE DE LA MORDORÉE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Dame Voyageuse 2021	\$128	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Reine des Bois 2021	\$207	94
Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$17	88
Lirac La Reine des Bois 2021	\$48	89
Tavel La Dame Rousse 2022	\$40	90
Tavel La Reine des Bois 2022	\$52	91

PIERRE-HENRI MOREL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$68	91
Gigondas 2021	\$38	89

DOMAINE MOULIN-TACUSSEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$55	91
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DOMAINE DE MOURCHON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$47	93
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Grande Réserve 2020	\$30	92
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Tradition 2020	\$19	90

CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$137	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Stes.-Pierres de Nalys 2020	\$76	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	\$125	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Stes.-Pierres de Nalys 2021	\$70	92





Stéphane Ogier

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
<b>CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$77	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$136	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée des Cadettes 2020	\$166	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée des Cadettes 2019	\$180	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clavelles 2020	\$295	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clavelles 2019	\$295	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$82	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021	\$77	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos de Beauvenir 2022	\$136	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos de Beauvenir 2021	\$136	93
Côtes du Rhône Les Cassagnes White 2022	\$27	89
Côtes du Rhône Les Cassagnes White 2021	\$25	89
<b>STÉPHANE OGIER</b>		
Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall 2021	\$89	93
Condrieu Les Vieilles Vignes de Jacques Vernay 2019	\$141	95
Côte-Rôtie Bertholon 2018	\$193	95
Côte-Rôtie But de Mont 2018	\$193	95
Côte-Rôtie Cognet 2018	\$193	94
Côte-Rôtie Côte-Bodin 2018	\$193	95
Côte-Rôtie Fongean 2018	\$193	93
Côte-Rôtie La Belle Hélène 2018	\$552	97
Côte-Rôtie La Vialliere 2018	\$193	95
Côte-Rôtie Le Champon 2018	\$193	94
Côte-Rôtie Leyat 2018	\$193	95
Côte-Rôtie Mon Village 2020	\$99	93
Côte-Rôtie Montmain 2018	\$193	94
Côtes du Rhône Rosé Le Temps Est Venu 2021	\$23	88

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
St.-Joseph Le Passage 2020	\$58	93
Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes La Rosine 2020	\$39	89
<b>DOMAINE DE L'ORATOIRE ST-MARTIN</b>		
Cairanne Red Haut Coustias 2021	\$50	91
Cairanne Red Les Douyes 2020	\$50	92
Cairanne Red Réserve des Seigneurs 2020	\$33	89
Cairanne White Haut Coustias 2022	\$50	91
Cairanne White Réserve des Seigneurs 2022	\$NA	90
<b>DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES</b>		
Gigondas Les Racines 2021	\$58	90
Gigondas Terrasse du Diable 2021	\$52	90
<b>DOMAINE DE PANISSE</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Mas 2020	\$65	93
Côtes du Rhône Le Mazet 2020	\$28	89
<b>CHÂTEAU PÉGAU</b>		
Côtes du Rhône White Cuvée Lône 2022	\$24	87
<b>DOMAINE DU PÉGAÛ</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Réservee 2020	\$115	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Cuvée Réservee 2022	\$86	92
<b>FAMILLE PERRIN</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Sinards 2021	\$50	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Sinards 2021	\$38	90
Côtes du Rhône Nature 2020	\$15	89
Rasteau L'Andéol 2020	\$27	90
<b>CHÂTEAU PESQUIÉ</b>		
Ventoux White Cuvée Juliette 2022	\$45	90
Ventoux White Quintessence 2022	\$24	89
<b>OLIVIER RAVOIRE</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Caparaçon 2021	\$40	91

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Gigondas Armatura 2021	\$30	90
Vacqueyras Pavois 2021	\$25	90
<b>REMY VINCENT</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Gravelière 2019	\$49	91
Gigondas La Gravelière 2021	\$36	90
Vacqueyras La Gravelière 2019	\$27	89
<b>RHONÉA</b>		
Côtes du Rhône White Légende des Toques 2022	\$13	88
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Visan Notre Dame des Vignes White 2022	\$16	87
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Visan Terroir Daronton White 2022	\$16	87
Gigondas Les Pierres du Vallat 2021	\$43	90
Rasteau Les Encostes 2020	\$37	90
Vacqueyras La Ponche 2020	\$43	89
<b>DOMAINE LA ROQUÈTE</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Piedlong 2020	\$66	93
<b>EMMANUEL ROSTAING-TAYARD</b>		
Coteaux du Lyonnais Ultreia 2021	\$24	88
<b>R. ROSTAING</b>		
Côte-Rôtie Ampodium 2021	\$95	91
Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde 2021	\$200	92
Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2021	\$190	93
<b>ROGER SABON &amp; FILS</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Secret des Sabon 2021	\$230	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Olivets 2021	\$45	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige 2021	\$76	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve 2021	\$55	92
<b>AIMÉ SABON</b>		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape St.-Antonin 2021	\$70	93
Côtes du Rhône St.-Antonin 2020	\$19	89
Côtes du Rhône-Villages St.-Antonin Plan de Dieu 2021	\$26	90



WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Principauté d'Orange White St.-Antonin 2022	\$21	89
DOMAINE LE SANG DES CAILLOUX		
Vacqueyras Azalais 2021	\$42	90
Vacqueyras Lopy 2021	\$59	90
Vacqueyras White Un Sang Blanc 2021	\$66	92
DOMAINE SANTA DUC		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Habemus Papam 2021	\$78	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau Ouest 2021	\$174	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Pied de Baud 2021	\$108	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Saintes Vierges 2021	\$108	93
Gigondas Aux Lieux-Dits 2021	\$58	90
Gigondas Clos Derrière Vieille 2021	\$88	92
Gigondas Les Hautes Garrigues 2021	\$108	92
ROTEM & MOUNIR SAOUMA		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Arioso 2019	\$270	96
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2020	\$125	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Magis 2020	\$155	96
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Inopia 2020	\$42	89
Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Inopia 2020	\$42	91
DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$50	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barberini 2021	\$82	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vin de la Solitude 2021	\$105	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vin de la Solitude 2020	\$105	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$52	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Vin de la Solitude 2022	\$105	95
DOMAINE LA SOUMADE		
Rasteau Cuvée Prestige 2021	\$30	89
Rasteau Cuvée Prestige 2020	\$30	89
ST.-COSME		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020	\$70	93
Condrieu 2021	\$100	94
Côte-Rôtie 2021	\$100	88
Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$21	90
Crozes-Hermitage 2021	\$43	92
St.-Joseph 2021	\$48	92
CHÂTEAU DE ST.-COSME		
Côtes du Rhône Les Deux Albion 2021	\$29	91
Gigondas 2021	\$65	94
Gigondas Hominis Fides 2021	\$160	96
Gigondas Le Claux 2021	\$160	95
Gigondas Le Poste 2021	\$160	95
DOMAINE ST.-GAYAN		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Belle Jean 2021	\$50	93
BERTRAND STEHELIN		
Côtes du Rhône-Villages Sablet Cheval Long 2021	\$25	88
Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Sablet 2022	\$25	90
Gigondas 2021	\$29	91
TARDIEU-LAURENT		
Cairanne Vieilles Vignes 2022	\$22	90
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Spéciale 2021	\$64	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Galets d'Or 2021	\$49	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$59	93
Condrieu 2022	\$49	92
Cornas 2021	\$49	92
Côtes du Rhône Les Becs Fins 2022	\$15	89
Côtes du Rhône White Les Becs Fins 2022	\$15	89
Crozes-Hermitage Vieilles Vignes 2022	\$29	91

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
Crozes-Hermitage White Vieilles Vignes 2022	\$29	92
Gigondas Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$39	92
Hermitage 2021	\$80	92
Hermitage White 2021	\$64	94
Rasteau Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$22	91
St.-Joseph Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$34	92
Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$34	91
Vacqueyras White 2022	\$NA	91
DOMAINE DE TRIENNES		
Méditerranée Rosé 2022	\$24	88
CHÂTEAU DU TRIGNON		
Roussanne Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$20	90
Viognier Côtes du Rhône 2022	\$20	89
CHÂTEAU DE TRINQUEVEDEL		
Tavel 2022	\$25	89
DOMAINE DU TUNNEL		
Cornas 2021	\$75	94
Cornas 2020	\$70	94
Cornas Vin Noir 2021	\$80	93
Roussanne St.-Péray 2021	\$50	92
CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape L'Avenue... 2021	\$130	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Val de Dieu 2021	\$90	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$55	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos du Belvédère 2022	\$110	93
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Clairette de Gabriel 2022	\$110	95
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Vieilles Roussanne 2022	\$110	93
STÉPHANE VEDEAU		
Côte-Rôtie J. Boutin Bonnevaux 2020	\$87	92
Hermitage J. Boutin Arena Mica 2019	\$80	94
St.-Joseph J. Boutin Parcelle de Jean 2020	\$38	92
VIDAL-FLEURY		
Condrieu 2019	\$72	94
Côtes du Rhône 2020	\$17	87
Côtes du Rhône White 2022	\$17	88
Crozes-Hermitage 2021	\$40	89
LES VINS DE VIENNE		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Otéliées 2021	\$81	91
Collines Rhodaniennes Heluicum 2021	\$47	91
Collines Rhodaniennes Sotanium 2021	\$90	92
Collines Rhodaniennes White Taburnum 2021	\$90	92
Condrieu 2022	\$81	93
Condrieu La Chambée 2022	\$50	94
Condrieu Lieu-Dit Jean Raude 2022	\$120	95
Condrieu Lieu-Dit Poncin 2022	\$120	95
Cornas Les Barcillants 2021	\$77	93
Côte-Rôtie Les Essartailles 2021	\$96	90
Côte-Rôtie Lieu-Dit Le Plomb 2021	\$132	92
Côte-Rôtie Lieu-Dit Les Grandes Places 2021	\$216	93
Crozes-Hermitage 2022	\$40	92
Crozes-Hermitage 2021	\$45	91
Crozes-Hermitage Les Palignons 2021	\$56	91
Crozes-Hermitage Lieu-Dit Les Grappiats 2021	\$76	90
Crozes-Hermitage White Lieu-Dit Maison Blanche 2022	\$70	91
St.-Joseph 2022	\$41	92
St.-Joseph 2021	\$48	91
St.-Joseph Lieu-Dit Le Biez 2021	\$65	92
St.-Joseph White L'Élouède 2022	\$54	92
St.-Joseph White Lieu-Dit Le Biez 2022	\$65	93
St.-Péray 2022	\$35	90
St.-Péray Les Bialères 2022	\$46	91
St.-Péray Lieu-Dit Les Faures 2021	\$58	90

WINE	PRICE	SCORE
LE VIEUX DONJON		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$75	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$75	93
DOMAINE DU VIEUX LAZARET		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021	\$48	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022	\$48	91
DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE		
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau 2020	\$114	94
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Télégramme 2020	\$61	91
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos Roquette 2021	\$66	92
Châteauneuf-du-Pape White La Crau 2021	\$94	94
LES VIGNERONS DE TAVEL		
Tavel Acantalys 2022	\$25	90
Tavel Cuvée Royale 2022	\$20	90
Tavel Domaine de Chantepierre 2022	\$25	89
Tavel Domaines des Carteresses 2022	\$25	88
Tavel Le Chant du Soleil 2022	\$27	89
Tavel Les Lauzeraies 2022	\$25	90
Tavel Les Lys 2022	\$17	88
Tavel Trésor des Sables 2022	\$23	91
VIGNOBLES & COMPAGNIE		
Gigondas Les Alliés 2021	\$40	90
PIERRE-JEAN VILLA		
Condrieu Jardin Suspendu 2021	\$80	93
Côte-Rôtie Carmina 2020	\$87	93
Côte-Rôtie Fongeant 2020	\$90	94
Crozes-Hermitage Accroche Coeur 2021	\$43	90
St.-Joseph Préface 2021	\$51	92
St.-Joseph Tildé 2020	\$71	93
St.-Joseph White Saut de l'Ange 2021	\$65	93
Syrah Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes Esprit d'Antan 2020	\$65	93
FRANÇOIS VILLARD		
Condrieu DePoncins 2020	\$72	94
Condrieu Le Grand Vallon 2020	\$75	94
Condrieu Les Terrasses du Palat 2020	\$61	93
Côte-Rôtie Le Gallet Blanc 2020	\$83	94
Crozes-Hermitage Certitude 2021	\$30	89
Crozes-Hermitage Certitude 2020	\$30	91
Marsanne-Roussanne Collines Rhodaniennes Les Contours de Mairlant 2021	\$23	90
St.-Joseph Poivre et Sol 2020	\$39	92
St.-Joseph Reflet 2019	\$65	93
St.-Joseph White Fruit d'Avilleran 2020	\$41	92
St.-Péray Version 2020	\$36	93
Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes L'Appel des Sereines 2020	\$20	92
Viognier Collines Rhodaniennes Les Contours de Deponcins 2021	\$30	90
ALAIN VOGUE		
Brut St.-Péray Les Bulles d'Alain NV	\$50	90
Cornas Chapelle St.-Pierre 2021	\$125	95
Cornas Les Chailles 2021	\$68	93
Cornas Les Chailles 2020	\$65	94
Cornas Les Vieilles Fontaines 2019	\$170	95
Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes 2021	\$92	93
Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes 2020	\$90	95
Côtes du Rhône Les Peyrouses 2021	\$25	90
Côtes du Rhône Les Peyrouses 2020	\$25	90
St.-Joseph Les Côtes 2021	\$55	91
St.-Joseph Les Côtes 2020	\$55	92
St.-Péray Fleur de Crussol 2021	\$70	94
St.-Péray Fleur de Crussol 2020	\$65	94
St.-Péray Harmonie 2022	\$42	92
St.-Péray Harmonie 2021	\$40	92
St.-Péray Les Bulles d'Alain 2017	\$48	91
St.-Péray White Ongrie 2020	\$55	93



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# THE ASCENT OF IRISH WHISKEY

LONGER AGING AND  
NEW INNOVATIONS  
ARE RAISING THE  
PRESTIGE OF THIS  
CLASSIC SPIRIT



By JONNY MCCORMICK ◆ PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF HARRIS





The Garden Still House at Midleton Distillery

One of the happy consequences of the modern restoration of the Irish whiskey industry has been the emergence of luxury Irish whiskeys. Ireland is now dotted with scores of new distilleries, where distillers are diligently laying down spirit in parts of the island where whiskey hasn't been made for over 100 years. Well, not legally anyway. While the choice of young Irish whiskeys keeps expanding, long-established distilleries such as Bushmills and Midleton are in the lucky position of having casks of Irish whiskey that have been maturing in the warehouse for two or three decades. As Irish whiskey's popularity keeps growing, distillers are dipping into this pot of gold to produce some incredible tasting superpremium pours. With bottles changing hands at auction for thousands of dollars, collecting rare Irish bottles is also becoming increasingly popular. When it comes to elevating your Irish whiskey game, there are three strategies to consider: Drink better, buy discontinued or antique bottles or build a collection of the very best the island has to offer.

## DRINK BETTER IRISH WHISKEYS

Starting out, distillers at new distilleries face a choice of either bottling their own young whiskeys, aged for a minimum of three years, or bottling sourced mature whiskeys in order to put a credible age statement on the label

to garner attention. Powerscourt Distillery opened in late 2018 near Dublin and began to bottle its own Fercullen single malt whiskey in 2023 yet, incongruously, they also offer a Fercullen 21 year old as an annual release. This sourced whiskey acquired from another distillery allows Powerscourt fans to trade up to a fine pour that the distillery's own production couldn't possibly supply until 2040. Each year, cask strength expressions of The Irishman and Writers' Tears whiskeys are released in limited quantities and make an excellent next rung on the ladder for imbibers looking to up their Irish whiskey game. Both blend single malt and single pot still Irish whiskeys in different proportions, but without the inclusion of cheaper grain whiskey, a style dubbed "the Champagne of Irish whiskey." Even The Last Drop Distillers, purveyors of remarkable parcels of rare liquids, released their first Irish whiskey in 2023, a signature creation by J.J. Corry founder Louise McGuane, who

married and finished a 32 year old single malt Irish whiskey for their discerning clientele.

Ireland may have a young, reinvigorated industry, but it is not short of mature whiskeys either, offering the perfect taste of Ireland's distinctive whiskey styles. On the north coast of Northern Ireland, close to the Giant's Causeway UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bushmills Distillery promotes itself as the oldest licensed whiskey distillery, with records going back to 1608. While the older parts of the distillery actually date from the late 19th and early 20th



Alex Chasko, master distiller and blender at Teeling Whiskey Company



centuries—a devastating fire raised the 18th century buildings to the ground in 1885—current owner Proximo Spirits has doubled the site’s capacity by opening the state-of-the-art Causeway Distillery in 2023. Bushmills makes triple-distilled single malt Irish whiskeys, initially matured in Bourbon and oloroso Sherry casks, and for the past two decades, Bushmills 21 year old has been its oldest expression, which is finished in Madeira casks for two years. Master distiller Alex Thomas added a beautiful 25 year old expression in 2023, which underwent a secondary maturation in first-fill ruby Port pipes for up to 21 years, imbuing the whiskey with opulent dark berry and chocolate flavors. Above that, Bushmills 30 year old is the result of a 16 year secondary maturation in Pedro Ximénez casks and has indulgent notes of raisin, fig, orange peel, and vanilla. Exclusive to the U.S., the Bushmills Rare Cask Series

is an annual limited edition selected by the master blender, with the initial releases aged for 28 years or more.

In 2018 in Dublin, Jack and Stephen Teeling bottled their first Teeling Distillery single pot still whiskey, a three year old example of Ireland’s distinctive style of whiskey predominantly made from malted and unmalted barley. The Teeling family, however, still owned stocks of mature Irish whiskey made at Cooley Distillery, which their father, John Teeling, had founded in 1987. In 2011 he sold the distillery in a \$95 million deal with Beam Inc.

Teeling Distillery has released several double-distilled single malt Irish whiskeys aged over 30 years made at Cooley under their Teeling Vintage Reserve Collection line. Teeling master distiller Alex Chasko also debuted a 32 year old Purple Muscat Cask Finish in their new Teeling Very Rare Casks Collection in 2022, adding a

## DRINK BETTER

### 10 IRISH WHISKEYS PRICED \$150–\$2,200



**Bushmills 21 year old** (96, \$275, 40% ABV)  
Sultana, brown sugar, walnut oil, forest honey, browned butter, date

◀ **Jameson Rarest Vintage Reserve 2007** (95, \$750, 46% ABV)  
Honeydew melon, banana bread, toffee, cinnamon, nutmeg, Port notes

**Bushmills 25 year old** (94, \$900, 46% ABV)  
Raspberry, black currant fruit pastilles, peppercorn, plum, cranberry sauce, milk chocolate

**Midleton Very Rare Vintage 2023** (94, \$250, 40% ABV)

Toffee, vanilla, green apple, chocolate, espresso, burnt sugar

**The Irishman Cask Strength 2023 Vintage** ▶ (93, \$155, 55.3% ABV)

Paprika, red chile flakes, toffee, pecan cookies, caramelized apple, heather honey



◀ **Redbreast 27 year old** (93, \$500, 54.6% ABV)

Orange peel, walnut, raspberry, plum, active spices, menthol

**Bushmills 30 year old** (91, \$2,200, 46% ABV)  
Dried strawberry, raisins, prunes, morello cherry, citrus peel, buttered fruitcake

**Fercullen 21 year old** ▶ (91, \$200, 46% ABV)

Peach, lychee, Red Vines, almond, rum and raisin, dark chocolate

**Jameson 18 year old** (91, \$185, 46% ABV)

Toffee, vanilla, dried apricot, mango, citrus, coffee bean

**Writers' Tears Cask Strength 2023 Release** (91, \$160, 54.8% ABV)

Caramel, malt, vanilla, candied ginger, dried citrus, pepper



## THE VERY BEST TO DRINK OR KEEP

### 10 IRISH WHISKEYS PRICED \$500–\$50,000



**Midleton Very Rare 48 year old Silent Distillery Chapter 4** (97, \$50,000, 53.9% ABV)  
Polished antique furniture, cacao, leather, beeswax candles, citrus oil, dark chocolate

**Midleton Very Rare 46 year old Silent Distillery Chapter 2** (97, \$45,000, 53.6% ABV)  
Aged oak, pot still spice, chocolate orange, gingersnap, barley sugar, treacle

**Bushmills Rare Cask Series 01 28 year old Cognac Cask** (95, \$1,100, 46.7% ABV)  
Peach, lemon zest, marmalade, sweet orange, grapefruit, lime

▲ **Midleton Very Rare 47 year old Silent Distillery Chapter 3** (95, \$46,000, 55.7% ABV)  
Honey, crisp spices, clove, fruity dark chocolate, ginger loaf, black currant

**Teeling 30 year old Rarest Vintage Reserve Collection** (95, \$2,200, 46% ABV)  
Intensely honeyed, caramel, vanilla essence, tropical fruits, sweet candies, oak spices



**Midleton Very Rare Silent Forêt de Tronçais** (94, \$5,000, 48% ABV)  
Candied orange, whipped cream, cinnamon, vanilla, toasted oak, waxy honeycomb

◀ **The Last Drop Signature Creation 32 year old by Louise McGuane** (94, \$2,550, 47% ABV)  
Butterscotch sauce, dried apricot, ground cinnamon, apple, creamy malt, chocolate

**Bushmills Rare Cask Series 03 30 year old Madeira Cask** ▶ (93, \$1,000, 53% ABV)  
Coriander seed, chocolate-hazelnut ganache, mixed peel, malty chocolate, caramel, fig roll

**Teeling Very Rare Casks Collection 32 year old Purple Muscat Finish** (93, \$3,500, 53.7% ABV)  
Milk chocolate, plum skins, blueberry, red berry fruit, sultana, seasoned oak

**Bushmills Rare Cask Series 02 29 year old Pedro Ximénez Cask Finished** (92, \$750, 53% ABV)  
Date, fig, dried vine fruit, rich Sherry, cherry chocolate, oak



**Note:** Prices are retail or release prices where available. In some cases the bottling has been discontinued so the price reflects auction hammer prices.



33 year old Pineau des Charentes Finish expression in 2023. “My family have been involved in making whiskey for generations,” said Stephen Teeling, sales and marketing director. “I am incredibly proud as a family to have some of the finest and rarest Irish single malts in our warehouses, enabling us to create special opportunities for people to own a piece of Irish whiskey history.”

## THE VERY BEST TO DRINK OR KEEP

**J**ameson Irish whiskey, Ireland’s biggest-selling whiskey, is made at Midleton Distillery in County Cork, which is unsurprisingly Ireland’s largest distillery. This is also where Midleton Very Rare is made, a premium blend of single pot still and grain whiskeys positioned as the pinnacle of Irish whiskey. The master distiller has released this as an annual vintage every year since 1984.

While they have stuck within the parameters of a recognizable flavor profile, framed by maturation in Bourbon casks, each year’s Midleton Very Rare vintage still has its own personality and character. Current master distiller Kevin O’Gorman is only the third person to have the honor of seeing his signature on the label over the past 40 years, and his Midleton Very Rare Vintage 2024 will be one of the most anticipated releases of the spring. Collecting vintages of Midleton Very Rare became quite a craze as online whiskey auction platforms took off in Ireland, enabling collectors to secure the missing vintages they needed to complete a full set. Such is the competition that collectors are willing to pay tens of thousands of dollars to acquire their quarry. In 2023, Irish Distillers launched a new annual series named Midleton Very Rare Forêt de Tronçais, a blend of single pot still and grain whiskeys distilled in the 1980s–2000s, finished in French casks made of new Tronçais oak, renowned in the Cognac and wine industries for its fine grain and its ability to impart subtle and delicate flavors.

## LIQUID HISTORY

**I**rish whiskey collecting is less common than collecting Scotch or Japanese whisky, but that aspect makes it attractive to astute collectors looking to stay ahead of the curve. Auction houses, such



Alex Thomas, master distiller at Bushmills

◆◆◆◆◆  
**Taking your Irish whiskey  
game to the next level is worth  
investing your time for the  
rewarding flavor experiences it  
can bring to your palate.**  
◆◆◆◆◆

as Irish Whiskey Auctions, are wonderful sources of discontinued favorites like Jameson Rarest Vintage Reserve 2007 or antique bottlings of Powers Gold Label and John Jameson & Son 3 Star distilled in Dublin at the John’s Lane Distillery and Bow Street Distillery respectively, both of which closed in the early 1970s. The

Midleton Distillery opened in the mid-1970s, replacing the adjacent old distillery that is now part of a major visitor attraction. Until Irish Distillers Ltd. launched Midleton Very Rare Silent Distillery Chapter One in 2020, bottlings from the Old Midleton Distillery were only found occasionally at auction. The Silent Distillery series encompasses Ireland’s oldest whiskeys, released in tiny quantities, starting with a 45 year old whiskey and continuing with a whiskey aged another year older each year. The series will culminate with a 50 year old released in 2025 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Old Midleton Distillery. When bottles from this series have gone under the hammer, they have commanded the highest auction prices ever seen for Irish whiskey.

Taking your Irish whiskey game to the next level is worth investing your time for the rewarding flavor experiences it can bring to your palate. Your passion may even lead you to take ownership of some of the most precious liquids in Irish whiskey history.

*Jonny McCormick has written for Wine Spectator’s sibling publication Whisky Advocate since 2006, and is contributing editor and the lead reviewer for Irish whiskey.*



# ROOTED IN COMMUNITY: Washington State Wines

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[betzfamilypwinery.com](http://betzfamilypwinery.com)

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Figgins' estate vineyards in Walla Walla Valley yielded one of the top reds from the difficult 2020 vintage.

# WASHINGTON ABIDES

Washington weathered the significant challenges of the 2020 vintage, including its haze of wildfires, better than its fellow West Coast states. Whether you chalk that up to experience, tenacity or even a bit of luck, the results are indisputable: an array of delicious wines currently available on the market. In no small part, that's because of the excellent vintages that bookend 2020, the superb 2019s that preceded it and the promising 2021s that followed.

This conclusion is based on my recent visit to the Evergreen State as well as my reviews of nearly 325 wines in blind tastings at our Napa office since my previous report ("On Solid Ground," March 31, 2023). Last year, I gave the 2020 vintage a preliminary rating of 88–91 points on *Wine Spectator's* 100-point scale, which reflected caution over the impact of wildfire smoke. There was little evidence of smoke taint in my recent tastings—and actual proof would require lab tests—but too many of the 2020s are distinctly savory, with muscular frames, yet seem hollow in the midpalate and taut on the finish. They simply lack Washington's typical structure and generosity.

*Winemakers navigate the challenging 2020 vintage and find promise in 2021*

BY **TIM FISH**

Photographs by **RICHARD DUVAL**



Whether that's a symptom of the vintage itself or of the wines being overly processed to remove any possible sign of taint is difficult to say. What's clear, however, is that the top players made wines that, though still outstanding, are generally lower in quality than their 2018 and 2019 counterparts. It's this combination of factors that led me to rate the 2020 vintage at 90 points overall. The 2021 vintage, which is just entering the market, had some headaches of its own and earns a preliminary rating of 90–93 points.

Leading this year's releases is the compelling Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 (96 points, \$250), which is rich, polished and impeccably structured. Just a step behind come two classic reds from winemaker Chris Figgins, the Figgins Walla Walla Valley 2020 (95, \$95), a wine of dimension and detail that's framed by dynamic structure, and the Leonetti Reserve Walla Walla Valley 2020 (\$95, \$160), which is powerfully built yet retains finesse and polish, with robust blackberry and red currant flavors laced with clove.

After skipping the 2020 vintage, Betz came roaring back with its 2021s, crafted by winemaker Louis Skinner. The Bésolil Olsen Vineyard Yakima Valley 2021 (94, \$52), a Rhône-style red blend, is graceful and expressive, with blueberry and cherry flavors, while the Syrah Walla Walla Valley Domaine de Pierres Ancient Stones Vineyard 2021 (94, \$68) is vibrant and alluring, with raspberry, *garrigue* and savory cracked pepper tones.

Vigneron Christophe Baron and his righthand Elizabeth Bourcier



had a good year as well, turning out three 94-point Horsepower Syrahs from 2020. The expressive Walla Walla Valley The Tribe Vineyard 2020 (\$133) boasts bold yet elegant blueberry, crushed stone and black olive flavors, while the Walla Walla Valley High Contrast Vineyard (\$133) is vibrant and keenly structured, with huckleberry, *garrigue* and bacon fat notes, and the Syrah Walla Walla Valley Sur Echolas Vineyard (\$133) is polished and sleek, building tension and richness.



