

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2015

Modern architecture frames vineyard vistas at F.X. Pichler in Wachau, Austria.

MICHAEL KLEINBERG

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FOR ADDITIONAL RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT BUYINGGUIDE.WINEMAG.COM

AUSTRIA

Beating the odds

Most of the intake for this month's Austrian slot are non-single vineyard whites wines from 2014, a vintage that was panned by some commentators while winemakers were still picking grapes last fall. While there was a lot of rain and therefore rot, those who sorted and selected carefully and put in all the hours now present a range of squeaky-clean wines that defy the doomsayers.

The wines deliver authenticity and originality—true to land and vintage. Grüner Veltliner offers taut, bright and focused whites and conforms once again to its delicious varietal hallmark of herbal pepperiness—something that tends to get lost in riper vintages.

Cooler seasons bear out this intriguing facet unequalled in other whites. Rieslings have even more citric thrill than is customary. That dollop of extra acidity from a cool vintage merely changes the aspect and flavor spectrum, not the quality: for

Riesling it is citrus rather than stone fruit, for Sauvignon Blanc it is nettle rather than passion fruit, for Gelber Muskateller it is even more lightfootedness. For Austria's indigenous varieties like Neuburger, Rotgipfler and Zierfandler this cooler vintage spells less tropical exoticism and more savory spice.

A very welcome side effect of the 2014

vintage is the altogether lower alcohol levels: Many wines hover around or even below the 12% abv mark but show ample depth and flavor. If you have cellared the spectacularly ripe 2012 wines, get some 2014 to illustrate the contrast.

The wines have the substance and freshness to age well. Cooler years often triumph in maturity. Tracing the personality of each changing

vintage is a joy for every true wine lover. Vintage variation is to be celebrated—it provides fresh aspects, new insights and not least a host of delicious, unusual wines.

Zum Wohl!

—Anne Krebiehl

While there was a lot of rain and therefore rot, those who sorted and selected carefully now present a range of squeaky-clean wines.

AUSTRIA GRÜNER VELTLINER

93 Eichinger 2014 Wechselberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Apart from fresh citrus peel and yeasty savoriness, this Grüner delivers a full herbal repertoire of chervil and rocket, watercress and lemon balm. The spine is of lemony acidity, painting a picture of thrilling, concentrated freshness, interspersed with peppery layers of interest and a nearly endless herbal finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

93 Nikolaihof 2014 Hefeabzug Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). Funky notes of yeast still dominate the nose, but there is an abundance of yellow, juicy pear and Russet apple once they blow off, framed by citrus freshness and underlined with a yeasty savoriness that recalls slightly pungent herbs

like watercress and arugula. The finish is ultraclean. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

93 Nikolaihof 2014 Im Weingebirge Grüner Veltliner Federspiel (Wachau). A still closed note holds everything back; just a little earthiness shines through with the promise of ripe fruit. This is not about simple fruit, but texture and personality. Lemon zestiness plays on the lees-cushioned palate—and something tells me that this will not show its true but fascinating colors until at least 2017. Light-footed echoes of flavor are very promising. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Anton Bauer 2014 Rosenberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). Very pure fruit notes of yellow, ripe pear mingle with fresh citrus zest on nose and palate of this supercrisp Grüner. The aftertaste reinforces that wonderful pepperiness and lends ex-

tra vivacity to this streamlined, dynamic wine. Very moreish. Select Wines Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

92 Bernhard Ott 2014 Am Berg Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Subtle notes of both green, crisp Conference pear and ripe Delicious apples yield to some zesty grapefruit notes. There is structure and a resonant background of herbal spice, yeasty notes and fresh white pepper. The palate is streamlined and crisp yet cushioned. Ott once again shows his mastery of this variety—this time with all the freshness of a cooler vintage. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$22

92 Bernhard Ott 2014 Der Ott Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). The heady savory note on the nose unites yeast and tarragon, celery and pepper, grapefruit and lemon; fragrance of hay and earth are hinted at, too. The palate continues this wonderful interplay and makes you thirsty for more. This manages to be rounded in a very slender, cool vintage but has the added verve of such years. A great joy to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$49

92 Bernhard Ott 2014 Fass 4 Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). An appetizing, peppery yeastiness on the nose leads to a zesty, slender yet toned, citrus-focused palate which reverberates constantly with that lovely, enticing spiciness of white pepper. This delivers a wonderfully tangy, tingling finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$32

92 Bründlmayer 2014 Berg Vogelsang Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). A savory note of yeast swings along the green pear and grapefruit peel notes on this totally brisk and refreshing Grüner. Yes, the customary texture and spice are there but this is, as a sign of its vintage, totally streamlined and refreshing, with taut acidity reverberating in every corner. For those who like superfresh wines. Terry Theise Estate Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$32

92 Bründlmayer 2014 Loiser Berg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Very supple, easy notes of ripe apple and ripe green pear make for a charming, superfresh and slender white. Immensely approachable in fruitiness, but not in the least facile. It treads lightly but has subtle impact and tender, fruity length. Terry Theise Estate Selections. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Bründlmayer 2014 Terrassen Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). A wonderfully breezy, citrusy scent promises far fuller expression in the future. The palate is tightly coiled too, but already vibrates with pepper and herbal spice. Riper notions of yellow plums creep onto the palate but the spiciness and citrus zest remain, making for a truly long, lip-

Continued on page 12

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* editors and other qualified tasters. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Tasting Director/Senior Editor Lauren Buzzeo, Executive Editor Susan Kostorzewa, Managing Editor Joe Czerwinski, Assistant Tasting Director Alexander Peartree, Contributing Editors Michael Schachner, Anna Lee C. Iijima, Mike DeSimone, Jeff Jensen and Spirits Editor Kara Newman in New York; European Editor Roger Voss in France; Italian Editor Kerin O'Keefe in Switzerland; Contributing Editor Anne Krebiehl in England; Contributing Editors Virginie Boone, Jim Gordon and Matt Kettmann in California; and Contributing Editors Paul Gregutt and Sean Sullivan in Washington.

If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear following a wine review, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters. Unless otherwise stated, all spirit reviews are by Kara Newman and all beer reviews are by Lauren Buzzeo.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the product, its suggested national retail price, its alcohol (abv) as reported to us by the submitter and a tasting note. If price or alcohol content cannot be confirmed, NA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

All tastings reported in the Buying Guide are performed blind. Typically, products are tasted in peer-group flights of from 5–8 samples. Reviewers may know general information about a flight to provide context—vintage, variety or appellation—but never the producer or retail price of any given selection. When possible, products considered flawed or uncanny are retasted.

ABOUT THE SCORES

Ratings reflect what our editors felt about a particular product. Beyond the rating, we encourage you to read the accompanying tasting note to learn about a product's special characteristics.

Classic 98–100: The pinnacle of quality.

Superb 94–97: A great achievement.

Excellent 90–93: Highly recommended.

Very Good 87–89: Often good value; well recommended.

Good 83–86: Suitable for everyday consumption; often good value.

Acceptable 80–82: Can be employed in casual, less-critical circumstances.

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

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Editors' Choice products are those that offer excellent quality at a price above our Best Buy range, or a product at any price with unique qualities that merit special attention.

Cellar Selections are products deemed highly collectible and/or requiring time in a temperature-controlled wine cellar to reach their maximum potential. A Cellar Selection designation does not mean that a product must be stored to be enjoyed, but that cellaring will probably result in a more enjoyable bottle. In general, an optimum time for cellaring will be indicated.

Best Buys are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. There are no specific guidelines or formulae for determining Best Buys, but wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$15 or less.

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via winemag.com/contactus. Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.** We make every effort to taste all products submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all products submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in the magazine. All samples must be accompanied by the appropriate submission forms, which may be downloaded from our Web site.

LABELS

Labels are paid promotions. Producers and importers are given the opportunity to submit labels, which are reproduced and printed along with tasting notes and scores. For information on label purchases, contact Denise Valenza at 813.571.1122; fax 866.896.8786; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net.

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at buyingguide.winemag.com

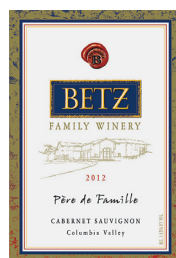


97 Horsepower 2012 Sur Echalas Vineyard Gr-enache (Walla Walla Valley).

Despite its lighter color, this wine explodes from the glass with a complex, near-endless list of aromas that include sea breeze, crushed flowers, peat, green olive, fire pit, smoked meat, pepper, orange peel and sea salt. Its ethereal, elegant style belies the outrageously rich, exquisitely flavorful savory notes that won't quit, offering a completely captivating walk on the variety's wild side. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$115



95 Betz Family 2012 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).

This arresting wine delivers aromas of fresh-ground coffee, sweet spices, licorice, dark fruit, pencil box, bay leaf, black currant and smoke, showing so much nuance you want to just keep on sniffing. The palate brings inky, dense, seamless dark fruit flavors and beautifully integrated tannins. It's completely irresistible now—a flat out stunner—but promises to have a long life in the cellar. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$72



95 Contucci 2010 Mulinvecchio (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).

Aromas of underbrush, pressed violet, blackberry, baked earth and new leather lead the nose of this classic wine. The structured, elegant palate offers succulent black cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon, clove and a hint of anise alongside tightly knit but polished tannins that need to unwind. It's already tempting but give this time to develop even more complexity. Drink 2017–2030. Caffo Beverages Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

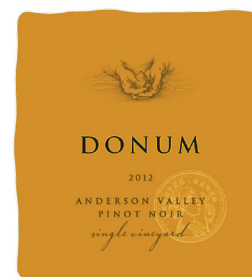


95 San Felice 2011 Il Grigio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

A fantastic combination of power and finesse, this opens with aromas of underbrush, ripe plum, truffle, leather, smoke and a balsamic note. The firm, delicious palate delivers fleshy black cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and mocha. Velvety tannins support the juicy flavors. Premium Brands. —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$44

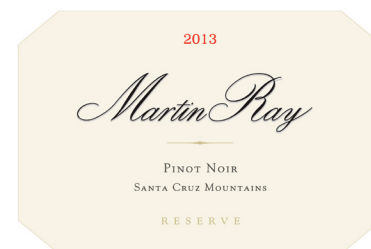


94 Donum 2012 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

The flavors run as deep as the dark garnet color in this full-bodied but sophisticated wine. Aromas trigger black cherry, subtle spicy oak and a walk in the forest, while the fruit flavors are ripe and delicious. The texture is like velvet—smooth but not slick. The complexity and inherent richness of flavor seem to increase with each sip, and it has firm acidity and tannins to cleanse the palate. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$72

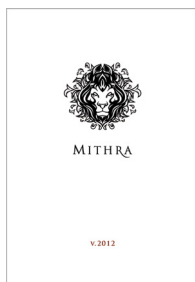


94 Martin Ray 2013 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).

The winery named after one of California's prominent pioneers continues a strong legacy with aromas of red cherries, orange rinds, dried violets and dark red rose petals. The palate shows a decent amount of tannic grip, with flavors of pomegranate, black tea and graphite. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$50



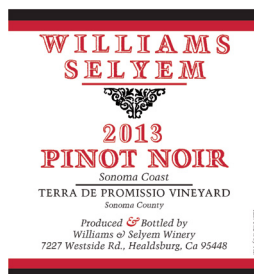
94 Mithra 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). From an estate vineyard high atop the appellation and blended with 9% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec, this is a bold, balanced wine made by Julien Fayard. Juicy blackberry and blueberry layer along soft, fine-grain tannins, making an impression on the palate. A creamy richness lingers on the finish, accented by black licorice. Cellar through 2022. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$190



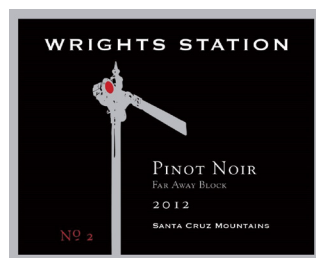
94 Recanati 2011 Reserve David Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). Inky red-violet to the eye, this wine has an intense nose of blackberry, toast and chocolate. Tannins are strong yet well matched by rich flavors of strawberry, raspberry, cranberry, smoke, orange zest and violet. It is full-figured on the palate, with a smooth yet zesty finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



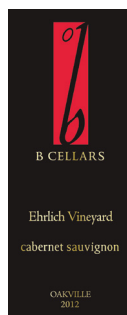
94 Three Sticks 2012 Durell Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Succulent and juicy in velvety waves of black-cherry cola, this is a delicious expression of Durell, with intriguing teases of truffle, black tea and forest floor. Concentrated and full bodied, it offers additional seasonings of cinnamon and black pepper, which persist through a long finish. Enjoyable now, this wine is structured to cellar through 2020. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65



94 Williams Selyem 2013 Terra de Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The winery's third vintage from this cooler-climate vineyard offers a mix of bright red cherry, wild, dried herb, rose and anise aromas rising to the fore. Lingering acidity keeps the firm tannins at bay—the two opposites finding a peaceful balance, allowing a freshness of citrus to succulently creep in on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58



94 Wrights Station 2012 Far Away Block Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). There are elements of a restrained ripeness to the nose of this wine: Kalamata olive, pressed cranberry and herbs, along with slightly sweet figs and plums. It's quite easy to drink yet rather intriguing with strawberry-raspberry juice and crushed herb notes of oregano and marjoram. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44



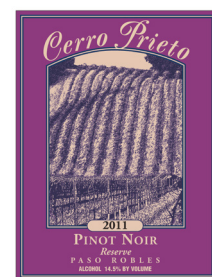
93 B Cellars 2012 Ehrlich Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This richly concentrated, vineyard-designated wine is undeniably in balance. It has a cavern of blackberry and jammy cherry at its core, which simultaneously buzzes in minerality before finishing in a dusting of cocoa and black pepper. The tannins are fine and integrated, providing a generosity of texture that should mellow over time. Cellar through 2027. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$115



93 Castello di Verrazzano 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). This full-bodied blend of Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo opens with heady scents of iris, violet, dark berry and a note of pipe tobacco. The firm, savory palate doles out ripe black cherry, licorice, ground black pepper and clove while assertive but well-integrated tannins provide support. Drink 2016–2021. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



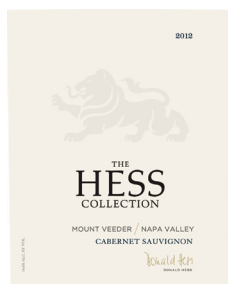
93 Volpaia 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Fragrant blue flower, plum, cake spice and a whiff of leather are some of the aromas you'll find on this stunning wine. Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, the juicy, delicious palate doles out ripe black cherry, fleshy blackberry, white pepper, licorice and grilled herb. It's open and well balanced, with firm, polished tannins. Drink through 2020. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32



93 Cerro Prieto 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Paso Robles). This wine possesses a dense core of concentrated raspberry fruit on the nose, but not in a jammy way, further entertained by fluffier rose petals, cherry blossoms and a drizzle of vanilla syrup. The high-toned, vibrant palate is also rich in restrained sour raspberry fruit, spiced with a clove cream, making the mouth sing. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



93 Doubleback 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This is a compelling wine with aromas of coffee, dried herbs, cherry and barrel spices. It wins over on finesse rather than power but shows more than ample amounts of both. There's enough structure that it will benefit from some time in the cellar. It will be best from 2019–2027. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$99



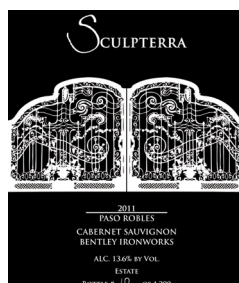
93 Hess Collection 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). With 20% Malbec, this wine is layered in refined complexity, swaying from juicy blueberry to herbaceous cherry and currant. Restrained in oak, with the slightest notion of vanilla on the palate, it finishes in mouthwatering dark chocolate—the tannins firm and structured. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$60



93 Jerusalem Wineries 2013 3400 Premium Shiraz (Judean Hills). Aromas of blueberry and clove, with a soft hint of cinnamon set the scene for flavors of blackberry, anise, black pepper, vanilla and white chocolate. A grid of smooth tannins makes way for a finish dotted by flavors of dark berry, spice, and cranberry sauce. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$17



93 Recanati 2014 Shiraz (Galilee). Deep red violet in color, this wine has a bouquet of blueberries and mountainside herbs. It is fresh on the palate, with soft tannins dominated by flavors of black cherry, strawberry, cranberry, thyme and orange zest. There is a nice play of berries and roasting herbs lingering on the soft finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$17



93 Sculpterra 2011 Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This upper-end bottling from the metalworks-minded winery shows black plum, black loam and charred pasilla chile on the nose. The palate is soft and lush, with a proper tannic presentation for the grape, showing more black cherry and a pinch of dill flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$60



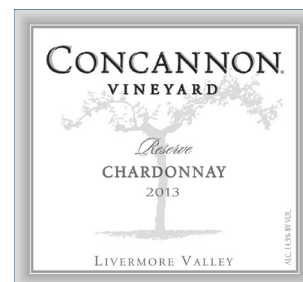
93 Trerose 2012 Santa Caterina (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Lovely aromas of plum, crushed violet, iris and cake spice mingle in the glass. The delicious, smooth palate doles out layers of ripe black cherry, blackberry, white pepper and cinnamon alongside velvety tannins. It's already tempting but will age well for a decade or more. Drink 2017–2027. Palm Bay International. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40



92 Brecon Estate 2013 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). Welsh winemaker Damian Grindley delivers aromas of concentrated vanilla, bacon, black cherry compote, fig jam and barrel smoke in this wine from his west Paso estate. Loamy, earthy flavors evolve on the palate into elderberry fruit and leather, with a distinct minty sensation emerging on the finish, leaving the lips alive. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39



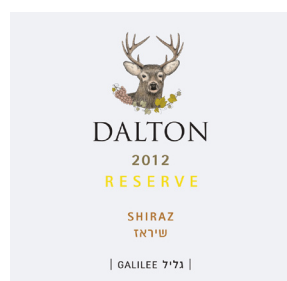
92 Castello di Monsanto 2012 50th Harvest Riserva (Chianti Classico). Fragrant and elegantly structured, this blend of Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo and Colorino opens with lovely aromas of pressed violet, iris, perfumed berry and baking spice. On the palate, notes of white pepper, toast, espresso and anise accent the black cherry core. Tightly knit but polished tannins give it a firm finish. Drink 2016–2022. MW Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$25



92 Concannon 2013 Reserve Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This gorgeous, bold, almost thick-textured wine also brings finesse and a lingering finish. The aroma is smoky, toasty and earthy, then the desirably decadent flavors and creamy texture hit the mark, immediately filling the mouth with ripe pear, fig, toasted almond and grilled baguette impressions. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$27



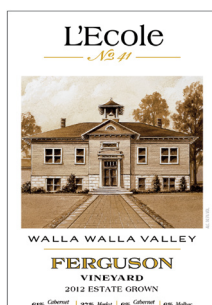
92 Dalton 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). Red violet in color, this wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, raspberry, apple peel and nutmeg. There are flavors of black cherry, eucalyptus, flint and black tea, with a touch of tart cherry. Strong but not overpowering tannins remain on the palate, along with flavors of mint and fresh berries. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32



92 Dalton 2012 Reserve Shiraz (Galilee). Inky violet in color, this wine has a bouquet of blueberry, vanilla and nutmeg. At first sip, coolness makes its presence known, but flavors of blueberry, cherry, white chocolate and orange rind ultimately dominate notes of eucalyptus. The cherry-chocolate finish is awash in velvety tannins. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28



92 Jerusalem Wineries 2013 3400 Premium Cabernet Sauvignon (Judean Hills). Deep ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black cherry and green bell pepper. The well-balanced flavor profile features notes of cherry, strawberry, smoked meat, Mediterranean herbs and eucalyptus. A network of generous tannins supports a persistent sensation of brightness on the side palate and smoky notes across the center of the tongue. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17



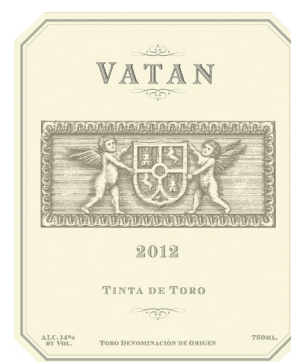
92 L'Ecole No. 41 2012 Ferguson Vineyard Estate Grown Red (Walla Walla Valley). This is the second vintage of this wine from the winery's young estate property. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, it's locked up at present with aromas of coffee, graphite, cherry, barrel spices and licorice. The dark chocolate and cherry flavors are tightly coiled and the lightly grippy tannins are wound up. There's lot of promise there but it needs time to be realized. It will be best after 2021. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



92 Levo 2012 Ransom (Santa Barbara County). Fresh-pressed blueberries, bacon, graphite and the slightest hint of dried oregano appear on the nose of this blend of 75% Grenache and 25% Syrah by 25-year-old Idaho native Bret Urness. It's soft and refreshing on the palate, with cola, Bing cherries and dried rose petals getting a minty lift from tarragon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36



92 Marchesi Antinori 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, this has enticing scents of fragrant blue flower, wild berry, anise and a whiff of exotic spice. The palate boasts structure and finesse, offering black cherry, cinnamon, white pepper and a hint of tobacco backed up by lithe tannins and bright acidity. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



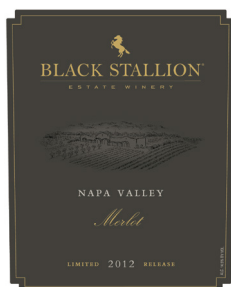
92 Vatan 2012 Toro. Dense, dark, smoky, oaky aromas come with welcome nuances of licorice and graphite along with bold blackberry scents. This feels flush, layered and strong. Flavors of baking spices, blackberry, chocolate and char finish peppery, toasty, tannic and with plenty of black-fruit power. Drink through 2022. Jorge Ordoñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



91 Archival 2013 Farina Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain). Voluptuously exotic in Asian pear and honeyed hazelnut on the nose, this savory and ultimately lean wine is balanced and elegant, with a richness of texture and juicy mouthfeel on the midpalate and finish. Made in small quantities, it has a lovely label and is well worth looking out for. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32



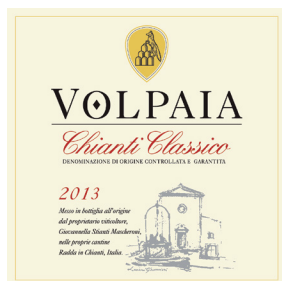
91 Artezín 2013 Zinfandel (Mendocino County). A well-made and full-bodied wine, this has generous helpings of succulent blackberry and boysenberry flavors, with a firm texture of tannins and acidity to balance out all that richness. It smells fresh and fruity, tastes juicy and crisp, and seems to gain depth and interest with repeated sips. The blend includes 10% Petite Sirah and 5% Carignan. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$18



91 Black Stallion 2012 Limited Release Merlot (Napa Valley). Smooth and round, this is a well-structured wine, amply blessed in black cherry, plum and spicy cinnamon. Made in small quantities, it does the variety justice and is fully ready for the table. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40



91 Volpaia 2013 Chianti Classico. A delicious expression of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Merlot, this opens with enticing aromas of fragrant purple flower, ripe red berry and sweet baking spice. The silky, vibrant palate doles out juicy wild cherry, black raspberry, clove and licorice while sleek tannins and bright acidity provide the framework. A tobacco note signals the close. Drink through 2018. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 13%

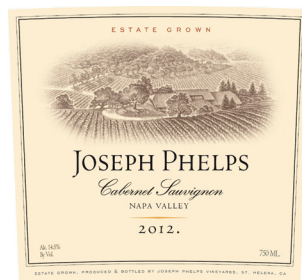
Price: \$21



91 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley). Varietal bottlings of Sangiovese are an extreme rarity in this appellation, yet this wine makes its case for more. It shows aromas of herbs, cigar box, mocha, plum and raspberry jam. Flavors convey purity and concentration, with the tannins providing a lightly chalky feel. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

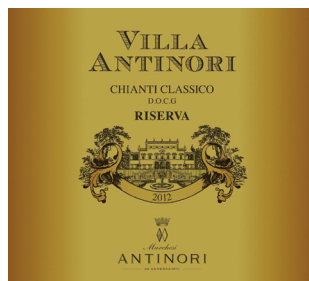
Price: \$25



91 Joseph Phelps 2012 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich and concentrated in red cherry, cigar and plum, this demurely approachable and enjoyable wine has the legs to age. Structured and tightly drawn, it holds a tannic overbite that eases in the glass. Cellar through 2017. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

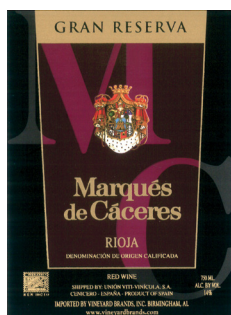
Price: \$70



91 Marchesi Antinori 2012 Villa Antinori Riserva (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of red berry, plum, violet and whiff of cedar. The elegantly structured, savory palate delivers juicy black cherry, clove, ground pepper and grilled herb alongside fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. It's well balanced and already accessible. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35



91 Marqués de Cáceres 2008 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Cool, subtle aromas of cola, rooty black cherry and blackberry precede a flush, racy, tannic palate. Toasted, roasted blackberry flavors come with accents of coconut and peppery spice, while coconutty oak returns on the finish. Drink through 2022. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35



91 Nine Hats 2012 Red Wine (Columbia Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot make up the majority of this wine, which comes from The Benches and Weinbau vineyards. The dark brewed-coffee, herb, milk chocolate and cherry aromas, with rich, full-bodied flavors, provide plenty of allure and value. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

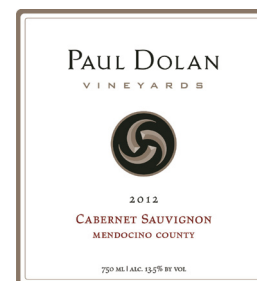
Price: \$25



91 Omaka Springs 2014 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Hints of struck flint and white currant lead the way, followed by herbal, currant-like flavors and notes of fresh fig. This is medium-bodied, but with hints of creaminess to its texture and a long, wet-stone finish. EcoValley. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20



91 Paul Dolan 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). This is serious and concentrated, probably built to age a few more years before its peak. It smells soaked with black cherry and black currant aromas, tastes deep, ripe and compelling, and feels full bodied and firmly tannic. The flavors are powerful enough to match the big texture, so it should improve through 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

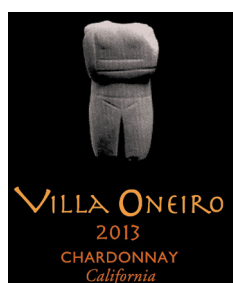
Price: \$25



91 Rocca delle Macie 2012 Famiglia Zingarelli Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of Sangiovese, with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this offers aromas of ripe blackberry, baking spice, toasted oak and a balsamic note. The round, savory palate offers black cherry, ground pepper, anise, espresso and tobacco alongside polished tannins. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26



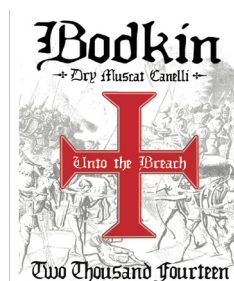
91 St. Supéry 2012 Dollarhide Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Velvety smooth, this estate-driven wine is soft, with a backbone of integrated oak, seasoned in pleasing handfuls of clove and black cherry. Juicy on the palate, and well structured, it finishes brisk in acidity and a note of mocha. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



91 Villa Oneiro 2013 Chardonnay (California). Grown in a vineyard atop the Palos Verdes peninsula on the Los Angeles coastline, this wine offers intriguing and focused aromas of lemon pith, hard apple candies and lime drizzled on white peach. The high-acid palate shows lots more fresh and bright lime elements, with a touch of honey rounding it out. The finishing zing goes on and on. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38



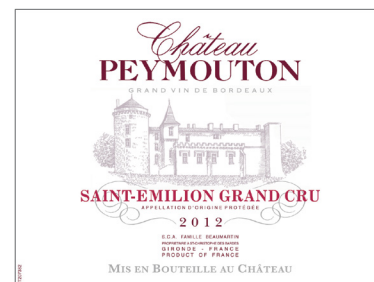
90 Black Stallion 2013 Limited Release Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Young and still intensely oaked, this wine holds undeniable promise in its fleshy, viscous and smooth layers of stone fruit and guava—an untrammelled expression of the Napa Valley's ability for generosity and structure. The finish is bittersweet in Meyer lemon. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35



90 Bodkin 2014 Unto the Breach Dry Muscat Canelli (Lake County). This delicious spicy white has an almost Latin flair. It smells like mango and cilantro, tastes crisp and peachy, and finishes with a sensation of mild chili peppers. It's fun to encounter something so arresting and unusual to drink. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19



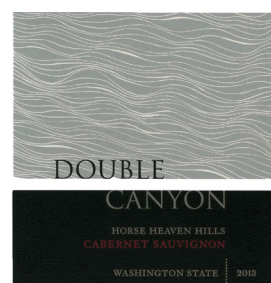
90 Château Lestage Simon 2012 Haut-Médoc. This is a solid wine, with complex tannins that sit over the ripe plum and berry-fruit tones. It is balanced, yet still young showing the wood aging as well as considerable juicy acidity. This wine, with its structure, needs to age. Drink from 2018. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



90 Château Peymouton 2012 Saint-Émilion. In this smooth and rich wine, tannins glide across the palate leaving ripe fruit in their wake. It is concentrated, full of berry fruits and juicy black currants. Full and fruity, this delicious wine will develop quickly. Drink from 2017. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36



90 Cima Collina 2013 Antle Mourvedre (Chalone). Pressed blackberries, bubbling cola, and violet-lilac extract shows brilliantly on the nose of this wine by Annette Hoff Danzer, one of Monterey's few women winemakers. The purple flowers concentrate on the front of the palate, followed by a dark, tannic rush of espresso, dark chocolate and black pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30



90 Double Canyon 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine still appears to be in its shell, with aromas of plum, black fruit, spearmint and herb, along with a distinct green tinge that becomes more prominent over time. There's plushness to the fruit and herb flavors while it retains well-balanced acidity. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25



90 Dry Creek Vineyard 2013 Heritage Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). A layered and spicy offering, this is mostly Zinfandel, with smaller amounts of Petite Sirah, Primitivo and Carignan. Soft and inviting, it opens with smoky notes of blackberry cobbler and black cherry. Elegant on the palate, with a balance of power, it finishes in black licorice and cardamom. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Frog's Leap 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford). Made from organically grown, dry-farmed vineyards and fermented entirely in stainless steel, this refreshingly dry and low-alcohol white offers flavors of peach and grapefruit pith around electrified acidity. It tastes fresh, fruity and completely on edge—throw a bottle in your beach bag or picnic basket. —V.B.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$22



90 Mercer 2012 Reserve Dead Canyon Vineyard Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). This is an aromatically pleasing, fruit-forward wine, with notes of raspberry, spice and plum. The palate is supple in feel, with the fruit and oak flavors shining through. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



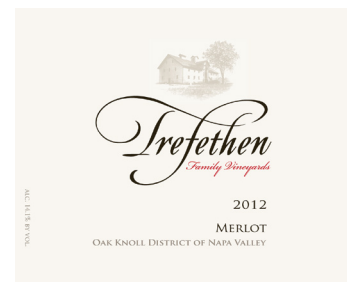
90 Seven Falls 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This wine has immediate appeal showing aromas of milk chocolate, cherry and dried herbs. The flavors are plump and rich in feel yet backed by soft tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



90 St. Supéry 2012 Estate Merlot (Rutherford). Licorice and black plum notes give this wine a sultry edge, layered around generous tannin and leathery tobacco. Soft toward the finish, it provides a polished note of red currant and raspberry midway through, lifting much of the weight off the tongue. Cellar through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



90 Swanson 2014 Pinot Grigio (Sonoma Mountain). Having spent no time in oak, this crisp, clean white is resplendent in lemon curd and vanilla, joined midway by additional layers of just-picked peach. Medium bodied, with the right texture to hold up to a range of spicy foods, it offers a vibrantly lively finish. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22



90 Trefethen 2012 Merlot (Oak Knoll). Incorporating a small amount of Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a floral Merlot, with notes of violet counterpointed by barbecue smokiness and earth. Big, rich tannins are dry and robust, veering on full bodied, before the acidity in the wine pulls things back into balance. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40



89 Barker's Marque 2014 Three Brooms Single Vineyard Certified Sustainable Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is clearly labeled as "Certified Sustainable," although, to be fair, a lot of other New Zealand wines are also sustainably produced. Once past the labeling, it's a light- to medium-bodied wine, with slightly vegetal notes of nettles and garden peas that add nuance to refreshing citrus flavors. International Vines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17



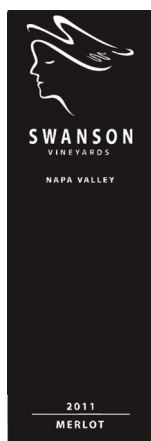
89 Borgo Scopeto 2011 Misciano Riserva (Chianti Classico). Delicate but pretty aromas of violet, dark berry, brown spice and a whiff of sun-baked earth emerge in the glass. The firm, forward palate doles out ripe black cherry, licorice, mint, clove and tobacco alongside tightly knit but refined tannins. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35



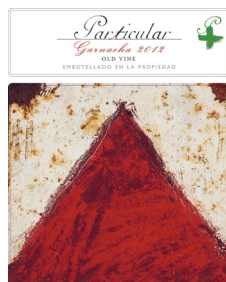
89 Borgo Scopeto 2013 Chianti Classico. This 90% Sangiovese, 5% Merlot and 5% Colorino blend opens with aromas that recall forest floor, dark berry and a whiff of toast. On the palate, notes of ground pepper, anise and cocoa accent a core of black cherry while firm, fine-grained tannins provide support. Drink through 2017. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20



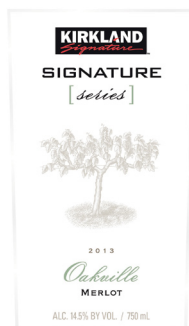
89 Paco & Lola 2013 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Dusty peach and apple aromas fold in stony mineral notes as well as leesy scents. This feels solid, properly acidic and a bit pulpy. Flavors of apple cider and peach pit finish with citrusy acidity. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22



88 Swanson 2011 Merlot (Napa Valley). Bright and brooding, this lightly-textured, medium-bodied wine offers smoke, leather, blackberry and baked plum. There's an underlying richness akin to decadent crème anglaise, with a finish of clove and coffee. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38



87 Bodegas San Valero 2012 Particular Old Vine Garnacha (Cariñena). Aromas of exotic spices, licorice gumdrop, leather and raspberry announce a full-bodied palate. Saucy plum, oak and mustard-like flavors finish with a dash of cumin and a solid, grabby texture. Multiple U.S. importers. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14



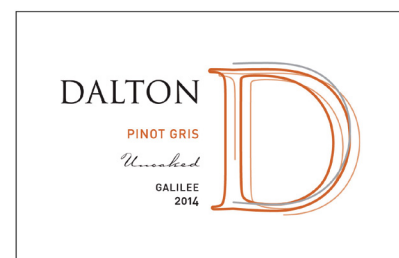
87 Kirkland Signature 2013 Signature Series Merlot (Oakville). Cherry, raspberry and vanilla combine for an inviting mix of ripeness and sweet bouquet. A fruity component also sits nicely atop this structured wine marked by soft, fine tannins. The finish is robust in black pepper and clove. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS

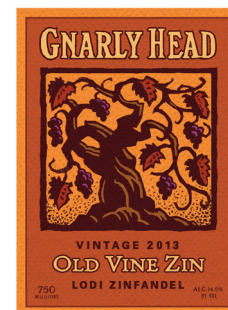


90 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2013 San Jacopo (Chianti Classico). Bright and fresh, this enjoyable blend of Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Colorino doles out juicy wild cherry, fresh raspberry, blue flower and baking spice. It's easy drinking and well balanced thanks to sleek tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink through 2016. FX Magner Selection. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



90 Dalton 2014 D Unoaked Pinot Gris (Galilee). This pale straw-colored wine has a bouquet of melon and nutmeg. Flavors of pear, peach, apple, lemon curd and soft spice mingle on the palate into the smooth, lemon-tart finish. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

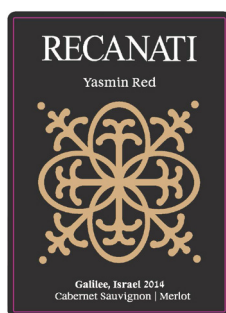


90 Gnarly Head 2013 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). If there were such a thing as smoked blackberries, this tasty wine would resemble a light version of that. It's gushing with fresh-crushed cherry and berry flavors, great acidity and firm tannins, while accents of wood smoke and dried meat peek through, adding complexity. It's not sweet, it's not over-oaked, it's not too full bodied—it's just well-balanced and delicious. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12



90 Lamoreaux Landing 2013 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Pretty white floral and peach notes perfume this fresh, fruity unoaked Chardonnay. While lush and rounded on the palate, it balances bright honeydew and yellow cherry flavors against a backdrop of crisp acidity. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$15

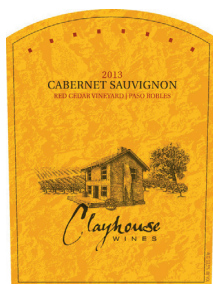
BEST BUYS



90 Recanati 2014 Yasmin Red (Galilee). Aromas of black cherry, raspberry, flint, smoke and violet prep the palate for flavors of raspberry, black cherry, smoked meat, chocolate and black pepper. There is an interesting interplay of fruit flavors and savory notes of herb-rubbed meat. A web of soft tannins plays across the palate through a finish that has flavors of smoke and yellow cherry. Kosher. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12



90 Rocca delle Macie 2013 Famiglia Zingarelli (Chianti Classico). Tilled soil, ripe plum, blue iris and a whiff of spice come together on the nose. The vibrant, juicy palate offers ripe wild cherry, crushed raspberry, mocha and clove alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2018. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15



89 Clayhouse 2013 Red Cedar Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). An extremely good deal, this wine will keep both neophytes and experts entertained, with aromas of black-plum jam, dark strawberries and graphite on the lively nose. The palate brings pungent blueberry and black cherry, along with crushed black-lava rocks and pencil shavings right down the middle. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

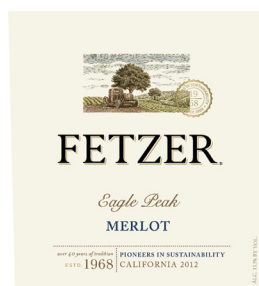
BEST BUYS



89 Parducci 2013 Small Lot Blend Chardonnay (Mendocino County). This nicely balanced wine was made partly in barrels and partly in stainless steel. It smells like vanilla, cream and chamomile, and tastes as crisp and juicy as fresh-cut apples. Layers of flavor unfold with each successive sip, resembling nutmeg, pear and fig. The texture stays smooth and rich but with lively acidity underneath. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13



88 Columbia Crest 2012 Grand Estates Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This wine is 57% Syrah, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Viognier, 6% Merlot and 3% other varieties. The Viognier gives the aromas and deftly styled flavors, with notes of orange peel and flowers. The Syrah lends blueberries and gaminess, with herb and chocolate notes coming from Cabernet. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

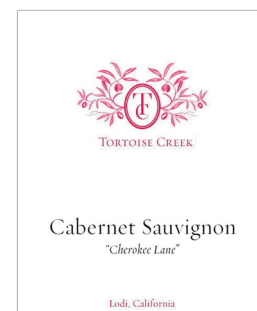


88 Fetzer 2012 Eagle Peak Merlot (California). Sweet oak aromas, ripe fruit flavors and a firm texture make a complete and enjoyable package in this full-bodied wine. It has a toasted oak flavor, tasty plum and cinnamon nuances, good acidity and supportive tannins. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

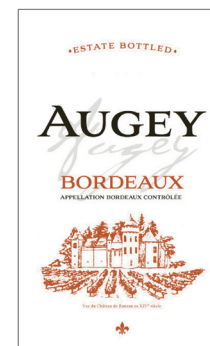
BEST BUYS



87 Dominios de Castilla 2014 Verdejo (Rueda). Tropical fruit, melon and apple aromas are lightly briny and solid. The palate on this everyday white is lively and fresh, with jumpy acidity. Flavors of nectarine, mango, apple and lime stay fruity and clean across the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11



87 Tortoise Creek 2012 Cherokee Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Generous flavors with a full body add up to a very likable, mouthfilling wine that will love a juicy steak or grilled lamb chop. Almost-sweet spices like vanilla and nutmeg come out in the aroma and persist through the fresh black cherry flavors and finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12



85 Cave de Rauzan 2014 Augey (Bordeaux). Bright, lightly-smoked red currant and berry fruits dominate this juicy, fresh wine. A plum-skin texture leads on to some firm tannins. The aftertaste is fruity and light. Prestige Wine & Spirits Group. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



85 Kirkland Signature 2013 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Aromas of mocha, tire rubber, herbs and blue fruit aren't entirely in sync. They lead to a palate with soft, fleshy fruit flavors and a light structure trying to hold it all together. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$9

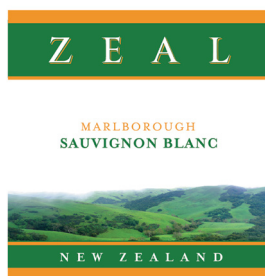


85 Sorelli 2011 Riserva (Chianti). Aromas of dark-skinned berry, iris and cellar floor lead the nose. On the one-dimensional palate, a note of bitter sage accents dried black cherry. Drink soon. Carriage House Imports. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10



85 Sorelli 2013 Chianti. This informal red opens with aromas of red berry and a whiff of cellar floor. The simple palate offers black cherry and orange peel alongside zesty acidity and dusty tannins. It's made to be drunk young so enjoy soon. Carriage House Imports. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