DeLille winemaker Jason Gronski produced a range of outstanding reds and whites this year across multiple vintages, including 2020, 2021 and 2022.





Chris Gorman's 2021 bottling of The Evil Twin sources Red Mountain Syrah and Cabernet to showcase the impressive potential of the vintage.

A handful of other winemakers achieved impressive results, yielding wines such as Chris Gorman's deeply structured Gorman Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain The Evil Twin 2021 (94, \$75), Matt Reynvaan's polished Reynvaan Syrah Walla Walla Valley In The Rocks 2020 (94, \$100) and Trey Busch's elegant Sleight of Hand Syrah Columbia Valley Levitation Reserve 2021 (94, \$55). DeLille's Le Dessein Columbia Valley 2021 (93, \$45), crafted by winemaker Jason Gorski, is a graceful Rhône-style red offering supple raspberry and blueberry flavors.

While too many 2020 reds at the value level are hard and angular, there are high quality bargains to be found if you shop carefully.

Among white wines, two bottlings stand out: Barnard Griffin's fresh and snappy Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2021 (90, \$14), featuring tropical fruit and citrus flavors, and Luke's generous Chardonnay Ancient Lakes Of Columbia Valley 2022 (89, \$22), evoking green apple, lemon curd and spices.

As for reds, the Merlot-based 14 Hands Hot To Trot Smooth Red Blend Columbia Valley 2020 (87, \$12) is a fruit bomb, while Airfield's Merlot Yakima Valley 2021 (88, \$20) is polished and supple and Browne's Merlot Columbia Valley 2020 (90, \$26) is vibrant and zesty. Two outstanding Cabernet-based blends are also worth seeking out: Kirkland Signature's user-friendly Signature





Despite recent weather challenges, Mark McNeilly made excellent wines across his lineup at Mark Ryan.

Series Columbia Valley 2021 (90, \$17) is vibrant with notes of cherry, mocha and toasty spices, while Pendulum's elegant Columbia Valley 2021 (90, \$20) is sleek, with cherry and spice accents.

**A**lthough the 2020 vintage was warmer than the cool 2019 vintage, 2021 was a scorcher. In 2020, bloom came early in spring and wet, windy weather caused shatter, stunting the size of the future harvest. A series of heat spikes hit in late July and early August, and then as Labor Day approached and harvest was underway, wildfires in Oregon sent clouds of smoke toward Washington. The smoke remained high in the atmosphere, but it blanketed the state, stalling ripening for about 10 days.

Because of producers' concerns about smoke taint, West Coast labs were overwhelmed with grapes and juice samples to test. Winemakers were doing their own small-batch test trials. Wineries that did bottle 2020 reds often made hard decisions in the cellar. A significant amount of wine was eventually sold in bulk, which means production overall was down.

The 2021 season was the hottest on record, equaling or surpassing the sweltering 2015

**"We didn't see a lot of sunburn or damage in 2021. I like the 2021 vintage a lot. There's density and richness in the wines."**

**—Mark McNeilly**

vintage. Although Washington winemakers are now experienced at dealing with heat as the region's growing seasons get warmer, the challenges of 2021 were serious. The heat culminated at the end of June, when a heat dome descended on the Pacific Northwest and areas of the Columbia Valley sweated through four days of temperatures as high as 118° F.

Luckily, the grapes were still green and firm, since veraison was a few weeks away, so that limited the damage. Cabernet, however, was in a crucial period of development at that point, and up to 30% of the crop was lost.

"We didn't see a lot of sunburn or damage," says winemaker Mark McNeilly, whose Mark Ryan Syrah Red Mountain Wild Eyed 2021 (92, \$50) is dark and brooding yet not heavy. "I like the 2021 vintage a lot. There's a lot of density and richness in the wines." Reynvaan agrees that the 2021s almost made themselves. "You didn't have to do too much in the cellar," he says. "It was all right there."

My advice in the coming year is not to write off the 2020 Washington reds, but instead choose wisely among the available offerings. The 2019s are still abundant, so grab those while you await the arrival the 2021s, which will be worth your exploration.

Senior editor Tim Fish is Wine Spectator's lead taster on the wines of Washington.

## Rating Washington Merlot, Cabernet and Syrah Vintages

<b>2021</b>	<b>90-93</b>	Hottest growing season on record produced reds of power and density	<i>NYR</i>
<b>2020</b>	<b>90</b>	A hot summer led to ripe, full-bodied reds; late-summer wildfires caused concern	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2019</b>	<b>94</b>	Ideal growing season, except for an early October frost; reds are generous and polished	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2018</b>	<b>93</b>	Cool autumn weather salvaged an otherwise hot year, making for full-bodied yet well-balanced wines	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2017</b>	<b>90</b>	A cool, wet spring led to a hot summer, but moderate weather near harvest helped build expression	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	A warm spring gave way to a moderate summer, promising balanced but structured wines	<i>Drink or hold</i>
<b>2015</b>	<b>91</b>	Hot, sunny growing season yielded full-bodied reds with ripe flavors and formidable tannins	<i>Drink or hold</i>

A score range indicates preliminary analysis based on barrel samples and/or a limited sampling; many wines of the vintage not yet reviewed.

**Vintage ratings:** 95-100, classic; 90-94, outstanding; 85-89, very good; 80-84, good; 75-79, mediocre; 50-74, not recommended. **Drinkability:** "NYR" means most of the wines of the vintage are yet to be released; "drink" means most of the wines of the vintage are ready to drink; "hold" means most of the ageworthy wines have yet to fully mature.



# Tim Fish’s Recommended Wines From Washington

Nearly 325 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at [WineSpectator.com/WashingtonAlpha033124](https://www.winespectator.com/WashingtonAlpha033124).  
WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

## TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>QUILCEDA CREEK Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020</b> A compelling red, rich and polished yet impeccably structured, with expressive blackberry, espresso and clove flavors that build tension.	96	\$250
<b>FIGGINS Walla Walla Valley 2020</b> A wine of dimension and detail framed by dynamic structure, evoking blackberry, black olive, licorice and spices. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	95	\$95
<b>LEONETTI Reserve Walla Walla Valley 2020</b> Powerfully built yet retains finesse, with blackberry and red currant flavors backed by polished tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	95	\$160
<b>NO GIRLS Double Lucky 8 Walla Walla Valley 2019</b> Rich and polished, with deep raspberry and pomegranate flavors laced with pepper, river stone and licorice details. Grenache blend.	95	\$55
<b>NO GIRLS Grenache Walla Walla Valley La Paciencia Vineyard 2019</b> Seductive and racy, with elegant raspberry and cherry flavors that show crushed stone, smoked meat and cracked pepper accents.	95	\$89
<b>BETZ Bésoleil Olsen Vineyard Yakima Valley 2021</b> Graceful in structure and expressive, with blueberry and cherry flavors laced with <i>garrigue</i> and savory pepper notes. Grenache blend.	94	\$52
<b>BETZ Syrah Walla Walla Valley Domaine de Pierres Ancient Stones Vineyard 2021</b> Graceful yet vibrant, with a sleek structure that highlights detailed raspberry, floral <i>garrigue</i> and savory cracked pepper flavors.	94	\$68
<b>CAYUSE God Only Knows Armada Vineyard Walla Walla Valley 2019</b> A vivacious red driven by a vibrant core of acidity and stony mineral-ity, with multilayered cherry, cranberry and bacon fat notes. Grenache.	94	\$104
<b>GORMAN Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain The Evil Twin 2021</b> Deeply structured, this retains a sense of style and polish, with expres-sive raspberry and blueberry flavors. Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon.	94	\$75
<b>GRAMERCY CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2019</b> A handsome red, structured and compelling, with layered blackberry, tarragon and dusky spice flavors that build tension and richness.	94	\$60
<b>HORS CATEGORIE Syrah Walla Walla Valley Hors Categorie Vineyard 2019</b> Sleek and exotic, with bold aromatic notes of bacon fat, blueberry, crushed stone and grilled anise that glide along the finish.	94	\$280
<b>HORSEPOWER Syrah Walla Walla Valley Sur Echalas Vineyard 2020</b> Polished and sleekly structured, with blueberry, <i>garrigue</i> and smoked meat tones that build tension toward medium-grained tannins.	94	\$133
<b>HORSEPOWER Syrah Walla Walla Valley The Tribe Vineyard 2020</b> Boasts boldly expressive aromas of crushed stone and black olive that open to elegantly polished blueberry and raspberry flavors.	94	\$133
<b>REYNVAAN Syrah Walla Walla Valley In The Rocks 2020</b> Polished and nuanced, with a deep yet elegant structure that unveils blackberry and raspberry flavors accented with stony minerality.	94	\$100
<b>SLEIGHT OF HAND Syrah Columbia Valley Levitation Reserve 2021</b> This is elegantly structured yet loaded with personality, offering notes of raspberry, fruitcake spices and licorice that build richness.	94	\$55

<b>DELILLE Le Dessein Columbia Valley 2021</b> A graceful, detailed red, with supple raspberry and blueberry flavors accented by <i>garrigue</i> , licorice and black pepper. Mourvèdre blend.	93	\$45
<b>FORCE MAJEURE Parvata Red Mountain 2020</b> Opens with a burst of fresh raspberry and red currant flavors, then slowly takes on deep structure and savory accents. Grenache blend.	93	\$85
<b>KLIPSUN Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain 2020</b> This powerfully built version offers deep and intense flavors of currant, cedar and dusty herbs that are framed by muscular tannins.	93	\$169
<b>SPARKMAN Stella Mae Columbia Valley 2019</b> A handsome red, polished and keenly structured, showing expressive flavors of blackberry, mocha and clove. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	93	\$70

## TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>SEVEN HILLS Merlot Walla Walla Valley 2021</b> Refined and well-structured, with black currant, bittersweet mocha and licorice flavors that expand toward fine-grained tannins.	92	\$25
<b>GÂRD Cabernet Sauvignon Royal Slope The Don Lawrence Estate Wines 2020</b> A handsome, focused red, with black currant, pencil lead and bay leaf flavors that gather tension toward medium-grained tannins.	91	\$28
<b>BROWNE Merlot Columbia Valley 2020</b> Generous and vibrant, this version features zesty cherry, anise and pepper flavors that glide on the supple finish.	90	\$26
<b>CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Chardonnay Horse Heaven Hills Canoe Ridge Estate 2020</b> This white is sleek and generous, with vibrant tropical fruit and apricot flavors highlighted by vanilla and spices.	90	\$20
<b>BARNARD GRIFFIN Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2021</b> A fresh and juicy white, offering lively tropical fruit and citrus flavors that end on a snappy accent.	90	\$14
<b>KIRKLAND SIGNATURE Signature Series Columbia Valley 2021</b> Polished and user-friendly, this red shows vibrant cherry, mocha and toasty spice flavors that sail on the supple finish.	90	\$17
<b>NINE HATS Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2021</b> Structured yet approachable, with appealing black cherry, savory herb and spice flavors that speed toward refined tannins.	90	\$20
<b>PENDULUM Columbia Valley 2021</b> Sleek and elegant, with generous cherry, roasted bay leaf and spice flavors that finish with refined tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	90	\$20
<b>LUKE Chardonnay Ancient Lakes Of Columbia Valley 2022</b> Generous and fun to drink, this white offers green apple, lemon curd and spice flavors that zip along the finish.	89	\$22
<b>AIRFIELD Merlot Yakima Valley 2021</b> Sleek and supple, featuring generous flavors of cherry and spices that glide on the lively finish.	88	\$20
<b>L'ECOLE NO. 41 Chenin Blanc Yakima Valley Old Vines 2022</b> Delicate and pretty, with honeysuckle, pear and peach flavors.	88	\$19
<b>PACIFIC RIM Riesling Columbia Valley 2022</b> Crisp yet succulent, offering orange sorbet and floral peach accents.	88	\$13
<b>14 HANDS Hot To Trot Smooth Red Blend Columbia Valley 2020</b> A juicy fruit bomb, this features easygoing flavors of red currant, cherry and spiced herbs. Merlot blend.	87	\$12



# WASHINGTON STAR POWER: KYLE MACLACHLAN

The haze over Walla Walla Valley hangs thick in the air on an August afternoon as the dashboard thermometer approaches 107° F. As he drives along country roads, passing vineyards and fallow wheat fields, Kyle MacLachlan has one thing on his mind: coffee.

The irony of this is not lost on MacLachlan. Coffee was the favorite beverage of his iconic *Twin Peaks* character, Agent Dale Cooper, and after tasting wine for most of the day, MacLachlan is in need of a cup. For the record, he likes it black, just like Cooper. His other drink of choice, of course, is wine. For the actor—whose best-known work, covering both TV and film, also includes *Desperate Housewives*, *Portlandia*, *Sex and the City*, *Blue Velvet* and the original *Dune*—wine started as a hobby but grew into his own



Kyle MacLachlan (center) in the 1960s, with brothers Craig and Kent Jr.

BY TIM FISH

*Known for Twin Peaks and Desperate Housewives, the Yakima native takes wine as seriously as acting*

Washington label, Pursued By Bear. MacLachlan takes the wine business as seriously as he does acting.

“I’ve seen these celebrity wines come and go, but Kyle is the real deal,” Napa Valley winemaker Doug Shafer says of his friend. “It’s not like he’s slapping his name on it, not just lending his name. He’s into it. He knows wine and loves wine.”

The wines MacLachlan makes prove the point. Pursued By Bear consistently receives outstanding scores of 90 points or higher on *Wine Spectator*’s 100-point scale, led by the winery’s flagship bottling, the Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley, which debuted with the 2005 vintage. Bear Cub is a value-oriented Cabernet-Merlot blend, while Blushing Bear is a dry rosé made with Grenache and Mourvèdre from Walla Walla. There are two limited-production wines: Twin Bear Walla Walla Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Twin Bear Columbia Valley Chardonnay.

MacLachlan’s signature on the back label is the only way consumers know he’s involved in Pursued By Bear. “If the wine can’t stand on its own, what’s the point of doing it?” he says. That comment explains a lot about how MacLachlan approaches wine and life. Napa vintner Ann Colgin, who has known him since 1998, puts it this way: “His bottlings are a true reflection of his theatrical background and





MacLachlan brings the same passion and commitment to his winery, Pursued By Bear, as he does to his acting roles.

Photograph by  
RICHARD DUVAL



his desire to create something really good.”

For a celebrity vintner, MacLachlan is indeed hands on. Not only is he involved in selecting vineyards and oak barrels, as well as establishing his preferred style of wines, but also he regularly tastes and tweaks blends in partnership with winemakers Daniel Wampfler and Amy Alvarez-Wampfler.

Wampfler tells a recent story that speaks to MacLachlan’s devotion. After making a design change to their label, the two of them traveled to the printer in Portland to supervise the press check. “Kyle was looking through the magnifying glass, checking colors and making sure everything was perfect,” Wampfler says. “The printer said they had done a lot of celebrities’ projects, but he was the first to ever show up.” MacLachlan laughs, adding, “Well, being the mayor of Portland, it was important I was there”—a reference to his role as the zany mayor in the TV series *Portlandia*.

MacLachlan admits that he is meticulous, or, as he says with jest, anal retentive. “I think it’s important to get everything just right. You’re creating something personal, and you’re sharing it with people and want them to have a good experience, and that includes all the little bits and pieces that go into it, like the glass and labeling. Even the tasting room—I want them to feel like they’re in a friendly place that has a little bit of my personality, a little fun.”

The Pursued By Bear tasting room opened in 2023 in Walla Walla, just off Main Street, where more than a dozen other wineries pour for consumers. The wines are made a few miles away at Abeja Winery, where the Wampflers are also the winemakers. Indeed, MacLachlan’s tasting room is tongue in cheek: A 6-foot-tall bronze statue of a bear stands against a mural of misty pine trees, a *Twin Peaks* allusion that was both intentional and intentionally subtle.

“I knew I had to acknowledge what is perhaps the most iconic thing I’ve done,” MacLachlan says. The story behind the bear is more intricate. “When we started, I said, ‘No, this is not going to be a wine with my name on it.’”

In a 2008 interview with *Wine Spectator*, MacLachlan explained how the name for Pursued By Bear came about. He was having dinner with a group of friends that included Steve Martin, who suggested the name should be a reference to acting. “And something popped into my head. There’s this wonderful Shakespearean stage direction: ‘Exit, pursued by a bear,’ from *The Winter’s Tale*, and Steve said, ‘That’s it!’ The only problem is that I have to tell the backstory a lot.”

Kyle Merritt MacLachlan was born in Yakima, Wash., in 1959. His father, Kent, was a lawyer turned stockbroker, and his mother, Catherine, worked for the local school district. Two younger brothers, Craig and Kent Jr., completed the family. “Dad practiced law for a couple of years, hated it, and became a stockbroker, which allowed him to play golf in the afternoons. It suited his lifestyle,” says MacLachlan, who picked up his golf habit from him.

The MacLachlan boys spent the summers helping their father tend the apple trees, vegetables and flowers in the family’s backyard. “We were free labor,” he jokes. “No, actually, we all loved it, so farming was already in my blood.”

The Washington wine industry was just establishing itself in the late 1970s, so MacLachlan’s parents drank Paul Masson or Bud-

weiser. When his friends in high school were chugging beer, MacLachlan discovered wine through a girlfriend’s family. “They had proper sit-down dinners, and we were allowed one glass of wine,” he recalls. “And it was great, because wine for me started with food. It was a California Chardonnay. I remember feeling so grown up.”

He continued the tradition on dates with his girlfriend, convincing someone of age to buy them a bottle—typically Blue Nun, an inexpensive and slightly sweet white that was popular at the time. “That’s all we could afford,” he says. “We would do a picnic. It was very romantic and in a cemetery.” He smiles wryly. “But it was a very beautiful cemetery, and, more importantly, there was a little area in the back surrounded by trees that was quite private. You can, well, imagine the rest.”

MacLachlan went on to study acting at the University of Washington, graduating in 1982, and in the meantime took roles at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and at other regional theaters. He was performing in a production of Molière’s *Tartuffe* in Seattle when

a casting agent tapped him to play Paul Atreides, the hero of director David Lynch’s 1984 adaptation of *Dune*.

Although the movie was a disappointment at the box office, it launched MacLachlan’s career and began a collaboration with Lynch that included movies, TV and wine. In 1983, after MacLachlan screen-tested for *Dune*, Lynch sent a bottle of Lynch Bages to his hotel room. “It must have been a 1980 or 1979. The Kyle today would recall but the Kyle back then was clueless.”

Not only do Lynch and MacLachlan still exchange bottles of Lynch Bages on occasion, but it set the path for the actor’s love of





“One of the things I have always been impressed about Kyle is his humbleness. He’s Eastern Washington through and through.”

—Chris Figgins

wine. Throughout the 1990s, he explored the wines of the world and developed a particular passion for Cabernet Sauvignon. Living in Los Angeles, he gravitated toward Napa Valley in the late 1990s, where he met Colgin and Mark Aubert, her winemaker at the time, who were working out of a custom-crush facility.

“That was my first inkling about the possibility of one day making wine on my own,” MacLachlan says. “I realized you don’t need a winery. You don’t need a forklift or even to own the land. And it started to percolate.” Yet the cost of making wine in Napa was prohibitive even then. It was MacLachlan’s wife, producer Desiree Gruber, who pointed him back to his native state. “Napa’s not the story,” she told him. “The story is Washington.” A chance meeting with vintner Eric Dunham set the wheels in motion.

Together they launched Pursued By Bear with a 2005 Cabernet, producing 300 cases at Dunham’s winery from his own vineyard sources. MacLachlan, who is accustomed to reading reviews about his movies and TV shows, recalls the excitement of reading the first review of his wine, a 91-point rating from Harvey Steiman, who was covering Washington for *Wine Spectator* at the time. “It was like, ‘Wow, we’re real. Now we’re in the game.’ And I haven’t really looked back.”

In the early days, MacLachlan let Dunham handle most of the

working details of the business, but that changed when Dunham died unexpectedly in 2014. Wampfler, who was Dunham’s winemaker at the time, ensured that winemaking would remain consistent, but MacLachlan knew he had to step up. “I became more and more the master of my own destiny,” he says. “I started paying more attention to vineyard sites and looking at new vineyard sources. It was time to sail my own ship.”

MacLachlan splits his time between Los Angeles and New York but connects with his winemakers every few days and visits Walla Walla frequently. During the recent actors’ strike, he was able to focus on the winery and spend more time with Desiree and their teen son, Callum, who’s an avid surfer.

He continually seeks new challenges in wine. An estate vineyard is a possibility, and his goal is to plant in the increasingly coveted Mill Creek area of Walla Walla. Pursued By Bear Chardonnay was launched with the 2022 vintage, and new vineyard sources will soon make it a Yakima Valley bottling. A Merlot is also on the way. “I never thought I’d ever have this many wines,” he says.

Yakima bred, MacLachlan feels at home in Walla Walla, and Washington’s wine community has embraced him. “One of the things I have always been impressed about Kyle is his humbleness,” says Leonetti winemaker Chris Figgins. “He’s Eastern Washington through and through and a valuable member of our Walla Walla wine community.” As Wampfler puts it, “If you didn’t know what he did for a living in Hollywood, you could never tell.”

For his part, MacLachlan enjoys his life as a vintner, whether pouring at tastings, visiting sommeliers during his travels or attending events, including the Auction of Washington Wines this past August. “You become part of a group, you know, we’re here together. I talk to other winemakers, and this is about raising the bar for everyone in Washington state.” □



MacLachlan with winemakers Daniel Wampfler and Amy Alvarez-Wampfler





Amanda Ingram  
Winemaker

**GRAYMORE**



Lee Miyamura  
Winemaker

**IRON + sand**



Emily Haines  
Winemaker

**TERRA  
D'ORO**



Aimee Baker  
Luxury Wine Director

**TRINCHERO**  
*Family Estates*

## Meet four winemakers making their mark on California wines and Trinchero Family Estates:

Amanda Ingram with Graymore in Edna Valley, Lee Miyamura with Iron + Sand in Paso Robles,  
Emily Haines with Terra d'Oro in Amador County & Clarksburg and Aimee Baker overseeing  
our Heritage Collection winemaking in Napa Valley & Sonoma County.

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# Wine Spectator Buying Guide



The terraced Nebbiolo vineyards of ArPePe, in the heart of Lombardy's Valtellina Superiore DOCG, are cultivated and harvested entirely by hand.

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## BY THE NUMBERS

The March 31 Buying Guide features **45 classic wines** and nearly **375 outstanding wines** from among reviews of more than **475 new releases**. Members can access tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with **hundreds of additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, using the Wine Ratings search at WineSpectator.com.



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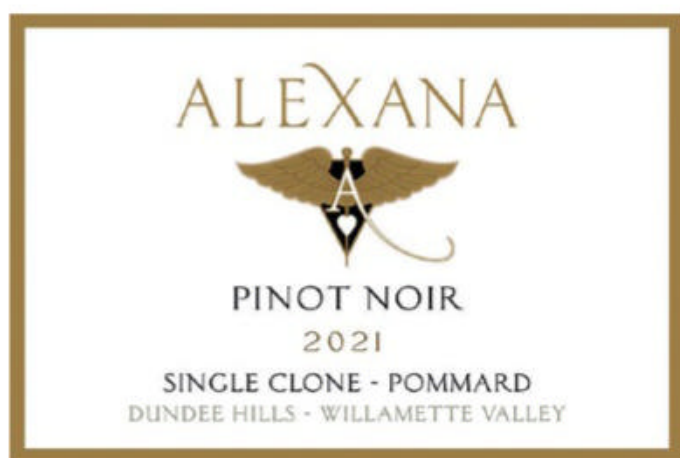
# SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

## Highly Recommended

The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.



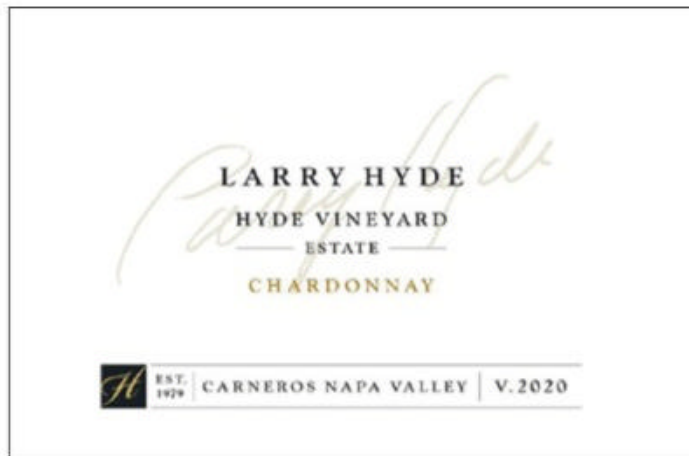
**96 Rotem & Mounir Saouma Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Magis 2020 \$155** FRANCE Powerful and sleek, this shows a glistening beam of yellow apple wrapped in stylish oak, with tremendous underlying concentration. Modern and very well-executed, with a saline streak, this hums with mineral energy and impressive structure on the seemingly never-ending finish. Still tightly wound, this should do well in the cellar. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2027. 120 cases imported.—K.B.



**95 Alexana Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Single Clone Pommard 2021 \$75** OREGON Hand-somely structured and boldly expressive, with raspberry and cranberry flavors highlighted by savory anise, forest floor and stony mineral elements, which gather richness and tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2034. 290 cases made.—T.F.



**95 Château de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 \$137** FRANCE A polished, stylish version, with oak spice and toasty cedar encasing fruitcake, warm fig and red currant flavors. Incredibly concentrated, this glides through with suave tannins and a silky feel on the long finish that's dusted with mocha. Very well-made, this is built for a long life in the cellar. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cunoise and Vaccarèse. Drink now through 2035. 2,500 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.



**95 Hyde Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Larry Hyde Hyde Vineyard 2020 \$85** CALIFORNIA This stunning version delivers salted toffee, grilled peach, buttery apricot pastry, lemon verbena and plump ripe melon flavors. A vibrant, mouthwatering thread of acidity keeps the flavors fresh and focused, backed by notes of green tea, ginger and thyme on the finish. Drink now through 2034. 570 cases made.—M.W.



**94 ArPePe Valtellina Superiore Grumello Sant'Antonio Riserva 2016 \$120** ITALY Dense and layered, this opens nicely with air in the glass, revealing flavors of dried raspberry, eucalyptus, leather and black tea enmeshed with a core of firm tannins. Showing fine balance and good energy overall, this should shine even brighter after short-term cellaring. Best from 2026 through 2036. 1,050 cases made.—A.N.



**94 Salvatore Molettieri Taurasi Vigna Cinque Querce Riserva 2015 \$89** ITALY This silky red glides across the palate, with a fine mesh of ripe, juicy crushed boysenberry and black cherry fruit that shows a rich, savory vein of iron, mineral and sanguine notes. This wine's flavors expand, carried by sleek acidity and fine, chalky tannins and backed by hints of red licorice, dried sage, date and cocoa powder that play on the persistent finish. Drink now through 2035. 2,100 cases made, 250 cases imported.—A.N.

## Collectibles

Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.



**98 M. Chapoutier Ermitage L'Ermitage 2020 \$559** FRANCE This densely packed red has it all, from a brooding base of smoked blackberry, ganache, plum puree and fig paste flavors to textural intrigue and a long finish. Offers muscular tannins that are nicely burnished to give this a substantial yet not too grippy frame, while notes of dark chocolate, black licorice and generous grilled garrigue cruise alongside a steely ballast of iron. Hints of dried flowers and savory orange peel acidity perk up the concentrated core. Best from 2025 through 2045.—K.B.



**97 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2019 \$700** FRANCE Firing on all cylinders, this simmers with massive power and range. Boasts a dark, brooding core of black plum, fig paste, strappy black licorice and fruitcake flavors supported by a formidable iron spine. Chewy in feel, with grilled aniseed and warm mesquite smoke adding salty sweetness. Though its tannins are mellowing, this still has a lifetime ahead in the cellar. A showstopper. Best from 2025 through 2040.—K.B.



**96 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$120** FRANCE Elegant and approachable, this stunning red offers seductive aromatics of smoked incense and red tea, with floral high notes, followed by a well of cassis, licorice and red currant flavors coated in graphite. Dusty in feel, with fine-grained tannins bringing structure and textural complexity, while an iron element lingers on the very long finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 6,000 cases made, 750 cases imported.—K.B.



# About the Buying Guide

**T**his Buying Guide contains ratings of new releases from around the world. Complete tasting notes are provided for new releases scoring 85 or more points (on the *Wine Spectator* 100-point scale, explained below). Hundreds of additional reviews appear each month on our website, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com).