BEST BUYS



85 Zeal 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For the price, this delivers exactly what you should expect: clean winemaking; varietally true aromas and flavors of white grapefruit, nectarine and tomato leaf; and a clean, refreshing finish. Prestige Wine & Spirits Group. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

SPIRITS



93 Pitu Vitoriosa Cachaça (Brazil; Winebow, New York, NY). Aged for a whopping five years in French oak barrels and packaged in a hefty, pear-shaped bottle, this clearly is meant as a premium offering. The amber spirit smells enticingly sweet, evoking vanilla, brown sugar and even traces of cola with orange peel. On the palate, it's smooth and silky, with big, dark flavors: allspice, toffee, dark honey, toasted coconut, espresso and oak. Add an ice cube and a twist of orange peel for pleasant sipping.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$125

smacking finish. Terry Theise Estate Selections. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Ebner-Ebenauer 2014 Hermanschachern Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Pear drop aromas still dominate on the nose but yeasty spice breaks through. The palate is a similar mix of savory yeast and herbal flavors with the freshness of crunchy, green pear. This is inviting, savory and refreshing. The pepperiness of Grüner which is so often absent is abundant here. A wine with real personality and verve. Winemonger. **Editors' Choice.** —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Ebner-Ebenauer 2014 Sauberg Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Notes of green apple cores; rich, savory yeast and peppery, pungent herbs characterize nose and palate. There is verve here and tons of flavor, the crispness of the vintage is beautifully countered by rounded yeastiness—but that backbone of structure and acidity shines and guarantees a long life for this wine—even though it will be difficult not to drink it now. Winemonger. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 F X Pichler 2014 Loibner Frauenweingarten Grüner Veltliner Federspiel (Wachau). Golden Delicious apples and yellow Mirabelle plums vie for attention on the nose of this focused, citrus-fresh Grüner. This is mineral and nervy, zesty and taut and very streamlined. While there is fine spritz, it is serious and sleek with complex yeasty notes woven in. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

92 F X Pichler 2014 Loibner Klostersatz Grüner Veltliner Federspiel (Wachau). If you could get an essence of grapefruit peel with edges of savory herbs and tingling white pepper, this wine would be it. This is wonderfully bracing and fresh yet concentrated, so there is tone and muscle but slenderness, too. Totally sleek and exhilarating now, will open up through 2019. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$37

92 Hirsch 2014 Heiligenstein Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Flinty overtones signal the freshness of the wine which has yet to show its true colors. But the tight, taught, focused and zesty palate promises lots of refreshment. There is a generosity here between zest and pepper, with concentrated pear and citrus. Superclean finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

92 Markus Huber 2014 Obere Steigen Grüner Veltliner (Traisental). A heady, minty nose is joined by fuller fruit of green and yellow pear. On the palate, highlights of pepper appear amidst lemon and grapefruit peel. This is sleek and slender, with wonderfully zesty concentration and brisk

freshness. Take your time drinking this, there is a lot going on. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

92 Türk 2014 Kremser Weinberge Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). The nose is still unwilling to yield much. This is tightly closed, but the palate shows what lies in store: wonderful grapefruit peel and enticing, herbal pepperiness. This is very sleek and zesty, concentrated and utterly refreshing with a delicious lick of lemon on the finish. Niche Import Company. —A.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

92 Weixelbaum 2014 Stephanus Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Riper aspects of Mirabelle plum join the aromatic spectrum dominated by bracing citrus zest. Grapefruit and lemon echo along the palate and surpass themselves in a tight, bracing and concentrated finish. Slender but ultratoned. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

92 Weixelbaum 2014 Wechselberg Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Concentrated grapefruit zest and lemon peel with undertones of peppery herbs on a very concentrated, sleek palate. The pepperiness and zest reverberates for an immensely refreshing quaff. There is poise, concentration and a long, clean finish. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —A.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

91 Aigner 2014 Sandgrube Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). An intriguing nose displays rustic earthiness, damp soil and ripe notes of banana and pineapple. The palate continues this incongruous yet delicious theme and impresses with a slender but concentrated body and toothsome texture. What a beauty. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

91 Anton Bauer 2014 Gmörk Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). A subtle nose of lemon leads to a chorus of zesty, citrusy freshness: rind of lemon, grapefruit and mandarin make for a streamlined, concentrated and incredibly refreshing palate with a tangy moreishness. The purity of this wine shines. This is lovely now but will develop through 2020. Select Wines Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

91 Ebner-Ebenauer 2014 Birtal Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Pear sorbet and fresh grapefruit on the nose segue into a very peppery palate that alternates between pungency and subtlety—yeasty overtones swish that pepper around sinuous citrus zest flavors and finish with a concentrated earthiness. This is textbook Grüner from a rising star. Winemonger. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

91 Fischer 2014 Ried Steiger Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). Aromas of citrus, white pepper and fern are contained in a tight, streamlined, linear

package chock full of zestiness. Sprays of that wonderful white pepper are everywhere. Very lively and taut and all the more refreshing for it. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

91 Forstreiter 2014 Alte Reben Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Ripe and appetizing aromas of juicy yellow pear with tropical overtones of passion fruit are tempered by zesty citrus freshness. This makes for an exciting contrast enhanced by the superspicy notes of yeast and herbs on the slender palate which fizzes with lively spritz. Taut but fruity and very refreshing. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Forstreiter 2014 Kremser Kogl Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). A still tightly closed nose presently reveals little more than a marriage of lemon and grapefruit zest on a springy, lively, concentrated palate that just tingles with citrus freshness. The finish is razor-sharp and whistle clean. Not for the faint-hearted but all the more fun for acid-junkies. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

91 Hermann Moser 2014 Karmeliterberg Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). It is always intriguing when a very light-bodied wine has lots of depth and flavor. There is an abundance of citrus peel freshness, especially grapefruit, with more subtle, almost salty notes of spice that make you want to keep sipping. This offers wonderful verve and refreshment. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

91 Josef Ehmoser 2014 Hohenberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). Subtle hints of green pear meet yeasty pepperiness head-on. The palate is focused and concentrated and has a spine that tingles with crisp acidity and more pepper. This is inviting, moreish and very drinkable despite its comparative seriousness. Pepper and zest linger. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

91 Nastl 2014 Kittmannsberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Zesty green citrus with lifted notes of Conference pear strike out for a fruity opening. The palate follows up with concentrated spiciness and even more grapefruit zest. This is lively, taut, slender, refreshing and full of tension, with an appetizing edge of pepper. Wine Without Borders. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

91 Nigl 2014 Senftenberger Piri Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). An almost apple-like and appetizing contrast between crunchy acidity and ripe fruitfulness makes this a compelling proposition. Primary fruit shines here and is very pure. This is like a crisp crunchy apple bathed in citrus.

Pure refreshment with a superclean finish and taut structure. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

91 Schloss Gobelsburg 2014 Ried Steinsetz Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is a very zesty Grüner where yeasty, earthy notes are completely cut through with the wonderful, bracing freshness of grapefruit peel. The more usual fruit of green pears lurks underneath but the overall picture is one of lip-smacking refreshment. Wonderfully clean and zingy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

91 Wieninger 2014 Wiener Grüner Veltliner (Vienna). An almost neutral nose opens into a zesty, light-bodied palate that swings with yeasty savoriness and a whole lot of grapefruit zest. Slender, focused and very refreshing. Goes down easily and has that moreish tanginess. Winebow. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

90 Fritsch 2014 Schlossberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). Slightly funky notes of yeast hover above a citrus freshness. The palate is totally crisp but rounded out by more funky, spicy notes that highlight pepper and yeast on the slender, crisp body. This takes time to come out of its shell and will benefit from some bottle age. Drink from 2017. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

90 Fritsch 2014 Steinberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). Enticing notes of wet hay, crunchy green pears and savory fern make for an intriguing entry, the palate is ample with pear fruit, zesty citrus and sprays of white pepper. A really exciting, animating little number providing both refreshment and interest. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

90 Hermann Moser 2014 Per Due Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). A wonderful combination of fresh, green pears, yeasty roundness and citrus tone. This is a sleek, zesty and refreshing Grüner, its chief markers are lemony freshness and a slender, linear and impactful palate with a whistle-clean finish. Boutique Wine Collection. *Best Buy.* —A.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

90 Kohl 2014 Kittl Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Savory yeast notes and white pepper are far more apparent than fruit on this super-sleek, superpeppery offering. This has zip and liveliness and illustrates perfectly why locals refer to Grüner as *Pfefferl*, or the little peppery one. This certainly is and provides lots of refreshment and verve. Vignaioli Selection. —A.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

90 Leth 2014 Steinagrund Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). A very subtle nose slowly reveals peppery ivy notes and freshly cut peel of Conference pear. This is altogether very subtle but no less intriguing with a central thread of pure citrus focus.

BUYINGGUIDE

There is concentration and a lovely lick of enticing fresh pear fruit. Slender but beautiful. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16

90 Nigl 2014 Freiheit Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Taut grapefruit and lemon zest are joined by a little herbal spice and come out in a bracing, brisk feast of citrus. Slender but concentrated, the linear freshness fizzes away on the palate and awakes all senses. Not an ounce of fat on a very slender, toned body and a total joy to sip. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$21

90 Sepp Moser 2014 Von den Terrassen Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Rounded, earthy notes of ripe fruit are foremost in the aromatic stakes. On the palate they are joined by a yeastily textured savoriness and fresh citrus verve. This goes well beyond mere fruit and shows off the more earthy side of Grüner. Satisfyingly zesty finish. Williams Corner Wine. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

90 Winzer Krems 2014 Kremser Goldberg Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). One tightly packed parcel of citrus zest and white pepper, this is streamlined, compact and linear, making it a more-ish refresher. It's light-footed nature makes it very easy to drink. Ideal for hot days where real refreshment is needed. Saranty Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

89 Direder 2014 Donatus Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). Both fresh green and ripe yellow pear make an appearance on the nose, along with a subtle hint of pineapple candy. The palate is more crisp than expected—in line with the 2014 vintage—but provides ample refreshment and citrus zing. If you like zippy you'll love this. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$12

89 Hirsch 2014 Hirschvergnügen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Flinty, peppery overtones yield to a more fruity opening with a little air, the palate further reveals savory yeast undertones and lively citrus zestiness. This is very slender, light-bodied and crisp. A simple summer wine offering far more than fruit. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 11%

Price: \$NA

89 Martinshof 2014 Friends Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Beautifully aromatic and ripe pear notes dominate, the palate is light but shows friendly, ample fruit that makes this very appetizing and easy to drink. A perfect, refreshing, easy-drinking summer wine. Carlo Huber Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$13

89 Winzer Krems 2014 Edition Chremisa Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Less defined notes of

ripe pear or plum framed by earthy, yeasty notes are toned by citrus freshness. This is concentrated, punchy and finishes with lip-smacking citrus. Saranty Imports. —A.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

89 Winzer Krems 2014 Kremser Sandgrube Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Heady Mirabelle and fern-scented aromas abound, on the palate a very lemon-centered freshness takes over and lifts this even more. This is tingling and fresh, zesty and bracing, lively and superlight. Perfect for a summer day. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

88 Felsner 2014 Moosburgerin Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Telltale hints of pear and white pepper are just subtly hinted at, the palate is fresh, slender and simple. Provides perfect but simple refreshment. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

88 Forstreiter 2014 Grooner Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Slightly fragrant, super-fresh and pear-scented, this is a very simple but fun Grüner made for sunny afternoons. Very easy, refreshing and fruity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$12

88 H. & M. Hofer 2014 Von den Rieden Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Fresh green pear and hints of ivy on nose and palate create a light-bodied, friendly, easy-drinking summer white. Zip-piness and fruitiness are the hallmarks. Drink as soon as possible while fruit flavors are at their peak. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

88 Hillinger 2014 Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Savory notes of yeast trump fruit on the nose while the palate counters the spiciness with lots of zesty citrus. A very refreshing, lip-smacking Grüner, ideal for hot summer days. Select Wines Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$14

88 Josef Ehmoser 2014 Von den Terrassen Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). A lovely, lemon-scented freshness, almost of lemon balm, leads on the nose. The palate is similarly citrus-focused but also holds notes of savory yeast. A simple, super-refreshing wine. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$15

88 Nastl 2014 Klassik Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Lovely, fresh and enticing green Conference pear flavors abound on nose and palate where they are met with a tangy grapefruit zestiness. This is ultralight and very refreshing. Drink soon. Wine Without Borders. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$11

88 Sommer 2014 Klassik Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Up-front fruitiness of green and

yellow pear lead to a simple, citrus-fresh palate with lots of zing. A simple, savory pleasure with lingering pepperiness. GOS Wines. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$15

88 Zantho 2014 Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Intriguing hints of passion fruit and tomato leaf play about the nose and lead to a very slender, slight body with ample freshness. There is more zest than fruit on the succinct palate. Vin Divino. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$13

87 Biokult 2014 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Lots and lots of pear upfront on this simple, refreshing, easy-drinking summer wine. The light body and uncomplicated style make this a good party quaffer. Natural Merchants LLC. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$14

87 Felsner 2014 Lössterrassen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Simple citrus freshness brightens nose and palate, the refreshment factor enhanced by ample spritz. This will make an ideal light-bodied and fun apéritif on a hot day. Drink soon. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$12

87 Sommer 2014 Bergweingarten Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). The nose presents a mélange of pear, yeast and peppery herbs. On the palate, the fruit is almost completely subdued and dominated by strident yeastiness. This unusual wine would work well with soft, washed-rind cheeses or miso-flavored dishes. GOS Wines. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

86 Direder 2014 Schlossberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). Savory herbs and yeast dominate the green pear flavors on nose and palate. The palate offers citrus freshness, a toned body and a clean-cut finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

86 Martinshof 2014 Lobster Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Slightly lactic notes on the nose detract from the citrusy freshness of the simply refreshing, easy-drinking palate. Carlo Huber Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$10

86 Nadler 2014 Grüner Veltliner (Carnuntum). The nose here is not quite as clean-cut as it could be, while the palate shows a little more focus. Crisp and zesty, if a little short. Robert Houde Wines. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$12

83 Fritsch 2014 Windspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). A rather flat nose with just a hint of pear leads to a rather dilute, incongruous palate where the chief marker is unbalanced acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: NA

Price: \$12

RIESLING

94 Eichinger 2014 Vm Berg Riesling (Kamptal).

A little air is all that is needed to shake the orange and lemon zest flavors awake. This is a feast of ripe citrus: crisp, slender and very, very appetizing. The palate is streamlined and full of drive, with added complexity and texture from lees. Keep sipping to taste all the nuances of citrus—yuzu, tangerine, lemon and bergamot. This poised, pure beauty is delicious now but will last. Drink now till 2025. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

94 F X Pichler 2014 Loibner Burgstall Riesling Federspiel (Wachau).

All the secrets of this wine are still locked away—only time will reveal them. There are glimpses of lemon and grapefruit and notions of yeast on a thrillingly pure, streamlined and linear palate. Right now there is fruit, with time there will be eternal stone. This is Riesling with true pedigree. There is a lesson, too: You can impress with Federspiel, it does not always have to be Smaragd! Drink now until 2030. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$37

93 Bründlmayer 2014 Steinmassel Riesling (Kamptal).

There is something eternally invigorating in this citrus-pure Riesling that smacks of grapefruit and lemon zest. There is a softer apple aspect too, uniting all in a fresh, pure fruitiness. There is something simply authentic at its very heart that keeps you sipping. And with such a light-bodied wine, you can (almost) do so with impunity. Terry Theise Estate Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

93 Bründlmayer 2014 Terrassen Riesling (Kamptal).

Initially closed, this opens up slowly into a very bundled, concentrated yet fluid stream of citrus flesh and zest. There are overtones of kitchen herbs like chervil but lemony freshness trumps. There is a lightness of touch, a wonderful, lithe elegance and a lasting finish. Terry Theise Estate Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

93 Bründlmayer 2014 Zöbinger Heiligenstein Riesling (Kamptal).

Perfumed with floral, citric freshness this evokes jasmine blossom and cut grapefruit peel. The palate is of an exquisite lightness and a slight spritz adds extra zip to the already electric little number. Just one sip of this ultrapure, racy wine and you are thoroughly refreshed. This is a Riesling that spells summer. Terry Theise Estate Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$40

93 Fischer 2014 Ried Kirnberg Riesling (Wachau).

There are regular, small explosions of citrus on the slender, taut palate of this exciting Wachau Riesling. This is so lively and energetic that you just want to keep sipping. It is slender, brisk and crisp and leaves the mouth feel-

ing totally clean and invigorated. Not for the faint-hearted but thrilling for true acidhounds. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

93 Fischer 2014 Ried Steiger Riesling (Wachau).

Flinty notes of reduction are top aromas, then citrus-fuelled pepperiness ensues. This is lively, lithe and brisk with lip-smacking freshness and a total refreshment factor. It has the tension of a high-wire. These are Riesling acrobatics in a glass. Bravo. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

93 Nikolaihof 2014 Vom Stein Riesling Federspiel (Wachau).

This is so very young that the yeasty aromas of fermentation still cling on: There is earthiness and some funk—but underneath slumbers ripe stone fruit and wet stone. The palate is textured and tight, with a citric fault line of lemony acidity. The length is pure and thrilling, the body wonderfully light. Think sublimated lemon and you have it. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Josef Ehmoser 2014 Vom Gelben Löss Riesling (Wagram).

Crunchy, tart but ripe apples abound on the nose and even more on the palate. This is reminiscent of a red-cheeked Cox's Orange Pippin apple and offers the same thrill and contrast between ripe fruit and crispness. This is dangerously animating and racy. It will make conversation sparkle. Finishes with a lasting apple tang. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

92 Leth 2014 Felser Weinberge Riesling (Wagram).

Slender and pure, lemony and tight, yet fruitful and cushioned. While riper years often bring heft to Rieslings from Wagram, the rich loess soils here have rounded out a slender year. Notions of cologne via citrus foliage and heady conifer show themselves with time in glass. A slender but perfectly balanced beauty. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

92 Loimer 2014 Langenlois Riesling (Kamptal).

Crisp green and ripe Cox apple feature boldly on nose and palate of this slender, lithe and refreshing wine. There is great purity at its core. The finish is clean and lasting with scores of lemon zest and leaves a wonderfully clean and refreshed palate. Winebow. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$25

92 Markus Huber 2014 Engelsberg Riesling (Traisental).

Flinty highlights join lemon zest freshness on a thrillingly pure and streamlined palate bursting with lemon and tangerine zest. This is taut and slender but packs a citrus punch. This is destined for hot days; it is lovely now but will also last. Some spritz enlivens the finish. Drink Now till 2020. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

92 Sepp Moser 2014 Von den Terrassen Riesling (Kremstal).

This nose is a lovely mix of lemon peel and camphor leaves, intriguing and refreshing and just a little heady. The palate is streamlined and slender and of great purity. This is lithe but intense, slender but profound. It shows what Riesling is capable of in a cooler year. Stockpile this since it will last and get ever more delicious. Drink now till 2020. Williams Corner Wine. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

91 Felsner 2014 Weissler Stein Riesling (Niederösterreich).

Yellow Reineclaude and Mirabelle plums are the charming markers of this fresh, slender and crisp offer. Their fruity richness balances the brisk 2014 crispness and leaves a thrilling, refreshing mouthful. Very invigorating and utterly moreish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

91 Nastl 2014 Steinmassl Riesling (Kamptal).

An aromatic hint of quince dances over the various zesty citrus flavors on this slender, crisp and light yet expressive Riesling. The palate is governed entirely by lemon zest freshness and lingers beautifully. There are illuminating flashes of quince again on the finish. Savor this so you can capture them. Wine Without Borders. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

90 Fritsch 2014 Riesling (Wagram).

The subdued yet citric nose needs a little time to reveal softer yellow plum flavors which are abundant on the palate as well, countering the grapefruit zest and briskness. This is light-bodied, refreshing, very fruity and wonderfully crisp. Ideal for hot, sunny days. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$18

90 Nigl 2014 Dornleiten Riesling (Niederösterreich).

Concentrated grapefruit zestiness dominates the palate while the nose remains rather closed. This is streamlined, refreshing and firmly located in the green citrus spectrum of flavor—eminently refreshing with a clean, brisk finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$29

90 Nigl 2014 Senftenberger Piri Reserve Riesling (Kremstal).

Spritz and lemony freshness characterize this light-footed offering. It almost fizzes with freshness and verve and remains firmly in the greenish-yellow citrus spectrum of refreshing flavors. A perfect, light summer sip. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$39