Each review carries the initials of the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review, based on the regional specializations indicated below.

<b>Bruce Sanderson</b>	<i>Burgundy, Piedmont, Tuscany</i>
<b>James Molesworth</b>	<i>California Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir, Bordeaux, Port</i>
<b>MaryAnn Worobiec</b>	<i>California Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, Australia, New Zealand</i>
<b>Alison Napjus</b>	<i>Spain, Italy, Champagne, South Africa</i>
<b>Tim Fish</b>	<i>California Zinfandel and Merlot, Oregon, Washington, U.S. sparkling wines</i>
<b>Aaron Romano</b>	<i>Argentina, Chile</i>
<b>Kristen Bieler</b>	<i>Rhône Valley and other France, Germany, Austria</i>

## How We Do the Tastings

*Wine Spectator* editors taste more than 11,000 wines each year. Wines are tasted in our offices in New York and Napa, Calif. Tastings are also conducted on location in various European winegrowing regions.

All tastings are conducted in private, under controlled conditions. Wines are always tasted blind, in flights organized by varietal, appellation or region. Bottles are bagged and coded. Tasters are told only the general type of wine (varietal or region) and the vintage. Price is not taken into account. Each tasting begins with a wine previously rated, which is tasted non-blind as a reference point. Other already-rated wines are inserted into the blind tasting to ensure consistency. A typical tasting session consists of 20 to 30 wines, with a maximum of two sessions per day. We retaste many wines to confirm impressions, always in subsequent blind tastings.

Notes and ratings are entered directly into our database prior to the removal of the bags. Additional comments may be added to a note after the identity of the wine is revealed, but the score is never changed.

## Featured Wines: Spectator Selections, Labels and Photographs

Each issue, our editors choose wines with special qualities; called Spectator Selections, they are highlighted in the first pages of this Buying Guide, along with their labels. The categories are described below. In addition, selected reviews throughout the Buying Guide include a photograph of a winery principal, presenting these producers in a more personal way. All labels and images are chosen by *Wine Spectator* for editorial purposes only and do not represent any commercial transaction between *Wine Spectator* and the producers whose wines are featured.

**Highly Recommended:** The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.

**Collectibles:** Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.

**Smart Buys:** Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

**Best Values:** Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

## About Prices and Wines Tasted

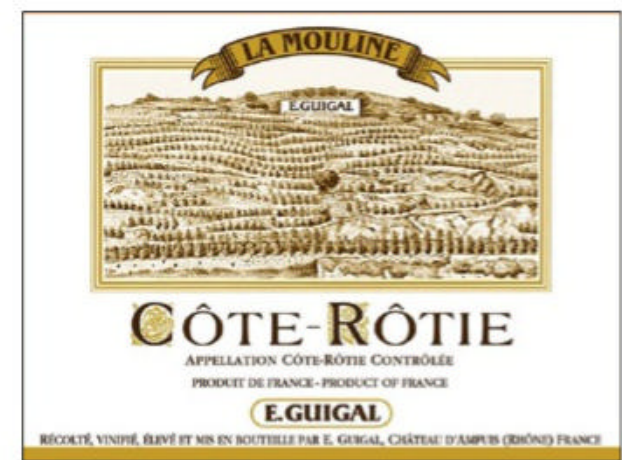
Prices shown reflect the suggested retail price. When the suggested retail price is not available, we publish the prevailing wholesale price with a standard markup added. Actual retail prices may vary.

Wines are chosen for tasting from among those sent to our offices for review and those purchased at retail. Because we for the most part serve a U.S. audience, we prefer to review wines that are widely available there.

## About the 100-Point Scale

Ratings reflect how highly our editors regard each wine relative to other wines in its category and are based on potential quality—how good the wine will be when at its peak. The score summarizes a wine's overall quality; the tasting note describes the wine's style and character.

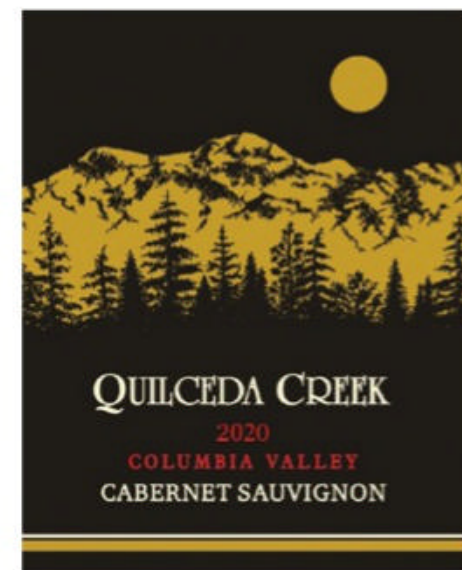
<b>95-100</b>	<i>Classic: a great wine</i>
<b>90-94</b>	<i>Outstanding: a wine of superior character and style</i>
<b>85-89</b>	<i>Very good: a wine with special qualities</i>
<b>80-84</b>	<i>Good: a solid, well-made wine</i>
<b>75-79</b>	<i>Mediocre: a drinkable wine that may have minor flaws</i>
<b>50-74</b>	<i>Not recommended</i>



**96** **E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2019**  
**\$700** **FRANCE** Meaty, chewy and gamy, this substantial red shows beautiful floral lift, with salty mineral energy cruising alongside earthy notes of forest floor, revealing a swatch of black fig puree and mocha. Offers depth, substance and textural beauty, with mouthwatering acidity adding surprising tension and brightness through the dark core. Just beginning to show its tremendous potential. Best from 2025 through 2042.—K.B.



**96** **E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2019**  
**\$700** **FRANCE** Powerful and broad, with a velvety robe of charred apple wood and savory spices surrounding a core of winey red currant and cherry preserves, flecked with olive tapenade. Texturally stunning, with polished, softened tannins keeping this poised. Showing impressive freshness and tension, this is a compelling, well-meshed wine that stretches way out. Best from 2025 through 2040.—K.B.



**96** **Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon**  
**Columbia Valley 2020 \$250** **WASHINGTON** This compelling red is rich and polished yet impeccably structured, offering expressive blackberry, espresso and clove flavors that build tension and texture toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2034. 5,450 cases made.—T.F.



## 400,000+ WINE RATINGS

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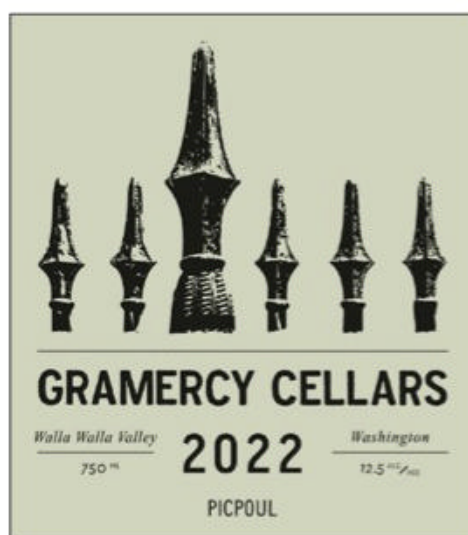
**94** **Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$102 FRANCE** Toasty, meaty and inviting, this fresh red shows an understated, savory side, with notes of singed spices, mesquite, wet earth and fresh tobacco leaf flanking a silky range of plum and warm cherry compote flavors. This channels its *terroir*, with a round feel held in check by refined tannins, while the finish is lined with cool minerality and heavy iron. Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Counoise, Vaccarèse, Terret Blanc, Muscardin, Clairette, Picpoul de Pinet, Bourboulenc, Picardan and Roussanne. Drink now through 2030. 3,470 cases made.—K.B.



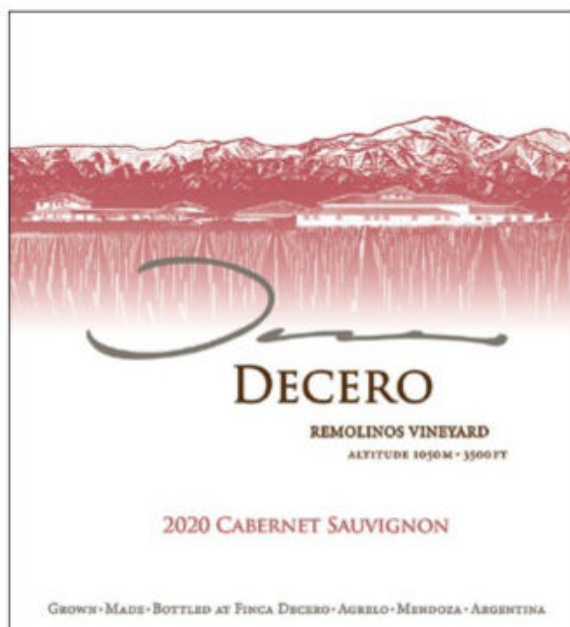
**94** **Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau 2020 \$114 FRANCE** This shows a lot of aromatic appeal, with dusty earth and singed incense notes covering a well of fresh cherry and red currant flavors. A gutsy, grippy style on the palate, with a cast iron spine bringing firm shape and underlying power. Slightly old-school, this still needs time to unfurl. Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cinsault. Best from 2025 through 2035.—K.B.

## Smart Buys

Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.



**93** **Gramercy Cellars Picpoul Walla Walla Valley 2022 \$22 WASHINGTON** Brisk and refreshing, this white features distinctive flavors of green apple, grapefruit and lemon that zip along the mineral-laden finish. Drink now. 900 cases made.—T.F.



**92** **Finca Decero Cabernet Sauvignon Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2020 \$25 ARGENTINA** Rich and contoured, with an elegant entry of mace, graphite and floral notes, this version offers a nice depth of berry and cassis flavors at the core. The mineral finish is marked by lively tannins and a late note of cordial. Drink now through 2035. 8,000 cases imported.—A.R.



**91** **Bodegas Izadi Rioja Reserva 2019 \$22 SPAIN** Well-balanced and silky on the palate, this classy red features a beam of ripe mulberry fruit, with creamy tannins and aromatic hints of dried flowers, crushed pine and sandalwood, followed by a plush finish. Drink now through 2029. 29,100 cases made, 7,000 cases imported.—A.N.



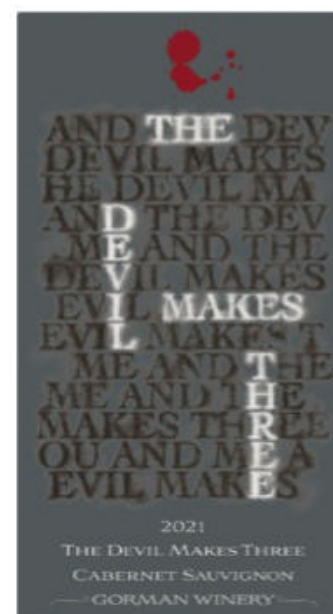
**91** **DeLille Métier Columbia Valley 2021 \$25 WASHINGTON** Zesty and energetic, this red offers snappy black raspberry and plum flavors highlighted by notes of smoky spices and savory meat, finishing with broad-shouldered tannins. Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2032. 6,500 cases made.—T.F.



**91** **Ken Wright Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2022 \$28 OREGON** Bright and juicy, offering tart raspberry and cranberry flavors laced with mineral and forest floor accents, which build tension toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 25,000 cases made.—T.F.



**91** **Masseria Li Veli Susumaniello Salento Askos 2021 \$23 ITALY** Dark and juicy, with an aromatic overtone of fragrant herbs, this features flavors of blackberry compote that show hints of eucalyptus, anise hyssop, mocha and smoke sculpted by fine tannins, which firm the focused finish. Drink now through 2029. 7,500 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.—A.N.



**90** **Gorman Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley The Devil Makes Three 2021 \$25 WASHINGTON** This bursts with easygoing flavors of fresh red currant and cherry that are laced with toasty mocha and spice notes, finishing with fleshy tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Malbec. Drink now through 2030. 2,400 cases made.—T.F.





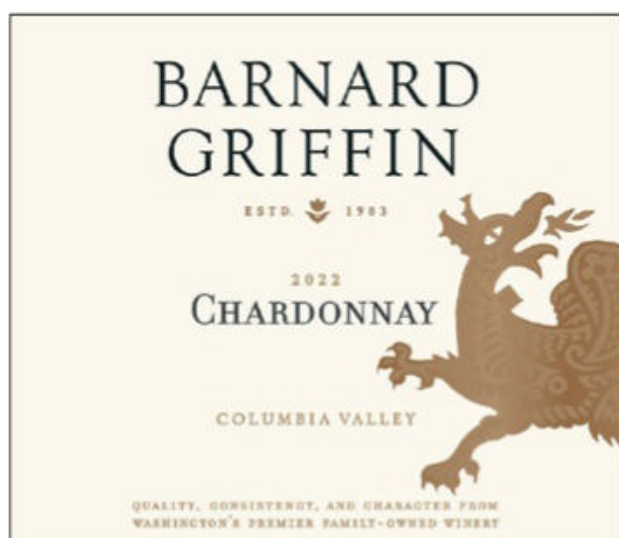
**90 La Posta Malbec Mendoza Pizzella 2022 \$20 ARGENTINA** Fresh and inviting, with notes of grated nutmeg and dried rose petal joining a juicy core of pomegranate and plum on a suave frame. Finishes silky, echoing back to the floral- and spice-filled opening. Drink now. 20,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.—A.R.



**89 Argiolas Vermentino di Sardegna Costamolino 2022 \$17 ITALY** Balanced and fresh, this white offers a creamy mix of melon, Meyer lemon peel, pineapple and lime blossom aromas and flavors, ending with a salty finish. Drink now. 105,000 cases made, 18,000 cases imported.—A.N.

## Best Values

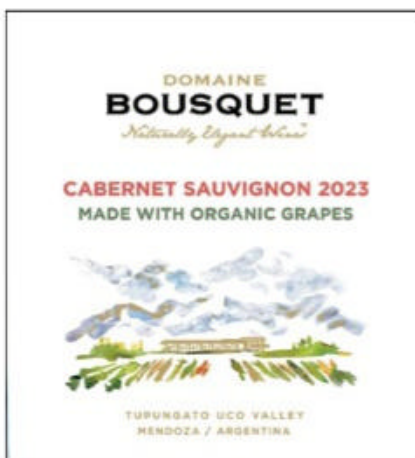
Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.



**88 Barnard Griffin Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2022 \$15 WASHINGTON** Straightforward and appealing, showing handsome flavors of pear, apple and spices. Drink now. 9,400 cases made.—T.F.



**88 Bodegas Salentein Malbec Uco Valley Killka Collection 2022 \$12 ARGENTINA** A light- to medium-bodied version, with rooibos tea accents to the fresh Alpine strawberry and raspberry core, while fresh minerally acidity fills out the finish. Drink now. 120,000 cases made.—A.R.



**88 Domaine Bousquet Cabernet Sauvignon Tupungato 2023 \$14 ARGENTINA** Quite young and tight, with a wealth of minerality to the floral blackberry and cassis core, while fresh herb and tobacco notes fill out the firming finish. Needs time to unwind. Best after 2025. 40,000 cases made, 25,000 cases imported.—A.R.

## New Wines From Around the World

## ARGENTINA

### Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

**93 Finca Sophenia Cabernet Sauvignon Gualtallary Synthesis 2021 \$70** A savory, focused version, with olive, bay leaf and tobacco notes up front, while macerated berry and plum flavors fill out the core. A push of fresh acidity enlivens the finish, which is marked by minerality, apple wood and structured tannins. Drink now through 2035. 400 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.R.

**92 Finca Decero Cabernet Sauvignon Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2020 \$25** See Smart Buys, page 89.

**92 Dominio del Plata Susana Balbo Brioso Single Vineyard Agrelo 2020 \$45** Offers a deep base of violet and spice flavors that meld with a generous, juicy core of blackberry, plum and cassis elements, which lengthen nicely around fine herb-laced tannins and hints of cocoa powder on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2033. 3,500 cases made, 500 cases imported.—A.R.

**91 Bodegas Salentein Numina Spirit Vineyard Gran Corte Uco Valley 2020 \$50** Boldly aromatic, offering dried violet, plum and cassis notes. Rather refined on the palate, this shows tobacco and mineral accents to the ripe blackberry core, with notes of cocoa bean and espresso that fill out the broad finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2034. 30,000 cases made, 150 cases imported.—A.R.

**89 Bodega Mil Suelos Cabernet Sauvignon Paraje Altamira Zaha Toko Vineyard 2021 \$25** A fresh and juicy red, with a mineral underpinning to the floral raspberry and currant core flavors, while subtle cedar and spice notes check in on the firming finish. Drink now through 2033. 3,000 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—A.R.



ALEJANDRO SEJANOVICH & JEFFREY MAUSBACH  
Owners & Winemakers

**88 Altocedro La Consulta Select Uco Valley 2022 \$20** A distinctive blend that's youthful and compact as well as ripe and dense, with generous savory herb and tobacco notes gathering around ripe, sappy berry flavors and lively tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Syrah, Tempranillo and Petit Verdot. Best after 2025. 2,100 cases made, 1,470 cases imported.—A.R.

**88 Domaine Bousquet Cabernet Sauvignon Tupungato 2023 \$14** See Best Values, this page.

**88 Familia Zuccardi Cabernet Sauvignon Uco Valley Q 2022 \$22** Youthful and approachable, with loam and toasty vanilla accents to the blackberry and plum flavors, while slate and spice notes fill in. Drink now. 15,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.—A.R.

**87 Domaine Bousquet Cabernet Sauvignon Gualtallary Gran 2021 \$18** Direct, with subtle herbal accents to the juicy berry and plum flavors, revealing a deep chalky presence on the finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—A.R.

## ARGENTINA Malbec

**92 Antigal Winery & Estates Malbec Gualtallary One La Dolores Single Vineyard 2019 \$60** A muscular, late-release red, with leather and spice notes up front joining a rich, unctuously textured core of fig, plum and cassis, while cedar shadings chime in. Offers just enough acidity to balance out the deep flavors, all while carrying the flavors through to the well-spiced finish. Drink now through 2033. 600 cases made, 550 cases imported.—A.R.

**92 Matias Riccitelli Malbec Las Compuertas-Vistalba Viejos Viñedos En Pie Franco 2020 \$45** Rich and layered, this is built around a deep chalk and violet base, with mountain herb notes clinging to the brambly berry and plum core. Reveals a good amount of verve that drives the flavors on to the finish around structured, mineral-tinged tannins. Drink now through 2035. 1,500 cases made, 200 cases imported.—A.R.

**91 Bodega Mendel Malbec Luján de Cuyo Finca Los Andes 2021 \$115** An old-school Malbec, with generous baking spice and fruitcake aromas joining a rich, smooth, textured core of ripe blackberry and cassis. The finish is all about finesse, while still allowing the core flavors to carry on. Drink now. 5,342 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.—A.R.

**90 La Posta Malbec Mendoza Pizzella 2022 \$20** See Smart Buys, page 90.

**88 La Posta Malbec Tupungato Fazzio 2022 \$20** Features a fresh, juicy berry core driven by almost nervy acidity, with toasty apple wood and chicory notes filling out the finish. Drink now. 20,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.—A.R.

**88 Bodegas Salentein Malbec Uco Valley Killka Collection 2022 \$12** See Best Values, page 90.

**87 Bodegas Caro Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Amancaya 2021 \$25** A direct, unencumbered version, revealing fresh violet accents to the juicy red currant and berry flavors, with spice notes rounding out the finish. Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. 20,000 cases made, 8,000 cases imported.—A.R.



**87 Bodegas Salentein Malbec Uco Valley Reserve 2022 \$20** This youthful version is restrained at the moment, featuring floral, creamy plum and berry flavors, with suave tannins on the finish. Drink now. 180,000 cases made.—A.R.

## ARGENTINA

### Other Red

**93 Rutini Cabernet Franc Gualtallary Single Vineyard 2021 \$60** This gorgeous and elegant yet structured version offers a wealth of hibiscus, linzer torte and floral raspberry notes that join the palate, adding crushed rock details and texture, plus chili-inflected dark chocolate details that chime in on the finish and linger around fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2034. 750 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.R.

**92 Domaine Nico Pinot Noir Uco Valley Le Paradis 2021 \$350** A lively and complex version, opening with forest floor, orange peel and bergamot accents to the juicy black cherry core, with sneaky concentration and lots of vibrancy from the fresh mineral details. This finishes as it began, adding details of dried thyme and mace. Drink now through 2034. 175 cases made, 50 cases imported.—A.R.

**90 Domaine Nico Pinot Noir Uco Valley Grand Père 2021 \$40** Aromatically restrained, but the palate of this light-bodied red is mouthwatering and savory, with floral herbs and toasted spices that cling to the bright cranberry and cherry core. Ends with fine tannins and nice length, offering a persistent spice note. Drink now through 2030. 1,120 cases made, 400 cases imported.—A.R.

**90 Domaine Nico Pinot Noir Uco Valley Histoire d'A 2021 \$50** Forest floor and baking spice details gather on a lithe frame, with sandalwood accents to the cherry and red currant core, offering a pleasant wave of mineral acidity that lengthens the finish around perky tannins. Drink now. 490 cases made, 125 cases imported.—A.R.

**90 Matias Riccitelli Cabernet Franc Mendoza 2021 \$36** A medium-bodied red, with a nice slate and smoke undertow, featuring a fresh, floral currant and raspberry core on a polished frame. Offers nice length around fine tannins. Drink now through 2033. 500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.R.

## FRANCE

### Bordeaux

**93 Château Calon-Ségur St.-Estèphe 2021 \$118** A step ahead of the pack in this vintage, this offers a hint of polish to fleshier-than-most cassis and plum puree flavors. Solidly built, with a well-buried chalky spine, plus tangy acidity. Lilac, bay leaf and black tea notes add range on the finish. Shows the vintage's taut character, but this has more depth and better proportion than most of its colleagues. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2037. 7,800 cases made.—J.M.

**93 Château Léoville Barton St.-Julien 2021 \$77** A stride ahead of the pack, with more flesh to its core of black currant and black cherry notes. Backed by singed apple wood, cedar and tobacco accents, this shows a subtle twang of iron on the slightly austere finish, but the grain is relatively fine. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2036. 11,500 cases made.—J.M.

**92 Château Montrose St.-Estèphe 2021 \$150** Sleek, with sufficient fruit to accommodate the tangy acidity of the vintage, this allows black cherry, damson plum and violet notes to stretch out nicely, with a late echo of singed alder. Poised and nicely done for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2026 through 2037. 12,500 cases made.—J.M.

**92 Château Palmer Margaux 2021 \$311** Offers an almost juicy edge, making this difficult vintage stand out from the pack while giving its core of black cherry and black currant some energy. Subtle alder, tobacco and warm earth accents underscore the finish. Shows a late mineral twang, with just a wisp of the vintage's austerity. Serious kudos. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2035. 7,500 cases made.—J.M.

**92 Château Pontet-Canet Pauillac 2021 \$100** A nice, dark, winey offering, with steeped black cherry and black currant fruit melding nicely with warm earth, alder and cast iron accents through the focused finish. Shows grip and range, with barely any indication of the vintage's skinny side. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2038.—J.M.

**92 Château Talbot St.-Julien 2021 \$55** A solid core of crushed plum and black currant fruit is underscored by savory and tobacco accents and a light sanguine edge. Possesses just enough flesh to stave off the vintage's grainy side as a late iron note echoes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2035. 22,000 cases made, 1,900 cases imported.—J.M.

**92 Château Vieux Maillet Pomerol 2021 \$80** Offers a fleshy feel, showing flavors of dark cherry and currant preserves along with notes of earth, tobacco and briar. A note of alder smoke weaves through the finish, and there's a late echo of bay, giving this an old-school edge. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2034. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 4,000 cases made, 800 cases imported.—J.M.

**91 Château Malartic-Lagravière Pessac-Léognan White 2021 \$57** Quite plump, with a good, juicy edge to its mix of apricot, mirabelle plum and yellow apple notes. There's light hints of salted butter and bitter almond on the finish. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2026. 620 cases made.—J.M.

**91 Château Phélan Ségur St.-Estèphe 2021 \$49** Gently mulled loganberry and black currant fruit flavors show some breadth, atypical for the vintage, while a mix of black tea, potpourri and singed cedar notes fill in the background. Reveals a pretty accent of warm earth on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2035. 10,000 cases made.—J.M.

**91 Château Picque Caillou Pessac-Léognan White 2021 \$80** A fresh, racy style, offering lime pith, oyster shell and chalk notes that race along, with zips of fleur de sel and quinine. The mouthwatering finish shows nice cut for the vintage. For fans of the bony style. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2025. 800 cases made, 400 cases imported.—J.M.

**90 Château Bellegrave Pauillac 2021 \$80** Sleek and fresh, with lilac and violet notes followed by a taut core of red currant and damson plum coulis laced with singed cedar and alder. Delivers a nice echo of earth through the pleasantly rustic finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2035. 2,500 cases made, 800 cases imported.—J.M.

**90 Château Bouscaut Pessac-Léognan White 2021 \$40** Lively, offering tangy-edged white peach and yellow plum notes lined with salted butter and a ripple of jasmine. The long finish shows nice steely tension within the juicy fruit. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2027. 1,000 cases made.—J.M.

**89 Château Calon-Ségur St.-Estèphe Château Capbern 2021 \$29** Leads with damson plum fruit, while fresh chalky minerality and savory notes sparkle underneath. Forms a singed cedar backdrop on the finish as the fruit and minerality work together. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. 6,500 cases made.—J.M.





**88 Château Mauvesin Barton Moulis 2021 \$20**

A fresh, unadorned style, this stylish version offers red currant and damson plum notes infused with black tea and sandalwood accents. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2029. 5,300 cases made.—J.M.

**FRANCE****Northern Rhône / Collines Rhodaniennes****92 Les Vins de Vienne Collines Rhodaniennes Sotanium 2021 \$90**

This has good intensity to the spiced blackberry and violet aromas, grounded by iron, black pepper and earthy forest floor. Juicy, with ripe tannins making for a smooth, velvety texture through the lingering finish. Drink now through 2027. 1,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Les Vins de Vienne Collines Rhodaniennes White Taburnum 2021 \$90**

A distinctive, savory style, with dried green hay, thyme and cannabis leaf flanked by delicate Asian pear, rhubarb and salty agave accents. Oily and concentrated on the palate, with mouth-watering acidity driving everything along. Tightly coiled, ending with green almond, shortbread and smoke notes. Drink now through 2030. 700 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 M. Chapoutier Viognier Collines Rhodaniennes La Combe Pilate 2020 \$25**

An inviting, well-crafted white, with a juicy mix of ripe quince, apple and lychee flavors offset by a savory profile of smoke, flint and green herbs. Silky, almost oily in feel on the supple palate, with warming notes of dried hay and chamomile. Drink now through 2025. 225 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Les Vins de Vienne Collines Rhodaniennes Heluicum 2021 \$47**

Suave, with fine tannins providing a silky frame for fresh steeped cherry and mulled red currant. Reveals spice and tobacco leaf details on a medium-weight palate, with toasty apple wood adding warmth. Shows saline and iodine accents that provide underlying freshness. Drink now through 2028. 2,200 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Fauray Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes L'Art Zélé 2020 \$39**

A well-packed Syrah, with blackberry coulis wrapped around a spine of iron. Shows real density and length, driven by refreshing mineral power. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**89 Eric & Joël Durand Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes 2021 \$25**

A fresh, vibrant red bearing the imprint of the cooler vintage. Reveals red currant, crunchy cherry and white pepper flavors that show nice integration, spiked with smoked meat notes and violet highlights. Offers nice purity through the medium finish, with a thread of mesquite and toasted herbs hovering. Drink now through 2026. 1,000 cases made, 175 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Domaine Fauray Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes Les Hautes Ribaudes 2022 \$28**

This has a beautiful freshness to the crushed blackberry and violet perfume, flecked with black and white pepper. An unadorned version, with generous mineral energy, graphite and smoke hovering in the background. Drink now.—K.B.

**FRANCE****Northern Rhône / Condrieu****95 Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu Lieu-Dit Jean Raude 2022 \$120**

Subdued at first, then opens up to reveal beautiful purity and fleshy, generous fruit, with a deep vein of salinity. Full but not heavy, with dried ginger, verbena and yuzu punctuating the fruit and mineral core. Very intriguing and texturally complex, which makes this one for the cellar. Drink now through 2032. 125 cases made, 40 cases imported.—K.B.