90 Stadlmann 2014 Badener Berg Riesling (Niederösterreich).

Fresh, ripe Mirabelle plum complements the lemony, crisp freshness. The textured palate also cushions the briskness that is so typical of 2014, the finish is wonderfully clean and lasting, drawing out more of that lemon purity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Forstreiter 2014 Stoa Riesling (Kremstal). Some fermentation aromas still swing in the nose but lemony freshness soon takes over on the nose and palate. This is light-bodied, slim and very, very fresh. Save this for a really hot day when you need cooling down. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Markus Huber 2014 Terrassen Riesling (Traisental). A fresh, slender but cushioned Riesling with overtones of herbal tea and apple. Zingy on the palate and very gluggable. This is light and zippy and is the answer to a sunny, warm afternoon. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Salomon-Undhof 2014 Steinterrassen Riesling (Kremstal). The yeasty overtones of fermentation that still cling to this fresh wine are pervaded by lemony freshness. The palate is taut and almost austere with the briskness of that citrus freshness always at its core. There is an intriguing, savory fillip on the finish. Save this for a hot day. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Hirsch 2014 Zöbinger Riesling (Kamptal). Tart greengage plums join grapefruit and lemon in this fresh, light-bodied offering. Traces of yeast add some midpalate texture to a very refreshing, easy-drinking wine. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Kohl 2014 Riesling (Niederösterreich). Tart greengage plums join grapefruit and lemon in this fresh, light-bodied offering. Traces of yeast add some midpalate texture to a very refreshing, easy-drinking wine. Vignaioli Selection. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Steininger 2014 Riesling (Kamptal). Just a touch of passion fruit and mango hovers tropically over this fresh, zesty Riesling which is slightly less focused on the palate than the nose. This is zesty and refreshing. Ideal for a summer party when it's hot and you need cooling down. Select Wines Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Weingut Groiss 2014 Riesling (Wagram). A taut, clean Riesling that seems a little subdued in its flavors. The palate is clean and fresh and offers the refreshment one expects from dry, Austrian Riesling. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Lackner Tinnacher 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). Beautifully fragrant and rounded Sauvignon Blanc flavors of cut grass and green banana are tempered by richer yeast notes. The palate shows a similar balance but crisp citrus

flavors and tingling freshness give extra tone. This is elegant and made for the table. MS Walker. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

92 Tement 2014 Grassnitzberg Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). A riper, more mature and rounded aspect characterizes this Sauvignon Blanc. Creaminess and texture align themselves with the fresh acidity. There are smoky, flinty notes in the background and the fruit notes remain in the fresh citrus spectrum. They linger beautifully on the finish. A balanced, grown-up wine destined for the table. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

91 Esterházy 2014 Estoras Sauvignon Blanc (Burgenland). Flinty notes of smoke with glints of ripe yellow stone fruit and mandarin peel make for an appetizing opening. The palate is rounder and fleshier but toned by citric freshness and enticing spice. An unusual Sauvignon Blanc that enriches the varietal genre. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Gross 2014 Steirische Klassik Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). Grassy notes with overtones of nettle and elderflower are joined by rounder, yeastier notes on the palate that also make for a softer, toned-down texture that counters the greenish flavors beautifully. The interplay between those two poles, enlivened by citrus, makes for great, appetizing drinking that finishes in lemony zing. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Wohlmuth 2014 Steinriegl Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). Zingy and restrained Sauvignon Blanc, none of those tropical top notes but greenish concentration on the palate. The slender palate shows tingling freshness and verve reminiscent of grapefruit zest. Very refreshing. VOS Selections. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Neumeister 2014 Steirische Klassik Sauvignon Blanc (Südoststeiermark). Restrained notes of yellow plum pervade the greenish, citric freshness. The palate is crisp and grassy, refreshing but textured, with added interest from fragrant lime peel. A concentrated palate leads to a superclean, lime-tingling finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

89 Hillinger 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Burgenland). Pink grapefruit plays among the greener top notes while the palate is juicy with green plum fruit. This is appetizing and utterly friendly with a totally clean, long finish. Select Wines Inc. —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Tement 2014 Steirische Klassik Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). A very restrained nose of rounded ripeness belies the aromatic nature

of this grape variety, but the palate shows the verve and zing we are accustomed to. The greenish notes are mere glints in the background but refreshment is guaranteed. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Umatham 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Burgenland). Ripe, rounded peach flavors with an earthy edge on the nose give way to a tingling, peppery, grassy and grapefruit-driven palate full of zing and crispness. This is tingling and fresh. Drink soon. Winemonger. —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Gross 2014 Jakobi Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). A rather subdued nose turns into a citric pool of grapefruit pulp and peel on the palate. This is fresh and easy, light and zippy. The finish is clean-cut and refreshing. Drink soon. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

PINOT BLANC

91 Prieler 2014 Seeberg Pinot Blanc (Burgenland). A rather neutral nose leads to a brisk and citric palate that is buffered by leesy texture and just a touch of smoke. This is so subtly done that there is quite a thrill between lemony, bright freshness and sonorous roundedness. This will benefit from a little bottle age and will be more mellow in 2016. Right now it's fresh and beautifully bracing. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Stift Klosterneuburg 2014 Jungherrn Weissburgunder (Vienna). Ripe green pear peel, soft hints of yellow plum and fresh grapefruit notes join for an appetizing opening. The palate is slender but concentrated and adds a yeasty, almost herbal touch. There is proper texture and mouthfeel, making this a wine to linger over. The finish echoes with lemony freshness. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Nittaus Anita und Hans 2014 Heideboden Pinot Blanc (Burgenland). Totally lemon-focused but very textured Pinot Blanc with a mineral dimension. Its slender palate with pointed, brisk acidity that is very typical for the vintage. The lemony freshness on the finish destines this for the table. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Lenz Moser 2014 Klosterkeller Siegendorf Weissburgunder (Burgenland). A very neutral but clean nose is followed by a slender palate with soft tones of pear and white plum. A subtle, quiet wine that will serve well in situations where a versatile crowd-pleaser is needed. This one has purity and freshness. Niche Import Company. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Tement 2014 Steirische Klassik Weissburgunder (Südsteiermark). A very neutral nose

leads to a textured palate on a slender body with crisp, fresh acidity and pleasing notes of lemon. This is neutral, fresh and versatile. Drink soon while fresh. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

GELBER MUSKATELLER

91 Wohlmuth 2014 Steinriegl Gelber Muskateller (Südsteiermark). The intensity of elder blossom in full flower, dusty with pollen, forms a lasting impression on the nose and carries seamlessly onto the palate where it is joined and tempered by lemony freshness and a brisk, refreshing core of lemony acidity. This is heady and unusual: It speaks both of its aromatic variety and its steep, stony site. VOS Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

89 Gross 2014 Steirische Klassik Gelber Muskateller (Südsteiermark). Elderflower and lemon provide the aromatic lead on this superlight and dry Muskateller. This is so spritzzy, so refreshing and so spirited that it simply demands to be opened on a hot summer day, preferably at a party. At just 10.5%, this will make conversations sparkle. Drink soon. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$NA

89 Tement 2014 Steirische Klassik Gelber Muskateller (Südsteiermark). An incredible lightness of touch is bottled here. This is barely there, lemon- and faintly blossom-scented. There is a balance between a bone-dry, ultralight body and scented freshness. This is the ideal wine for a heatwave, or whenever conversation needs lifting. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.

abv: 11%

Price: \$23

87 Neumeister 2014 Steirische Klassik Gelber Muskateller (Südoststeiermark). Faint floral notes play around the citric core of this very slender, very light Muskateller. Its bone-dry nature and fresh acidity make it a mouthwatering apéritif. Drink soon. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

WHITE BLENDS

92 Umathum 2014 Gelber-Roter Veltliner (Burgenland). Yeasty notes mingle among the rose petal scents of this red and green Traminer blend. With a little air, notions of orange peel appear and display the textured, structured but pliantly soft core of this appetizing and unusual wine. Lemony freshness provides poise for the toned aromatics. The more you linger, the more facets you discover, including the long finish. Winemonger. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

90 Arndorfer 2014 Vorgeschmack (Niederösterreich). The scent of ripe Cox Orange Pip-pin apples is joined on the palate by fizzing, savory spice and lashings of white pepper in this unusual but fitting blend of Austria's chief varieties: Grüner

Veltliner and Riesling. One brings spice and savory flavors, the other lots of verve and apple fruit. It has the freshness of 2014 and lots of personality. It should become a party favorite! Indie Wineries Division. —A.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$19

90 Stift Klosterneuburg 2014 White (Wiener Gemischter Satz). Floral hints of damask rose give way to zesty grapefruit peel. Despite a heart of citric freshness there is ample texture on the concentrated palate and a whole lot of verve. This Gemischter Satz is from a co-planted, co-vinified vineyard. In the glass, the numerous grape varieties take their turn. The finish is whistle-clean with the typical citrus zestiness of 2014. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$23

90 Stift Klosterneuburg 2014 Zierfandler-Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). The contrast between high-toned acidity and fragrant richness creates real thrill. In the cooler 2014 vintage the usually oily sumptuousness of Rotgipfler and Zierfandler is totally tempered by citric freshness, an incarnation that is no less appetizing. The finish is wonderfully clean and zesty. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

89 Neumeister 2014 Gemischter Satz (Südoststeiermark). The very subtlest hints of white pear flesh reach the nose. The palate is ultralight and totally grapefruit-peel dominated. The finish is whistle clean. This Gemischter Satz comes from a co-planted vineyard and shows the freshness of the 2014 vintage beautifully. Drink soon. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

88 Höppler 2014 Pannonica White (Burgenland). Very slight hints of fresh pear peel on nose and palate are joined by fresh lemon concentration on the palate. Chardonnay in the blend provides midpalate texture and with a bit of air there also are notions of riper, juicier yellow pear. Not a showy but rather subtle and light-bodied. Will work on its own or as a versatile accompaniment on the table. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$11

88 Spaetrot Gebeshuber 2014 Klassik (Thermenregion). Zestiness pervades nose and palate: this is so citric and fresh that grapefruit peel is the chief marker. This typical Thermenregion blend of its two indigenous white grapes, Zierfandler and Rotgipfler, shows briskness throughout and will deliver welcome, clean-cut refreshment on a hot day. Drink soon. Vignaioli Selection. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Stadlmann 2014 Anninger Zierfandler (Thermenregion). Very faint peach notes break

through the lemony freshness of this slender, golden wine. The usually richer, more sumptuous nature of Zierfandler shines through on the textured palate and in the glimpses of generous oiliness that flank the edges of the central citrus focus. This is lovely now but will reward cellaring. The finish is poised and clean-cut, lemony and long. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

92 Tinhof 2014 Neuburger (Burgenland). The subtlest overtones of pine and mint hover above the rather citrus-focused nose that also comes with a good dose of white pepper. The palate reverberates with savory, herbal spiciness. A cooler vintage has turned the usually very nutty and rounded Neuburger into a spicier but equally interesting food companion. Lemon zest and pepperiness provide a lasting finish. Carlo Huber Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

91 Wohlmuth 2014 Gola Pinot Gris (Südsteiermark). Very subtle hints of ripe pear on the nose lead to a citrus-dominated palate that has a pleasant bitter-almond edge and a finely textured midpalate. Nonetheless, the zesty freshness is the main feature of this tricky vintage. This is Pinot Gris but not as you know it—here it has the slender verve of a stony, steep site. VOS Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

90 Stadlmann 2014 Anninger Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). The intriguing nose suggests the ripe flesh of yellow plums drizzled with lemon juice, this is subtly aromatic and immensely appetizing. Riper fruit is revealed on the slight and light palate, once again tempered by lemony freshness. If you like exquisite lightness, this is your ideal, barely-there summer wine. If you have yet to discover Rotgipfler, you are in for a rewarding surprise. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

89 Elfenhof 2013 Spätlese Gewürztraminer (Burgenland). Slightly high-toned notions of rose petal mingle with lemon on nose and palate of this off-dry, richly textured yet balanced Gewürztraminer. This is not as heady as you may expect and will be a treat with spicy Asian dishes or ripe washed-rind cheeses. Lemon and rose petal make another very fetching appearance on the finish. —A.K.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$NA

89 Leth 2014 Hofweingarten Roter Veltliner (Wagram). Following a rather neutral nose, the freshness and texture of grapefruit peel fizzles away on the palate. There is concentration, briskness and texture while the finish is lip-smackingly lemony. Drink soon. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Wohlmuth 2014 Klassik Sauvignon (Südsteiermark). A restrained hint of earthiness does not forebode the intense lime and grapefruit-like freshness on the palate of this slender, fresh and yet concentrated wine. The finish lingers and is whistle-clean. VOS Selections. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Neumeister 2014 Steirische Klassik Morillon (Südoststeiermark). Very slight fresh citrus notes emanate at first and become more pronounced with air, the palate is light and equally lemony, with lovely texture and freshness. A light-footed Chardonnay which is known as Morillon in Styria, that will please those who like aromatic restraint. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Neumeister 2014 Steirische Klassik Grauburgunder (Südoststeiermark). Aromatic restraint with just a dash of lemony freshness characterizes nose and palate. There is a pleasant mid-palate texture and a friendly, bright citrus nerve. This is a rather slender Pinot Gris. Drink soon. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

82 Lackner Tinnacher 2014 Welschriesling (Südsteiermark). Despite its slenderness, this Welschriesling (no relative of Riesling) fizzes with refreshment and verve. Its slim body carries fresh lemon flavors and treads lightly. Drink soon—for best results, on a sweltering day. MS Walker. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉS

90 Schloss Gobelsburg 2014 Domäne Gobelsburg Rosé (Niederösterreich). The nose does not give too much away. But the palate holds grapefruit zest cushioned by red fruit aromas that are reminiscent of rosehip and hibiscus tea. Lovely, grown-up, restrained and serious enough for food with lasting length and elegance. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Winzer Krems 2014 Zweigelt Rosé (Niederösterreich). Fragrant, fresh, young and zippy, this is a simple, fruity summer rosé. The nose expresses only citrus but the mild palate shows some of the cherry-ish roundness of Zweigelt. Its light body and full fruit make it the ideal light refreshment. Drink as soon as possible. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Fritsch 2014 Rosé vom Zweigelt Wagram). Citrus and soft red berry flavors are restrained on nose and palate of this pale, pink and slender rosé. But the bone-dry nature of the wine makes for great refreshment. Drink soon. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Markus Altenburger 2014 Jerry & Barry Für Fruchtige Rosé (Weinland Österreich). Muddled notes of ripe berry on the nose come into sharper view on the citrus-focused palate. There is a vestige of tannin and pleasant dryness. Drink soon. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.K.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Nadler 2014 Zweigelt Rosé (Carnuntum). Fleshier fruit flavors or ripe cherry characterize this soft, pliable rosé. The finish loses focus, but this is refreshing when well-chilled. Drink soon. Robert Houde Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

ZWIEGELT

92 Netzl 2013 Classic Zweigelt (Carnuntum). While this needs a little air, the nose is spicy, full of that Zweigelt pepper, with subtle but gorgeously aromatic notes of violets and black cherries. This is understated and seductive. The floral, spiced fruit continues throughout the slender but concentrated palate and makes for a lovely, clean, evocative and lasting finish. It's elegance rather than power that convinces here. Hurray to that. KW Selection. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Stift Klosterneuburg 2013 Zweigelt (Thermenregion). This enormously pluggable wine is like an ode to cherries, both red and black. This has a textured palate but remains light and is very attractive in its fresh-faced, straightforward style with barely-there tannins and ample, generous fruit. If you love lighter yet full-fruited reds this will be your winner. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Leth 2013 Klassik Zweigelt (Wagram). Black cherry and blueberry mix on nose and palate of this fruit-forward red. They are joined by a lively, invigorating pepperiness and balanced by freshness. This makes for joyful, uncomplicated but still sophisticated drinking. The cherry fruit lingers beautifully. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Nadler 2013 Rote Rieden Zweigelt (Carnuntum). Alongside the fresh red cherry fruit there are hints of iron oxide and pepper. None dominate, but they present themselves in beautiful waves making for a very intriguing palate with soft, pliable tannins and a fresh backbone. A very authentic rendition of Zweigelt. So fresh and so more-ish. Robert Houde Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Weingut Groiss 2013 Classic Zweigelt (Wagram). An intriguing headiness of red cherry promises an unadulterated purity of fruit. On the palate there is pepper, too, and more of that ripe, red cherry. This is fruit-forward, refreshing and simple but at the same time very balanced, fresh-faced and wonderfully authentic: Its honesty shines

alongside the pure cherry fruit. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

90 Zantho 2013 Zweigelt (Burgenland). Ample blueberry and black cherry fruit is toned by fresh acidity and held in a concentrated body. Little by little the Zweigelt pepperiness creeps in and makes for a punchy, focused red with just the right amount of still perceptible tannins. Great clean finish. Vin Divino. *Best Buy.* —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2013 Zweigelt (Burgenland). Very juicy, easy blueberry-fruited, light Zweigelt made for fun, easy drinking. Unpretentious and honest, this could also be chilled in summer. Wonderful for picnics and other occasions where a joyful but uncomplicated red is needed. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Rosenhof 2013 Zweigelt (Burgenland). Fleshy, ripe black cherry fruit pervades nose and palate, there are some palpable tannins framing all that fruit and of course the telltale notes of Zweigelt pepper. An uncomplicated red for every day. Drink soon. Blue Danube Wine Co. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Sepp Moser 2013 Hedwighof Zweigelt (Burgenland). Just a hint of cinnamon hovers over the scent of ripe blueberry. On the palate, Zweigelt's pepperiness pervades the juiciness of the fruit. This is simple, light-bodied, with barely any tannins, but full-fruited and fun. Drink soon. Williams Corner Wine. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

83 Salzl Seewinkelhof 2013 Zweigelt (Burgenland). Juicy blueberry and ripe blackberry dominate nose and palate on this easy-drinking, fresh-faced and fruit-forward red. The tannins are barely there and while the body boasts ample fruit, there is no heaviness. This is Zweigelt as it's meant to be: fun! Charles River Wine Company, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

92 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2013 Kalk und Schiefer Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). The white pepper of Blaufränkisch is joined here by rounder spices of oak. The fruit is ripe but not plump, everything is in balance and makes for a refreshing yet rich red, dense with blueberry and black cherry flavors. There is energy and drive and no heaviness at all. This is full of life. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Prieler 2013 Johanneshöhe Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). A dark and brooding aspect of smoke hangs over the black cherry fruit. This is still a little closed but the palate reveals elegance

and concentration and wonderfully palpable chignon tannins. This is fresh and has pure focus with some hints of iron oxide and a slight dusting of pepper: a wine of great charm. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Markus Altenburger 2013 Ried Satz Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). Crushed blackberries with sprays of white pepper dance on nose and palate of this friendly, spicy and slender red. There is verve and focus but above all, lovely, clean, tart fruit with abundant pepper. This is really pretty and appealing with its disarming honesty. Refreshing and easy-drinking with added spice. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

90 Weninger 2013 Horitschoner Blaufränkisch (Mittelburgenland). Pepper and focus characterize the slender, tart fruit of this refreshing, vibrant red. The tannins have that lovely palpable verve that signals just a little rusticity. Have this with hearty food or charcuterie. Thanks to the fresh acidity this is rather versatile with food—experiment. Circo Vino. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Zantho 2013 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). Slightly broader, less focused notes of cherry play about the nose, the same ripeness of fruit is apparent on the palate where it is tempered by fresh acidity. An easy-drinking, medium-bodied red with party potential. Vin Divino. **Best Buy.** —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

RED BLENDS

92 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2013 Heideboden (Burgenland). Fleshy blueberries are met with soft vanilla notes on this full-fruited yet light-footed red. On the palate the bursting blueberry notes are even more appetizing and joined by pleasant pepper with just a hint of tobacco. There is something rather seductive about these fruit-driven reds that deliver more than simple fruit. Utterly delicious, very elegant and dangerously drinkable. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Arndorfer 2013 Vorgeschmack Red (Niederösterreich). While the nose of this purplish red is almost closed, the palate conveys lots of peppery-spiced black cherry tamed by slight but pleasantly textured tannins that lend slender structure. There is freshness, balance and verve in this unusual blend of Austrian everyman Zweigelt and silky Pinot Noir. An intriguing blend that keeps you coming back for more. Indie Wineries Division. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Netzl 2013 Cuvée (Carnuntum). Cherry and pepper are the hallmarks of Zweigelt. Here, they are very aromatic: While muted on the nose, the palate is fresh, lively and very authentic. Merlot adds riper fruit while Blaufränkisch contributes

more pepper and structure. This is a very harmonious blend. Lovely now but with the mileage to last a number of years in the cellar. Aromatic cherry fruit echoes on the palate. Drink now until 2020. KW Selection. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Höppler 2013 Pannonica Red (Weinland Österreich). A touch of smoke precedes notes of ripe, black cherries and baked plums whose fruit becomes even fleshier on the rounded, fruit-forward and rather juicy palate of this blend. Tannins are very soft. Fresh acidity keeps the rounded fruit in check. Drink soon. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

88 Nastl 2013 Classic Cuvée (Niederösterreich). Peppery spice is as important here as ripe, luscious cherry and plum fruit: this blend unites the pepperiness of Austrian Zweigelt with the fleshy roundness of Merlot. There is a lick of vanilla on the finish to accompany the ripe fruit flavors. Wine Without Borders. **Best Buy.** —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