**95 Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu Lieu-Dit Poncin 2022 \$120**

Glossy and very rich, this white features alluring aromatics, with sublime texture and integration between the ripe peach and apricot paste flavors and mineral concentration. A vibrant burst of citrus zest brings impressive cut to the long finish. Very delicious now, yet also ageworthy. Drink now through 2032. 150 cases made, 40 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 E. Guigal Condrieu La Doriane 2022 \$150**

Oaky, with butter and toast gilding a warm layer of apple, melon and spice notes on a broad frame. Shows savory threads of salt, smoke, fennel seed and crushed rock that line the formidable finish. A well-crafted version, with nice polish and pedigree. Drink now through 2028. 1,500 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Vidal-Fleury Condrieu 2019 \$72**

An opulent version that's showing beautifully now, as a bit of bottle age has nicely concentrated the flavors of jasmine, baked apple, ground ginger and pear. Reveals a salted caramel note, which adds a layer of richness that's expertly counterweighted by bitter quinine, savory herb, crushed flint and smoke elements. Drink now through 2026.—K.B.



GUY SARTOU DU JONCHAY  
Winemaker

**94 Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu La Chambée 2022 \$50**

This fresh, compact white shows alluring floral notes of honeysuckle blossoms, with lemon shortbread, white tea and ample salty mineral adding complexity and drive. The finish stretches on and on. Drink now through 2028. 675 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Les Alexandrins Condrieu Maison 2021 \$75**

A beautifully rendered, vivid white, with nice range to the fresh nectarine, chamomile and honeyed white peach flavors, revealing subtle white mocha notes. This is fresh, with powder-fine mineral accents bringing cut and direction. Drink now through 2026. 333 cases made, 15 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine Fauray Condrieu Le Mornieux 2021 \$69**

An exuberant, fragrant white, with melon, nectarine and peach flavors that are juicy and fresh on the glossy palate. Shows savory green herbs that march through, while clementine-laced acidity brings a zesty edge and drives the succulent finish. Delivers smoke, flint and pretty floral highlights that cruise alongside salted buttercream hints. Drink now through 2026.—K.B.

**93 E. Guigal Condrieu 2022 \$80**

A luscious white centered by a bitter-edged mineral core, which brings focus and tension to creamy apricot, lychee and peach flavors. A ripe, full-bodied version, with dried green herbs and white tea splaying out on the persistent finish. Drink now through 2028. 7,500 cases made, 700 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu 2022 \$81**

There's an intensity to the ripe wildflower, papaya and honeyed nectarine flavors in this white, which is unctuous and viscous in texture, gliding through with notes of acacia, while succulent acidity reigns in the lushness, bringing lift. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**FRANCE****Northern Rhône / Cornas****94 M. Chapoutier Cornas St.-Pierre 2020 \$195**

Dense and pleasingly chewy, this is distinctly savory, with layers of smoked bacon, tobacco and cigar box infusing a base of steeped plum. Concentrated and fleshy in feel, with olive tapenade and bolts of iron keeping this grounded. Reveals a kick of menthol, anise and orange peel on the finish, which adds brightness to the palate. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**94 M. Chapoutier Cornas Temenos 2020 \$70**

A rich, hefty Cornas, with opulence and weight reined in by mineral tautness. Showy and broad-shouldered, yet balanced, with a cast iron spine and a liberal dusting of singed *garrigue* and bitter chocolate. Firm and focused overall, with serious power and energy. Impressive. Drink now through 2035. 13 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Jean-Luc Colombo Cornas La Louvée 2021 \$115**

Offers a balance of plushness and structure, with a generous stream of blackberry preserves set against formidable graphite power. Reveals expertly polished tannins, with warm stone notes lining the smoky, herb-tinged finish, which stretches out nicely. There's a seductive violet perfume as well. Drink now through 2032. 250 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Jean-Luc Colombo Cornas Les Ruchets 2021 \$115**

A rich, ripe Cornas, with surprising concentration from such a challenging vintage. Features fragrant flavors of blackberry preserves and grilled thyme, powered by a wave of graphite minerality and graced with lovely violet perfume notes through the clean, savory finish. Well done and alluring. Drink now through 2035. 580 cases made, 210 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Dumien-Serrette Cornas Henri 2021 \$83**

Dark, powerful and brooding, with a well of black plum and kirsch flecked with clove, black licorice and oak spice. Very structured and concentrated, with burly tannins and a ballast of crushed mineral that needs time to loosen up. Shows good energy and power, particularly for the vintage. Best from 2026 through 2035. 50 cases made, 12 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Domaine du Tunnel Cornas 2021 \$75**

This version overachieves for the vintage, with savory power pushing through a well of black currant and blackberry, propped up by a beam of iron. Shows finely sculpted tannins that bring cut through the long finish. Features good density, with toasty apple wood smoke in the backdrop. Best from 2025 through 2035. 1,000 cases made, 25 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Eric & Joël Durand Cornas Empreintes 2021 \$60**

Lush and round, with meaty overtones racing alongside an appealing well of ripe plum and black raspberry flavors. Reveals graphite shavings that carry the supple palate through the well-crafted finish. Drink now through 2030. 700 cases made, 75 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine du Tunnel Cornas Vin Noir 2021 \$80**

Dark and brooding, with strappy black cherry, damson plum and blackberry flavors that are laced up on the palate with straight tannins. Reveals black pepper and wild game notes that merge in, while mesquite ash wafts over the long finish. Drink now through 2032. 200 cases made, 5 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Les Vins de Vienne Cornas Les Barcillants 2021 \$77**

This rich version is ripe and hedonistic, particularly for the vintage, offering spiced black currant and grilled mesquite smoke flavors that reveal a bedrock of graphite and a lot of sanguine drive and power. Best from 2025 through 2035. 330 cases made, 120 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Jean-Luc Colombo Cornas Terres Brûlées 2021 \$75**

A modern-styled wine, with spices, red currant and graphite taking center stage, showing a concentrated, caressing palate that's shored up with graphite shavings. Medium-weight and glossy, with smoked herb details through the finish. Drink now through 2030. 2,500 cases made, 775 cases imported.—K.B.



LAURE COLOMBO  
Winemaker



**92 Dumien-Serrette Cornas Patou 2021 \$60**

An attractive and pure style, with lifted floral and pot-pourri aromas and good freshness to the cherry and wild red berry flavors. Though light on its feet, this has real substance, with iron-edged tannins keeping a firm grip while the intensity builds. Best from 2025 through 2032. 500 cases made, 83 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Eric & Joël Durand Cornas Premices 2021 \$50**

A stylish version, with refinement and polish. Shows silky, pure notes of warm spices, plum and fig paste on a glossy, well-integrated palate framed by a wave of crushed iron. The finish is rounded out with savory bay leaf and toasty apple wood elements. Drink now through 2032. 1,400 cases made, 225 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Ferraton Père & Fils Cornas Lieu-Dit Les Eygats 2021 \$66**

Modern and stylish, with a stream of ripe fruit and nice accents of wild herbs and olive tapenade on a medium, well-hewn frame. Shows smoke and charred graphite that provide base notes, while a flash of menthol adds freshness. Drink now through 2030. 180 cases made.—K.B.

**90 Equis Cornas 2019 \$75** A dark, inky and strapping wine, with an old-school feel. Chewy in texture, with plum, black olive and bitter cherry reduction elements. Shows coffee and tobacco notes that add to the brawny profile, while lavender and eucalyptus accents add fresh highlights. Distinctive. Drink now through 2028. 150 cases made, 30 cases imported.—K.B.

**FRANCE****Northern Rhône / Côte-Rôtie**

**97 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2019 \$700** See Collectibles, page 87.

**96 Louis & Cherry Barruol Côte-Rôtie La Boisselée 2019 \$94** Round and smooth, this stretches out with incense and rose notes atop smoked plum and dried cherry, stitched together with suave tannins. Complex and very long, with a spine of cast iron that's expertly in-laid. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**96 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2019 \$700** See Collectibles, page 88.

**96 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Turquie 2019 \$700** See Collectibles, page 88.

**96 Domaine Jamet Côte-Rôtie 2020 \$210** Gorgeous and captivating, with heavy salty energy and simmering power. Stunning in both scale and range, offering a meaty, smoky core of red berry, bitter cherry and earth flavors held up by bolts of iron. Shows a supple feel on the palate, which exudes serious richness and depth through the lavender-kissed finish, revealing wafts of grilled mesquite smoke. This is Côte-Rôtie at its finest. Best from 2025 through 2040.—K.B.

**95 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2018 \$700** A beefy red pierced by intriguing spice and dried incense notes, with heavy espresso, charred anise and warm cedar elements draped over flavors of red plum and chocolate ganache. Shows savory acidity that drives energy through the long, cigar box-tinged finish. Brawny and bold, with serious power and pedigree. Drink now through 2039.—K.B.

**94 Louis & Cherry Barruol Côte-Rôtie Les Roses 2020 \$90** An appealing stream of strappy red and black fruit melds seamlessly with roasted apple wood notes and a beam of iron. Cashmere-fine tannins provide just enough framework and make for real textural intrigue. This is silky, showing subtle chewiness, with smoked garrigue and juniper piercing through. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**93 Louis & Cherry Barruol Côte-Rôtie Fongean 2020 \$90** Brambly berry and raspberry flavors reveal a meaty edge and generous iron shavings in this open, inviting red. Nicely chiseled through the finish, with poise and range, as black pepper and a tug of tar mark the smoky, savory close. Drink now through 2030.—K.B.

**93 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2020 \$105**

A polished, modern style, with a rush of black fruit, bitter cherry and incense layered with smoldering tobacco and cigar box. Succulent acidity races through, bringing balance to the svelte, smoky finish. Syrah and Viognier. Drink now through 2034. 20,000 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 R. Rostaing Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2021 \$190**

Shows a stream of blue and black fruit, layered with floral notes and a subtle kiss of vanilla. Fresh, with a frame of iron giving shape to the creamy palate, which reveals wafts of mesquite smoke and cool minerality. Medium-weight and long, this is well-meshed through the finish, with refined yet persistent tannins that have a firm hold. Best from 2025 through 2035. 275 cases made.—K.B.

**93 Les Vins de Vienne Côte-Rôtie Lieu-Dit Les Grandes Places 2021 \$216**

Black licorice, plum and bitter cherry flavors course alongside juniper, violet and mulberry notes. Grippy tannins make this brawny in feel, with mineral shadings keeping up through the fresh finish. Time in bottle should allow more layers to unfurl. Best from 2025 through 2035. 250 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 R. Rostaing Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde 2021 \$200**

Fresh and aromatically intriguing, with high-pitched notes of blue and black fruit flecked with exotic floral elements and green herbs, all generously sprinkled with fresh-cracked white pepper. Shows the hallmarks of the cooler vintage, with nice roundness and richness on the palate, while leafy herbal character glides through a silky finish framed by iron and smoked mesquite. Drink now through 2038. 150 cases made.—K.B.

**92 Les Vins de Vienne Côte-Rôtie Lieu-Dit Le Plomb 2021 \$132**

A fragrant, expressive red, with black plum and fresh blackberry coulis laced with licorice, bay leaf, incense and pretty floral details, while black tea tannins bring firmness through the medium frame. The finish is fresh, with wood spice details. Drink now through 2030. 125 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.



PIERRE GAILLARD,  
FRANÇOIS VILLARD  
& YVES CUIILLERON  
Owners

**91 Domaine Fauray Côte-Rôtie Les 3 Brunes 2021 \$82**

A perfumed, mineral-driven, lithe style, with up-front red currant woven with smoked meat, lavender and iodine. A racy wine framed by sculpted tannins, with white pepper and juniper details. The finish is marked by tangy acidity and crushed stone. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**91 R. Rostaing Côte-Rôtie Ampodium 2021 \$95**

Fresh and racy, with inviting violet perfume elements. Bright, with chalky-fine mineral underpinnings and serious graphite-edged energy. Graceful and pure, with high-toned floral accents through the racy, focused finish. Drink now through 2030. 1,500 cases made.—K.B.

**90 Ferraton Père & Fils Côte-Rôtie L'Églantine 2021 \$80**

Delivers up-front cherry and plum flavors flecked with baking spice, dried lavender and incense accents. Shows graphite grip that holds firm midpalate, while the tannins are silky in feel. The medium finish echoes with singed incense and smoke. Drink now through 2028. 200 cases made.—K.B.

**90 Les Vins de Vienne Côte-Rôtie Les Essartailles 2021 \$96**

Shows the racy, leaner profile of the vintage, yet has a bit of cushion, with supple plum, violet and grilled alder flavors. Angular tannins and a graphite-laced beam of acidity take this in an austere direction, with nice black pepper and violet details. Drink now through 2032. 624 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.



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## FRANCE

## Northern Rhône / Crozes-Hermitage / Red

**93 M. Chapoutier Crozes-Ermitage Les Varoniers 2020 \$109** A smoky, brooding, dark wine, with an appealing range of chewy fruit flavors and intense graphite power. Delivers layers of dark fig and mocha notes flecked with singed lavender and violet. Reveals tannic grip that reins in the finish, which is otherwise supple and round, grounded by iron and smoke. Attractive and complex. Drink now through 2030.—K.B.

**93 Alain Graillot Crozes-Hermitage La Guiraud 2020 \$75** Sultry and smoldering, with incense and an attractive cherry and blackberry core. Powerful and densely packed on the smooth palate, with softening tannins still guiding the long, salty, iron-infused finish, which stands firm. Polished and well-crafted, with impressive texture. Drink now through 2032. 500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Emmanuel Darnaud Crozes-Hermitage Les Trois Chênes 2021 \$40** Attractive and impressively pure, with red currant and cherry flavors edged in smoke and salty minerality. Reveals graphite and subtle cured meat elements that emerge on the well-hewn palate, with good energy and floral high notes. Lovely. Drink now through 2032. 2,200 cases made, 250 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Les Vins de Vienne Crozes-Hermitage 2022 \$40** A lovely freshness marks this red, with smoked plum and blackberry puree revealing aromatic lift and racy energy. Singed bacon fat and dried thyme hang in the backdrop, with a subtle toasty apple wood thread. Drink now through 2032. 2,916 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Emmanuel Darnaud Crozes-Hermitage Basatus 2021 \$40** Supple in feel, with dusty earth and iron shavings draped over dark plum and singed alder flavors. Smoky and perfumed, with toasted aniseed and licorice root adding intrigue through the well-balanced, medium finish. Drink now through 2031.—K.B.

**91 Emmanuel Darnaud Crozes-Hermitage Mise en Bouche 2022 \$35** A pretty, unadorned version, with a perfumed core of dark plum fruit and smoked meat hints held together by silky tannins on a plush yet fresh frame. Salty licorice and subtle hints of singed apple wood round everything out. Drink now through 2031.—K.B.

**91 Equis Crozes-Hermitage Equinoxe 2022 \$75** Dark and rich, with licorice, violet and blackberry flavors rippling with iron on a polished palate. Reveals generous ripe fruit supported by savory acidity, while softened tannins frame the palate. Smooth and glistening from start to finish. Drink now through 2028. 2,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Les Vins de Vienne Crozes-Hermitage Les Palignons 2021 \$56** Sports a core of fragrant red currant, violet and lavender, laced with salt, mineral and white pepper notes. Shows chalky fine tannins that provide a solid frame on the graceful finish, which reveals anise, licorice and sandalwood smoke. Drink now through 2028. 447 cases made, 120 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 M. Chapoutier Crozes-Hermitage Petite Ruche 2020 \$38** Shows singed herbs, spices and mesquite smoke, which surround red currant and crunchy plum flavors. Medium-weight and savory, with mouthwatering acidity and warm earth accents through the finish. Drink now through 2028. 450 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Equis Crozes-Hermitage Domaine des Lises 2020 \$37** Presents a pure beam of black fruit wrapped in earth, tobacco leaf and toasty alder. Shows nice ripeness and density, with fine, chalky tannins still holding sway and a thread of smoke throughout. Drink now through 2030. 1,500 cases made, 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Alain Graillot Crozes-Hermitage 2021 \$49**

Shows appealing sanguine, meaty character, with a core of steeped plum and a firming spine of iron. Well-defined, with chalky tannins, dried herbs, lavender and toasty apple wood. Drink now through 2030. 2,500 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert 2021 \$39** Taut and racy, in line with the leaner vintage, marked by smoked incense and meat notes layered with crunchy red currant and lavender. Charred apple wood accents add roundness to the palate, while generous salty mineral and graphite elements line the finish. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

**90 Les Vins de Vienne Crozes-Hermitage Lieu-Dit Les Grappiats 2021 \$76** This version boasts black currant and bitter cherry flavors that are light-footed on the smooth palate, with slightly grippy tannins holding firm. Gains charm from incense smoke and generous floral perfume. Drink now through 2029. 200 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

## Northern Rhône / Crozes-Hermitage / White

**92 M. Chapoutier Crozes-Hermitage White Petite Ruche 2021 \$34** A ripe, unctuous version, with an expressive mix of apple, nectarine, dried chamomile and warm hay flavors. Reveals a racy mineral edge and a kick of quinine on the finish, which brings good balance and a kiss of salted butter. Drink now through 2026. 175 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 M. Chapoutier Crozes-Hermitage White Petite Ruche 2020 \$34** This white is attractively rich and superfresh, with a foundation of solid mineral elements providing a sturdy base for the melon and ripe orchard fruit. Offers pretty dried flower and toast accents in the backdrop, yet stays pure and vibrant through the well-packed finish, all buoyed by tangy acidity. Drink now through 2025.—K.B.

**92 Equis Crozes-Hermitage White Domaine des Lises 2020 \$53** This ripe and seductive version delivers honeysuckle, apricot and lemon curd flavors layered with salted buttercream on a juicy palate. Reveals white tea leaf and toasted macadamia notes that line the palate, while salty, mouthwatering acidity powers through. A distinctive wine, showing nice signs of evolution. Marsanne and Roussanne. Drink now. 250 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Alain Graillot Crozes-Hermitage White 2022 \$45** Delivers attractive pear, melon and chamomile notes that turn creamy on the medium-weight palate, with crushed stone and bitter quinine accents. Starts subdued, then turns broad and full, with dried lemon peel and herb details. Marsanne and Roussanne. Drink now through 2027. 500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Les Vins de Vienne Crozes-Hermitage White Lieu-Dit Maison Blanche 2022 \$70** A fresh, focused style, with a steely beam of minerality and lime-edged acidity offsetting melon and green plum flavors. Zesty and long through the clean finish, this is restrained, with zesty citrus accents and a saline-kissed finish. Drink now. 100 cases made, 40 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Ferraton Père & Fils Crozes-Hermitage White La Matinière 2022 \$34** Citrusy and bright, with light peach, verbena and apple notes that turn silky and smooth on the palate. The fresh finish reveals smoke and mineral details, with a thread of dried herbs. Drink now. 1,250 cases made.—K.B.

## FRANCE

## Northern Rhône / Hermitage / Red

**98 M. Chapoutier Ermitage L'Ermite 2020 \$559** See Collectibles, page 87.

**97 M. Chapoutier Ermitage Le Pavillon 2020 \$599** Massive and full-throated, with beautiful delicacy to the tannins, which gives this a sleek, velvety feel. Packs generous fig, plum and mulled cherry fruit flavors, with great tension and mineral intensity, while a graphite edge drives the length. The subtly chewy, nicely defined close is graced with warm earth accents, harnessing ample energy in reserve. Drink now through 2040.—K.B.

**97 E. Guigal Ermitage Ex Voto 2019 \$650** This blockbuster is stunning in power and complexity. Thick, dark, concentrated, and chewy, with flavors of cherry preserves, salted black licorice and macerated plum, forming a brooding, well-meshed core. Spice, tobacco and mesquite ash notes weave through, adding depth and length. Delicious now, this will only improve for those who have the patience to cellar. Best from 2025 through 2045. 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**96 M. Chapoutier Ermitage Le Méal 2020 \$399** A blockbuster in terms of scale and depth, this version unleashes waves of strappy black licorice, cherry compote and black plum paste stitched together with refined yet muscular tannins. Offers refreshing, enlivening highlights of menthol, anise and fresh green herbs, while the weighty, brooding core continues to show immeasurable depth and persistence. Needs time to unfurl. Best from 2025 through 2040.—K.B.

**96 M. Chapoutier Ermitage Les Greffieux 2020 \$289** A superb, sultry red, showing power, density and serious mineral lift. Shows a hefty swath of crushed cherry, plum and red currant paste flavors that are overtaken by smoke, iron and graphite. Smolders through a pure, lengthy finish gilded with mesquite smoke, grilled apple wood and hints of mint chocolate. Everything comes together on the mouthcoating, expertly knit palate. Drink now through 2040.—K.B.

**94 Louis & Cherry Barruol Hermitage La Pierrelle 2020 \$95** Alluring, with an inviting mix of pretty violet, beautiful incense and dried cherry notes wrapped around an iron spine. Savory, harmonious and long, with impressive integration to the singed *garrigue*, vibrant acidity and silky tannins. Polished and well-framed. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**94 M. Chapoutier Hermitage Monier de la Sizeranne 2020 \$149** This meaty, rich and polished Hermitage is intense and focused, showing serious tension between the plum, grilled cherry and smoking incense notes and the mounting mineral energy. This wine's elements are rounded out with warm earth, silky ganache and graphite on the nicely textured finish. Drink now through 2040.—K.B.

**94 E. Guigal Hermitage 2020 \$118** A ripe and seductive version, featuring mulled plum and baked cherry flavors enveloped by smoldering incense, warm earth and toasty alder. Gains an ample frame from softened tannins, while menthol and juniper notes provide a refreshing, spicy edge. Reveals mocha and smoked bacon accents that draw out the finish, which has good tension and length. Drink now through 2032. 2,500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine de la Chapelle Hermitage La Chapelle 2021 \$220** A refined, elegant version that's poised and aromatically expressive, showing bold black raspberry and brambly red berry details, with white pepper and floral high tones. Shy at first, this emerges with time in glass, revealing textural purity and notes of toasted aniseed, cigar box and rosemary, all held in place by a firm spine of iron and polished tannins. This will stand the test of time in the cellar. Drink now through 2040.—K.B.



## FRANCE

## Northern Rhône / Hermitage / White

**98 M. Chapoutier Ermitage White de l'Orée 2020 \$449** A complete, captivating white that showcases a wealth of dimension and depth. Offers ripe apple, apricot and green fig flavors layered with warm spices, ground ginger and honeysuckle on a full, broad palate, shored up with salty mineral depth and a gentle lacquer of toast. The exquisitely textured palate also delivers jasmine and smoke elements powered by salty mineral energy. Finessed and built to last. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**98 M. Chapoutier Ermitage White L'Ermite 2020 \$999** Sultry, ripe and savory, with impressive concentration and depth. Shows waves of lemon oil, chamomile and beeswax notes that wash over a wall of fleur de sel and minerality. Delivers serious simmering complexity, with highlights of citrus peel, chamomile and burned orange acidity emerging with time in glass. The massive, powerful finish packs pleasing chewiness, thanks to white mocha richness and tea tannins. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**97 M. Chapoutier Ermitage White Le Méal 2020 \$379** A heavenly, stunning white, with all the elements in perfect, delicious alignment. Packs a corpulent well of yellow apple, grilled pineapple, dried lemon peel and chamomile flavors amply supported by well-integrated white tea tannins and elegant, bitter-edged acidity. Pierced with lemon meringue and smoke elements, this never feels heavy—just stretches out beautifully for miles. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**97 E. Guigal Ermitage White Ex Voto 2019 \$350** A complex, densely packed white that opens up to reveal layer after layer of warm apple strudel, honeysuckle, citrus oil, ground ginger and lemon curd flavors, glazed over with warm oak spices and toasty cedar. Round and stylish, with serious hedonistic pleasure set against a spine of minerality and racy acidity. A bit of time in bottle will allow all the elements to integrate—put this in the cellar for a bit. Marsanne and Roussanne. Best from 2025 through 2038. 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**95 Louis & Cherry Barruol Hermitage White La Pierrelle 2020 \$95** A stunner, with an alluring well of melon, peach, apricot and jasmine flavors stitched up with bitter minerality and a vibrant acidic beam. Though lush and plump, this shows good vibrancy, with almond skin and crushed flint driving through the super-long, harmonious finish. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**95 M. Chapoutier Hermitage White Chante-Alouette 2020 \$134** Shows impressive concentration, with a layer of melon, quince and heather supported by a foundation of wet stone. Lightly honeyed and well-defined, the palate shows beautiful integration and drive. Reveals echoing notes of dried verbena, white tea tannins and salted, buttery brioche on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2037. 82 cases imported.—K.B.

**95 Ferraton Père & Fils Ermitage White Le Reverdy 2021 \$100** A warm, modern-styled version, with suave oak polish to the lush apple and pear flavors. Glossy in feel, with salty mineral accents lining the broad palate, while a jolt of energy keeps this focused through the persistent finish. Offers sufficient freshness and structure to carry the flattering profile. Marsanne and Roussanne. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**93 Domaine de la Chapelle Hermitage White Le Chevalier de Sterimberg 2021 \$108** A taut, racy-styled Hermitage, with a lively mix of white peach flavors and floral high tones pulsing with talc-fine mineral elements, citrus-edged acidity and crushed flint notes. Silky in feel, with impressive cut, this white builds in density toward the salty, smoky finish. Refined, with the energy to go the distance in the cellar. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**93 E. Guigal Hermitage White 2019 \$87** Delicious and inviting, in a sunny, expressive style. Offers citrus blossom, lemon oil and ripe yellow plum notes that cruise alongside sun tea and toasted hazelnut to fill out the lush palate, with hints of pastry. Shows charm and poise, with wet stone accents and lively acidity bringing excellent definition. Drink now through 2030. 2,000 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

## Northern Rhône / St.-Joseph / Red

**95 M. Chapoutier St.-Joseph Les Granits 2020 \$119** A polished, massive red, with loads of aromatic complexity. Shows a savory thread of smoke that weaves through juniper and charred lavender notes, infusing a base of raspberry puree and dark plum flavors. Reveals tannins that hold firm, with refinement and power. Boasts bolts of iron that ground everything firmly, adding weight and structure through the pleasingly chewy, well-meshed and superlong finish. Drink now through 2038.—K.B.

**94 M. Chapoutier St.-Joseph Le Clos 2020 \$224** An opulent, brooding version that screams generosity and richness. Offers a lavish display of black plum, smoke and bacon fat flavors, revealing notes of milk chocolate and cigar box. Beefy and burly, without being too heavy, thanks to a savory beam of acidity and violet aromatic accents. A pronounced cast iron mineral streak sails through on the expertly framed finish. Drink now through 2038.—K.B.

**94 E. Guigal St.-Joseph Vignes de l'Hospice 2020 \$155** A polished, richly styled red, with a warm robe of toasty oak and mesquite smoke wrapped around black cherry compote, spiced fig and mocha. Singed incense and green herbs add refreshing detail through the dense, chewy palate. Reveals refined tannins, which are firm yet nicely meshed into the lavish, well-integrated texture. Dense and meaty. Drink now through 2040.—K.B.

**92 Jean-Claude Marsanne St.-Joseph 2019 \$55** A fruit-forward version, with a gush of black plum, fig and mocha surrounded by wood spices and clove, while smoked alder and bacon fat play out on the long finish. This shows the hallmark of the ripe vintage in its flashy opulence. Seductive. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

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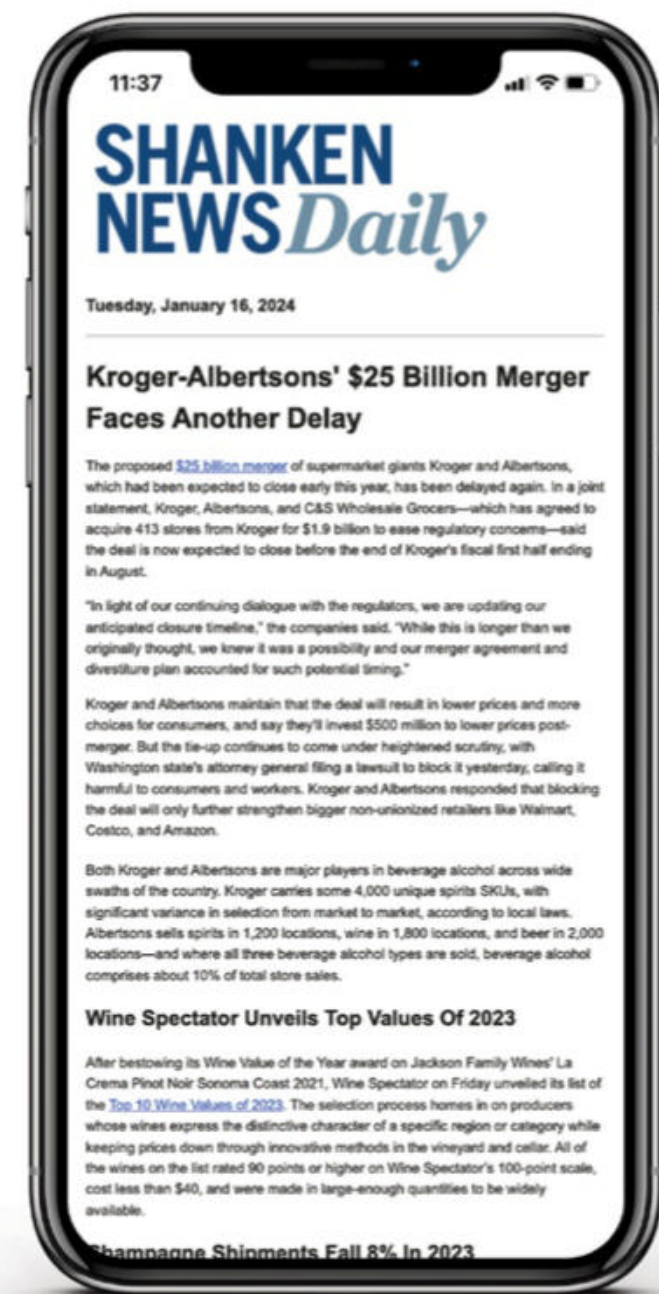
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**92 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Joseph 2022 \$41** There's a pure, gleaming center to this vibrant red, introduced by notes of fresh blackberry puree and lifted violet aromatics. Chalky tannins bring firmness, while a hint of mulling spices and smoke grace the finish. Medium-bodied and very attractive. Drink now through 2028. 2,916 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Joseph Lieu-Dit Le Biez 2021 \$65** Dense, with generous stuffing, delivering black pepper-edged wild berries bolstered by saline iron underpinnings. The lingering finish is marked by bitter cherry, singed apple wood and salt. Best from 2024 through 2030. 200 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Emmanuel Darnaud St.-Joseph La Dardouille 2021 \$67** A charming red, with a pretty violet perfume hanging over crunchy red currant and bright cherry notes, all edged in white pepper. Reveals a hint of smoked bacon that moves in, alongside a waft of charred apple wood, all liberally dusted in crushed iron on a lean to medium frame. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**91 Ferraton Père & Fils St.-Joseph Lieu-Dit St.-Joseph 2021 \$70** Meaty, smoky and woody, with black plum layered with salted black licorice and hints of tar and mocha. Supple on the palate, with sufficient structure to bring shape to the long finish. Drink now through 2030. 60 cases made.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Fauray St.-Joseph Vieilles Vignes La Gloriette 2021 \$55** A racy red, with mulled plum and fresh berry detailed by violet and white pepper. Shows generous salty charred iron and dusty earth notes that move through, with a firm finish. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**89 Ferraton Père & Fils St.-Joseph La Source 2022 \$35** Offers fresh black and blue fruit, revealing a nice mineral undercurrent and floral perfume, with racy acidity and grilled bay leaf and rosemary adding savoriness to the firm finish. Drink now. 3,000 cases made.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Northern Rhône / St.-Joseph / White

**94 M. Chapoutier St.-Joseph White Les Granits 2020 \$129** A decadent, big-boned white, with mineral intensity to match its weight, this is gorgeous. Shows white tea tannins that stitch together generous apricot, yellow apple and persimmon flavors. Reveals a tug of warm earth on the long, impressive finish, which is marked by bitter almond elements. This will age well in the cellar, too. Drink now through 2030.—K.B.

**93 M. Chapoutier St.-Joseph White Les Grani-lites 2020 \$67** Rich and well-balanced, with equal parts ripe, flattering fruit and mineral intensity. Shows melon and apricot flavors that are plush and open, with details of ginger, heather and dried green herbs. Vibrant through the well-meshed finish, with a kiss of shortbread. Drink now through 2026. 68 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Eric & Joël Durand St.-Joseph White 2022 \$40** Unctuous and flattering, with excellent balance, too. Presents a plush display of apple, verbena and chamomile notes amped up by salted buttercream richness. Reveals good definition, thanks to talc-fine mineral elements and racy acidity. Marsanne and Roussanne. Drink now through 2027. 450 cases made, 55 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Jean-Claude Marsanne St.-Joseph White 2020 \$67** Showing gorgeous fruit purity, this rich, unctuous style reveals passion fruit, Cavaillon melon and nectarine edged in bitter minerality. Heady and large in scale, with serious concentration, floral high notes and macadamia nut accents. Stays honest, thanks to the minerality and acidic edge. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**93 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Joseph White Lieu-Dit Le Biez 2022 \$65** A beautifully rendered, extroverted style, with a gorgeous display of peach, apricot, green plum and chamomile flavors that are generous and plump, but not at all flabby. Features a firming layer of minerality and quinine bitterness to shore up the creamy palate, while notes of singed herbs and alder play out on the persistent finish. Drink now through 2028. 100 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Ferraton Père & Fils St.-Joseph White Les Oliviers 2021 \$45** A luscious version for the vintage, with bitter almond and salt elements offsetting a base of yellow plum and melon. Shows generous salty oak spices, before a bitter kick of quinine invigorates a palate pierced with baking spice and honeyed notes. Reveals hints of pastry on the finish. Marsanne and Roussanne. Drink now through 2027. 245 cases made.—K.B.

**92 Ferraton Père & Fils St.-Joseph White La Source 2022 \$35** Lively and energetic, with a pretty mix of yellow plum, melon and earthy roasted agave notes layered with a salty ribbon of brine. Gains shape and drive from mouthwatering acidity and white tea tannins, with butter shortbread and warm acacia accents on the finish. Drink now through 2027. 1,000 cases made.—K.B.

**92 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Joseph White L'Élouède 2022 \$54** Ripe and broad, there's a lot to like here. Packs a salty, dense core filled out with nectarine and honeyed star fruit. Shows savory acidity that pulses through, with notes of toasty acacia, anise and dried herbs. Focused and driven, concluding with almost steely minerality. Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now through 2028. 408 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine Fauray St.-Joseph White Les Ribaudes 2021 \$40** This intriguing white has a racy edge, with beautiful floral perfume hovering over star fruit and mirabelle plum flavors. Heather and warm hay notes and a vein of fleur de sel and minerality infuse the creamy, medium-weight palate. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Northern Rhône / St.-Péray

**92 Jean-Luc Colombo St.-Péray La Belle de Mai 2022 \$38** A ripe, enticing white, with a cascade of melon, nectarine and star fruit flavors. Gains depth and richness from chamomile, fragrant honeysuckle, clove and salted piecrust accents. Delivers a juicy profile of pure fruit that's met with a wall of firming minerality, which brings good focus to the fresh, clean palate. Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now through 2027. 600 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Eric & Joël Durand St.-Péray 2022 \$40** Shows attractive mirabelle plum and baked apple flavors that are glistening in feel, with orange peel acidity powering the plush, ripe palate. Delivers dried green herb and crushed stone accents that take a savory turn, while the bitter-edged, smoky finish is clean and long. A polished, well-done version. Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now through 2027. 690 cases made, 60 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine du Tunnel Roussanne St.-Péray 2021 \$50** Shows an elegant, savory nose, with ample star fruit, yellow plum and melon flavors pierced with heavy white grapefruit-edged acidity. Reveals fine-grained mineral underpinnings that course through the glossy palate. Medium in profile, with subtle butter elements echoing on the close. Drink now through 2026. 1,000 cases made, 25 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Alain Voge St.-Péray Harmonie 2022 \$42** More savory than fruit-driven, this offers earth, briny mineral and subtle toast notes around a layer of yellow apple and persimmon. Round and creamy, with subtle reductive elements and grassy green herbs that build in mineral intensity toward the silky, persistent finish. Drink now through 2027. 825 cases made, 10 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Péray Les Bialères 2022 \$46** Starts off delicate, with enticing floral aromas and apricot elements. Turns weightier and fuller on the palate, with citrus oil, fleur de sel and brioche chiming in. Juicy and nicely chiseled. Drink now through 2027. 600 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Péray 2022 \$35** Open and alluring, with yellow apple, verbena and star fruit robed in warm spices, all offset by a nearly austere wall of minerality, which brings balance and freshness. Marsanne and Roussanne. Drink now through 2025. 830 cases made, 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Les Vins de Vienne St.-Péray Lieu-Dit Les Faures 2021 \$58** A steely, bracing version. Starts off subdued, with light nectarine, melon, white flower and pithy citrus flavors. Gains weight and focus through the medium finish, thanks to a layer of minerality. Drink now through 2025. 200 cases made, 40 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Alain Voge Brut St.-Péray Les Bulles d'Alain NV \$50** Bitter minerality supports a gush of warm apple, spice and salted brioche flavors in this alluring sparkler, with nice richness, ripe fruit and a full body, all kept fresh by ample quinine and wet stone elements. Drink now. 260 cases made, 25 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Southern Rhône / Châteauneuf-du-Pape / Red

**96 M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac 2020 \$95** Texturally stunning, with equal parts richness and grace, this offers a cascade of fig paste and cassis liqueur layered atop iron and burned leaves. Round, broad-shouldered and warm, with perfect tension to match. Stretches out with smoke, orange peel acidity and talc-fine tannins. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**96 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$120** See Collectibles, page 87.

**96 Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021 \$199** This stunning, beautifully textured red is particularly impressive for the vintage, with cashmere-fine tannins supporting a rich display of cherry, mulled berry and linzer torte. There's lovely freshness too, with tension powered by a racy mineral vein and savory notes of grilled herbs, anise and menthol. The finish stretches on and on. Best from 2025 through 2035. 340 cases made, 120 cases imported.—K.B.

**95 Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage Jacques Perrin 2021 \$450** Bold and gutsy, with an exuberant, seductive profile shored up by focused tannins and energy. Delivers a solid core of black fruit and licorice root, spiked with violet and smoked meat and anchored by cast iron mineral depth. Impressive and concentrated through the long, stylish finish. Mourvèdre, Grenache, Counoise and Syrah. Drink now through 2035. 64 cases made.—K.B.

**95 M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape Croix de Bois 2020 \$88** A powerful, full-throttle red, with a polished beam of fruit underscored by stealthy mineral concentration. Black currant, fig and warm chestnut notes are tightly wound around a ballast of iron, while hints of menthol, baking spices and grilled herbs echo through the superlong, weighty finish. Solid and savory, with a long life ahead. Best from 2025 through 2040.—K.B.

**95 Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hautes Brusquières Cuvée Spéciale 2020 \$97** There's impressive range and depth to the plum paste and bitter cherry flavors in this red, woven with earth, warm spices and charred apple wood smoke. The palate shows power and concentration, yet hums with mineral energy and salty black licorice undertones. Big-boned and harmonious through the deftly built finish. Grenache, Syrah and Counoise. Drink now through 2032. 790 cases made, 390 cases imported.—K.B.



**95 Domaine de Cristia Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2020 \$116** Concentrated but not weighty, this has an ethereal quality to its attractive licorice, cherry pie and fragrant incense notes, shored up with chalky tannins and a dusting of graphite that offsets the warmth. Beautifully textured, with bitter plum and mineral notes alternating with holiday spices and apple wood smoke stretching out across the finish. Drink now through 2040. 100 cases made, 35 cases imported.—K.B.

**95 Château de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 \$137** See Highly Recommended, page 87.

**95 Rotem & Mounir Saouma Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2020 \$125** An ethereal red, with beautiful energy in spite of its power. Ripe cherry and kirsch wrap around a spine of iron and a sanguine thread of smoke and meat. Grilled cedar and mesquite smoke layer in, with very refined tannins guiding the very long and complex finish. Savory and racy, with impressive elegance. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 120 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$102** See Collectibles, page 89.

**94 Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Mourre des Perdrix 2021 \$86** A smoldering, broad-shouldered version, with impressive stature for the vintage. Black plum and smoked incense wrap around a spine of cast iron, with pepper and charred apple wood in the backdrop. Firm yet finely sculpted tannins shore up the finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2025 through 2035. 400 cases made.—K.B.

**94 Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Vieilles Vignes 2020 \$91** A stylish, very enticing version, with an expressive mix of blackberry coulis and plum paste flavors. Violet and lavender notes bring lift, while the palate is mouthfilling and rich, with grilled apple wood smoldering in the backdrop. This has the structure to carry the ripeness, shored up firmly by graphite-edged tannins. Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 450 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château Fortia Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée du Baron 2020 \$54** This blockbuster packs a lot of power and stuffing, with a generous outpouring of black raspberry ganache, dark cherry and licorice. Savory acidity and an herbal thread weaves through while chalky tannins and notes of toasty apple wood, cast iron and smoked meat echo on the finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 8,000 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château Fortia Châteauneuf-du-Pape Secret des Terres 2016 \$105** Concentrated and very dense, showing some evolution, with notes of tapenade, forest floor and balsamic reduction underneath black fig and mocha flavors. A salty mineral spine brings savory tension to the lengthy finish. Drink now through 2028. 250 cases made, 28 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Mas de Boislauzon Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 \$55** Plum sauce and cassis reveal earthy, leafy dimension that brings savory freshness to this full-throttle red, which is formidable in structure and frame, with bolts of iron, black tea and persistent yet refined tannins taking it over the finish line. Long and powerful, with smokiness weaving through. Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 6,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château Mont-Redon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Plateau 2018 \$163** This blockbuster version shows warmth and depth, with old-fashioned appeal to the chewy core of cherry compote and plum, offset by cool stone minerality and tobacco leaf accents. Reveals warm mocha and eucalyptus notes that weave through the dense mid-palate, while grippy tannins hold firm. The long finish is invigorated by bitter baker's chocolate. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**94 Château de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape Stes.-Pierres de Nalys 2020 \$76** Alluring, with a svelte mix of cherry coulis, red licorice and mulling spices that are nicely rendered and textured on the palate. Gilded with apple wood smoke and grilled herbs on the lengthy finish, this is drinking beautifully now. Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Muscardin, Mourvèdre, Vaccarèse and Terret. Drink now through 2035. 4,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée des Cadettes 2020 \$166** Plum reduction and cherry preserves are ripe and decadent in this red, backed up by slightly chewy tannins that give this good grip. Shows attractive concentration, but good energy too, with crushed iron laying a solid groundwork, while singed alder, dried flowers and toasted aniseed detail the long finish. Mourvèdre, Syrah and Grenache. Drink now through 2035. 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clavelles 2020 \$295** There's a lot of aromatic beauty in this elegant, silky-textured red. Hints of evolution are emerging, with tobacco leaf, forest floor and dusty earth notes bringing complexity to the cherry and raspberry liqueur flavors. Suave tannins glide through, with mocha powder and black pepper adding dimension to the warm palate. Graceful and lifted, with a lot of power in reserve. Drink now through 2030. 25 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape L'Avenue... 2021 \$130** An appealing red, with sappy cherry, red licorice, plum skin and dried flower flavors powered by mineral drive. Gains complexity from a unique spice profile of toasted anise, coriander and cumin. Shows chalky mineral accents that line the palate, with nice chewiness to the texture and generous stuffing. This version is grounded by bolts of iron through the tobacco leaf-infused finish. Drink now through 2035. 285 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau 2020 \$114** See Collectibles, page 89.

**93 Brotte Châteauneuf-du-Pape Secret Barville 2022 \$60** A warm, generous and exuberant red, loaded with juicy cherry and licorice notes that glide along a silky palate, with a refined framework of tannins. Features finely crushed mineral elements that bring racy energy to the heady profile, while dusty earth and toasted aniseed accents linger on the finish. Big in scale, but stays bright and focused. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 450 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine 2020 \$63** This sultry red offers high-toned and very pure flavors of fresh raspberry, linzer torte and cherry licorice, gilded with grilled herbs, bacon and smoked apple wood. Edged in iron, the tannins are suave but still keep their shape. Orange peel acidity also brings nice lift to the ripe profile. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2035. 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine de Cristia Châteauneuf-du-Pape Renaissance 2020 \$89** A sultry, extroverted style, oozing raspberry coulis and smoked red currant flavors set against cigar box and iron underpinnings. This has a suave texture, with plenty of decadence reined in by the fine tannins and notes of wet earth and singed *garrigue*. Drinking beautifully now, this will also hold up very well in the cellar. Drink now through 2035. 200 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine Giraud Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$62** There's a beautiful freshness to this version, which displays an invigorating base of pomegranate, ripe cherry and floral perfume notes. Silky and long, this offers good density driven by graphite, with notes of smoke and wood spice in the background. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$80** This has power and poise, with *garrigue*, plum, licorice and raspberry expertly framed by a lot of mineral energy and graphite shavings. Refined and pure, with integration from start to finish. Some finely cut tannins maintain the focus and form. Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cinsault. Drink now through 2035. 2,350 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine La Roquette Châteauneuf-du-Pape Piedlong 2020 \$66** A glossy, high-toned style, this seductive red offers red tea, licorice and cherry fruit leather flavors that ride along on a warm, open-knit palate filigreed with lavender and a hint of dried leaves. Elegant and pure, with an element of crushed iron, this has a density that offers plenty of stuffing and length. Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2032.—K.B.

**93 Domaine Santa Duc Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Pied de Baud 2021 \$108** A high-toned red, with appealing spicy depth and range to the fresh red fruit flavors. Offers red tea, incense smoke and green herb notes that chime in on the well-knit, approachable frame, with all the harsh edges expertly honed. Delivers supple tannins, with nice purity throughout. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2032. 366 cases made, 55 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Domaine Santa Duc Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Saintes Vierges 2021 \$108** An elegant version that shows the hallmarks of a cooler vintage, yet still offers generous flashy spice, bright pomegranate and hibiscus flavors. Reveals singed balsam and toasted anise elements that add depth through the firmly structured finish, which stretches out. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Cunoise. Best from 2025 through 2032. 386 cases made, 75 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Bosquet des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$59** Sweet blue and brambly red fruits are up front in this red, detailed with black licorice, singed *garrigue* and violet perfume. The palate is silky, with iron underpinnings and tangy orange peel acidity moving through, with hints of dusty earth, toasty alder and light mocha. Shows good density. Drink now through 2032. 6,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Brotte Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Barville 2022 \$45** A lush, hedonistic red defined by black currant and dark plum flavors merged with a layer of graphite and toasted spices. Subtle hints of tobacco leaf add savory earthy character to the rich, full palate. Remains balanced, thanks to fine-grained tannins and good energy. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 1,200 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Brotte Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hauts de Barville 2022 \$35** Polished and glossy, with supple waves of cassis and red currant flecked with a lot of spice and singed *garrigue*. Warm chestnut and graphite shavings move in, with loads of graphite bringing focus. A modern version, showing poise and polish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 2,000 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Le Clos du Caillou Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Safres 2021 \$75** An elegant version, with perfumed flower and incense accents sitting atop wild red berry and red currant flavors, while a thread of smoke weaves throughout. A great example of a well-made, energetic red from a challenging vintage. Delivers generous charm and mineral drive through the captivating finish. Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 800 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Clos du Mont-Olivet Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$55** This medium-weight red offers notes of red currant and snappy cherry, backed by singed cedar and smoked black tea flavors, with iron bolts grounding fruit and perfume notes. Starts off very smooth, with straight tannins that make for a firmly structured finish. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2033. 1,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.



**92 Domaine Duclaux Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2017 \$55** This charming red displays a brawny mix of iron, anise, smoked meat and saline infusing dried cherry and steeped fig flavors. Shows signs of evolution, with cigar box and tapenade notes moving in, but still offers good freshness and fruit. Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah, Cunoise, Terret, Picpoul and Picardan. Drink now through 2028. 3,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Château Fortia Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition 2020 \$42** Supple and engaging, with steeped cherry and cassis melded with ganache and woodsy savory bass notes. Grilled orange peel–edged acidity brings good energy to the warm, ripe profile, while a refreshing menthol note marks the nicely melded close. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2030. 8,000 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Halos de Jupiter Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$60** Displays a nice, earthy dimension—wet soil, singed *garrigue* and tobacco leaf—infusing a base of sappy plum and mulled cherry. Red tea, sweet spices and milk chocolate detail the rich palate. Pleasantly chewy in texture, with notes of iron shavings and smoked incense. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2025 through 2035. 320 cases made, 80 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Olivier Hillaire Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Petits Pieds d'Armand 2020 \$120** Not shy. A punchy, boisterous and lush red, with a cascade of ripe boysenberry and linzer torte flavors. Superripe and generous, showing orange peel acidity and singed *garrigue* details on the finish. A warm, heady version, with a lot of power. For fans of the fruit-forward style. Drink now through 2032. 600 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Olivier Hillaire Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Terrasses 2020 \$95** Generous and glossy, with plum liqueur and cherry reduction laced with licorice and toasted anise. A warm, voluptuous red, with mocha-coated orange and Cointreau. Big, bold and flattering. Drink now through 2030. 800 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Lavau Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$40** Offering sappy cherry and a gush of dark fruit and ripe plum skin, this shows good ripeness for the vintage, with a chewy edge to its texture. Delivering well-integrated toasty alder and anise notes, this is all about the up-front fruit and spices. Reveals an iron mineral streak that keeps pace, bringing a jolt of energy all the way through. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2030. 1,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$77** A meaty, wild game quality infuses a broad range of red plum and roasted *garrigue* notes, all supported by black tea tannins. Nicely savory, with cigar box and smoldering spice elements that glide through the lingering finish. Open-knit and beautifully textured, this is pretty and solid. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2035. 2,000 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine du Pégaü Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Réservee 2020 \$115** An earthy, throwback style, with wet earth and forest floor notes overlaying flavors of red plum. Offers a nice core of chewy fruit pierced with iodine, black pepper and mineral elements, all held in place by chunky tannins. This has a lot to like, but with a hint of Brettanomyces, so for fans of the old-school style. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2035. 6,660 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine Santa Duc Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau Ouest 2021 \$174** Mineral-driven and lithe, with a racy feel to the red fruit edged in graphite. Boasts beautiful aromatic appeal, with violet and lavender perfume hanging over a pretty mix of raspberry and cherry elements. Linear in profile and still somewhat closed, this needs time to unfurl. Best from 2026 through 2035. 200 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Val de Dieu 2021 \$90** A juicy, flattering style that begins with black cherry paste and licorice elements, quickly coming together with firming tannins and toasty oak. Shows singed thyme in the background, with black licorice and smoke accents. Structured, well-meshed finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2032. 585 cases made, 250 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Le Vieux Donjon Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$75** This offers real aromatic beauty, with incense, violets and red currant flavors melded with a layer of finely crushed graphite. Chalk-fine tannins guide the medium-length finish, adding nice chewiness. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2032. 6,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$60** A dark, muscular and smoky version, with a well of red currant and wild raspberry flavors detailed with mesquite ash and floral high tones. Chalky graphite mineral notes line the full-bodied palate. Tightly wound, this needs time to unfurl. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2026 through 2035. 1,600 cases made.—K.B.

**91 Domaine de Cristia Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$54** Silky-textured, with glossy red and black fruit. Gains shape from gently grippy tannins, while crushed iron details add savory dimension. This is flecked with tapenade and fresh black pepper. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2025 through 2034. 550 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine du Grand Tinel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 \$49** A mouthfilling, lush red, with a stream of cherry and licorice held in check by red tea tannins and graphite. Head and ripe, but with mineral energy to carry the profile, while charred wild rosemary adds savory depth. Drink now through 2035. 2,240 cases made, 900 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Olivier Hillaire Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 \$48** Supple and high-toned, with a rush of smoked cherry, lavender and plum paste flavors. Head and warm, with succulent acidity and savory details of salty mineral and forest floor. Packs serious power and density on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2032. 2,000 cases made, 250 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Château Mont-Redon Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$NA** Robust and earthy, smoldering with incense, tobacco and smoked plum flavors. Gains energy from fresh-cracked pepper and generous crushed iron accents, while the tannins hold firm through the muscular close. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cunoise, Muscardin, Vaccarèse and Cinsault. Drink now through 2030.—K.B.

**91 Pierre-Henri Morel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$68** Shows a suave beam of pure, ripe cassis and blackberry flavors, with a silky texture. Reined in by chalky tannins, this reveals smoked apple wood in the backdrop. A modern-styled, harmonious version, with a generous fruit profile. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2032. 800 cases made, 262 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine Moulin-Tacussel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$55** This red delivers cassis and brambly berry notes that have some weight, with nice lavender and licorice root details. Medium in build, with a slightly strappy structure, while black tea tannins provide a grippy feel. Drink now through 2032. 3,000 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine Santa Duc Châteauneuf-du-Pape Habemus Papam 2021 \$78** Lifted and fresh, this perfumed style has pretty raspberry and red berry flavors, detailed with white pepper, dried flowers and shiso leaf. Reveals a racy edge to the palate, with generous savory, herbaceous notes woven in. Graceful and lean, with firmness and focus. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2032. 1,020 cases made, 112 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Les Vins de Vienne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Otéliées 2021 \$81** Plum coulis and steeped cherry flavors are infused with mulling spice details on a fresh palate. Notes of smoked mesquite and a tug of tar mark the medium-length finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2026. 182 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine du Vieux Lazaret Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2021 \$48** Silky raspberry and bitter cherry flavors glide through with a tug of tar in this high-toned version, which is sleek in feel, gilded with hints of mocha, charred sandalwood and smoldering incense. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault, Carignan, Cunoise, Terret, Picpoul, Muscardin, Picardan, Bourboulenc, Clairette and Roussanne. Drink now through 2032. 25,000 cases made, 3,500 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape Télégramme 2020 \$61** With gentle edges and an attractive mix of sweet red fruit and baking spices, this is supple and open-knit, reined in with notes of savory smoked graphite, earth and tobacco. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

**90 Jean-Luc Colombo Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Bartavelles 2022 \$68** A glossy, inviting style, with up-front blackberry and cassis flavors. Shows a fruit-forward, supple core surrounded by graphite shavings, which provide an upright frame. Reveals smoked apple wood in the backdrop and bitter cherry on the medium finish. Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2032. 900 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Southern Rhône / Châteauneuf-du-Pape / White

**96 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$114** Really gorgeous, in an extroverted style with a lot of range, this white oozes mango, yellow peach and honey-coated apple flavors. A vein of invigorating minerality drives tension, with a quinine bitterness that punctuates the lush profile, while notes of acacia, brioche and sea salt echo on the long finish. Rich and full, with a lot of complexity and definition. Drink now through 2030. 400 cases made, 40 cases imported.—K.B.

**96 Rotem & Mounir Saouma Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Magis 2020 \$155** See Highly Recommended, page 87.

**95 Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Clairette de Gabriel 2022 \$110** A well-crafted white, with creamed orchard fruit mixed with a bedrock of mineral energy. Richly styled yet perfectly balanced, with quinine-edged acidity keeping this focused and pure. Delivers nice details of dried chamomile and heather, ultimately showing the beauty and potential of Clairette in this region. Drink now through 2030. 162 cases made, 30 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021 \$110** Savory and intensely mineral-driven, this version features wet stone, flint and salty mineral notes overlaying a core of lemon peel and fresh apple. Builds in richness on the round palate, with a waft of smoke moving through. Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2030. 135 cases made.—K.B.

**94 Château de Beaucastel Roussanne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2021 \$191** This is more about subdued power and savory energy than flamboyancy. Offers yellow apple and glazed peach notes that are caressing in feel, with a gentle robe of warm oak and toasted hazelnut. Gains nice balance and energy from grapefruit pithiness. Well-melded and refined, with generous crushed flint elements on the long finish. Drink now through 2028. 100 cases made.—K.B.



**94 Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$60** Big in stature and scale, with creamy pear and pureed melon backed by stylish oak, flinty minerality and a saline beam of acidity. Decadent and rich, with the energy to keep perfect pace. Reveals dried thyme and heather details on the long finish. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Clairette. Drink now through 2028. 332 cases made, 180 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$80** Unctuous and ripe, with layers of complexity, offering a seductive core of peach and juicy melon that's thick and plump on the palate. An invigorating beam of finely crushed mineral and dried ginger tears through, bringing shape and energy to the round palate. Drink now through 2030. 250 cases made, 20 cases imported.—K.B.

**94 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape White La Crau 2021 \$94** Full and broad, with a well-structured framework for the green plum and citrus cream flavors, while subtle fleur de sel and buttercream notes stream along. The texture starts out glycerol smooth, then is propped up by chalky, slightly bitter tannins to pleasing effect. Fresh, with good intensity and balance through the powerful finish. This has a long life ahead in the cellar. Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc and Roussanne. Drink now through 2035.—K.B.