OTHER RED WINES

93 Stadlmann 2013 Classic Pinot Noir (Thermenregion). The scent of very ripe, crunchy Bing cherries is heady at first. On the palate, red cherry fruit dominates the soft, pliant and lighter body, fringed by pleasant earthiness. This is Pinot Noir in a very Central European idiom: Not weighed down with heavy oak but confident enough to let fruit and place speak for itself. This is elegant and soft, light-bodied yet ripe. If you listen to this, it will slowly reveal its undoubted beauty. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

93 Weninger 2010 Kalkofen Pinot Noir (Burgenland). Spicy oak flavors dominate the nose and marry beautifully with the red berry, cherry and forest floor notes. This is Pinot made in an international style that nonetheless keeps its Austrian backbone of fresh acidity and lovely, tingling pepper spice. The fact that this is from 2010 and has just began to show its colors signals its seriousness. It is ready now but will also reward further cellaring. Such depth and length at 12.5% are a real achievement—in its own wonderful way, Pinot is never about power. Circo Vino. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

88 Zantho 2013 St. Laurent (Burgenland). Very ripe black cherries mix with the smell of roasted chestnuts. The ripeness of the fruit pervades the palate and downs it in lush softness. The tannins are equally pliable. There is just enough freshness to keep the balance. Drink soon. Vin Divino. **Best Buy.** —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

CHAMPAGNE NONVINTAGE

93 Charles Ellner NV Grande Réserve Brut (Champagne). With a predominance of Chardonnay, this tightly crisp wine has a steely, mineral character. It is tight, tense and nervy while not losing sight of lemon and white fruit flavors. Finely structured and impressive, it has a well-balanced dosage to round things out at the end. Massanois Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

92 Charles Ellner NV Premier Cru Brut (Champagne). Coming from premier cru vineyards, this lively wine is beautifully ripe with a balanced dosage lying under the white and yellow fruitiness. The fruit gives the wine a rich character, full and creamy in the mouth and ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

92 Lombard et Cie NV Tanagra Brut Grand Cru (Champagne). With 80% Chardonnay in the blend, this is a mature-tasting wine, much of which comes from the Côte des Blancs. It has an enticing toasty character that has changed the initial fruitiness of the wine to one where the secondary flavors dominate. It is ripe, intense with acidity, a tangy texture, spice and almonds. Drink now. Morandell Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Vadin-Plateau NV Grande Réserve Brut (Champagne). This is an ageworthy wine, a classic blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. It is rich while also having great acidity, fragrant citrus and tight, steely texture. These elements mean this complex wine, while ready to drink, could age in bottle through at least 2016. Winesmith. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

91 Goutorbe-Bouillot NV Louise B. Cuvée Prestige Brut (Champagne). With three years aging in bottle before release, this is rich and full on the palate. Hints of toast show how well it is developing to give a ripe, complex wine that could still age further. To experience it at its best, drink from 2017. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$58

91 Vincent Couche NV Chloé Extra Brut (Champagne). Chloé is a good representation of Vincent Couche's style of wine. With ripe fruit coming from the Aube, it offers well-balanced dryness, giving a rich wine that has an orange tang as well as a steely aftertaste. It is ready to drink, although it will benefit for keeping in bottle until the end of 2015. Scott Paul. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Charles Ellner NV Brut Integral (Champagne). This is the driest of the Ellner

BUYINGGUIDE

wines, with no dosage. The result is relatively soft at first, although as the wine opens out it gives an almost wincingly fresh character. A blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this wine should age in bottle. Drink after 2016. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

90 Fluteau NV Brut Blanc de Noirs (Champagne). Made mainly from Pinot Noir, this is a full wine, intensely fruity and ripe. Apple and sweet lime flavors give a rich feeling, while a touch of minerality adds the proper texture and balance. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Jean Josselin NV Cordon Royal Brut (Champagne). This is a Pinot Noir-dominated wine, with intense acidity as well as attractive, rich white fruits. There is a touch of maturity, of ripeness that gives the wine a full-bodied character. Add in some toastiness and this is a well-integrated wine that's ready to drink. Magron Skoglund. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$37

90 Louis de Sacy NV Cuvée Inédite Brut Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). Full and creamy, this is a ripe style of Blanc de Blancs. It may miss the style's minerality although it makes up for it with its rich, smooth texture and yellow fruit flavors. A gentle tang gives extra freshness at the end, while the aftertaste provides a reminder of the wine's generous character. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

90 Piot-Sévilano NV Brut Prestige (Champagne). This may be a nonvintage wine, but it's obvious from the yellow straw color that the wine is very ready to drink. The taste confirms this with a smooth palate with yellow fruit flavors and acidity that is well integrated. It's a delicious wine, fruity and generous at the end. Encore Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

90 Vincent Couche NV Brut Nature (Champagne). With almost zero dosage, this is dry but it doesn't feel at all unbalanced because of the ripe, fragrant fruitiness. The wine is full in the mouth, with lively acidity. It is ready to drink, particularly with food. Scott Paul. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Charles Ellner NV Qualité Extra Brut (Champagne). Ripe and immediately attractive, this is an apple and lime flavored wine. Weight from the Pinots in the blend gives a rich, full-bodied backdrop. There is just a hint of toast in this bottling, showing it is very ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

89 Goutorbe-Bouillot NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). This is a ripe and soft wine, full of strawberry flavors and gentle acidity. That makes for balanced wine with a light texture and a deli-

cious fruitiness. A bite of spice at the end gives a delicate aftertaste. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$49

89 Poissinet NV Séduction Brut Rosé (Champagne). This deliciously fresh and crisp wine comes from the Marne Valley. It's a blend of Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir, giving the attractive salmon-pink color and red currant fruit flavors. Tense acidity suggests the wine could age in bottle. Drink after 2015. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$51

88 Charles Ellner NV Carte Blanche Brut (Champagne). This yeasty, ripe and fruity wine is given great shape by the mineral-taut texture. It is on the dry side, crisp with well-structured apples and pears. The breadly character gives extra richness and balances the tight acidity at the end. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

88 Goutorbe-Bouillot NV Brut Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). This pure Chardonnay has a tight, nervy mineral texture that gives great freshness as well as a crisp apple skin and lemon zest character. It is fruity, full of lively acidity that goes with the perfumed, refreshing aftertaste. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$43

88 Jean Josselin NV Alliance Brut (Champagne). Dominated by Pinot Noir, this Champagne is rich, full and creamy. With some bottle age, it has become lightly toasty while still retaining a fruity citrus and apple character. Magron Skoglund. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

88 Liebart-Régnier NV Brut Chardonnay (Champagne). With its lively mousse, this is a bright wine, fruity and stylish. Citrus dominates, along with pink grapefruit that is shot through with lime. There is just a light, more mineral, texture with a dry, crisp aftertaste. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$54

88 Lombard et Cie NV Brut Premier Cru (Champagne). Half and half Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this elegant wine comes from Premier Cru vineyards. It's soft and creamy, indicating a high dosage. That is balanced by the crisp fruit and bright acidity that gives the wine a lift. It is a fresh wine, probably best drunk young and fruity. Morandell Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Louis de Sacy NV Cuvée Tentation Extra Dry (Champagne). In Champagne-speak, Extra Dry means sweeter than Brut, so this is a soft wine, fruity rather than mineral. Pear and fresh green plum flavors are balanced by orange zest and final acidity. The wine could do with more time in the bottle to ensure that the fruitiness is better inte-

grated into the texture. Drink this from early 2016. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Poissinet NV Constance Brut (Champagne). This comes from a producer based in the Marne Valley, so it is not unusual to find a 100% Pinot Meunier wine. It gives great fruitiness, apples and crisp pears as well as bright, ready-to-drink acidity. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$53

88 Thienot NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). Well balanced, this red fruited-wine is also fully structured with a mineral background. With a dosage that brings out the texture as well as the fruit, this is a great apéritif-style of wine. Drink now. Thiénot USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Vadin-Plateau NV Brut Blanc de Noirs (Champagne). Blending Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, this is rich and full in the mouth. It has great acidity to go with its raspberry and red currant fruitiness. To give structure, a tense, steely backbone brings in the acidity. Winesmith. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

87 Charles Ellner NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). An attractive orange-pink wine, this offers ripe red berry and currant fruits. It is full in the mouth with a touch of tannin and bitterness from the recent bottling. It is tight at the end, crisp and needing some bottle age. Drink after 2015. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

87 Demarjory NV Cuvée Céleste Brut (Champagne). This nonvintage Brut is soft, creamy and rounded. It is only lightly textured with its peach and apple fruit flavors and a hint of spice. It is ready to drink. Cent'Anni. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Demarjory NV Cuvée Céleste Brut Rosé (Champagne). Orange-pink in color, this soft and ripe-feeling Champagne is made from Pinot Noir. It is packed with ripe red fruits with a full mouthful of mousse. Round and generous, it is ready to drink. Cent'Anni. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Goutorbe-Bouillot NV Carte d'Or Brut (Champagne). This fresh, crisp wine has layers of lemon over a lively mousse. It offers a mineral texture allied to great fruitiness and youthful acidity. Drink now, although this bottling will benefit from further aging. European Wine Gourmet. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

87 Jean Josselin NV Cuvée des Jean Brut (Champagne). This is the main nonvintage wine from this southern Champagne Aube-based producer. It's a cuvée based around the producer's specialty of Pinot Noir. With fresh acidity over rich white

fruits, apples and pears, it is balanced, fragrant and ready to drink. Magron Skoglund. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$30

87 Lombard et Cie NV Brut Référence (Champagne). This nonvintage cuvée from Lombard is soft and fruity with a relatively high dosage that gives a rounded character. Red apple and a light touch of spice balance with the full acidity. The bottling tasted here is young, so it would be worth keeping until the end of 2015. Morandell Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

87 Lombard et Cie NV Rosé Brut Premier Cru (Champagne). This salmon pink wine is crisp and fresh on the palate, with some bitterness in the background. Acidity and red currant fruits dominate, suggesting the wine could do with more time in bottle. Drink after 2015. Morandell Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

87 Piot-Sévilano NV Tradition Extra Brut (Champagne). Dominated by Pinot Meunier, this is a soft and ripe wine despite its low dosage. It is aromatic with summer flowers and quince fruit flavors, while the aftertaste brings out a drier character. Vincelles village, home of the producer, is right at the western limit of Champagne production. Encore Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

86 Liebart-Régner NV Brut (Champagne). There are flavors of peanuts as well as the more usual white fruits in this wine that is rounded and soft, with gentle acidity. The wine, fresh at the end, is ready to drink. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$56

86 Piot-Sévilano NV Tradition Brut (Champagne). Rounded, soft and smoothly creamy, this is a ripe wine dominated by Pinot Meunier. It's an open wine, fruity and ready to drink. Encore Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

85 Jean Josselin NV Audace Brut Rosé (Champagne). Bright pink in color, this rosé is full in the mouth with red berry flavors and intense acidity. A touch of bitterness gives a sharp aftertaste. Magron Skoglund. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$40

84 Demarjory NV Cuvée Céleste Extra Brut (Champagne). Hardly dry, this wine has an edge of bitterness and seems unbalanced. The citrus and red apple fruits are not in alignment with the nut and white plum-skin tanginess, leaving a sharp aftertaste. Cent'Anni. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

VINTAGE

93 Liebart-Régner 2008 Excélia Brut (Champagne). Mainly Pinot Noir with a shot of Chardonnay, this is developing into an impressive wine. It has ripe fruit with hints of tropicality as well tighter lemon zest. The toastiness is just beginning to develop and the wine will be at its peak from 2016. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$56

93 Vincent Couche 2004 Millésime Brut (Champagne). From a classic Champagne vintage year, this wine is just hinting at maturity. It is poised between freshness and richness, with layers of toast under the almonds and ripe sliced apples. Stylish and elegant, it delivers a brilliant fresh aftertaste. Scott Paul. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

92 Charles Ellner 2005 Brut Prestige (Champagne). This well-balanced wine is both rich and tightly fresh and crisp. It's aromatic from the steely Chardonnay that treads a fine line between generous fruit and great minerality. The wine is just reaching its peak with touches of toast beginning to develop. Drink now through 2019. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$70

92 Veuve Doussot 2011 Cuvée Ernestine Millésime Brut (Champagne). Still young, this is a ripe fruit-driven wine. It suggests green apple slices as well as warmer yellow fruits that give richness. It should be aged to bring out greater texture and character. Drink from 2017. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$110

91 Charles Ellner 2006 Brut Prestige (Champagne). The wine still tastes young, with ripe yellow fruits and bright acidity. Chardonnay dominates the blend, allowing hints of minerality to come through the lime and lemon crispness. Still developing its more toasty character, it will be better from 2017. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$65

91 Fluteau 2006 Cuvée Symbiose (Champagne). Based in the Aube in southern Champagne, Fluteau's vineyards are in the Seine valley. This crisp, tight and dry wine is balanced although still young. Textured crisp apple and lemon flavors have a taut, nervy character. It needs to age for a few more months, so drink from 2016. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$45

90 Poissinet 2008 Cuvée Carte d'Or Brut (Champagne). Showing signs of toastiness, this is a ripe and full-bodied wine. Rich with apples and yellow fruits shot through with lemon, it still could age. Drink from 2016. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$49

89 Vincent Couche 2009 ADN Montgueux (Champagne). Without any dosage, this bone-dry wine has shocking initial acidity that then opens up to allow the attractive white fruits and mineral character to shine. It is six years old, but it still tastes young and should be kept until 2017. Scott Paul. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

87 Jean Josselin 2010 Millésime Brut Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). A fresh, grapefruit and citrus flavored Champagne, this is intensely crisp. It is all fruit with just a hint of zesty texture to give some shape. It could age in bottle for a few more months, so drink from 2016. Magron Skoglund. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$45

87 Vincent Couche 2003 Millésime Brut (Champagne). The hot 2003 vintage was probably not the year to make a vintage Champagne. Soft and rounded, this is missing texture and poise. Certainly now mature, it offers attractive acidity at the end. Scott Paul. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

93 Château Brown 2013 Pessac-Léognan. This sophisticated wood-aged wine comes from a fine year for whites in Pessac-Léognan. Subtle wood supports the rich tropical and yellow fruits as well as the crisper acidity. The texture, with its minerality, is still developing, with good potential. Drink from 2017. Victoire Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

87 Château les Pasquets 2014 Entre-Deux-Mers. There is an unusually high (40%) proportion of Sémillon in the blend, which offers the possibility of aging. Although this wine is fresh, lemony and tightly herbaceous now, it will become more rich and the flavors will deepen. Drink from the end of 2016. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

85 Château Grand Jean 2014 Entre-Deux-Mers. Fruity and juicy, this is an attractive blend of Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc, giving a tight, mineral-driven wine. With its pink grapefruit and crisp green apple fruits, it is young and can age, although not for long. Drink from 2016. Holiday Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$14

85 Château Maison Noble 2014 Entre-Deux-Mers. With its little seasoning of Muscadelle in the blend, this is an attractively perfumed wine. It has bright acidity, plenty of herbaceous flavors

and a final pear and crisp apple aftertaste. Drink from the end of 2015. European Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

BORDEAUX

90 Château de Marsan 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This wine is all about fresh fruit and refreshing acidity. Crisp citrus, green apples and a touch of apricot give a fruitiness contained with a steel and mineral texture. It is full of acidity while keeping a riper, fruity character. Drink from late 2015. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

90 Château la Verrière 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a tangy wine, packed with fruit, orange and lemon zest and a background hint of herbaceousness. A tight, steely texture gives both acidity and the promise of aging. Drink from early 2016. Wine Warehouse Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Château Turcaud 2014 Cuvée Majeure (Bordeaux Blanc). A touch of spice comes from the wood aging. This has plenty of fruit as well, promising a good future. Ripe and rich, this should age well, so drink from 2016. The Maurice Robert family winery, in the heart of Entre-Deux-Mers, is now in its third generation. The Sauve Majeure Benedictine abbey in the village is on the UNESCO World Heritage pilgrim route. Sussex Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Château Jean Faux 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This is off dry with a soft, rounded character. A warm touch of spice and toast rounds out the tangy fruit. Peppered orange and green plums are laced with acidity. It needs to all come together, so drink from 2016. The chateau's consulting wine-maker is Stéphane Derenoncourt. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Boisson 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Steel and nervy mineralogy are the hallmarks of this wine at this stage. It's still waiting for the fruit to develop, but expect crisp citrus and succulent apples. The aftertaste, tensely fresh now, should soften as the wine develops. This 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sémillon blend comes from the estate's small vineyard on the slope near Cadillac. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Château Borie de Noaillan 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle blend is rounded and ripe, with yellow fruit flavors to go with the fresher acidity. It shows the ripe, tropical side of the Sauvignon Blanc—rich and full in the mouth. Drink from early 2016. Delirium Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

88 Château Fonfroide 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Bright, crisp and fruity, this is a classic white Bordeaux. It is fresh with just a touch of herbaceousness, followed by a riper orange and green plum character. The aftertaste brings in spice as well as fruity acidity. Produced by Crus et Domaines de France. Advantage International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 Château la Croix de Roche 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Attractively perfumed this ripe wine has hints of the crisp acidity that is also there. It's a fresh wine with the potential of richness. Ripe pink grapefruit and tangy acidity are balanced by the warmer flavors of pear and quince. Drink from late 2015. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Château Lamothe-Vincent 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Full of acidity, this is also a really fruity 100% Sauvignon Blanc. Great citrus and green apple flavors go with a mineral edge and a final fresh, crisp aftertaste. Drink from late 2015. Laville Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Château Lauduc 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This wine is crisp and packed with both acidity and lively citrus fruits, balanced between fruit and freshness. It makes a good apéritif wine, light and very much in balance. The mostly red-wine property, owned by Régis and Hervé Grandeau, sits on a slope above the Right Bank of the Garonne River only four miles from Bordeaux city. Lanterna Distributors Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 Chateau le Grand Verdu 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This is totally fruit-driven wine. With very fresh citrus acidity, it is as crisp as possible while not losing sight of the potential of its white fruits. There is a delicious steely edge as well as great acidity at the end. The wine is a blend from vineyards planted with 60% Sauvignon blanc, 30% Sémillon and 10% Muscadelle. The estate has been in the Le Grix de la Salle family for 100 years. Petit Pois. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Château Pilet 2014 Les Hauts de Massonne (Bordeaux Blanc). The Queyren family's 100 years in the wine business makes good use of its Entre-Deux-Mers' vineyard of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon. This is a wine with some wood aging, giving spice and ripe yellow fruits in balance. A strong line of acidity cuts through this warmer, toasty character to leave an aftertaste of fresh citrus. Malbec & Malbec Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Mademoiselle Comédie 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Ripe green and white fruits give a fresh while warm character to this wine. An herbaceous element brings in a more tangy character. It is fresh at the end, very fruity while still young.