**93 Domaine du Grand Tinel Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2020 \$55** A distinctive white, with an engaging mix of nectarine, green plum and persimmon flavors inlaid with notes of truffle, wet earth and macadamia nut. Round and rich in feel, with a dusting of fleur de sel and piecrust. Delivers impressive poise and cut, with quinine bitterness helping to drive length. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Bourboulenc and Clairette. Drink now through 2028. 450 cases made, 112 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Château de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2021 \$125** A stylish version, with a polished layer of toast and cedar that reveals flavors of yellow apple, melon and stone fruit. Succulent acidity keeps this nicely fresh, despite its plumpness, and a spine of salt and mineral runs from beginning to end. A rich, full style, with real pedigree and length. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette, Picpoul and Picardan. Drink now through 2027. 500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$82** This opulent, modern version offers good freshness. Oak polish overlays flavors of mirabelle plum and spiced apple, showing concentration and power on the rich palate, with a beam of saline that charges through. Details of shortbread and warm spices spill out across the long finish. Roussanne, Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2030. 265 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos de Beauvenir 2022 \$136** A rich and flattering style offset by generous salty, savory energy, with a toast and shortbread robe that overlays green plum and juicy nectarine flavors. Remains restrained through the long, opulent, smoke-kissed finish, thanks to a beam of finely crushed mineral accents. Roussanne and Grenache Blanc. Drink now through 2027. 20 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$55** Alluring and delicious, with creamed peach and apple flavors gilded with shortbread and dried herbs on a beautifully textured, weighty palate supported by white tea tannins. Shows tension and energy, with wet stone and ginger accents stretching out on the long, full-bodied finish. Drink now through 2030. 915 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos du Belvédère 2022 \$170** An opulent, expressive white, with a core of apple and nectarine flavors that are juicy and plump on the palate. Gains richness from an ample lacquer of toasty cedar and warm spices, while lemony acidity makes for a snappy, refreshing finish.

Reveals generous fresh mineral elements. Drink now through 2032. 325 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Vieilles Roussanne 2022 \$170** A lush, substantial version, with warm apple, honey and melon flavors wrapped in a robe of toasty oak and spices. Creamy and rich on the palate, with dried thyme and salted buttercream notes on the lingering finish. Also reveals a quinine kick on the finish, which keeps this reined in, while citrusy acidity powers through nicely. Drink now through 2028. 180 cases made, 40 cases imported.—K.B.

**93 Le Vieux Donjon Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$75** Seductive and expressive, with an appealing core of ripe peach and apple flavors that show tropical highlights, buoyed by lemon oil-edged acidity. There's beautiful range to the fruit profile, but also good focus to the lusciousness, showing impressive integration with the gentlest touch of butter. Drink now through 2027. 200 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape White La Bernardine 2021 \$75** Glossy and stylish, with a fresh profile of green apple and lime zest flavors. Gains zesty character through the unadorned finish, courtesy of crushed mineral details, with impressive integration and focus overall. Grenache Blanc, Grenache Gris, Clairette and Roussanne. Drink now through 2028. 175 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Château de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Stes.-Pierres de Nalys 2021 \$70** Silky in feel, with a concentrated well of verbena, yellow plum and warm hay flavors flecked with heather and salty minerality. Gains weight from lemon cream and oak polish, with pithy-edged acidity giving tension and shape. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Roussanne, Picardan and Picpoul de Pinet. Drink now through 2027. 4,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine du Pégaü Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Cuvée Réservee 2022 \$86** Offers salty concentration, flavors of apricot, pear and green plum, plus dried green herb and chamomile accents. Reveals nice honeyed notes that glide through, with tangy acidity powering the rich, silky palate. Gains nice cut from fine-grained mineral elements. Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2028. 416 cases made, 56 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Clos Roquette 2021 \$66** A distinctive style, with an earthy side. Chalky and full on the palate, with ripe kiwi and mirabelle plum undercut by tangy acidity. Gains freshness from green herb and crushed stone notes, while a bitter almond accent lingers on the finish. Clairette, Roussanne and Grenache Blanc. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

**91 E. Guigal Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2020 \$62** A fresh white introduced by sweet cream, chamomile, melon and delicate white flower blossoms, grounded by wet flint and grapefruit pithiness. Restrained. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Picpoul de Pinet and Picardan. Drink now through 2027. 1,500 cases made, 150 cases imported.—K.B.

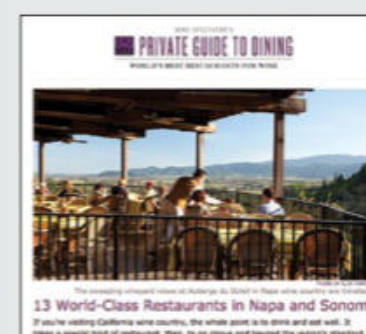
**91 Château Maucoil Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$43** A savory, earthy style, with an umami layer permeating apple and plum flavors. Notes of green herbs, celery root and truffle cruise through the well-meshed frame, with white mocha, salt and truffle accents lingering on the nutty finish. Drink now through 2026. 600 cases made, 250 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Château Mont-Redon Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$33** Beautifully fresh and pure, with a bed of chalky mineral notes supporting an inviting mix of apple and quince flavors driven by mandarin orange acidity. Well-crafted, with nice length and energy, plus a hint of shortbread. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Bourboulenc and Picpoul. Drink now through 2028. 63 cases imported.—K.B.

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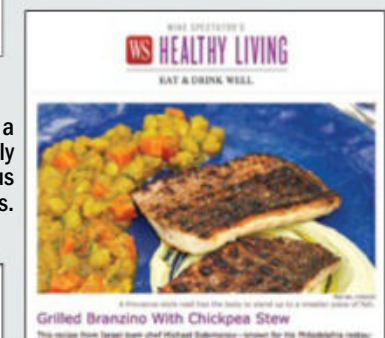
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**91 Domaine du Vieux Lazaret Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2022 \$48** Offers good depth and concentration, with green melon, white peach and Key lime accented by clove and cinnamon. Silky and viscous on the generous palate, with floral charm and a mineral spine. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc and Roussanne. Drink now through 2027. 7,000 cases made, 750 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Southern Rhône / Côtes du Rhône & Côtes du Rhône-Villages / Red

**90 Brotte Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Domaine Grosset 2022 \$19** Leads with fresh-crushed cherry and red licorice notes, revealing a liberal dusting of shaved graphite. A bright, energetic style, with a juicy, ripe personality and a lot to like. Delivers soft, mineral-edged tannins that nicely frame the palate. Drink now. 1,200 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Alain Voge Côtes du Rhône Les Peyrouses 2021 \$25** A racy, vibrant version, with a meaty iodine note infusing a base of raspberry and cassis. Shows nice ripeness for the vintage, with singed incense and baked earth accents. Gains drive from a graphite spine, which also firms up the supple palate. Solid. Drink now. 1,250 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Domaine de Cristia Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2021 \$20** Supple in feel, with a pleasing mix of red plum, potpourri, licorice and pepper-dusted cherry flavors. The lovely finish is guided by fine-grained tannins and powered by a graphite beam. A charming wine, especially for the vintage. Drink now. 600 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Ferraton Père & Fils Côtes du Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu 2022 \$20** A bright, lifted style, with a silky beam of cassis and raspberry coulis flecked with dried lavender and fresh tobacco leaf. Supple and glossy in feel, with a heady rush of fruit and an iron-edged floral expression. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—K.B.

**89 Halos de Jupiter Côtes du Rhône 2022 \$20** A direct and racy version, with steeped cherry and red tea augmented by floral perfume and a subtle kiss of vanilla and smoked sandalwood. Fresh, with graphite-laced tannins that drive energy. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now. 2,000 cases made, 450 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Lavau Côtes du Rhône Koudiat 2022 \$18** A harmonious, well-made red, with sweet baking spice and woody notes infusing a base of mulled plum and strappy red licorice, while iron shavings echo on the finish. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 10,000 cases made, 3,000 cases imported.—K.B.

**88 Clos du Mont-Olivet Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2021 \$24** A pretty, high-toned style, with cherry, lavender and white pepper notes that show the hallmark of a cooler vintage. Reveals racy acidity that drives through, with anise, graphite and roasted apple wood on the firm finish. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Carignan. Drink now.—K.B.

**88 Ferraton Père & Fils Côtes du Rhône Samorëns 2022 \$17** A lively and straightforward red, with snappy red currant underscored by a layer of graphite. Reveals slightly grippy tannins that hold firm, while toasted anise, violet and hints of tar play in the backdrop. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 8,000 cases made.—K.B.

**88 Lavau Côtes du Rhône 2022 \$20** A fresh, juicy red announced by a burst of cherry and red licorice, with a racy beam of graphite and acidity coursing throughout. The snappy finish is lined with dusty earth and smoked *garrigue*. Drink now. 8,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—K.B.

**88 Bertrand Stehelin Côtes du Rhône-Villages Sablet Cheval Long 2021 \$25** Shows an enticing nose of stewed plum, dried violet and cherry. Chiseled and lean in feel, with pronounced graphite through the finish. Shows sanguine character as well, with nice rose petal lift. Drink now through 2026. 2,000 cases made, 220 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 Boutinot Côtes du Rhône-Villages Les Coteaux 2021 \$20** Direct and lithe, with red licorice and potpourri merging with crushed iron and nice details of dusty earth on the supple palate. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 3,500 cases made, 1,800 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 M. Chapoutier Côtes du Rhône Belleruche 2021 \$18** This shows steeped cherry and raspberry puree notes that are snappy and smoky on the palate, with hints of tar, black pepper and mesquite. Direct and fresh. Grenache, Syrah and Marselan. Drink now. 12,000 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 Château Mont-Redon Côtes du Rhône Réserve 2021 \$14** A gutsy red, with black licorice, wild blackberry and cherry notes shored up with slightly muscular tannins. Peppercorn and charred apple wood accents add dimension through the brief finish. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 1,736 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 Vidal-Fleury Côtes du Rhône 2020 \$17** A gutsy, grippy style, with tobacco leaf and smoke layered with dried cherry and plum. Shows pretty incense perfume and generous graphite throughout. Drink now. 2,548 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Southern Rhône / Côtes du Rhône & Côtes du Rhône-Villages / White

**91 Ferraton Père & Fils Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Laudun 2022 \$20** Rich and opulent, with creamed pear and lemon curd notes that stretch out on a broad frame. Reveals fleur de sel, smoke and crushed stone accents that move in, while zesty tangerine acidity brings shape. Delivers a sweet buttercream note on the finish. Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2027. 1,500 cases made.—K.B.

**91 Rotem & Mounir Saouma Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Inopia 2020 \$42** A stylish, intriguing white, with a core of warm apple and melon backed by flinty minerality, shortbread and smoked acacia. Creamy and mouthfilling, with good tension and length, revealing a saline edge from beginning to end. Grenache Blanc, Marsanne, Bourboulenc and Roussanne. Drink now through 2026. 150 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Bertrand Stehelin Côtes du Rhône-Villages White Sablet 2022 \$25** An attractive, inviting style, featuring a ripe core of melon and creamy pear flecked with crushed flint. Builds in intensity, with lovely floral lift, while chamomile and herbs play out on the finish. Drink now through 2026. 500 cases made, 120 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Château du Trignon Roussanne Côtes du Rhône 2022 \$20** A broad, seductive style that still carries poise, with beautiful floral high tones introducing a plump range of honeydew, jasmine and white peach flavors. A bitter quinine note and flinty minerality shore up the palate in this solid white, backed by a whiff of smoke. Drink now through 2027. 1,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Château La Nerthe Côtes du Rhône Les Cassagnes White 2022 \$27** Shows a sweet gush of ripe nectarine and melon, shored up with crushed stone and pithy mandarin orange zest. Reveals green herbs that detail the slightly chalky-textured palate, with nice weight overall and a refreshing salty streak. Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now. 1,000 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Château du Trignon Viognier Côtes du Rhône 2022 \$20** Offers a juicy charm, with a core of quince and green plum notes highlighted by a white floral detail on the silky palate, while a good beam of acid moves through, maintaining energy. Accents of salt and crushed rocks seal the close. Drink now. 1,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**88 Ferraton Père & Fils Côtes du Rhône White Samorëns 2022 \$17** A light-bodied white, with green plum and star fruit flavors that are fleshy and round, while chalky minerality and quinine bitterness deliver energy. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Viognier, Bourboulenc and Marsanne. Drink now. 2,000 cases made.—K.B.

**88 Lavau Côtes du Rhône White 2022 \$22** Offers alluring yellow apple and nectarine flavors woven with heather, chamomile and white blossoms. Open-knit, with tangy acidity and a light to medium body. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**88 Vidal-Fleury Côtes du Rhône White 2022 \$17** A friendly white, with juicy flavors of ripe peach and melon. Remains fresh, thanks to a flinty mineral streak, while savory fresh-cut thyme and verbena cruise through the pleasingly bitter-edged finish. Viognier, Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Roussanne. Drink now. 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 Boutinot Côtes du Rhône White La Fleur Solitaire 2022 \$18** A lithe, straightforward white, with mineral details overlaying green plum and crunchy nectarine. Bright and refreshing, with savory fresh herbs. Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne, Clairette and Bourboulenc. Drink now. 750 cases made, 250 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 Château Mont-Redon Côtes du Rhône White Réserve 2022 \$17** Offers up-front fruit, with a boisterous mix of fresh apple and nectarine flavors, plus floral charm. Light and breezy, with good zippy acidity. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Roussanne and Picpoul de Pinet. Drink now. 300 cases imported.—K.B.

**87 Château Pégau Côtes du Rhône White Cuvée Lône 2022 \$24** Appealing creamed pear and kiwifruit notes are propped up with bitter-edged acidity and chalky tannins on a firm, light-to-medium frame. Clairette, Bourboulenc, Grenache Blanc and Ugni Blanc. Drink now. 1,250 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE

### Southern Rhône / Gigondas

**92 Domaine La Bouïssière Gigondas 2021 \$45** From a challenging vintage, this shows impressive density, character and charm. Offers red plum and wild berry flavors that reveal white pepper and graphite intensity, with details of charred aniseed, cumin and bay leaf that add uniqueness and complexity. The lovely, subtly chewy finish showcases incense smoke and charred *garrigue* elements. Delicious. Drink now through 2031.—K.B.

**92 E. Guigal Gigondas 2020 \$42** A winery red, with steeped cherry and kirsch, this is ripe and broad, starting off glossy and then reined in by cashmere-fine tannins that give real textural framework. A modern, stylish, full-bodied red that's very well-executed, with roasted apple wood in the background. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2030. 10,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Château Mont-Redon Gigondas Réserve 2019 \$31** Supple and glossy, with a cascade of ripe fruit and crushed graphite. Delicious, revealing a lot of stuffing, with singed lavender echoing throughout the well-meshed frame. The long, stately close gains direction and focus from firming tannins. Drink now through 2030. 168 cases imported.—K.B.



**92 Domaine Santa Duc Gigondas Clos Derrière Vieille 2021 \$88** Offers a seductive, refined nose of potpourri, currant and fresh plum notes. Finely grained tannins encase the smooth palate, firmly grounded with bolts of iron. Heady incense and perfume notes carry through the medium palate, tightly packed with mouth-watering acidity and smoke. Drink now through 2032. 623 cases made, 121 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine Santa Duc Gigondas Les Hautes Garrigues 2021 \$108** Tannins make this nicely textured version tight, with notes of spices, pomegranate and wild cherry, offering plenty of floral charm. Shows the firm, taut profile of the vintage, but with real pedigree and good stuffing. Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2032. 643 cases made, 138 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Lavau Gigondas 2021 \$34** A lush, attractive red, with graphite shavings mixed with plum and brambly berry flavors. Shows good density and freshness, with a svelte frame through the long finish. Gains depth from smoke, licorice and floral notes. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2028. 3,000 cases made, 750 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Bertrand Stehelin Gigondas 2021 \$29** Silky mulled plum and peppercorn notes are generous and direct in this characterful red. Baking spices and crushed iron line the ripe, medium-bodied finish, with lots of toasted anise and apple wood. Drink now through 2027. 5,000 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Les Pallières Gigondas Les Racines 2021 \$58** A racy, taut version, with high-toned floral aromatics sharing the stage with flavors of iodine and mesquite smoke. A salty, smoky meat note weaves through, infusing light red currant and raspberry accents on a light-to-medium frame. Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault and Clairette. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Les Pallières Gigondas Terrasse du Diable 2021 \$52** This offers some nice substance, locked up behind subtly firm tannins that are beginning to unfurl. Smoked oolong tea and cured meat flavors give this a savory edge, with notes of graphite shavings dusting plum skin and stewed cherry. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Clairette. Best from 2025 through 2030.—K.B.

**90 Rhonéa Gigondas Les Pierres du Vallat 2021 \$43** An enticing, characterful red, with dusty earth and spice box notes overlaying cherry and floral high tones. Supple in feel, with a savory beam of acidity keeping this focused. The medium-length finish is fueled by cast iron underpinnings, with accents of wet earth. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2027. 10,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—K.B.

### 90 Domaine Santa Duc Gigondas Aux Lieux-Dits 2021 \$58

An inviting, lithe and perfumy version, offering notes of sweet cherry, wild strawberry and dried lavender, with white pepper and fresh minerality running from start to finish. This is high-toned and silky, with a supple frame, plus charred graphite and red tea tannins paving the way. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2028. 2,976 cases made, 625 cases imported.—K.B.



BENJAMIN GRAS  
Owner & Winemaker

**89 Pierre-Henri Morel Gigondas 2021 \$38** This red offers earthy, meaty dimension, with an underpinning of red currant, mulled cherry and wood spices. Gains grip from chalky tannins, with a pillar of graphite joined by char and iodine notes. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2027. 190 cases made, 190 cases imported.—K.B.

## FRANCE Southern Rhône / Vacqueyras

**92 Domaine de la Charbonnière Vacqueyras 2020 \$40** Ripe and generous, this also has a brooding side, with black plum and cherry anchored by iron bolts and a pull of tar. Reveals notes of cumin and allspice that mingle with grilled mesquite smoke. With a hint of old-school charm, this is characterful and delicious. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2030. 1,300 cases made, 450 cases imported.—K.B.

**92 Domaine Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras White Un Sang Blanc 2021 \$66** A broad, open-knit style, showing peach and pear puree notes that turn supple on the palate, woven with a hint of salted buttercream, while a fine-grained mineral streak brings nice focus. Harmonious, rich and long, with a kick of bitter quinine at the end. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

**91 Domaine La Bouïssière Vacqueyras 2021 \$41** An enticing, compelling wine that speaks undeniably of its place. A fleshy, round red, with floral lift and graphite depth, revealing roasted mesquite and generous notes of crunchy plum and singed *garrigue*. Round and long, with softened tannins that still keep form. Drink now through 2027.—K.B.

**91 Domaine de la Charbonnière Vacqueyras Cuvée Spéciale 2020 \$45** A lush, silky red, with winery plum and cherry notes pierced by sweet oak and clove. Robust and smoky, with ample structure and energy to carry the ripeness. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

**91 Lavau Vacqueyras 2021 \$30** This red aligns earth, loam and soil notes alongside red currant and dusty cherry flavors. Shows graphite that pulses through, building density and length. Reveals mocha and singed *garrigue* on the finish. Drink now through 2027. 3,000 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Le Colombier Vacqueyras White 2022 \$36** Glossy and pure, featuring star fruit, pear and heather notes on a silky palate, with nice weight and personality. Fresh and energetic, with smoke and mineral dimension through the bitter-edged finish. Drink now. 450 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Halos de Jupiter Vacqueyras 2021 \$30** Floral, with tea rose and lavender accents introducing flavors of black cherry and plum puree. Fleshy yet mineral-driven, with generous graphite notes and a tug of earth and tar. Supple and fleshy, with appealing black pepper traces on the finish. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2027. 550 cases made, 130 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Azalaïs 2021 \$42** A perfumed, lifted style, with mineral purity pushing through violet, cherry and supple plum flavors. Lush and supple, with pencil shavings invigorating acidity to shore up the midpalate. The finish is marked by grilled sandalwood and incense. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

**90 Domaine Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Lopy 2021 \$59** Shows black pepper-dusted plum and *garrigue* notes that start out silky but are quickly propped up, with chewy tannins on a firm frame. Stays light on its feet through the finish, which reveals violet and mesquite smoke details. Drink now through 2028.—K.B.

## FRANCE Southern Rhône / Other

**91 Boutinot Cairanne Les Deux Barriques 2019 \$65** An earthy red, with dried flower, leather and balsamic reduction notes that have moved in alongside cherry compote and raspberry. Shows chewy tannins that keep their form, with a kick of menthol on the finish. Grenache Noir, Syrah, Carignan and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2026. 250 cases made, 30 cases imported.—K.B.

**91 Boutinot Cairanne Les Six 2022 \$30** Shows beautiful balance between density and freshness, with violet and damson plum dusted in earth and a thin veil of smoke and singed alder. Offers a silky texture, with slight chewiness and generous crushed graphite from start to finish. Grenache Noir, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Carignan, Cinsault and Counoise. Drink now through 2028. 1,350 cases made, 350 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Boutinot Cairanne La Côte Sauvage 2020 \$32** Offers cherry reduction and earthy dimension, courtesy of tobacco and forest floor gilded in oak polish. Delivers nice weight, richness and length, with a jolt of orange peel acidity and a menthol accent. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan Noir. Drink now through 2027. 1,110 cases made, 550 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Michel Gassier Costières de Nîmes White Nostre Païs 2021 \$28** Featuring yellow plum and melon notes flecked with chamomile and a hint of buttercream, this distinctive white is fresh in feel thanks to orange pith-laced acidity and a racy, bitter edge to the finish. Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Viognier. Drink now. 1,700 cases made, 270 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Lavau Rasteau 2021 \$26** Very impressive for the cool vintage, with generous plum, fig and cherry flavors laced with black pepper on a well-hewn frame. Shows good juiciness, concentration and weight, backed by a loamy, smoky thread that weaves through, with graphite energy driving everything home. Drink now through 2028. 3,000 cases made, 900 cases imported.—K.B.

### 90 Château Mont-Redon Lirac 2020 \$21

A ripe, stylish red, with black currant and baked plum deftly lacquered in oak polish and cedar smoke. Firm, with good structure and integration to the fruit, mineral notes and texture. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2028. 28 cases imported.—K.B.



PIERRE FABRE  
Winemaker

**90 Château Mont-Redon Lirac White 2022 \$19** Expressive and floral, this charming white features fresh gardenia and ripe stone fruit on a juicy palate. Shows chalky minerality and dried herbs that bounce through a clean finish lined with wet stone accents. Drink now. 14 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Château Pesquié Ventoux White Cuvée Juliette 2022 \$45** Juicy star fruit and white flowers mark this fluid white, with a chalky mineral note lining the medium-weight palate. As density builds, notes of heather, citrus pith and a waft of smoke add complexity and depth, finishing with persistent length. Clairette and Grenache Blanc. Drink now. 200 cases made, 20 cases imported.—K.B.

**90 Rhonéa Rasteau Les Encostes 2020 \$37** A bold, exuberant style, with a lot of personality and generous notes of inviting fruit and mulling spices. Boasts black cherry, licorice and crushed graphite elements on a full-bodied, fleshy profile. Stays focused, thanks to solid, well-built tannins. Substantial, gutsy and charming. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2026. 1,800 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Château d'Aquéria Lirac 2022 \$25** An appealing, up-front style, with fresh-crushed plum and melted licorice notes on a round, juicy frame. Features floral high tones and the subtlest kiss of vanilla spices that add detail, while savory acidity courses through the snappy close. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2027. 3,800 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Domaine Boisson Cairanne Les Trois Terroirs 2021 \$24** A mineral-driven red, with red currant and rooibos tea notes showing zesty spices and subtle bonfire ash. Texturally interesting on the light to medium frame, with good freshness. Drink now through 2026. 5,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—K.B.



**89 Brotte Cairanne Création Grosset 2021 \$18**

Features a friendly mix of cherry and raspberry flavors, with a layer of graphite and dried lavender. Pure and driven, with intriguing anise and black pepper details adding range. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan. Drink now. 3,800 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Clos du Mont-Olivet Lirac 2021 \$24** A racy red, with plum and red currant flecked with pretty violet, lavender and white pepper notes. Offers an upright frame, courtesy of graphite shavings and fine-grained tannins, with a subtle waft of apple wood smoke. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2027. 1,000 cases made, 250 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Domaine Giraud Lirac Les Sables d'Arène Vieilles Vignes 2021 \$29** Offers an inviting perfume of cassis and candied violet, with nice fruit purity carried by fresh acidity and grounded by an iron spine, which reins in the supple palate. Medium-bodied, with nice flesh for the vintage. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2028. 350 cases imported.—K.B.

**89 Château Pesquié Ventoux White Quintessence 2022 \$24** Displays an exuberant gush of ripe apple and peach notes, laced with zesty and bitter grapefruit-edged acidity, plus a fresh-cut chive accent. A friendly, very inviting style offering charm and character. Roussanne and Clairette. Drink now. 1,500 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

**88 E. Guigal Tavel 2022 \$25** A suave, glossy version, with orange peel acidity powering raspberry coulis, watermelon and smoked cherry flavors, while chalky minerality adds depth to the medium finish. Drink now. 4,000 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

## ITALY

### Calabria

**91 Vincenzo Ippolito Calabria 160 Anni 2019 \$40** A lively, medium-bodied red, finely balanced and creamy on the palate, with flavors of mulled cherry, mocha, fig cake, brown bread and cured tobacco showing good intensity—without excessive weight. Offers fine-grained tannins and juicy acidity, which make a well-knit frame for the appealing flavor profile. Drink now through 2029. 1,100 cases made, 200 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Vincenzo Ippolito Calabria I Mori 2021 \$25** Fresh and elegant, with fine-grained tannins enmeshed with crushed cherry, strawberry preserves and fragrant hints of tea rose, eucalyptus and graphite. Firms up a bit on the finish, which shows good length. Gaglioppo and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2029. 2,500 cases made, 300 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Cantine Lavorata Greco Nero Calabria 2017 \$23** A medium-bodied red, with mint, rosemary and cracked peppercorn notes bouncing off generous mulberry and boysenberry fruit flavors. Offers a plush richness on the palate while staying lively and focused. Chewy finish. Drink now. 2,670 cases made, 215 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Librandi Calabria Megonio Tenuta Rosaneti 2021 \$25** This harmonious red frames notes of ripe black cherry and mulberry fruit, Mediterranean *macchia*, orange peel and almond blossoms with light, creamy tannins that firm the fresh finish. Drink now through 2027. 3,000 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

**88 Vincenzo Ippolito Cirò Classico Superiore Liber Pater 2022 \$22** This lively red is fresh and juicy, with pleasingly crisp tannins structuring ripe mulberry and plum fruit, black tea leaf, graphite and spice notes. Chewy. Gaglioppo. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—A.N.

**88 Librandi Cirò White Segno Librandi 2022 \$15** Light-bodied, with floral, ripe apple and nectarine notes accented by light spices and citrusy acidity. Drink now. 25,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—A.N.

## ITALY

### Campania / Fiano di Avellino

**93 Quintodecimo Fiano di Avellino Exultet 2022 \$48**

A zesty thread of pink grapefruit and white pepper laces the ripe pear and pineapple fruit in this vibrant white, showing notes of green almond and honeysuckle. This is silky and generous on the palate in a light- to medium-bodied frame, with a streak of salinity and mouthwatering acidity driving the finish. Drink now through 2030. 2,500 cases made, 650 cases imported.—A.N.



LUIGI MOIO  
Owner & Winemaker

**92 Colli di Lapio Fiano di Avellino Clelia 2020 \$78** A compact white framed by well-cut mandarin orange peel acidity, this version opens nicely in the glass to reveal layers of white cherry, almond skin, dried raspberry and fresh chamomile and hay. Lightly chalky in texture, with a minerally finish. Drink now through 2029. 175 cases made.—A.N.

**91 Colli di Lapio Fiano di Avellino 2022 \$33** Bright and juicy, evoking pineapple, peach, blood orange sorbet, pink grapefruit granita, anise hyssop and honeysuckle. Silky on the palate and well-knit, sculpted by lively acidity and a push of minerality that shines on the finish. Drink now. 5,800 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Salvatore Molettieri Fiano di Avellino Apianum 2022 \$25** A salty white, with the initial tang of salinity transitioning to underscore the succulent melon and apricot fruit and beeswax and floral notes. A well-balanced version, ending with a clean-cut hint of pink grapefruit pith on the finish. Drink now. 350 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Terredora di Paolo Fiano di Avellino CampoRe Riserva 2018 \$24** Fragrant, with hints of toast and vanilla, this offers a generous range of baked melon, hazelnut, honey and herb notes underscored by a rich, minerally streak of petrol and smoke. Well-cut and focused through the finish. Drink now through 2027. 1,100 cases made, 70 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Mastroberardino Fiano di Avellino Radici 2022 \$35** Fresh and open-knit, this minerally white layers flavors of ripe pear, star fruit, fresh herbs and salted Marcona almond with a base of stone and smoke, followed by a crisp finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.—A.N.

## ITALY

### Campania / Greco di Tufo

**92 Quintodecimo Greco di Tufo Jaune d'Arles 2021 \$48** A graceful white, with a detailed range of ripe persimmon, white peach, Macadamia nut, candied ginger and orange pith flavors. Pleasingly plush and creamy on the palate, this is fresh and well-knit throughout. Drink now through 2029. 2,500 cases made, 700 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Mastroberardino Greco di Tufo Nova Serra 2022 \$35** This sleek, minerally white offers hints of grilled macadamia nut, which underscore and enrich a finely meshed flavor profile of tangerine, persimmon and chamomile. Racy finish. Drink now through 2027. 6,000 cases made, 250 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Salvatore Molettieri Greco di Tufo 2022 \$25** This graceful white shows a subtle honeyed overtone, which works nicely with hints of green almond and pink grapefruit pith and flavors of baked melon and dried white cherry. Presents a pleasing plumpness that's trimmed nicely by bright acidity and salty minerality. Drink now through 2027. 350 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Mastroberardino Greco di Tufo 2022 \$27**

A lithe, crisp white, with pretty flavors of ripe apple and pear meeting a tangy streak of pink grapefruit and lively acidity. The lingering finish echoes mineral and herb notes. Drink now. 35,500 cases made, 440 cases imported.—A.N.

**89 Colli di Lapio Greco di Tufo Alèxandros 2022 \$23** A lively, light-bodied white, with ripe white cherry, apricot and pear fruit buoyed by bright acidity and hints of pickled ginger, graphite, chalk and pink grapefruit pith. Floral finish. Drink now. 650 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

## ITALY

### Campania / Taurasi

**94 Salvatore Molettieri Taurasi Vigna Cinque Querce Riserva 2015 \$89** See Highly Recommended, page 87.

**93 Salvatore Molettieri Taurasi Vigna Cinque Querce 2016 \$66** Harmonious and finely detailed, this offers flavors of black plum reduction, dried fig and wild sage and thyme, with a savory underpinning of mineral iron and spices. Fluid and supple on the palate, showing a fine intersection of power and grace. Long, fresh finish. Drink now through 2036. 950 cases made.—A.N.

**92 Colli di Lapio Taurasi Andrea 2019 \$54** A distinctive red, with a rich note of fresh loamy earth and hints of dark chocolate and sage, layered with dried raspberry, blackberry coulis and macerated black cherry flavors. Reveals a savory, sanguine edge that reins in the rich fruit flavors, as does a frame of bright orange peel acidity. Offers taut, chalky tannins that firm the finish. Let this open in the glass or decant. Best from 2025 through 2030. 330 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 Terredora di Paolo Taurasi Fatica Contadina 2015 \$45**

Hints of date, fig cake and cocoa powder accent the dried cherry and cranberry fruit in this robust version, boasting *balsamico* acidity that makes for a lively tang throughout the rich profile, backed by firm, chalky tannins on the finish, which is marked by leather, mineral and spices. Drink now through 2035. 2,000 cases made, 640 cases imported.—A.N.



DANIELA  
MASTROBERARDINO  
Co-owner

**90 Salvatore Molettieri Taurasi Renonno 2017 \$60** Round and well-knit, with supple tannins wrapped in a rich range of baked black cherry, cocoa powder, dried thyme and rose hip notes. Balanced, with a lightly chewy finish. Drink now through 2029. 230 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

## ITALY

### Campania / Other

**95 Montevetrano Colli di Salerno 2020 \$95** An elegant red, with a ripe, appealing dark core of blackberry compote, black plum reduction, licorice, tea leaf and dried mint flavors. Shows a frame of plush tannins and sleek acidity that's supple and well-meshed, while the finish reveals persistent hints of mineral, tobacco and ground coffee. Lovely. Cabernet Sauvignon, Aglianico and Merlot. Drink now through 2035. 1,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 Salvatore Molettieri Aglianico Irpinia Cinque Querce 2019 \$30** Harmonious and refined, with light, supple tannins wrapped in a silky range of cassis and blackberry coulis fruit flavors, revealing aromatic hints of licorice, vanilla and sandalwood. A savory base of iron, coffee and tobacco pushes through and lingers. Drink now through 2030. 2,700 cases made, 600 cases imported.—A.N.



**91 Quintodecimo Falanghina Irpinia Via del Campo 2022 \$43** This light- to medium-bodied white has a subtle, pleasing fleshiness to it, with mouthwatering acidity sculpting well-knit flavors of melon, persimmon, almond skin, verbena and fleur de sel. A light, honeyed overtone lingers on the spiced finish. Drink now through 2029. 1,300 cases made, 400 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 San Salvatore Aglianico Paestum Omaggio a Gillo Dorflès 2017 \$103** Fresh and elegant, with a swath of warm spices, dried fig and melted licorice winding through blueberry coulis, herbes de Provence and fig cake flavors. Shows fine-grained tannins, which provide supple definition for the exuberant profile and firm the lingering, spice- and smoke-laced finish. Drink now through 2029. 1,000 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Colli di Lapio Irpinia Campi Taurasini Donna Chiara 2021 \$22** A tangy, briary red, with generous fragrant Mediterranean *macchia* and fresh earth aromatics layered with ripe, tangy red currant and black plum fruit flavors. Mineral-driven and bright, showing citrusy acidity, with chewy tannins firming the finish. Aglianico. Drink now through 2029. 650 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

**89 Terredora di Paolo Aglianico Campania 2020 \$21** Reveals juicy flavors of ripe, well-spiced mulberry fruit layered with a fragrant overtone of dried herbs and flowers, showing light, chalky tannins and mineral accents of iron. A bright, appealing red. Drink now through 2027. 4,000 cases made, 1,120 cases imported.—A.N.

## ITALY

### Piedmont / Barolo

**96 Fontanafredda Barolo Riserva 2016 \$198** Maturing nicely, with mellowing cherry, rose, anise, iron and just a hint of truffle, yet remains vibrant and taut, a reflection of the stellar 2016 vintage. Still firm, linear and complex, this is integrating nicely and persists on the multidimensional finish. Best from 2025 through 2042. 990 cases made, 25 cases imported.—B.S.

**95 Fontanafredda Barolo Vigna La Delizia Lazzarito 2019 \$175** A pretty red, this features rose, strawberry, cherry, licorice and underbrush aromas and flavors. No pushover, this is also stitched with dense tannins that flex themselves on the long finish. Will be impressive once this comes together. Best from 2027 through 2048. 325 cases made, 50 cases imported.—B.S.

**95 Fontanafredda Barolo Vigna La Villa Paialgallo 2019 \$117** Rich and harmonious, despite the youthful exuberance of the tannins. Offers generous floral, cherry, strawberry, tar and mineral aromas and flavors, with the fruit matching the tannins step for step on the finish. Delivers excellent balance and length. Best from 2027 through 2047. 325 cases made, 50 cases imported.—B.S.

**95 Massolino Barolo Margheria 2019 \$114** The delicate aromas and flavors of rose, strawberry and cherry are backed by a layer of dense tannins, with iron, tobacco and eucalyptus notes adding depth as this cruises to a long, expansive finish. Impressive now, this should only improve with age. Best from 2027 through 2048. 625 cases made.—B.S.

**95 Massolino Barolo Parafada 2019 \$114** A rich and succulent style of Barolo, boasting fresh cherry, strawberry, rose, iron, tobacco and black pepper flavors. Firms up, with fine tannins that leave a chalky sensation on the saline mineral finish, showing terrific balance and length. Best from 2027 through 2047. 500 cases made, 175 cases imported.—B.S.

**94 Fontanafredda Barolo Fontanafredda Proprietà in Fontanafredda 2019 \$115** This is pure, with a delicate beam of black cherry and black currant fruit, accented by floral, graphite and tobacco notes, this red starts out supple, before the powdery tannins surface. Balanced and long, this needs three to five years to find

its drinking window. Best from 2027 through 2046. 500 cases made, 250 cases imported.—B.S.

**94 Massolino Barolo Parussi 2019 \$114** This pure red exudes rose, strawberry, cherry, iron and eucalyptus flavors. Linear, with a firm spine of tannins and lively acidity for support, this shows excellent balance and length. Best from 2027 through 2046. 750 cases made, 200 cases imported.—B.S.

**92 Marziano Abbona Barolo 2019 \$32** The plum and cherry flavors in this version are muted, sidling up against notes of licorice, leather, earth and eucalyptus. There's a distinctive saltiness, plus dense tannins on the gripping finish. Best from 2027 through 2043. 2,300 cases made, 500 cases imported.—B.S.



CHIARA ABBONA  
& MARZIANO ABBONA  
Owners

**91 Marziano Abbona Barolo Pressenda 2019 \$NA** Delivers a range of cherry, strawberry, iron, tobacco and eucalyptus flavors. Starts with a supple texture, giving way to sinewy tannins as this plays out on the finish. A tad dry, but long. Best from 2027 through 2042. 380 cases made.—B.S.

**91 Fontanafredda Barolo 2019 \$57** A firmly structured red graced by cherry, berry, floral and menthol flavors. Linear, showing good balance overall, with dusty tannins lining the finish. Best from 2025 through 2042. 33,300 cases made, 3,750 cases imported.—B.S.

## ITALY

### Piedmont / Other

**93 Antonino Gattinara Riserva 2018 \$63** This has mellowed nicely, featuring fading aromas and flavors of cherry, plum, spice, leather and tobacco. Complex and supple, this red delivers fine balance and a long, detailed, saline aftertaste. Drink now through 2032. 1,500 cases made, 450 cases imported.—B.S.

**93 Massolino Barbaresco Albesani 2020 \$110** Freshly mown hay and green tea accents frame cherry, strawberry and white pepper flavors in this sleek yet dense red. Overall, this remains balanced and elegant, with a beam of fruit persisting on the aftertaste. Best from 2026 through 2042. 300 cases made, 100 cases imported.—B.S.

**92 Antonino Gattinara Osso San Grato Riserva 2018 \$120** Aromas of incense and potpourri figure prominently in this maturing red, whose fading cherry and berry flavors are matched by leather, tobacco and mineral accents. This ends with a light, dusty feel on the long, fresh finish. Drink now through 2028. 400 cases made, 120 cases imported.—B.S.

**92 Massolino Barbaresco 2020 \$54** An effusive style, this red boasts crunchy cherry, raspberry and mineral flavors, accented by flashes of white pepper and underbrush. Delicate, yet with the requisite structure to develop for a decade or more. Best from 2025 through 2040. 1,650 cases made, 400 cases imported.—B.S.

**92 Fratelli Revello Barbera d'Alba 2022 \$27** This red feels a little compressed today, with pure blackberry, black currant and violet flavors. Succulent, with a core of saturated dark fruit ready to emerge. Balanced and stretches out in the end. Drink now through 2032. 1,600 cases made, 480 cases imported.—B.S.

**91 Fontanafredda Barbaresco Coste Rubin 2020 \$62** Light-bodied, this red is elegant and laced with cherry, strawberry, rose hip, earth and grassy flavors. Charming and open-knit, with a lingering aftertaste hinting at anise. Best from 2025 through 2038. 3,400 cases made, 150 cases imported.—B.S.

**90 Antonino Nebbiolo Coste della Sesia Juvenia 2020 \$30** Leather and camphor accents frame a core of cherry in this lean, well-defined red. Chewy tannins guide the flavors through the lingering, earth-tinged finish. Best from 2025 through 2038. 800 cases made, 240 cases imported.—B.S.

**89 Fontanafredda Gavi del Comune di Gavi 2022 \$30** This is as much about the savory, earth, wild herb and saline flavors as it is about the lemon and apple fruit. Though lean and on the austere side, this is focused and long. Drink now. 14,500 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.—B.S.

**88 La Giustiniana Gavi del Comune di Gavi Terre Antiche 2022 \$22** A mouthwatering white, with peach and apple flavors boosted by citrus tang. Charming, with a moderately long finish. Drink now. 6,500 cases made, 1,950 cases imported.—B.S.

## ITALY

### Sardinia

**92 Cantina Sociale di Santadi Carignano del Sulcis Superiore Terre Brune 2019 \$92** Fine and creamy, this elegant red offers a burst of crushed raspberry and strawberry fruit, plus accents of lavender, incense, tea rose and thyme. Juicy and fresh, with supple, fine-grained tannins emerging on the mineral, tar- and saline-laced finish. Drink now through 2034. 7,500 cases made, 41 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Argiolas Isola dei Nuraghi Turriga 2019 \$85** A rich, fragrant red, with floral hints of violet and tea rose on the nose accenting flavors of roasted plum, black cherry puree, dark chocolate and dried sage. Round and fresh, this medium- to full-bodied version has supple tannins firming the dark and juicy, graphite-laced finish. Cannonau, Carignano, Bovale and Malvasia. Drink now through 2029. 4,000 cases made, 350 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Cantina Sociale di Santadi Carignano del Sulcis Rocca Rubia Riserva 2020 \$38** A rich, fresh red, with a fragrant entry of tar, singed sage and loamy earth hints, this transitions to underscore plum pudding and dried raspberry flavors. Shows a supple frame, thanks to fine, chalky tannins, and the aromatic profile lingers on the sculpted finish. Drink now through 2029. 50,000 cases made, 175 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Argiolas Bovale Isola dei Nuraghi Korem 2020 \$50** Features fine, chalky tannins that provide a firm, well-knit frame for a dark, juicy flavor range of sun-dried black cherry, date and dark chocolate, with tea rose and five-spice accents. Enlivened by *balsamico* acidity, the chewy finish shows an echoing hint of medicinal herbs. Bovale, Carignano and Cannonau. Drink now through 2029. 5,000 cases made, 450 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Argiolas Cannonau di Sardegna Senes Riserva 2019 \$40** A well-knit, medium-bodied red trimmed by fine, taut tannins, with flavors of ripe black plum, mulberry, bay leaf and milled pepper. Reveals a lively citrus peel edge to the fruit flavors, with the herb and spice notes playing out on the persistent finish. Cannonau and Carignano. Drink now through 2027. 2,500 cases made, 350 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Argiolas Vermentino di Sardegna Is Argiolas 2022 \$22** Round and juicy, with ripe apple and melon flavors buoyed by citrusy acidity, this light- to medium-bodied white shows hints of grated ginger and pink grapefruit zest on the creamy finish. Drink now. 18,700 cases made, 600 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Cantina Sociale di Santadi Vermentino di Sardegna Cala Silente 2022 \$25** Lithe and well-cut, this delicate, mineral-driven white shows yellow apple and lemon sorbet notes, plus rich hints of macadamia nut, ending with a zesty finish. Drink now. 6,666 cases made, 160 cases imported.—A.N.



**89 Argiolas Cannonau di Sardegna Costera 2021 \$19**

A bright, medium-bodied red, this features pretty ripe strawberry and milk chocolate notes accented by fresh thyme and orange peel notes, revealing light tannins. Cannonau, Bovale and Carignano. Drink now. 35,000 cases made, 2,900 cases imported.—A.N.



ANTONIO ARGIOLAS  
Winemaker

**89 Argiolas Vermentino di Sardegna Costamolino 2022 \$17** See Smart Buys, page 90.

**88 Cantina Sociale di Santadi Vermentino di Sardegna Villa Solais 2022 \$17** A lightly creamy white, this is enlivened by the tang of salinity and a zesty streak of milled white pepper more so than the baked pineapple, melon and grapefruit notes. Drink now. 20,833 cases made, 1,831 cases imported.—A.N.

## ITALY

### Other

**94 ArPePe Valtellina Superiore Grumello Sant'Antonio Riserva 2016 \$120** See Highly Recommended, page 87.

**94 ArPePe Valtellina Superiore Inferno Sesto Canto Riserva 2016 \$120** There are lovely accents of eucalyptus and lavender to the rich fruit and spice character in this silky red, which delivers a generous beam of mulled cherry flavors. Finely balanced and long on the palate. A beauty. Drink now through 2036. 1,050 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 ArPePe Valtellina Superiore Sassella Nuova Regina Riserva 2016 \$120** Shows a zesty, fragrant layer of milled pepper and chopped rosemary accenting flavors of cherry, raspberry and leather. This red's detailed flavor range is integrated with bright acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins. Best from 2025 through 2030. 500 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 ArPePe Valtellina Superiore Sassella Rocce Rosse Riserva 2016 \$120** A bright red driven by a tang of salinity and lively acidity aligned with taut, integrated tannins and aromas and flavors of crushed cherry and strawberry, tea rose and crushed pine, revealing an umami hint of dried porcini mushroom. Drink now through 2034. 2,100 cases made, 225 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 ArPePe Valtellina Superiore Sassella Ultimi Raggi Riserva 2016 \$120** A lively, graceful red, well-spiced and aromatic, with a skein of incense and potpourri notes winding through cherry and berry fruit flavors. Reveals a savory push of loamy earth, mineral and brambly herbs on the plush finish. Drink now through 2031. 500 cases made, 75 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Guido Berlucchi Nature Rosé Franciacorta '61 2016 \$84** Fresh and balanced, with the fine, plush mousse wrapping around well-cut acidity, this offers a delicate mesh of white raspberry, biscuit, pink grapefruit granita and mineral notes. Creamy finish. Drink now. 800 cases made, 120 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Binomio Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva 2019 \$58** A dark, juicy red, with notes of fresh loamy earth underscoring rich flavors of dried raspberry and cranberry fruit, revealing chocolate-covered orange peel, brambly herb and smoke accents. Medium- to full-bodied, with chewy tannins firming the zesty finish. Drink now through 2029. 1,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Illuminati Controguerra Lumen Riserva 2017 \$62** Fragrant, with Mediterranean *macchia*, graphite and milled pepper on the nose, this is thick and creamy on the palate, evoking warm fig, black plum reduction and loamy earth layered with *balsamico* acidity and fine-grained tannins. The chewy finish echoes elements of

dark fruit and eucalyptus. Drink now through 2029. 1,000 cases made, 50 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Masi Verona Brolo Campofiorin 2019 \$40** Round and creamy, this medium-bodied red has hints of vanilla, tar and spices lacing flavors of plum tart and baked black cherry, revealing a savory note of tobacco on the refined finish. Corvina, Rondinella and Oseleta. Drink now through 2029. 15,800 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Masseria Li Veli Susumaniello Salento Askos 2021 \$23** See Smart Buys, page 89.

**91 Rainoldi Valtellina Superiore Inferno Riserva 2018 \$68** Features fragrant tar and tea rose notes on the nose, which continue on the palate to underscore flavors of crushed cherry, dried fig, tobacco and a hint of dark chocolate. Firm, with gutsy tannins that are well-meshed overall but emerge on the fresh, savory finish. Best from 2025 through 2033. 1,150 cases made, 250 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Le Salette Valpolicella Classico Superiore I Progni Ripasso 2019 \$45** Fragrant, with generous spice box, graphite and dried tea rose elements on the nose—aromatics that wind through ripe cherry and raspberry fruit, orange peel, mocha and smoke notes. An elegant red, bright and clean-cut through the finish. Corvina and Rondinella. Drink now through 2029. 2,500 cases made, 350 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Rivera Castel del Monte Il Falcone Riserva 2017 \$35** Delivers a beam of cherry reduction accented by lavish hints of licorice and vanilla, all wrapped around a core of grippy tannins. This firm, fresh red is medium-bodied overall, showing a savory side toward the finish, with notes of tobacco, coffee and mineral. Uva di Troia and Montepulciano. Best after 2025. 11,000 cases made, 49 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Schola Sarmanti Nardò Nerio Riserva 2019 \$30** This supple, medium- to full-bodied red offers a savory underpinning, featuring a creamy mix of baked mulberry, dried fig, mocha and eucalyptus notes, plus smoke and loamy earth accents. Revealing a core of firm tannins, this shows some grip on the finish. Drink now through 2028. 3,884 cases made, 56 cases imported.—A.N.

**89 La Valentina Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Spelt Riserva 2020 \$23** A creamy red, with a subtle juiciness to the flavors of mulberry coulis, fig cake, cured tobacco and warm brown bread firming by supple tannins. Spiced finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 2,250 cases imported.—A.N.

**88 Zeni Valpolicella 2021 \$18** A lively red, with light, taut tannins and an orange peel tang to the flavors of plum and cherry fruit, showing notes of dried sage, licorice and tar. Drink now. 7,000 cases made, 1,800 cases imported.—A.N.

**87 Podere Castorani Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Cadetto 2019 \$15** Balanced and sippable, this creamy, light- to medium-bodied red features ripe cherry and cranberry fruit flavors, with hints of herbs and spices. Drink now. 40,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.—A.N.

## SPAIN

### Rioja

**95 Bodegas Sierra Cantabria Rioja Amancio 2019 \$200** A rich, full-bodied red in a sculpted, harmonious package, this shows a generous range of blackberry paste and black cherry reduction flavors, with aromatic accents of tar, tea rose, melted licorice, eucalyptus and graphite. Bright and silky as this glides on the palate, expanding through a lasting finish firming by fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2039. 416 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

**93 R. López de Heredia Viña Tondonia Rioja Viña Tondonia Reserva 2011 \$60** Richly savory on the nose, this fresh, sinewy red features a minerally underpinning of petrol, earth, iron and salt to the flavors of juicy dried cherry and cranberry, red licorice and mandarin orange peel. Opens nicely in the glass and on the palate, with the persistent finish showing aromatic herbs and spices, plus more mineral notes. Tempranillo, Garnacha, Graciano and Mazuelo. Drink now through 2031. 19,166 cases made, 4,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**93 Bodegas Sierra Cantabria Rioja Colección Privada 2020 \$65** This harmonious red shows good concentration to the elements of black plum reduction, ripe cherry, dried thyme and dark chocolate, with the focused flavor range enmeshed with sculpted tannins and base notes of mineral, milled pepper and ground anise. Exudes a kind of effortless ease, which belies the depth and complexity that expand on the palate and through the persistent finish. Drink now through 2035. 1,000 cases made, 350 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 Bodegas Oндarre Rioja Rivallana Gran Reserva 2016 \$50** Finely knit and harmonious, with a delicate overtone of wild herbs. Shows a juicy core of black cherry and baked black plum fruit layered with supple tannins and a minerally underpinning of fresh earth, iron and graphite. Drink now through 2029. 8,500 cases made, 800 cases imported.—A.N.

**92 Bodegas Sierra Cantabria Rioja Única Reserva 2019 \$38** Sleek and well-knit, this medium- to full-bodied red offers a ripe core of black plum and mulberry fruit accented by fragrant notes of Earl Grey tea leaves, anise, dried flowers and minerally smoke and spices. Silky and graceful on the palate, with supple tannins trimming the finish. Tempranillo and Graciano. Drink now through 2034. 1,714 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Marqués de Cáceres Rioja Gaudium Reserva 2018 \$51** Suave and fresh, this medium- to full-bodied red shows lovely interplay between a subtle, savory base of game, sweet smoke and sandalwood notes and a core of black plum reduction, warm fig, dried violet and thyme flavors. Lightly juicy, with silky, fine-grained tannins and a spiced finish. Drink now through 2030. 3,300 cases made, 600 cases imported.—A.N.

**91 Bodegas Izadi Rioja Reserva 2019 \$22** See Smart Buys, page 89.

**90 Bodegas Altanza Rioja Familia Reserva 2017 \$32** Balanced and creamy, with a supple juiciness to the crushed red and black cherry, red licorice and loamy earth notes. Reveals hints of herbs and spices on the lightly chewy finish. Drink now through 2027. 2,943 cases made, 300 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Marqués de Cáceres Rioja Gran Reserva 2015 \$40** Round and inviting, with fine-grained, creamy tannins layered with warm fig and black plum flavors, plus hints of black tea leaf, chocolate shavings, smoke and spice. Tempranillo, Garnacha Tinta and Graciano. Drink now through 2030. 22,000 cases made, 5,000 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Bodegas Olarra Rioja Clásico Gran Reserva 2016 \$55** A medium- to full-bodied red, with hints of cured tobacco, iron and smoke serving as a savory thread that winds through macerated cherry and dried cranberry fruit flavors. This version is enlivened by *balsamico* acidity and framed by creamy, sculpted tannins. Tempranillo, Mazuelo and Graciano. Drink now through 2029. 4,500 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—A.N.

**90 Bodegas Olarra Tempranillo Rioja Lastana Reserva 2019 \$36** Offers savory overtones of dried herbs, leather and smoke on the nose, transitioning to reveal notes of macerated cherry, dried fig, warm brown bread, eucalyptus and iron on the palate. Lightly tangy and balanced, this medium-bodied red shows supple tannins. Drink now through 2029. 11,500 cases made, 5,600 cases imported.—A.N.



**90 Bodegas Ondarre Rioja Valdebarón 2021 \$28** A juicy, medium-bodied red, with subtle hints of tobacco, smoke and game providing a savory base for the silky range of blackberry paste, sandalwood and mandarin orange peel flavors. Drink now through 2029. 2,200 cases made, 500 cases imported.—A.N.

**89 Bodegas Altanza Rioja Crianza 2019 \$20** Zesty and herbaceous, this fresh red is medium-bodied, with flavors of macerated cherry, singed orange peel, game, eucalyptus and Mediterranean herbs framed by light, crunchy tannins. Drink now. 36,667 cases made, 6,000 cases imported.—A.N.

**89 Bodegas Olarra Rioja Cerro Añon Reserva 2019 \$22** A chewy, medium-bodied red, with a core of baked black plum and blackberry fruit underscored by mineral smoke and leather accents. Lively, with orange peel acidity and hints of medicinal herbs and milled pepper that ride the crisp finish. Tempranillo, Graciano, Garnacha and Mazuelo. Drink now through 2027. 27,500 cases made, 18,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**88 Bodegas Altanza Rioja Reserva 2017 \$25** A lively red, with generous flavors of juicy dried cranberry, crushed pine and orange peel, this is medium-bodied and lightly chewy. Drink now. 16,667 cases made, 3,900 cases imported.—A.N.

**88 Bodegas Izadi Rioja Crianza 2020 \$19** Fresh and balanced, this light- to medium-bodied red has slightly chewy tannins knit to an easy-drinking range of crushed mulberry, spice and herb flavors. Drink now. 60,000 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—A.N.

## United States

## CALIFORNIA

### Chardonnay

**95 Hyde Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Larry Hyde Hyde Vineyard 2020 \$85** See Highly Recommended, page 87.

**93 Kerr Chardonnay Sonoma Coast 2021 \$50** This lovely version opens with mouthwatering acidity and fresh, fleshy notes of apple, Meyer lemon, tangerine and mango, plus hints of vanilla, spices, toast and buttery pastry that expand on the generous finish. Drink now. 677 cases made.—M.W.

**93 Massican Chardonnay Napa Valley Hyde 2022 \$60** This stunning version offers a vibrant and expressive mix of lemon curd, mango, mandarin orange and pineapple, showing details of candied ginger, tarragon, sea spray and litsea oil. Gains complexity and momentum on the finish. Drink now. 175 cases made.—M.W.

**92 Alpha Omega Chardonnay Napa Valley Reserve 2020 \$185** Powerful and robust, with notes of salted and buttery apple pastry, sweet cream and fresh Honeycrisp apple. Lemon zest, orange sherbet and spice details linger on the long, expressive finish. Drink now. 450 cases made.—M.W.

**92 Far Niente Chardonnay Coombsville 2021 \$250/1.5L** Shows plenty of precision, with fresh Fuji apple, Meyer lemon and pear flavors, plus details of ginger, lemon verbena, lime zest and matcha. The vibrant, mouthwatering finish goes on and on, with a lingering hint of wild fennel. Drink now. 250 cases made.—M.W.

**92 Paul Hobbs Chardonnay Russian River Valley Edward James Estate 2021 \$90** Intense, with fresh flavors of Honeycrisp apple and pear, plus hints of pineapple on a vibrant frame. Builds in complexity, with hints of wild fennel and lemon blossoms. Strikes a wonderful balance between complex flavors and a crisp, clean and juicy finish, which gains momentum. Drink now. 505 cases made.—M.W.

**92 Paul Hobbs Chardonnay West Sonoma Coast Cuvée Louisa Goldrock Estate 2021 \$130** Fresh and juicy, with lemon oil, apple, fresh ginger and salted preserved lemon accents on a sleek, mouthwatering frame. Shows green accents of lemon verbena, celery leaf and fennel that linger. Drink now. 265 cases made.—M.W.