Drink from late 2015. Produced by Grands Chais de France. Advantage International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Michel Lynch 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a wine with potential. For now, it is textured and tight. For the future, plenty of citrus, crisp acidity and ripe apple flavors promise a fruity, fragrant wine. The grapes, vinified in wood, are from the Graves and Entre-Deux-Mers. Drink from 2016. Verity Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Chateau Haut Rian 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Ripe and fruity, this wine brings out apricot and pear flavors. It is rounded, full of fruit as well as balanced acidity. It is ready to drink but will be better from late 2015. The vineyard, about two-thirds old-vine Sémillon and one-third Sauvignon Blanc, tends to be harvested during cool mornings. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Château la France 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a soft wine, ripe with lime and grapefruit flavors that are sweetened with juicy red apple. It's tangy as well, laced with orange zest and filled with steely acidity. It should age a few months, so drink from late 2015. Plume Ridge. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

87 Château Larroque 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This perfumed wine discloses hints of apricots and white peaches as well as ripe lime juice. It is balanced, fruity with a good touch of minerality to give texture. The aftertaste is all about fresh fruits that will soften over the next few months. Produced by the Ducourt family, first in Bordeaux in 1858 and now one of the largest independent producers in the region. Philippe Ducourt handles the vineyards and Jérémy Ducourt makes this wine. BNP Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Chateau les Tuilleries 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Tight and tangy, this is the epitome of an herbaceous wine. Packed with fruit, it is just emerging into a rounder, fuller future, conveying great acidity along with hints of richer yellow and white fruits. Drink from early 2016. WW Cellar. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Château Pilet 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a spicy wine, but it is more about ripe fruits, apricot and peach as well as a twist of lemon. The aftertaste is fresh and fruity. The Queyren family's 100 years in the wine business makes good use of its Entre-Deux-Mers' vineyard of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon. Canals Bottlestops. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Reynon 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. With green plum and crisp citrus, this is a deliciously fruity wine. A touch of spice accompanies attractive acidity and a fragrant, perfumed after-

taste. Drink from early 2016. This family estate of oenologue, consultant and Bordeaux university wine professor Denis Dubourdieu produces white wines from 87% Sauvignon Blanc and 13% Sémillon vineyards. He is in the process of abandoning chemicals in the vineyards. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Château Roquefort 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Still young, this wine is showing intense herbaceous characteristics that need to soften. Plenty of fruit between the texture needs to fill out. Hints of apples, pears and quince are all there. Drink from 2016. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Dourthe 2014 La Grande Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). This wine is fresh, crisp and still young. Crisp acidity dominates the strongly citrus character and gives a tight aftertaste of lime and pink grapefruit. This 100% Sauvignon Blanc was aged on the lees for six months to enhance aroma. Wait to drink until early 2016. Thiénot USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 Maison Bouey 2014 Maison Blanche Boisé (Bordeaux Blanc). As its name, boisé, suggests this is a wood-aged white. That gives the wine richness and definite tastiness while keeping plenty of room for the freshest green and citrus fruits and crisp sliced apple. It should be kept a few months, so drink from 2016. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2014 Mouton Cadet (Bordeaux Blanc). A tight, steely and fresh wine, this is dominated by grapefruit, citrus and nervy acidity. A strongly herbaceous character gives a fruity, crisp aftertaste. The blend is Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle. Constellation Brands, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

86 Château Anniche 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This steely, tangy wine has a strongly mineral character—tight, taut and crisp. Green fruits, citrus and a grassy character dominate. It is ready to drink. This is an unusual 75% Sémillon and 25% Sauvignon Blanc blend that tends to round out the taste. Borvin Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Château Buisson-Redon 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Intense with acidity and young fruitiness, this wine needs some time. The potential of the white and citrus fruit is there, with an herbaceous character that needs to soften. Drink from late 2015. Pinnacle International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Château de l'Aubrade 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This wine is smooth while keeping all of its fresh wits about it. Citrus, red apple and quince flavors give both spice and ripe fruits. With its lively,

tangy aftertaste, it does need to broaden out, so drink from 2016. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Château de l'Enclos 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This wine is still young, crisp and needs time to bring out its fruit. It has lively acidity, to be sure, with hints of the citrus and white currant flavors that are to come. Give this wine until 2016. Ruby Wines Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

86 Château Guichot 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Very crisp and fruity, this is a light, bright and refreshing wine, with a tangy edge that gives texture. Apples and a strong citrus character promise a wine that will round out over the next few months. Drink from late 2015. Great Domaines & Estates. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Château Haut Maurin 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). Intense youthful Sauvignon, this is all about lemon, pink grapefruit and acidity. A textured quality gives an orange-zest character while still letting the bright fruit speak freshly and easily. Drink from late 2015. The estate, near Cadillac on Bordeaux's Right Bank, is managed by Jean-Louis Sanfourche, fourth-generation producer at the estate. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Château Lary 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Muscadelle and Sémillon is round, full and softly textured. White fruits, spice and fresh acidity are already well integrated. The end is tangy with lemon zest flavors. Drink now. The estate has been in the Forcato family since 1950. Vision Wine Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Château Mezain 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This herbaceous wine has fresh acidity and crisp, lively texture. Citrus and green apples are given a warmer character by spice and vanilla flavors. The wine is ripe and full in the mouth. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Château Recougne 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Bright with fruit, this is a crisp and fresh wine. Acidity gives a strongly citrus character while allowing the potential of riper fruit and delicious pear juice flavors. It's a wine for apéritif, light and deliciously poised. It is a blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris from the Xavier Milhade family, now in its fourth and fifth generations on the estate. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Dourthe 2013 La Grande Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). Tight and herbaceous, this nervy, crisp wine is full of lemon and lime juice cut with an orange zest. Floral and full of

acidity, it leaves a mineral, steely aftertaste. Thiénot USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

85 Château Au Grand Paris 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This fragrant, spicy wine is soft and rounded. It is still developing to give a wine that will be warm and full. It misses something of the essential fruitiness. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Château du Claouset 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Very fresh and crisp, this is a wine to drink soon. It has great acidity, bright and lively with green fruit flavors and some mandarin zest to give softness at the end. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Château Haut Mouleyre 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This perfumed wine conveys attractive balance between its fruit and fresher acidity. A fresh, crisp texture still needs time to settle in. Drink from the end of 2015. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

85 Château Taussin 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This wine is fresh without being too herbaceous. Sauvignon Blanc controls crispness with flavors of almonds, citrus and quince. The tangy, steely aftertaste will soften from the end of 2015. European Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

85 Château Timberlay 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. Crisp and very fruity, this offers bright and intense acidity. There is a light, tangy texture and a bright, poised aftertaste. Drink now. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

85 Château Vircoulon 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This delicious, fruity wine is full of acidity and crisp fruit. Light, bright and dominated by green and citrus fruits, it is ready to drink now. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Les Hauts de Lagarde 2014 Bordeaux Blanc. This crisp, lemon-flavored wine has a ripe, full character. It is rich with apples, apricots and delicious acidity at the end. Natural Merchants LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Producta Vignobles 2014 Mission Saint-Vincent (Bordeaux Blanc). Tight and packed with acidity, this is a very fruity wine dominated by herbaceous Sauvignon flavors that need to soften. It seems one-dimensional, just herbaceous and citrus. PG Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

84 **Château de Parenchère 2014 Bordeaux Blanc.** Very fruity, this is a crisp, lemon-scented and flavored wine, with grassy, herbaceous character from the green Sauvignon Blanc in the blend. The aftertaste is tight with some bitterness. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

84 **Château des Antonins 2014 Bordeaux Blanc.** This wine is herbaceous, crisp and lively. Tangy acidity envelops the citrus and green apple flavors, while the aftertaste is all about the tight, steely acidity. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

84 **Château Grand Jean 2014 Bordeaux Blanc.** Light and fruity, this is a crisp, fresh wine. Hints of red apples and yellow fruits are cut with lemon zest. The wine is perfumed and ready to drink. Holiday Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

84 **Château la Caderie 2014 Esprit (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is a perfumed wine, fresh with floral character. An attractive crisp edge makes it ready to drink now. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

84 **Château Moulin de Vignolle 2014 Bordeaux Blanc.** Lightly herbaceous, this is a fresh, obviously youthful wine. It is only lightly textured, the main character coming from yellow fruits and pear juice flavors. Drink now, although it will age and improve until 2016. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 **Clos des Moisselles 2014 Le Bord'eaux (Bordeaux Blanc).** Totally fresh, crisp and with great acidity, this wine is all about fruit. Citrus and crisp green apple dominate. The end conveys a bright, tight, mineral texture. OSWinestrade. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

84 **Ginestet 2014 Bordeaux Blanc.** This wine is lightly herbaceous, with a crisp while creamy texture that emphasizes perfumed green fruits and refreshing acidity. It is light, fruity and ready to drink. L & L Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 **Château de Lardiley 2014 Prestige (Bordeaux Blanc).** Juicy fruit aromas lead to a palate conveying tangy flavors and mandarin zest. This is a fruity wine that is not quite balanced, and likely to remain with fruit and texture out of kilter. Astor Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

83 **Château du Cros 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc).** This wine is soft, watery and misses out on character. It is gentle, but with a bitter almond aftertaste. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 **Château Haut Bessac 2014 Bordeaux Blanc.** A soft, simple wine without great character, this is soft, gently fruity and ready to drink. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

CRÉMANT DE BORDEAUX

84 **Château de Piote 2010 Perles Rosé (Crémant de Bordeaux).** Touches of red fruits give this soft and creamy wine attractive acidity. Pepper and spice lead to a bitter aftertaste. Craft Cask and Cork. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

82 **Château de Piote 2012 Perles (Crémant de Bordeaux).** Tight and sharp, this is an herbaceous wine with a strongly citrus character. The aftertaste has some spice. Craft Cask and Cork. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

ROSÉS

89 **Producta Vignobles 2014 La Cabane aux Oiseaux (Bordeaux Rosé).** This wine is ripe, round, and fruity wine. It is refreshing and lively on the midpalate, with a crisp citrus note on the finish. Created by Producta Vignobles, a cooperative wine group. Metrowine Distribution. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 **Château Boisson 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This lively wine revels in its red fruits. It is tight, tangy and packed with fresh flavors, with just the right amount of weight and dryness to put it firmly on the table with food. Langdon Shiverick. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 **Château la Verrière 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This delicious, crisp wine conveys a great bite of fruit and acidity. It has light tannins, tasty crushed raspberry fruits and lively acidity at the end. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Fonfroide 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** Tight, bright and very crisp, this is a lively and fruity wine. Citrus fruit flavors compete happily with the red berries to give a bone-dry wine, light and fresh at the end. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

87 **Château Larroque 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This very fresh wine from the Ducourt family is all crisp, crushed berry fruits and tight acidity. The 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is tangy, very dry and steely in character, with equal parts acidity and fruit. The aftertaste is lively, poised and refreshing. Baystate Wine & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 **Château Pey la Tour 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This wine is lively and fruity, with a warm character from the ripe, wild-strawberry flavors. It is crisp, dry and deliciously refreshing at the end. Thiénot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 **Château Roc de Minvielle 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This wine offers delicious acidity, crisp fruit and plenty of red berry flavors. It has a lively, perfumed aftertaste. LVC Las Vegas Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

87 **Château Vignol 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This totally refreshing wine is crisp, lively and packed with acidity as well as red currant fruits. It's a delicious wine and a fine apéritif from the Doublet family in Entre-deux-Mers. Delirium Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 **Château Vircoulon 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** Attractively pink in color, this has a touch of caramel as well as ripe strawberry fruit flavors. It has a rich side, but is bright and fruity with lively acidity at the end. It will be great as an apéritif. Vinovia Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

87 **Ginestet 2014 Les Folies par Marquis de Chasse (Bordeaux Rosé).** Intensely fruity, this has great acidity, fresh red fruits and delicious orange-zest tang. Pale in color, it is poised and elegant, leaving a crisp, refreshing aftertaste. L & L Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

86 **Château de Marsan 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** Bright and very crisp, this bone-dry wine is full of acidity as well as red currant fruits. It has fine fruitiness, very tight, with a hint of tannin making it a great food rosé. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

86 **Domaine du Claouset 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** A light orange-pink colored wine, this is poised, bright and fruity. Raspberries dominate, giving fresh character as well as bringing in great fruitiness. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

86 **Mademoiselle Comédie 2014 Bordeaux Rosé.** This has lively red fruits, fresh acidity and a line of crisp red currants. A spicy character is fragrant, while the fruitiness keep the wine refreshing. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

86 **Maison Bouey 2014 Le Rosé Gourmand de Lestruelle (Bordeaux Rosé).** This crisp, fruity wine has delicious acidity. Gray-pink in color, it is ripe with red berries that also impart attractive

freshness. The wine is crisp, tangy and textured at the end. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Mouton-Cadet 2014 Le Rosé de Mouton-Cadet (Bordeaux Rosé). This wine is fruity and crisp, with attractive balanced acidity. It's all about raspberry and red currants. A refreshing character gives citrus tang to the aftertaste. Constellation Brands, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Quai de la Lune 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Well-crafted and fruity, this has a fresh character that allows room for red berry flavors. It's a ripe wine, keeping freshness while bringing in a warmer, caramel character. Vinovia Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Château Cailleteau Bergeron 2014 Villa Cailleteau Bergeron (Bordeaux Rosé). This soft, ripe wine by the Blaye sister-brother team of Marie-Pierre et Pierre-Charles Dartier has caramel flavors integrated into the red fruits. A crisp side comes from red currant flavors, while a smooth aftertaste keeps it rich while not losing the acidity. Grand Pere Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

85 Château de Sours 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. A ripe, red-fruited wine with a rich character, this offers vanilla as well as citrus and berry fruit flavors. It is just off dry, fresh and brightly fruity. It makes for a delicious, crisp summer rosé. Old Bridge Cellars. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

85 Château de Sours 2014 La Fleur d'Amélie (Bordeaux Rosé). This is a crisp, intensely fruity wine. Full of red berries and fresh acidity, it is dry with a tangy orange-peel character, light minerality and a touch of caramel. It is ready to drink. Old Bridge Cellars. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Château la France 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Pale orange-pink in color, this is fruity and light. It conveys a bright, fresh character that is both refreshing and very crisp. Drink now. Eastern Wine Distributors. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Château Lauduc 2014 Classic (Bordeaux Rosé). This is a soft wine that is round and with a fat texture. It is rich with soft crushed strawberry flavors. The acidity does come through at the end to ensure a fresh aftertaste. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Château Pilet 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Crisp and tangy, this is all about acidity, red currant and a refreshing, bright aftertaste. It's lively on

the palate, a wine that will be just right with summer food. Canals Bottlestop. —R.V.

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

85 Château Rauzan Despagne 2014 Réserve (Bordeaux Rosé). This caramel- and red-fruit-flavored wine is fresh with red berries and balanced acidity. A food style of rosé, it's round with just a light tang of orange zest at the end. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

85 Maison Bouey 2014 Le Rosé Gourmand de Maison Blanche (Bordeaux Rosé). This is a soft and ripe wine. Red fruits and caramel flavors add weight to the wine and a rich character, without forgetting the crisp, fresh acidity in the aftertaste. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

84 Cave de Rauzan 2014 Duprais (Bordeaux Rosé). Dry and crisp, this is a fruity, red currant-flavored wine. Bright acidity and a light texture give a final bite of structure to an otherwise soft and ready to drink release. Prestige Wine & Spirits Group. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

84 Château de Belcier 2014 Fleurs de Belcier (Bordeaux Rosé). Light in color, this gently fruity wine offers a touch of caramel as well as red currants. It's made to drink young and fresh now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

84 Château de l'Aubrade 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This wine is bone dry, very crisp and fruity. It presents a bright and lively character plus orange peel tang. The acidity at the end is very fresh, with just a touch of caramel. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 Château de Lardiley 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This totally acidic wine is crisp and shockingly tart. Fruit has been overtaken by acidity that gives the wine a very fresh, very tangy character. Astor Wines. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

84 Château des Antonins 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. A bold pink color suggests the richness of this vanilla-flavored wine that misses out on a truly refreshing character. It is full and soft, with a touch of bitter acidity at the end. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

84 Château Haut Bessac 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Light colored and light flavored, this has just hints of fruitiness along with the acidity. It is a crisp wine, very dry in character, bright and tangy at the end. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 Château Haut Mouleyre 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. An orange tang gives acidity as well as fruit. Contrasted with this, the wine has a smoother, yeast and caramel side that doesn't balance. Advantage International. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

84 Château Lamothe-Vincent 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Heavy and fat, this dark-colored rosé has a bitter character along with vanilla and spice flavors. The almost-sweet texture is round and soft at the end. Margron Skoglund. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

84 Château Maison Noble 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This caramel-flavored, lightly pink wine is soft and full in the mouth, with a light touch of tannin in the background. Drink now. European Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

84 Château Ramage la Batisse 2014 La Rosée de Ramage (Bordeaux Rosé). Deep pink in color, this gently fruity wine has too much caramel flavor. It offers red currant fruit at the end and attractive acidity. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

84 Château Roquefort 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. If pink could have a taste, this is the wine. From hand-picked 100% Cabernet Franc, it is all about bright fruit and red berries. Soft with touches of caramel, it delivers good acidity at the end. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

83 Château de Lardiley 2014 Prestige (Bordeaux Rosé). Bubblegum aromas send this wine in a candied direction. It is soft, not quite dry, with ripe strawberry flavors. It tastes confectioned although the acidity at the end does keep it fresh. Gabriella Importers Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

83 Château Goudichaud 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Light in color, this is a wine with flavors that seem to have been stripped away. It is crisp and only lightly fruity, with some bitter acidity at the end. Central Market. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

83 Château Recougne 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This wine smells yeasty, a character that follows through on the palate. It is soft and round, conveying ripe red fruits without freshness. It reveals bitter acidity at the end. Vintus LLC. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

83 Château Taussin 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This is a soft wine, fruity without great definition. A ripe, red fruit character contrasts with a bitter acidity. It is ready to drink. The blend is 50/50 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. European Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

83 Clos Floridène 2014 Le Rosé de Floridène (Bordeaux Rosé). The wine is neither very fruity nor fresh. It is clean with a crisp aftertaste although the character or the interest are not there. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

83 Les Hauts de Lagarde 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This bright, pink-colored wine is full of caramel and vanilla flavors that give a fat, dull character to the taste. It is dry, touched by bitter almonds and with a sharp aftertaste of acidity. Natural Merchants LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

82 Château Au Grand Paris 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Very pale in color, this is a wine that has memories of fruitiness rather than the fruit itself. It is neutral, soft with acidity at the end and dull. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

82 Château Pilet 2014 Les Hauts de Massonne du Château Pilet (Bordeaux Rosé). Ripe and fat, this wine is about caramel and vanilla flavors as much as fruit. It has a bitter character that lacks charm. The aftertaste is fresh, while still bitter. Malbec & Malbec Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

82 Château Queyssard 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. Deep pink in color, this is a caramel-flavored, heavy wine. It is fat, very full and bitter at the end. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

82 Maison Bouey 2014 La Vache (Bordeaux Rosé). This wine is so soft it is almost without taste. Only the acidity remains. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

81 Château Jean Faux 2014 Jean Faux (Bordeaux Rosé). A bitter, caramel-flavored wine, this is tight and peppery. A lean character leaves a sharp aftertaste. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

81 Château Lalande Méric 2014 Bordeaux Rosé. This neutral-tasting wine has little flavor. It is soft and fat. Borvin Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

CLAIRET

87 Château Queyssard 2014 Bordeaux Clairet. Caramel and ripe red fruits show the weight of this wine. It has freshness from the warm plum flavors along with ripe accents of spice and pepper. The end has tangy acidity. Bordeaux Clairet lies between rosé and red in color and in taste. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Château de Parenchère 2014 Bordeaux Clairet. With its dark pink color, this is more red than rosé. It has a tannic edge, along with

red plum acidity and fruits. It's clean, allowing space for freshness while also being structured. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Château Guichot 2014 Bordeaux Clairet. This Clairet wine smells like a smoky red Bordeaux. It is woody in character with spice as well as red plum flavors. Think of this as a pale red wine and it makes sense. Drink from early 2016. Great Domaines & Estates. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Château Timberlay 2014 Bordeaux Clairet. A ripe wine that is almost off dry, this has a ripe cherry character, rich in the mouth and with a full texture. The aftertaste brings out spice and tannins. Bordeaux Clairet lies between rosé and red in color and in taste. Terlatto Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

84 Château de Piote 2013 Bordeaux Clairet. With its extra-dark rosé color, Clairet is an unusual style. This wine is juicy with some acidity alongside fresh raspberry fruits. At the end, the wine seems heavy. Craft Cask and Cork. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

84 Château Turcaud 2014 Bordeaux Clairet. The wine misses fruit, although it does have a firm structure and tannins. A fresher character at the end gives a lift of acidity. Sussex Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 Château de Marsan 2014 Bordeaux Clairet. There is a rosé here struggling to get out. This wine has strawberry fruits combined with tannins in a way that does not work. Bordeaux Clairet lies between rosé and red in color and in taste. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

BORDEAUX RED WINES MÉDOC

90 Château Cailloux de By 2010 Médoc. Named after the gravel (Cailloux) in the vineyard, this rich and concentrated wine has ripe blackberry fruits over the firm tannins. The quality of the vintage shines through, giving the wine a sense of power and longevity. Drink from 2018. Vergara Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Château la Tour de By 2011 Médoc. This is a rich, densely tannic wine with dark-hued blackberry fruits and ripe acidity. It is concentrated, still very firm while just beginning to show its full-bodied character. Wait until 2018. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Château la Tour de By 2012 Médoc. The dominance of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend of this structured wine gives strong tannins and tight black currant fruit at this young stage. It has good potential, however, a solid and powerful wine that needs several years. Drink from 2018. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Maison Bouey 2012 Château Lestruelle (Médoc). If only this wine wasn't extracted so much (which gives bitterness), it would be ripe and fruity. As it is, it's hard to get past the tight, dry tannins. There are hints of juiciness and black currant fruits. It might soften by 2016. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Château Andron 2010 Médoc. This stalky, firmly tannic wine is still developing. Dominated by Merlot, it has black currant fruits in the background with acidity and crispness. Give this structured wine another few years and drink from 2016. Cutting Edge Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Château la Roque de By 2011 Médoc. Smoky and obviously wood-aged, this toasty, spicy wine has extracted black-coffee flavors that mask the black currant fruits. That leaves a wine that seems austere and with a bitter aftertaste. Drink from 2017. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 Maison Bouey 2013 Château Maison Blanche (Médoc). This wine's fruitiness comes from stalky black currant flavors that have a green edge. It shows tannins, bitter chocolate and considerable acidity. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

HAUT-MÉDOC

90 Château Lestage Simon 2012 Haut-Médoc. For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Château Ramage la Batisse 2012 L'Enclos de Ramage (Haut-Médoc). This rich, wood-aged wine has ripe plum fruits and dark tannins. It's still young, but it has a concentrated profile that's full bodied and dense. The fruity aftertaste is well integrated with the tannins. Drink from 2016. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Château Hourtin-Ducasse 2013 Haut-Médoc. This smooth wine has a good balance between a dry core and black currant fruit. It has a fresh character, typical of the vintage, along with acidity and smokiness from the wood aging. It will not age long, drink from 2017. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Château Trois Moulins 2012 Haut-Médoc. Produced by the same team as Château Cambron la Pelouse, this wine is already drinkable. With

attractive black currant fruits and acidity, it is gently tannic with a dry core. The aftertaste is juicy and full of fruit. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

87 **Maison Bouey 2010 Les Parcelles de Stéphane Derenoncourt (Haut-Médoc).** This selection from eight parcels of vines was made by one of the top Bordeaux consultants. The result is a ripe, warm wine that has great swathes of plum fruits alongside some firm, dry tannins. It is rich while retaining plenty of fresh acidity. Drink now. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

86 **Château Ramage la Batisse 2012 R de Ramage (Haut-Médoc).** The second wine of Château Ramage la Batisse, this is a soft blend of half-and-half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It has mild tannins encased by juicy black currant fruits and acidity. It is for drinking soon, from 2016. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

86 **Maison Bouey 2010 Pavillon de Lestruelle (Haut-Médoc).** This wine is ripe and balanced, showing full red fruits alongside a core of dry tannins. Considerable acidity gives a refreshing lift. Wait some more to drink, at least until 2017. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

MARGAUX

94 **Château Rauzan-Ségla 2012 Margaux.** This firmly structured, beautifully crafted wine has a solid backdrop of tannins and plenty of concentration. Beyond that, it is already well balanced, bringing together its dark texture and blackberry fruit flavors with generous acidity. It needs to age, drink from 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

93 **Château Lascombes 2012 Margaux.** This vintage of Lascombes shows more restraint on oak than previous vintages. The result is a ripe wine, still showing some wood flavors although it is already beginning to balance these with the black fruits. It has an opulent style that is warm and generous. Drink from 2019. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

92 **Château Marquis de Terme 2012 Margaux.** One of the wines that showed great promise in 2012, this is deliciously rich, with all the elegance of Margaux and that extra firm tannic background. Blackberry and juicy red fruits balance well with the structure. Drink from 2019. —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

91 **Château Prieuré-Lichine 2012 Margaux.** Very structured and dark, this is a wine for the long haul. It is concentrated and balanced, still very young and only just hinting at the black fruits that show the rich potential of this wine. Drink from 2020. —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

90 **Château Labégorce Margaux 2012 Margaux.**

This big chocolate and blackberry jam-flavored wine has a dense texture and powerful potential. Solid and impressively ripe, it's full of both fruit and tannins. It obviously needs to age; drink from 2021. —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

89 **Château Siran 2012 Margaux.** From the southern reaches of Margaux, this is already a velvet-textured wine with delicious black currant fruits and a touch of wood that is still showing. It will mature quickly and enjoyably, so drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

88 **Château Rauzan-Gassies 2012 Margaux.** Beyond the hard edge of tannins, this is an extracted wine, with dark chocolate and wood flavors. The hints of fruit bring out a more gentle black currant ripeness, although they are far from developing well. —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

SAINT-ÉMILION

90 **Château Peymouton 2012 Saint-Émilion.** For full review see page 8. Advantage International. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$36

89 **Château Fleur du Roc 2012 Saint-Émilion.** While this wine certainly has a firmly tannic character, it is the fruit that shines. Black currants and perfumed spicy berry fruits are right up there along with the juicy acidity. This is a blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc. It is well balanced although it needs to age. Drink from 2018. Cheval Quancard. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

87 **Château Cantin 2012 Saint-Émilion.** A large (for Saint-Émilion) estate of 93 acres has produced a dark wine that is layered with tight, dry tannins. The fruit is still buried under this tough exterior, although there are strong hints of the juicy black currant future. Drink from 2018. Advantage International. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

89 **Château Garreau 2010 Cuvée Armande (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This perfumed wine from a great year is rich in both fruit and structure, solid with tannins as well as ripe fruit. It is still youthful, dense and powerful. Wait and drink from 2018. Accolade Wines NA. —R.V.

abv: 15%

Price: \$38

89 **Château Grand Moulin 2012 Collection Grande Réserve (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This ripe, smoky wine is full of black fruits and soft, generous tannins. It is rich, juicy with black plum juice and berry jelly flavors that are still young and

fresh. Age this wine until 2017. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

87 **Château les Aubiers 2012 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** Structured and still dry with young tannins, this concentrated wine has the potential of fresh black currant fruits. For the moment, it is dark, showing some bitter chocolate flavors that need to soften. Drink from 2017. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

85 **Château Garreau 2011 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** This wine has some bitter extraction giving it a hard edge. The fruit is lost in the dry, tannic structure. That hard edge will be tough to shift. Try drinking from 2017. Accolade Wines NA. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

85 **Château Haut-Canteloup 2012 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** Situated two miles north of the castle of Blaye, this estate has produced an obviously wood-aged, heavily extracted wine. At this stage, this wine is all tannins, smoky acidity and structure. It will always be concentrated with wood, although this will soften. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

CÔTES DE BOURG

89 **Château Vieux Ligat 2010 Côtes de Bourg.** This wine has so much of the structure of the vintage. At the same time, it offers rich fruit, black plum flavors and fragrant acidity. It is powerful and concentrated, needing to age. Drink from 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

87 **Château Vieux Ligat 2011 Côtes de Bourg.** Attractively juicy fruit is fresh and full of black currant flavors. This wine still has firm tannins although they are beginning to fill out with fresh fruitiness and smoky acidity. It should still age, so drink from 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

86 **Château Garreau 2011 Côtes de Bourg.** This structured wine is firm with tannins and a solid structure. It does have fruit behind this dry facade, allowing the potential for aging and balancing out. Drink from 2017. Accolade Wines NA. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château de Belcier 2012 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** This estate wine of Belcier is rich and complex. It has great tannins as well as dark black fruits that give a ripe character. Juicy, fruity

and still young, it has great potential. Drink from 2018. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château de Belcier 2012 Le Pin de Belcier (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** While this wine is still dense and tannic, it also has great layers of blackberry and black plum fruits that give richness. So although it is structured, it is also full and ripe, hinting at a delicious, generous future. Drink from 2018. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

88 **Château de Belcier 2012 Château de Monre-cueil (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a perfumed wine full of attractive black currant and spice flavors. The wood aging has given a great fillip of richness to the stalky fruit as well as rounding it out. It could age further, so drink from 2017. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château de Belcier 2012 Les Armoiries de Belcier (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** Firmly tannic, this tough wine shows signs of over-enthusiastic extraction. That gives a bitter character that will always leave the wine with a dry core. The black fruits skins give acidity and some final freshness. Drink from 2018. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 **Château de Belcier 2012 B de Belcier (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** The second wine of Château de Belcier, this is still young, showing dense and dusty tannins over dark wood aging. It is dry, stalky with black currant acidity and a tight, firm aftertaste. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

87 **Dourthe 2010 Réserve du Château (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Solid tannins still dominate this potentially ripe and full-bodied wine. It has the richness and structure of the vintage, giving ripe red fruits from the Merlot as well as tight tannins that need to soften. Drink from 2016. Thiénot USA. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15/1.5 L

86 **Château Bel Air 2012 Château Ouvrard (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A property owned by Château Bel Air, Ouvrard has produced a lightly fruity wine that has fresh red berry fruits and just the right amount of acidity. Light tannins act as a backbone to the general fruitiness of this wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Château de Piote 2011 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur).** With some good concentration and hints of the wood aging, this ripe, full wine has both fruit and tannins. A stalky, black cur-

rant element adds texture as well as a fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2016. Craft Cask and Cork. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 **Château Maison Noble 2013 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Still toasty, this is a fruity, spicy wine. Firm tannins form the backdrop to the red berry fruits and fresh acidity. It will develop attractively over the next few years, so drink from 2017. European Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 **Ginestet 2012 Mascaron (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This warm, ripe wine is full of forward black fruits and just the right amount of firm tannins to balance. A smoky character comes from wood aging. Lightly structured, it is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Château Bel Air 2012 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This bold, smoky wine has great fruitiness to match the dense, dry structure. It is firm with wood flavors still strongly present. The acidity and the black currant fruits give promise of a well-integrated future. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Château Haut-Sorillon 2012 Bordeaux Supérieur.** While there are certainly tannins here, this wine is essentially about fruit. Stalky black currants and berries dominate this perfumed wine with its fresh acidity and crisp, clean aftertaste. Drink now. Latitude Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

84 **Château Taussin 2013 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This wine is tight and austere. It still shows the smoky wood aging that has left a bitter chocolate character in the wine. It should soften, although it will likely end up lean. The blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

BORDEAUX

86 **Cave du Marmandais 2014 Murets de Mez (Bordeaux).** An exceptional value for a Bordeaux, this is ripe, full and fruity. Smoky tannins and juicy black currant flavors are bright and generous. It will be ready to drink from 2016. Imperial Beverage. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 **Château les Pasquets 2014 Bordeaux.** This wine is soft and fruity. A core of drier tannins is surrounded by attractive, fleshy, smoky black plums that are lifted with acidity. Red fruit at the end adds a fresh aftertaste. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

85 **Cave de Rauzan 2014 Augey (Bordeaux).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

85 **Cave du Marmandais 2014 Château Campot Lafont (Bordeaux).** With no oak aging, this wine offers black currants and stalky tannins. Juicy fruitiness and a ripe character reflect the vintage. The aftertaste, with acidity, is fresh and always fruity. Drink from 2016. Imperial Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 **Château de Bordes-Quancard 2012 Bordeaux.** This is a heavily wood-aged wine with a bitter character redeemed by the ripe blackberry fruits from a blend of 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. It is structured, with firm tannins over the fresh and juicy fruitiness. Give the wine another year and the two will come into balance. Drink from 2016. Cheval Quancard. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

85 **Château de Piote 2010 Bordeaux.** Firmly tannic, this is still a young wine. It has a dry structure with a black currant-skin stalkiness. Acidity and structure are still developing, so wait until 2016. Craft Cask and Cork. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

85 **Château les Ancres 2011 Bordeaux.** With a sense of tannic structure and a dry background, this is a firm wine. It has some weight, although the texture and the black currant fruits are light and stylish rather than dense. Drink from 2016. LefGroup, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

85 **Château Taussin 2014 Premium (Bordeaux).** Although obviously still young, this fruity wine will develop fast. It benefits from the ripe fruit of the vintage, sweet black currants and berries that are given a crisp edge by the acidity. Already balanced, it will be drinkable from 2016. European Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$7

85 **Les Hauts de Lagarde 2014 Bordeaux.** Produced from organically grown grapes, this is a light, very young and stalky wine. It has tight black currant flavors and a dry core of tannins that need to soften for a few months. Drink from the end of 2015. Natural Merchants LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 **Château Grand Jean 2014 Bordeaux.** Light, ripe and fruity, this wine is bursting with black currant fruits supported by a firm base of dry fruit tannins. It can be drunk now in its youth, but will be better from 2016. Holiday Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

84 **Château Haut Vieux Chêne 2014 Bordeaux.** Pure fruitiness, this wine is full of black currant flavors and a stalky, dusty texture. Without wood aging, it has acidity, fruitiness and some dry

tannins. Drink from the end of 2015. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

84 **Château Jean de Bel Air 2014 Bordeaux.** Still dominated by wood and toast aromas, this wine is certainly too young to drink. The wood needs to smooth out and allow room for the fruit. It will age, with its fresh fruits and acidity, so drink from 2017. European Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

84 **Ginestet 2014 Bordeaux.** This wine is soft, ripe and fruity. It is made to be drunk young with only hints of tannins and sweet black fruits. It's an easy, barbecue-style red wine that is rounded and ready. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 **Maison Bouey 2012 Lestruelle (Bordeaux).** This wine has a dark chocolate character that shows how it has been extracted, masking the juicy fruits and giving dark, dry tannins. It should soften, although a wine like this should be more about fruit than structure. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 **Ginestet 2013 Château Pierrousselle (Bordeaux).** Light and juicy, this cool, bell pepper-flavored wine has intense acidity. There is little in the way of tannin, it's all fruit, very crisp and lean. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

91 **Château des Annereaux 2012 Lalande de Pomerol.** Owned by the Hessel family since the 15th century, this estate has produced a dense and solid Merlot-dominated wine. It is big and bold with ripe berry fruits and dark tannins. The black plum skin and berry flavors are concentrated and firm. It needs to age, so drink from 2018. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château la Patache 2012 Pomerol.** This is a big, bold and fruity wine, packed with ripe Merlot fruit. Juicy blackberry flavors have a fine shot of acidity and soft tannins. It's a warm wine that will age well over the medium-term. Drink from 2018. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

88 **Château des Annereaux 2006 Lalande de Pomerol.** This is fully mature with its leather and toast flavors enhanced by a smooth, rich texture. It is a delicious wine to drink now, with some red fruits and final acidity. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château Faizeau 2012 Sélection Vieilles Vignes (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This ripe, concentrated wine brings out the fruit of the vin-

tage, ripe blackberries and currants. Tannins integrate well into the fruity character of the wine. Black cherry acidity comes through strongly at the end. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château la Patache 2011 Pomerol.** This wine is full of juicy fruit along with a dark, smoky character. A firm undertow of very dry tannins brings out a firm structure. The hard edge needs to soften, so wait to drink until 2018. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

88 **Château Magondeau 2012 Fronsac.** This ripe, Merlot-dominated wine offers bold tannins and black plum-skin fruitiness. It has spice, toastiness from wood aging and the potential of a ripe and generous character. It is firm at this stage and needs to age, so drink from 2017. DM Vineyards & Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

85 **Château Hannetot 2011 Pessac-Léognan.** This is a curiously juicy wine that is not fully integrated with the dry tannins. It has a hard-edged texture, a dry character that sits uneasily with the crisp black currant fruitiness. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

RHÔNE ROSÉS TAVEL

92 **Domaine Maby 2014 Prima Donna Rosé (Tavel).** This complex rosé effortlessly combines hints of flowers, dried spices, garrigue and red berries. It's full-bodied yet paradoxically weightless, buoyed by a long finish of crushed stone and fresh lime juice. Drink it over the next few years. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 **Château d'Aqueria 2014 Rosé (Tavel).** Full-bodied, rich and slightly warm, this assertive Tavel boasts notes of raspberry, peach and melon. It's a bold, fruit-driven style that brightens on the finish, where crisp acids and a chalky feel add texture. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Alain Jaume et Fils 2014 Le Crétacé Rosé (Tavel).** In its weight and richness allied to scents of garrigue and sun-warmed stones, this speaks of its Tavel terroir. The berry fruit is subdued, with spice, weight and warmth carrying the wine to a long finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2014 La Reine Des Bois Rosé (Tavel).** This Tavel contains a hefty 20% Clairette (a white grape), in addition to

the more common Grenache (Noir) and Cinsault. It's still a chunky, powerful version of Tavel, with raspberry and white chocolate notes buoyed by just enough citrus. It's broad and mouthcoating on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

87 **Domaine Maby 2014 La Forcadière Rosé (Tavel).** This Tavel rosé contains six grape varieties, although 80% of the blend is Grenache and Cinsault. Despite ample weight on the palate, the result is a bit chalky on the finish, with flavors of underripe berries and melon. Aliane Wines. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

91 **Mas Carlot 2014 L'Irresistible Rosé (Costières de Nîmes).** Produced from the estate's old-vine Grenache, this is a silky, medium-bodied rosé. It's pale in color, but bold in flavor, offering hints of strawberries, peaches and brine that finish long and mouthwatering. Robert Kacher Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Mas Carlot 2014 Rosé (Costières de Nîmes).** This mouthwatering rosé is a traditional blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. It's medium-bodied, boasting notes of fresh herbs, cherries and white chocolate, balanced by a hints of sea spray. Drink it over the next year. Robert Kacher Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 **Mas des Bressades 2014 Cuvée Tradition Rosé (Costières de Nîmes).** Since at least 1990, importer Bobby Kacher has excelled at finding well-priced wines from Costières de Nîmes. This blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Cinsault is a solid, weighty rosé, endowed with ample cherry and melon fruit. Robert Kacher Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 **Saveurs du Temps 2014 Rosé (Costières de Nîmes).** This blend of 75% Grenache and 25% Syrah is a well-made rosé at a realistic price. Scents of crushed stone and bubble gum emerge from the glass, followed by medium-bodied strawberry and cherry flavors and a faintly chalky finish. Soilair Selection. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **Château d'Or et de Gueules 2014 Les Cimels Rosé (Costières de Nîmes).** This is an attractive pale-pink wine, faintly coppery in hue. It's also a bit confected, with candied strawberry and watermelon flavors reminiscent of bubble gum, but backed by white chocolate and briny notes. It's plump on the palate, then falls off rapidly on the finish. Robert Kacher Selections. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

90 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2014 Le Dame Rousse Rosé (Côtes du Rhône).** Domaine de la Mordorée's 2014 rosés are fitting tributes to proprietor Christophe Delorme's final vintage (he died in June 2015). This blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Cinsault is weighty and rich, blending raspberries and white chocolate into a wine that could be served as a light red wine, with grilled meats or poultry. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 **Laudun Chusclan 2014 Prieurs de St-Julien Rosé (Côtes du Rhône).** This flamingo-pink wine comes across as a bit confected, with bubble-gum aromas and flavors of cherry and melon. It's a simple but clean fruit-driven rosé to casually quaff during warm weather. Gerard Wine Company. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 **M. Chapoutier 2014 Belleruche Rosé (Côtes du Rhône).** Chapoutier's flamingo-pink rosé is a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault that's features strawberry bubble-gum aromas and flavors, some melon fruit and a slightly chalky finish. Drink up. Terlato Wines International. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

83 **Alain Jaume et Fils 2014 Réserve Grand Veneur Rosé (Côtes du Rhône).** A disappointing effort from a normally reliable producer, this wine shows entirely too many rubbery, chemical aromas and flavors. Some decent strawberry and citrus fruit peeks through on the finish, so it may be worth decanting and seeing if that helps. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

MEDITERRANÉE

90 **Marrenon 2014 Les Grains Rosé de Merlot (Méditerranée).** More mineral and savory than tutti-frutti, this wine offers scents of damp moss and wet stone. It's medium bodied, with a silky texture and a long, mouthwatering finish. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

89 **Marrenon 2014 Classique Merlot Rosé (Méditerranée).** This light-bodied Merlot rosé is a summer delight. Hints of strawberry blossom and citrus mark the nose, while the palate features berry shadings set against a backdrop of citrus, something like a dry, adult version of pink lemonade. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 **Marrenon 2014 Roséfine (Méditerranée).** A traditional blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, this medium-bodied rosé offers delicate floral aromas as well as some slightly confected bubble-gum scents. It's less overtly fruity on the

palate, then finishes with a welcome burst of lime zest. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

86 **My Essential 2014 French Rosé (Méditerranée).** This medium-bodied blend features aromas and flavors reminiscent of bubble gum and cantaloupe. It's mainly Grenache and Cinsault, which impart ample weight, balanced by some slightly bitter, pithy notes on the finish. USA Wine West. —J.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

85 **Jean-Luc Colombo 2013 Cape Bleue Rosé (Vin de Pays de la Méditerranée).** This blend of two-thirds Syrah and one-third Mourvèdre is fresh and aromatic, showing some peppery-gingery spice to go with watermelon and strawberry notes. It's medium in body, with an abbreviated finish. Palm Bay International. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

VIN DE FRANCE

86 **Laurence Féraud 2013 Pink Pégau Rosé (Vin de France).** A different take on rosé from Pégau, this is a relatively austere wine, with aromas of struck flint, earth and modest cherry flavors and a crisp, citrusy finish. Drink up. Hand Picked Selections. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