**92 Kerr Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Rued Vineyard 2021 \$65** Complex, elegant, supple and wonderfully detailed, offering lemon meringue, Fuji apple, pear and lime leaf notes at the core. Shows hints of salted, toasted almond, plus a mouthwatering finish that continuously gains momentum. Drink now. 279 cases made.—M.W.

**91 Alpha Omega Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2020 \$160** Elegant and powerful, showing flavors of peach, grilled pineapple and ripe, salted melon, with hints of orange zest and lime sherbet on a fresh frame that offers plenty of length. Drink now. 330 cases made.—M.W.

**91 Patiné Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Green Acres 2021 \$60** A tight, lean and juicy Chardonnay, with crisp citrus, apple and zest notes and a vein of chalky minerality, which is appealingly defined and refreshing. Reveals hints of fresh ginger and lemon-grass that expand on the finish. Drink now. 62 cases made.—M.W.

**90 Alpha Omega Chardonnay Mount Veeder Drew Vineyard 2020 \$160** Marmalade, vanilla custard and tangerine flavors offer a fresh thread of acidity. Shows notes of toasted coconut, butterscotch and ripe pear on a round and fleshy body, lingering on a long finish. Drink now. 300 cases made.—M.W.

**90 Alpha Omega Chardonnay Napa Valley 2020 \$86** Bold and expressive, with ripe peach, dried apricot and marmalade flavors that mingle with notes of salted butter, custard and pastry on a smooth and juicy frame. Finds wonderful harmony on the long finish. Drink now. 1,950 cases made.—M.W.

**90 Alpha Omega Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Toyon Vineyard 2020 \$160** Shows smooth, polished flavors of peach, lemon curd and vanilla custard, with hints of butterscotch, hazelnut and tangerine that stay juicy and intense on the finish. Drink now. 325 cases made.—M.W.

**90 Ferrari-Carano Chardonnay Russian River Valley Tré Terre 2021 \$45** This rich version offers peach cobbler, apricot and mango flavors. Shows a fresh note of citrus on a juicy frame, with hints of honeycomb, marmalade and a touch of buttery pastry. Drink now. 4,382 cases made.—M.W.

**89 Crossbarn Chardonnay Sonoma Coast 2021 \$30** Offers fresh and well-defined notes of salted butterscotch, peach cobbler and fresh-cut apple, with crisp acidity and purity of flavors on the finish. Drink now. 21,256 cases made.—M.W.

**89 Decoy Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Limited 2021 \$30** Shows ripe and round flavors of plump peach, nectarine and pear, with layers of spices, crème brûlée, candied orange peel and preserved ginger that linger. Drink now. 5,173 cases made.—M.W.

**89 Laird Family Chardonnay Napa Valley Red Hen 2019 \$35** Showing a ripe, plump core of apricot pastry, peach and mango flavors, this generous, concentrated version offers hints of custard and graham cracker, with a fresh thread of acidity that keeps the flavors fresh and in focus. Drink now. 1,325 cases made.—M.W.

**88 Seghesio Chardonnay Sonoma-Monterey Counties 2021 \$22** Shows up-front flavors of juicy, fresh apple, peach and nectarine fruit, with accents of apple skin, lemon blossoms and toasted spices. Reveals a hint of celery salt that lingers on the finish. Drink now. 5,600 cases made.—M.W.

## OREGON

### Pinot Noir

**95 Alexana Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Single Clone Pommard 2021 \$75** See Highly Recommended, page 87.

**95 Alexana Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Zena Crown Vineyard 2021 \$75** A dynamic red, impeccably structured yet seductive and detailed, with expressive cherry and blueberry flavors that take on accents of crushed stone, dusky spices and forest floor as this builds tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2035. 225 cases made.—T.F.

**94 Alexana Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Signature 2021 \$80** Polished and generously layered, with rich raspberry and cherry flavors accented by toasty cinnamon, black tea and orange peel notes, which build intensity toward plush tannins. Drink now through 2032. 490 cases made.—T.F.

**94 Lingua Franca Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Mimi's Mind 2021 \$95** Shows elegance and vitality, with multilayered raspberry and cranberry flavors accented by crushed stone, black tea and rose petal tones, which gather tension and structure toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 354 cases made.—T.F.

**94 Lingua Franca Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Novo Vivo 2021 \$150** Vibrant and fresh with energy, this shows a dominating structure at first but slowly unfurls to reveal multilayered cherry and guava flavors, laced with crushed stone, forest floor and black tea. Builds tension toward refined but steely tannins. Drink now through 2032. 95 cases made.—T.F.

**94 Soter Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton Mineral Springs Ranch 2021 \$80** Detailed and finely focused, this refined red offers expressive raspberry and guava flavors laced with mineral, forest floor and black tea tones as this builds tension and richness toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 2,400 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Alexana Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Revana Vineyard 2021 \$60** Sleekly structured, with simmering intensity at the core, this red serves up lovely rose petal, raspberry and pomegranate flavors laced with earthy minerality. Builds toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2032. 1,890 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Alexana Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Terroir Series 2021 \$45** Vivacious and expressive, offering sleek raspberry and cherry flavors laced with rose petal, orange peel and forest floor as this sails on the long, supple finish. Drink now through 2030. 6,490 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Big Table Farm Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Sunnyside Vineyard 2021 \$72** Fragrant with strawberry blossoms, this red has an alluring texture along with detailed cherry, orange peel and forest floor accents that glide on the sleek finish. Drink now through 2032. 250 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Lingua Franca Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills La Belle 2021 \$60** A dynamic red, with tension and detail, featuring tightly structured raspberry and blueberry flavors accented by stony mineral and dusky spice elements, which finish with sinewy tannins. Best from 2025 through 2032. 203 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Shea Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Estate Shea Vineyard 2021 \$50** Opens with a burst of fresh raspberry and tart blueberry flavors, then slowly builds tension along with minerality and forest floor accents as this moves toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2030. 3,385 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Shea Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton Shea Vineyard Block 23 2021 \$75** Tightly structured and a bit brooding at the moment, with intense blueberry and cherry flavors, forest floor and black tea accents and broad-shouldered tannins. Best from 2025 through 2033. 300 cases made.—T.F.



**92 Shea Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton Shea Vineyard Homer 2021 \$115** Structured and a bit taut for now, but offers refined cherry and raspberry flavors laced with mineral and black tea accents. Builds toward broad-shouldered tannins. Best from 2025 through 2032. 300 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Sokol Blosser Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Orchard Block 2021 \$75** Sleek and supple, offering delicately layered rose petal, raspberry and guava flavors laced with black tea and spices. Ends with fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 597 cases made.—T.F.

**91 Big Table Farm Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton 2021 \$72** Taut and dense at the core, with brooding blueberry and cranberry flavors accented by dusky spices and black tea. Ends with a snap of tannins. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. Best after 2024. 233 cases made.—T.F.

**91 Ken Wright Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2022 \$28** See Smart Buys, page 89.

**90 Shea Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton Shea Vineyard Block 7 2021 \$75** Tightly wound, with a taut core of tannins and acidity. Framed by deep blueberry and cherry flavors that are laced with notes of forest floor and dusky spices. Best after 2024. 175 cases made.—T.F.

**87 Acrobat Pinot Noir Oregon 2022 \$16** A perky little Pinot, with fruit-forward raspberry, cherry and toasty spice flavors. Drink now. 58,842 cases made.—T.F.

**87 Sokol Blosser Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Evolution 2022 \$22** This fresh quaff is like Pinot Nouveau, with juicy cherry and rose petal accents. Drink now. 28,000 cases made.—T.F.

## WASHINGTON

### Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

**96 Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 \$250** See Collectibles, page 88.

**93 Baer Cabernet Sauvignon Royal Slope Arctos Stillwater Creek Vineyard 2019 \$47** This is stylish, sleek and polished, with expressive black cherry and red currant flavors that take on toasty mocha and espresso accents as this glides toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2030. 500 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Gramercy Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Reserve 2019 \$110** Refined and detailed, this red combines polish and structure with expressive blackberry, savory spice and tarragon flavors that build tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2030. 260 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Matthews Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2021 \$45** Precise and expressive, with handsome flavors of blackberry, bay leaf and espresso that build richness and structure toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2031. 7,364 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Matthews Claret Columbia Valley 2021 \$50** A handsome blend that's generous and structured, with dynamic black cherry and plum flavors highlighted by green tea and toasted spice flavors, finishing with polished tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2031. 5,083 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Weathereye Hillfighter Red Mountain 2020 \$55** This potent red retains balance and style, with deep black raspberry and cherry flavors, plus savory anise and black pepper notes that finish with muscular tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Merlot, Tempranillo and Syrah. Best from 2025 through 2031. 250 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Cayuse The Lovers Walla Walla Valley 2019 \$104** Lilted and elegantly structured, with black cherry, black olive and savory spice flavors that glide toward sleek, polished tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2029. 223 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Gorman Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain Old Scratch 2021 \$35** Displays torque and precision, serving up potent black cherry and raspberry flavors laced with licorice, mineral and pepper notes before finishing with broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2031. 2,400 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Gorman Zachary's Ladder Red Mountain 2021 \$38** A gutsy red, this combines a bit of muscle with rich and zesty black cherry, espresso and dusky spice flavors while building richness toward medium-grained tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2031. 750 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Gramercy Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Lower East 2018 \$32** This handsome red is supple and well-built, with appealing black currant, licorice and lead pencil tones that build richness toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2028. 2,487 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Long Shadows Vintners Pirouette Columbia Valley 2019 \$70** A structured frame surrounds a core of succulent, polished black cherry and red currant flavors accented by notes of espresso and toasted spices. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2029. 2,515 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Mark Ryan Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley The Dissident 2021 \$45** Spry and vibrant, with well-sculpted black cherry and raspberry flavors highlighted by notes of vanilla and sweet anise, which build toward brisk tannins. Drink now through 2031. 6,096 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Mark Ryan Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain Dead Horse 2020 \$70** Torque meets rich, dense black currant and cherry flavors accented by bittersweet chocolate and black tea as this builds tension toward broad-shouldered tannins. Best from 2025 through 2032. 2,371 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Pamplin Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2019 \$55** Deftly structured and delicately layered, with black cherry, vanilla and spice flavors that glide toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2029. 289 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Pamplin JRG Columbia Valley 2019 \$40** Sleek and tightly focused, with sinewy blackberry, tarragon and cedar flavors that build tension toward medium-grained tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. 915 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Sparkman Cabernet Sauvignon Yakima Valley Rainmaker 2019 \$70** Plush and delicately layered, this red serves up handsome cherry, red currant, fresh violet and spice flavors that sail toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2029. 395 cases made.—T.F.

**91 Pursued By Bear Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 \$70** Tightly focused and loaded with tension, this red offers handsome flavors of blackberry, tobacco and spices that build toward broad-shouldered tannins. Best from 2025 through 2031. 490 cases made.—T.F.

**90 Force Majeure Parabelum Alluvio Red Mountain 2020 \$55** Taut and full of tension and tannins, which frames understated blackberry, dried herb and green peppercorn flavors that finish on a firm note. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2032. 375 cases made.—T.F.



TODD ALEXANDER  
Winemaker

**90 Gorman Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley The Devil Makes Three 2021 \$25** See Smart Buys, page 90.

**90 Mark Ryan Water Witch Red Mountain 2020 \$70** Big-boned tannins wrap around appealing black cherry, cedar and savory herb flavors that build toward a taut finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2032. 756 cases made.—T.F.

**90 Sleight of Hand The Conjurer Columbia Valley 2021 \$35** Generous and zesty, this features expressive black cherry, espresso and five-spice flavors that speed toward refined tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Drink now through 2031. 1,000 cases made.—T.F.

**89 Browne Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Heritage 2021 \$20** A straightforward Cabernet, with appealing blackberry, coffee bean and toasty mocha flavors that finish with lively tannins. Drink now through 2030. 20,000 cases made.—T.F.

**89 Barnard Griffin Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 \$17** A straightforward red, appealing if unfussy, with black cherry, licorice and savory accents that finish with medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2029. 2,940 cases made.—T.F.

**89 Kiona Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain 2019 \$34** Sleek and zesty at first, this slowly builds structure and tension, with expressive blackberry, black tea and dusty herb flavors. Drink now through 2028. 4,469 cases made.—T.F.

**89 L'Ecole No. 41 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2020 \$32** Soft and easygoing, with appealing cherry, licorice and rosemary notes, finishing with sleek tannins. Drink now through 2028. 6,300 cases made.—T.F.

## WASHINGTON

### Grenache & Blends

**94 Betz Bésolail Olsen Vineyard Yakima Valley 2021 \$52** Graceful in structure and expressive, with blueberry and cherry flavors laced with *garrigue* and savory pepper notes, which build richness toward elegant tannins. Grenache, Mourvèdre, Counoise and Petite Sirah. Drink now through 2031. 257 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Force Majeure Parvata Red Mountain 2020 \$85** Opens with a burst of fresh raspberry and red currant flavors, then takes on deep structure and compelling accents of savory beef, licorice and pepper, finishing with big but polished tannins. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2032. 200 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Weathereye Grenache Red Mountain 2020 \$85** Generous yet elegant in structure, with polished raspberry, savory meat and spiced cinnamon flavors that build richness toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2031. 180 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Avennia Justine Yakima Valley 2021 \$45** Precise and polished, with expressive cherry and loganberry flavors highlighted by savory spices and licorice. Ends with refined tannins. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2031. 388 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Sleight of Hand Grenache Yakima Valley The Sorceress Reserve 2021 \$55** Sleek and tense, this red shows intriguing black cherry, cured meat and cracked pepper flavors that speed toward broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2031. 430 cases made.—T.F.

## WASHINGTON

### Merlot & Blends

**94 Baer Ursa Royal Slope 2019 \$40** Polished and richly structured, with vibrant black cherry and red currant flavors. Accented by toasty mocha and espresso notes that bloom toward refined tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2031. 650 cases made.—T.F.



**93 Baer Merlot Royal Slope Star Stillwater Creek Vineyard 2019 \$38** Unfurls slowly, building tension and structure along the way. Offers detailed currant, lead pencil and savory herb flavors that finish with medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2030. 375 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Long Shadows Vintners Merlot Columbia Valley Pedestal 2019 \$70** Gutsy yet refined, this red balances a broad-shouldered structure with rich, multi-layered flavors of blackberry and currant. Offers accents of licorice and espresso while building tension toward big yet balanced tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. Drink now through 2030. 2,615 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Matthews Cuvée Columbia Valley 2021 \$50** A handsome blend, structured and polished, with expressive black cherry flavors accented by tarragon, mocha espresso and toasty spices that sail toward refined tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Drink now through 2031. 1,461 cases made.—T.F.

## 92 Spring Valley Uriah Walla Walla Valley 2019 \$60

A tightly focused and well-sculpted version, offering appealing red currant and blueberry flavors laced with tobacco and espresso notes as this builds tension toward refined tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2029. 700 cases made.—T.F.



SERGE LAVILLE  
Winemaker

**90 Bookwalter Merlot Columbia Valley Readers 2020 \$30** Generous and appealing, this features easygoing flavors of red currant, cherry and savory spices that finish with perky tannins. Drink now through 2028. 1,500 cases made.—T.F.

**90 Mark Ryan Long Haul Columbia Valley 2020 \$65** This broad-shouldered red offers a gutsy core framed by rich and multilayered raspberry, blueberry and espresso flavors that finish with medium-grained tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. 1,869 cases made.—T.F.

## WASHINGTON

### Syrah & Blends

**94 Betz Syrah Walla Walla Valley Domaine de Pierres Ancient Stones Vineyard 2021 \$68** A graceful yet vibrant red, with a sleek structure that highlights detailed raspberry, floral *garrigue* and savory cracked pepper flavors that glide on the supple finish. Drink now through 2032. 157 cases made.—T.F.

**94 Gorman Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain The Evil Twin 2021 \$75** Deeply structured and broad of shoulder, this retains a sense of style and polish. Offers expressive raspberry and blueberry flavors highlighted by cured meat and savory spice notes, finishing with medium-grained tannins. Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2033. 350 cases made.—T.F.

## 94 Sleight of Hand Syrah Columbia Valley Levitation Reserve 2021 \$55

Polished and compelling, this red is elegantly structured yet loaded with personality, offering flavors of raspberry, fruitcake spices and licorice that build tension and richness toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032.—T.F.



TREY BUSCH  
Winemaker

**94 Sleight of Hand Syrah Walla Walla Valley Spiders From Mars Ziggy Stardust Block 2021 \$125** A distinctive style, with bold notes of wild game, blackberry and blueberry, crushed stone and black olive, building richness and personality toward big but refined tannins. Drink now through 2033. 190 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Betz Syrah Yakima Valley La Côte Rousse Olsen Vineyard 2021 \$68** Broad-shouldered yet polished, with rich raspberry, orange peel and dusky, savory spice flavors that build tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 207 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Sleight of Hand Syrah Walla Walla Valley Psychedelic Stoney Vine Estate Vineyard 2021 \$75** Brooding and plump, this shows personality, with flavors of blueberry, bittersweet chocolate, smoky meat and black olive that build tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 444 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Weathereye Syrah Red Mountain 2020 \$85** Offers a sleek veneer but stays potent at the core, this is plump with personality, with black raspberry, licorice and savory espresso flavors that finish with medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2030. 230 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Betz Syrah Yakima Valley La Côte Patriarche Red Willow Vineyard 2021 \$68** A handsome red, refined and detailed, with black raspberry, *garrigue* and savory spice flavors that build richness and structure toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 210 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Betz Syrah Yakima Valley La Serenne Boushey Vineyard 2021 \$68** Harmonious and handsomely built, with appealing black cherry, licorice and fresh violet accents that finish with medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 222 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Force Majeure Parabellum Coulée Columbia Valley 2020 \$45** A brooding blend, with deep plum and loganberry flavors laced with savory *garrigue* and pepper accents. Concludes with medium-grained tannins. Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2030. 600 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Force Majeure Syrah Red Mountain 2020 \$85** Burly and brooding, with deep black raspberry and dried cherry flavors accented by grilled anise and savory spices. Ends with broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2032. 320 cases made.—T.F.

**92 Force Majeure Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2020 \$85** A broad-shouldered red, with straightforward black raspberry and cherry flavors laced with black olive and bacon fat. Concludes with refined tannins. Drink now through 2030. 170 cases made.—T.F.

**91 DeLille Métier Columbia Valley 2021 \$25** See Smart Buys, page 89.

**91 Fielding Hills Syrah Wahluke Slope Riverbend Vineyard 2020 \$42** Sleek and zesty, with lively blueberry and raspberry flavors highlighted by licorice and *garrigue*. Reveals refined tannins on the finish. Drink now through 2030. 327 cases made.—T.F.

**91 Long Shadows Vintners Syrah Columbia Valley Sequel 2019 \$65** Refined and handsomely built, with dark raspberry, bitter chocolate and smoky herb flavors that finish with fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2029. 2,130 cases made.—T.F.

**90 Avennia Syrah Yakima Valley Arnaut Boushey Vineyard 2021 \$60** A precise and keenly focused version, featuring appealing black raspberry, savory pepper and grilled anise flavors that finish with medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 415 cases made.—T.F.



CHRIS PETERSON  
Partner & Winemaker

## WASHINGTON

### Other

**93 DeLille Le Dessein Columbia Valley 2021 \$45** A graceful, detailed red, with supple raspberry and blueberry flavors accented by *garrigue*, licorice and black pepper. Ends with polished tannins. Mourvèdre, Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2031. 1,400 cases made.—T.F.

**93 Gramercy Cellars Picpoul Walla Walla Valley 2022 \$22** See Smart Buys, page 89.

**93 Weathereye Mourvèdre Red Mountain 2020 \$85** Sleek and savory, this structured red reveals dried cherry, deli meat and savory pepper accents that slowly build tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 85 cases made.—T.F.

**91 Matthews Sauvignon Blanc Columbia Valley 2022 \$34** Crisp and multilayered, with lilting flavors of apricot, white blossom and lemongrass that sail on a brisk finish. Drink now. 4,510 cases made.—T.F.

**91 Pursued By Bear Chardonnay Columbia Valley Twin Bear 2022 \$40** Sleek and refined, showing precise apple and pear flavors accented by floral and spice notes as this glides on a supple finish. Drink now through 2025. 125 cases made.—T.F.

**90 Sleight of Hand Chardonnay Yakima Valley The Enchantress Old Vine 2022 \$35** Spirited and refreshing, with vibrant lemon, green apple and orange blossom accents that glide on a steely finish. Drink now. 375 cases made.—T.F.

**89 Long Shadows Vintners Riesling Columbia Valley Poet's Leap 2022 \$20** A delicate and floral version, featuring pretty peach, cantaloupe and honeysuckle accents that finish on a fleshy note. Drink now. 4,570 cases made.—T.F.

**88 Browne Forest Project Columbia Valley 2022 \$20** This appealing white offers easygoing orange and lemon notes that end on a floral accent. Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Riesling. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—T.F.

**88 Barnard Griffin Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2022 \$15** See Best Values, page 90.

**88 Waterbrook Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2022 \$17** Straightforward and appealing, with tropical fruit and butterscotch accents that finish on a spicy note. Drink now. 24,012 cases made.—T.F.

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## Follow That Bubbly! Champagne Saved in High-Speed Chase

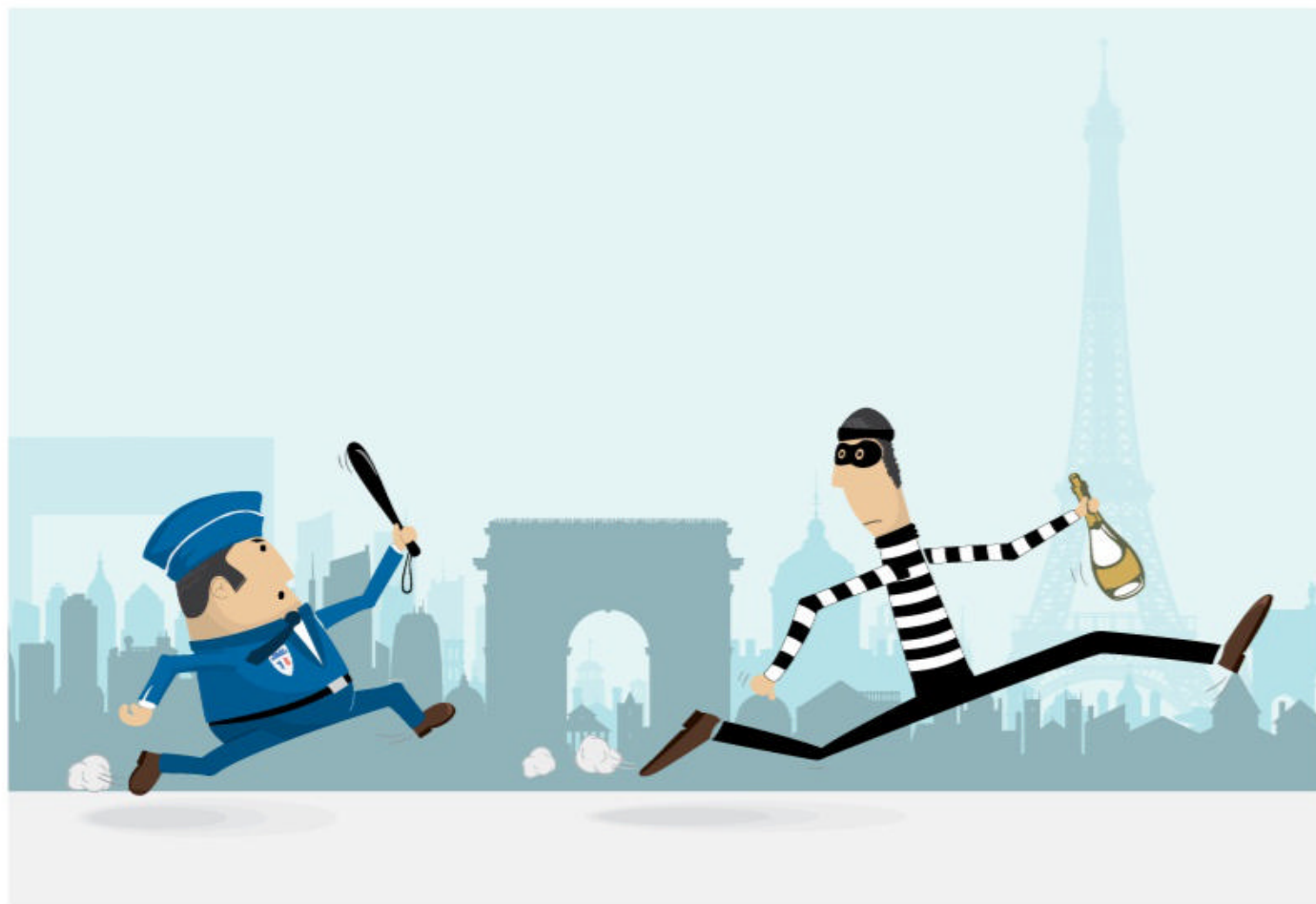
**H**oliday season is high time for Champagne—apparently, both for wine lovers and wine thieves. In France, several suspects attempted an *Ocean’s Eleven*–style heist of two truckloads of Moët & Chandon in November, but when French police pursued them, it turned into a high-speed chase worthy of a *Fast & Furious* movie.

In the early hours of Nov. 11, the thieves snuck into the lot of a logistics company in an industrial zone on the outskirts of the French town of Reims in the heart of the Champagne region. There, they stole two semitrucks loaded with more than \$600,000 worth of Moët & Chandon. They drove off at a leisurely, nothing-to-see-here-folks pace, headed for Paris.

Despite their careful preparation, they had not counted on GPS tracking devices. The trucks’ change in location eventually triggered an alarm, alerting the police. An hour and 85 miles later, local cops swung into action, picking up the convoy near the town of Gretz-Armainvilliers, where it had joined the highway leading to the capital.

The first driver, apparently unimpressed by the motor power under the hood of the cop car, tried to outrun the law. When that didn’t work, he attempted to run the police off the road. Traffic forced him to slow, at which point, with the truck going about 10 miles per hour, a white BMW pulled up next to the cab, and the truck’s driver leapt into the car. Focused on preventing the truck from hitting any innocents, one officer climbed out, jogged alongside the still-rolling truck, jumped in and hit the brakes. In the chaos, the BMW disappeared.

Meanwhile, the second truck swerved off the highway, smashed through



traffic barriers, pulled into a service station and stopped. By the time police got to it, it was unoccupied. Investigators have not yet identified the thieves, but the cargo survived, intact and ready for the holidays.

This is not the first autumn bubbly heist. In October 2022, another well-orchestrated plot targeted 800 cases of G.H. Martel Champagne worth roughly \$200,000. The stolen truck used to haul away the bubbly cargo was later found abandoned near Paris. Investigators traced the Champagne to a warehouse south of the city, where they arrested several suspects, who had managed to sell 600 cases. The original thieves were never identified. Could there be a gang with a taste for Champagne still on the loose?

—Suzanne Mustacich



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## Chef José Andrés’ *Feeding Dangerously* Celebrates a New Kind of Superhero

**V**eteran comic book author Steve Orlando’s first meeting with his new co-author, famed chef José Andrés, didn’t happen in an office or one of Andrés’ restaurants. It was in the middle of the action, distributing food with Andrés’ World Central Kitchen (WCK) in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Florida in 2018.

“Being on the ground with José side by side and getting things done with him [allowed me] to put my own hands in the dirt,” said Orlando, whose credits include *Wonder Woman*, *Spider-Man* and *Batman*.

Andrés and Orlando’s new hardcover graphic novel, *Feeding Dangerously* (TKO Studios, 240 pages, \$45), follows the growth of WCK, Andrés’ humanitarian organization, which has distributed more than 300 million meals to communities in crisis, including in Ukraine, Florida and Maui. WCK receives a \$5 donation for each book sold. Beginning with Andrés’ own journey to the United States, *Feeding Dangerously* goes on to recall many of the crises that inspired WCK’s development. “It felt exciting to me to write about [WCK] ... good and heroism that isn’t hypothetical, that isn’t unattainable,” shared Orlando.

Andrés, a self-proclaimed comic-book nerd, is a big fan of Japanese manga. “What I love about comics is the emotion ... Boom! Zam! Whoa! Steve [Orlando] and Alberto Ponticelli—the amazing illustrator—really captured the intensity, the very vivid moments, of what it is like in the middle of disaster and in that moment of darkness when a shining, beautiful glimmer of hope emerges,” Andrés told *Wine Spectator*. “I have seen how, in the worst moments, that is when the best of humanity can show up.”

—Julia Larson





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