SPAIN WHITE WINES RÍAS BAIXAS

91 **Adegas Gran Vinum 2014 Esencia Diviña Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Pure apple, peach and melon aromas precede a fresh, tangy palate with depth, minerality and complexity. Tangerine and lemon-lime flavors are pure as glacial ice, while lime and apple flavors control the finish. Drink through summer 2016. Grapes of Spain. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 **Mar de Viñas 2014 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Fresh apple and nectarine aromas are clean and appealing. This is round, lifted and correct in terms of mouthfeel. Fleshy nectarine and apple flavors finish minerally, a touch briny and long. Drink now. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 **Marqués de Vizhoja 2014 Torre la Moreira Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Apple and citrusy aromas of lemon and lime are pure and clean. This feels crisp and citric, with zesty, tangy lime and tangerine flavors. In general, this is a simply presented Albariño, but one with class and clarity. Torgar Group. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 **Pazo de Galegos 2013 Premium Selection Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Apple, citrus and pear aromas are a touch briny. This is round, healthy and ready to go. Apple and orange flavors are zesty, while the finish is persistent, tasty, minerally and clean, with no bitterness or signs of deterioration. Ole Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 **Pazo de Señorans 2014 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** With a collection of apple blossom, acacia, peach and flint aromas, this fairly full-bodied Albariño offers a mix of plumpness and alluring flavors, namely nectarine, apple and white peach. Complex notes of sea brine, minerality and saline propel a sophisticated finish. Drink through summer 2016. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Condes de Albarei 2014 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Straightforward apple and lime flavors are simple and stony. Lemony acidity gives the palate snap and purpose, while flavors of kiwi, orange, lime and lemon finish tangy, with length and vitality. Drink now. CIV/USA. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 **Finca Arantei 2014 Single Vineyard Estate Bottled Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Dusty aromas of melon and apple smell a bit leesy. This feels round and complete, while melon, citrus and apple flavors turn more briny on the finish, where a saline quality takes over. Overall, this is bright and right. Drink now. Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Paco & Lola 2013 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** For full review see page 10.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Pazo San Mauro 2014 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Lemon and white-flower aromas are modest but friendly and inviting. This shows size and roundness on the palate, with lemony acidity. Lemon, green apple and pineapple flavors finish long and steady. Drink now. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

89 **Terras Gauda 2014 Abadia de San Campio Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Minerality and stone-fruit aromas dominate the nose on this pointed, acid-driven Galician white. Tangy citrus flavors, particularly tangerine, dominate the palate, while the finish is just fleshy and round enough to make this friendly. Drink through spring 2016. Aveniü Brands, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 **Lagar de Indra 2014 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Nectarine and apple aromas are good, while this feels plump and melony, but with spine. Briny flavors of gooseberry, apple and orange finish with a note of sea salt. Drink this fresh, minerally wine now. Assa Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Paco & Lola 2013 Lolo Albariño (Rías Baixas). Minerally peach and apple aromas are typical of the region and variety. A fairly racy palate with good weight brings standard orange and grapefruit flavors prior to a citrusy finish with a touch of pithy bitterness. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Valmiñor 2014 Edición Especial 10 Años Albariño (Rías Baixas). Lemon peel, ocean brine and leesy aromas fall into place in front of a lemony but round palate. Flavors of nectarine and clementine orange finish mild and steady, with a lemony echo. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

86 Attis 2013 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Dusty, leesy aromas are powdery, with little fruit character. This feels stony on the surface but not deep. Nectarine and tangerine flavors finish cidery and slightly bitter. Williams Corner Wine. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Pazo Torrado 2014 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Tropical fruit, apple and citrus aromas are chunky. A plump, mellow palate with modest acidity is home to peach, mango and papaya flavors. A soft finish is easygoing but suggests that this should be drunk as soon as possible. Winesellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Attis 2013 Xión Albariño (Rías Baixas). Chunky aromas of apple cider, pineapple, pine and juniper are challenging. This feels juicy, with sharp acidity. Nectarine is the lead flavor, while apple and pithy bitterness push the finish. Williams Corner Wine. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

RUEDA

90 Garciarévalo 2014 Tres Olmos Verdejo (Rueda). Pure citrus, green melon and briny aromas amount to classic Rueda Verdejo. This has a lifted, juicy mouthfeel and dry, pithy, citrusy flavors that fold in stony notes and hints of green herbs. A light, ethereal finish is what you want from the variety. Drink now. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Blanco Nieva 2014 Pie Franco Verdejo (Rueda). Minerality and raw citrus aromas create a true Verdejo bouquet. This is properly acidic and fresh, but a touch round and pulpy as well. Briny, borderline bitter flavors of grapefruit, lime, tarragon and scallion finish pithy. Drink now. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Blanco Nieva 2014 Verdejo (Rueda). Minerally grapefruit, white peach, lettuce and scallion aromas are clean, inviting and textbook for Verdejo. A fresh, racy, cleansing palate holds grapefruit, orange and briny flavors. This is crisp as a

whistle on the finish, but light on flavor and complexity. Drink now. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Dominios de Castilla 2014 Verdejo (Rueda). For full review see page 11. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Garciarévalo 2014 Casamaro Verdejo (Rueda). Pungent, briny aromas of sweaty citrus and green herbs are typical of the variety, while this feels fresh on the palate. Lime, lettuce and tarragon flavors end short, with modest acidity. Drink immediately. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Palma Real 2014 Verdejo (Rueda). Grapefruit, lime and leesy aromas feed into a healthy palate with adequate acidity and raciness. Pithy, briny citrus flavors of lime and orange finish with notes of grapefruit and scallion. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Esperanza 2014 Estate Grown & Bottled Verdejo-Viura (Rueda). Simple but solid apple and nectarine aromas are straight forward. This feels round and easy, without much acid-based cut. Flavors of melon, mango and nectarine finish short, with a note of apple. Axial Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

85 Emina 2014 Verdejo (Rueda). Tropical fruit, passion fruit and lime aromas are a bit sweaty and suggestive of pine resin. This is low on spine and verve, meaning it's a touch flat and flabby. Briny nectarine and tarragon flavors finish with green notes of scallion and lime. Matarromera USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

84 Emina 2014 Rueda Verdejo-Viura (Rueda). Dusty, jumbled aromas of fleshy melon and stone fruits are not terribly defined. This has a soft mouthfeel and flavors of papaya, peach and bitter citrus pith. Drink immediately; contains 10% Viura. Matarromera USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

RIOJA

84 Bodegas Valdemar 2014 Conde Valdemar Viura (Rioja). Like most barrel-fermented Viuras from Rioja, this smells oaky but low on fruit. Round and resinous on the palate, this tastes mostly of saucy oak and briny citrus. The finish is sound in feel but challenging in flavor. Terlato Wines International. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

84 Conde Bel 2014 Viura (Rioja). Peach and melon aromas are simple and clean. This has a wide but diluted mouthfeel and no real sense of direction. Citrus and white pineapple flavors are

mild and limited, while the finish offers a touch of nectarine before fading out. 4Front Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

83 Vallobera 2014 Javier San Pedro Viura (Rioja). Watery, candied aromas of fruit salad are bland. This has a chunky, low-acid feel and modest flavors of melon and green herbs. Green melon and lettuce notes carry the finish. Axial Wines USA. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

82 Bodegas Franco-Españolas 2014 Royal Viura (Rioja). Waxy, yeasty aromas are not very fresh. A citric mouthfeel lacks clarity and foundation, while orange and nectarine flavors are briny. This tastes pickled on the finish. Vision Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

82 Marqués de Cáceres 2014 Satinela Semi Dulce Malvasia-Viura (Rioja). Pickled and briny smelling up front, this semisweet wine doesn't open well. A cloying, low-acid palate is another strike against it, while flavors of candied apple, canned peaches and vanilla finish sticky. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

ALICANTE

85 Bocopa 2014 Alcanta (Alicante). Generic peach and apple aromas are light and easy. This blend of Merseguera and Macabeo feels pulpy and citrusy, while pithy flavors of peach and orange finish fresh, but with limited complexity. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$10

85 Bocopa 2014 Castillo de Alicante Gran Selección Macabeo (Alicante). Mild peachy aromas are friendly but nothing serious or intense. This varietal Macabeo feels citrusy, while lightly bitter flavors of almond skins, citrus pith and green melon finish with simplicity and a note of nectarine. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

85 Volver 2014 Tarima Blanco (Alicante). Briny citrus, feline notes and pithy scents send this Merseguera-led blend toward a pulpy, citrusy palate. Grapefruit and pithy, lightly bitter flavors finish citric, with little change from the wine's primary flavors. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

84 Bocopa 2014 Conde de Alicante (Alicante). With a light tan color and yeasty, briny aromas of vanilla and nectarine, this blend of Macabeo (Viura) and the obscure Merseguera grape delivers a wet, simple palate with citric and malic acid. Pithy citrus flavors of grapefruit and tangerine finish long

BUYINGGUIDE

for a basic, unoaked wine. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$7

83 **Bocopa 2014 Marina Alta Gran Selección Blanco (Alicante).** Floral aromas of lychee are indicative of basic Moscatel. This feels soft, with no angles or aggressiveness. Pithy, green-leaning flavors of lychee and lettuce finish with lychee notes and lasting sweetness. Multiple U.S. importers. —M.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINE

85 **Arrumaco 2014 Verdejo (Spain).** Simple aromas of apple cider come with a hint of match stick and brine. This feels round and fleshy, like an unfiltered apple cider. Flavors of generic citrus and apple juice finish pulpy and round. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

CAVA

90 **Alta Alella 2011 Laietà Gran Reserva Brut Nature (Cava).** Yeast, scrambled egg, apple and lime aromas are elevated and improve with airing. On the palate, this is minerally and pure. Apple, briny citrus, persimmon and salt flavors finish tight, linear and briny in flavor, with an echo of sea salt. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

89 **Juvé y Camps 2011 Milesimé Brut Reserva (Cava).** Yeasty, bready notes blend with nectarine and baked apple aromas in front of a round, layered palate. This offers a complex set of flavors that include yeasty bread, baked apple and citrus fruits. On the finish, leesy richness is cut by a streak of sea brine and nectarine. Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

89 **Llopart 2011 Brut Reserva (Cava).** Lightly toasted aromas of apple and lime are mellow. This feels fresh and citrusy, with lime, orange and tropical fruit flavors. A steady, sturdy finish comes with a mild salty note of sea brine. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

89 **Muga 2011 Conde de Haro Brut (Cava).** Aromas of toasted white bread and baked apple are yeasty. This feels good on the palate, with mature flavors of apple that steer clear of being too snappy or citric. On the finish this is like the nose: bready and tasting like baked apple. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

88 **L'Arboc NV 1919 Brut Selecció (Cava).** Apple, lemon-lime and bready aromas are welcoming. This is smooth on the tongue, with soda-pop bubbles and lightly briny flavors of apple and nec-

tarine. A fresh, bright finish is honest in feel and flavors. Las Arribes LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Marqués de Gelida 2011 MIM Natura Brut Reserva (Cava).** Yeasty, briny scents define the nose on this smooth, round-bodied Cava. Flavors of apple, lime, tarragon and lemongrass veer towards green, while the finish is slightly oxidized, which results in a bready aftertaste and a soft ending texture. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 **Parxet NV Cuvée 21 Brut (Cava).** The nose on this brut tilts toward yeast and bread. The palate is round and weighty, but healthy due to its firm acidity. Flavors of citrus fruits, green herbs, lettuce and sea brine end with seltzer-like punch and crispness. Biagio Cru & Estate Wines, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Vicente Gandia NV Hoya de Cadenas Brut (Cava).** Clear and light in color, this dusty smelling Cava offers aromas of briny peach and citrus fruits. The palate is solid, with a round texture and flavors of sulfur, lemon-lime, tangerine and nectarine. A tight, lean finish feels minerally but tastes a bit gaseous. Vicente Gandia USA. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$11

83 **Clos La Soleya NV Brut (Cava).** Bready, stalky aromas run low on fruit while showing odd, unwelcome scents of peanut and sulfur. Gaseous, mealy flavors of yeasty citrus fruits finish heavy, with an oxidized quality. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER SPARKLING WINE

83 **Dominio de Punctum NV Bubbles by Lobetia (Spain).** Vanilla, apple juice and banana aromas comprise the nose on this flat feeling, sugary tasting Cava that claims to be “dry” but tastes anything but. Flavors of ripe banana, vanilla and papaya taste like powdered sugar on the finish. Terroir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

ROSÉS

84 **Bocopa 2014 Castillo de Alicante Gran Selección Monastrell Rosé (Alicante).** Soapy, floral aromas are wan, with no distinct fruit notes. This feels heavy as it stumbles around aimlessly. Plum and peach flavors are adequate, while the finish is mildly bitter, with sugary cherry notes. Multiple U.S. importers. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

83 **Garbó 2014 Rosat (Montsant).** This smells a lot like mustard, with short, bitter flavors of

red apple skins. Sweet touches of caramel and cocoa can be found on the finish. Freixenet USA. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

80 **Bocopa 2014 Alone Rosé (Alicante).** Rusty in color, with rubbery cherry and raspberry aromas, this is a sticky, candied rosé with a low freshness quotient. Candied, sugary flavors finish sweet and goeey. Multiple U.S. importers. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$8

SPAIN RED WINES BIERZO

88 **Estefania 2013 Tilenus Mencía (Bierzo).** Initially this smells rugged and choppy, but calmer aromas of spice, red plum and cherry emerge with time. A fruity, approachable palate and straightforward cherry and plum flavors finish fairly long, with a touch of controlled bitterness. Classic Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Armas de Guerra 2013 Mencía (Bierzo).** Light raspberry and plum aromas offer a touch of floral violet. This everyday Mencía shows grip and expansive flavors of earthy plum and raspberry. Moderate oak and a medicinal note rise up on a fresh finish. Ole Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 **Peique 2013 Mencía (Bierzo).** Cutting aromas of rubbery red-berry fruits and wild herbs filter into a juicy, uncomplicated palate. Rubbery and medicinal tasting at first, this shows herbal raspberry and bitterness on the back end of the flavor profile and on the finish. Steve Miles Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **Prada A Tope 2013 Palacio de Canedo Maceración Ecológico Mencía (Bierzo).** Punchy, raw cranberry and red-plum aromas turn more candied with airing. This has an easy flowing feel as well as simple, fresh cherry and raspberry flavors. Dry spice, cocoa and residual cherry flavors drive the finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

TORO

92 **Vatan 2012 Toro.** For full review see page 6.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 **Teso La Monja 2012 Almirez Toro.** Brawny aromas of asphalt, roofing tar and rubber are balanced by smooth, deep blackberry and cassis scents. This is tannic and rugged, but the palate also offers buttery, oaky richness and depth. Heavily toasted plum and blackberry flavors finish with heat

and a taste of dark chocolate. Drink through 2019. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

91 Tritón 2012 Toro. Oaky aromas of wood grain, graphite, bacon, rubber and asphalt blend with ripe blackberry scents to create an inky, potent bouquet. This feels round and lush, with cutting lemony acidity. Flavors of baked blackberry, cassis and chocolate finish ripe, healthy and toasty. Drink through 2019. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$17

89 Telmo Rodríguez 2013 G Dhesa Gago (Toro). Blackberry and plum aromas are friendly and welcoming but not complex or nuanced. A ripe, juicy palate is fresh and balanced, with no excess weight. Plum and mixed-berry flavors finish well, with lasting notes of berry fruit. Drink through 2017. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

88 Elias Mora 2013 Toro. Plum and raspberry aromas grace a simple but clean bouquet. This Toro is lively on the palate, with high acidity that's reflective of a cool, wet vintage. Plum, currant and earthy, herbal flavors end with grabby tannins and zesty acidity. Drink through 2018. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

88 Maurodos 2012 Prima (Toro). This warm-vintage blend of 90% Tinta de Toro and 10% Garnacha is superripe, such that it smells raisiny, with notes of licorice and pastry thrown in. A heavy, sticky, tannic palate feeds raisin, prune and chocolate flavors, while the finish is flat in texture and raisiny in flavor. Drink now. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

88 Teso La Monja 2012 Romanico (Toro). Fleishy blackberry and cassis aromas are jammy and grapy, with a note of iodine. This is very tannic and textured on the palate, with flavors of baked blackberry, stewed fig, burnt toast and bitter chocolate finishing hard and rubbery on a sizzling, stewed character. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

86 Matsu 2013 El Picardo (Toro). Rough, animal-like aromas wrestle with piercing, fairly hot plum and berry scents. Rubbery, blackened, peppery plum and raspberry flavors finish oaky, mildly bitter and tannic. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

84 La Casa Maguila 2013 Angelitos Negros (Toro). Earthy, grassy, cherry aromas are lightly medicinal in front of a slightly narrow, almost citric palate that comes with a note of vinegar. Black-plum flavors are simple on the midpalate,

while modest notes of plum and berry show on the finish. European Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

83 La Casa Maguila 2013 Cachito Mio (Toro). Leather, mint and wet-dog aromas along with an overriding burn drive the nose toward a resiny, raw palate with snappy acidity and lots of oak. Buttery as well as briny red-fruit flavors are salty and taste mostly of wood resin. European Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

RIBERA DEL DUERO

94 Emilio Moro 2011 Malleolus (Ribera del Duero). This pure, bullish, smoky Tinto Fino is full of charred blackberry, cassis and licorice aromas. The palate is massive but superbly balanced. Flavors of mocha, black coffee, bitter chocolate, toast, blackberry and cassis finish with power and precision. Drink 2017–2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$49

94 Resalte 2009 Gran Resalte (Ribera del Duero). Rooty aromas of blackberry and baked plum share space on the bouquet with vanilla, smoke and coconut scents. This feels lush, round, firm and tannic, with profound depth. Flavors of blackberry, baking spices, chocolate and pepper finish toasty, with massive black-fruit leftovers. This is a powerful specimen to drink 2017–2030. RM Distributors Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

93 Altos del Terral 2009 T1 (Ribera del Duero). A deep, dense bouquet with blackberry, root beer, tree bark and tarry aromas properly announces a lush, full-bodied, tannic palate with toasty oak, menthol, licorice and blackberry flavors. Pepper and dark chocolate notes control the finish on this lush, modern, toasty wine. 100 cases made; drink from 2017 through 2028. Las Arribes LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$130

93 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2011 Tábula (Ribera del Duero). Inky aromas of ripe blackberry, black currant, lemon peel and graphite set up a chewy, concentrated, intense palate with blackened flavors of licorice, chocolate, peppercorn and blackberry. A charred, tannic, mouthfilling finish says this should spend more time on its side before opening. Hold until 2017, then drink through 2025. Las Arribes LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

93 Cepa 21 2011 Malabrigo (Ribera del Duero). Ripe aromas of cola nut, burnt brown sugar, cedar and blackberry feed into a giant palate with killer tannins. Flavors of blackberry, cassis and burnt toast end in a tarry pool of black-fruit flavors and monster tannins. This is rewarding now but

also punishing; hold until 2017, then drink through 2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 15% Price: \$90

93 Montebaco 2011 Alma de Vino (Ribera del Duero). Blackberry, a hint of raisin, mild char and lemon-peel aromas make for a fine bouquet. This is lively, punchy and chewy, with big tannins. Blackberry, chocolate, loamy earth, toast and peppery flavors finish long, baked, ripe and with the potential for an even better future. Drink through 2021. The Barterhouse. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$39

92 Astrales 2012 Ribera del Duero. Hailing from a warm year, this smells heavy and raisiny, with crusty, toasty blackberry and plum scents. A wide, smooth palate shows soft but present tannins, while this tastes baked, with blackberry, loam and prune flavors. A toasty finish with a chocolate cake note confirms the wine's ripeness. Best enjoyed 2016–2022. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

92 Emilio Moro 2011 Ribera del Duero. Dark aromas of molasses, maple syrup, toast, char and blackberry are rich and ripe. This is intense and firm on the palate, with hard-pounding tannins absorbed by a full, receptive body. Baked blackberry, cassis and loamy flavors finish ripe, tannic, pure and typical of excellent Tinto Fino from Ribera del Duero. Drink through 2021. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

92 Lecco 2011 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Direct and woody on the nose, with aromas of graphite and vanilla, this opens in fine form. A tight, pure palate deftly blends weight, fine acidity and chewy tannins, while the flavor profile is earthy and blackened by charred oak, with blackberry fruit and savory, peppery spice notes. This is meaty, savory and beefy on the finish. Drink through 2021. D M Vineyards. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$27

92 Resalte 2009 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Raspberry and plum aromas include notes of asphalt, coconut, peanut butter and tobacco. This is fresh and layered, but hard as rocks. Toasty oak, baking spice, raspberry and plum flavors end long and with complexity as tobacco and woody notes of cedar take over. Drink 2016–2024. RM Distributors Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

92 Valderiz 2011 Valdehermoso Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Pure cherry, blackberry and plum aromas are dense, toasty, mineral and smoky. Intense plum and blackberry flavors soften a bit on a loamy, lightly baked finish. Overall, this is a ripe, thoroughly drinkable RDD with tons of fruit and well-applied oak. Drink through 2020. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

91 Astrales 2012 Christina (Ribera del Duero).

More than in the past, this vintage of Christina is showing a ton of oak up front along with vanilla, plastic and hickory aromas. Round, staunch and tannic on the palate, this single-vineyard Tinto Fino tastes toasted, blackened and minty, with blackberry, peppercorn and licorice flavors; hold until 2017. Grapes of Spain. *Cellar Selection*. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

91 Dominio de Atauta 2011 Parada de Atauta (Ribera del Duero).

Concentrated aromas of blackberry and baked black plum are rich and soft. A packed-in palate feels jammy and mega ripe, while dark flavors of molasses, blackberry, black cherry and chocolate finish bold, jammy and chewy. Best enjoyed 2016–2020. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

91 Emilio Moro 2012 Ribera del Duero.

Rooty, earthy aromas of cola, baking spices, blackberry and pepper are potent and ripe. Like always, this is a generous, well-balanced example of Ribera del Duero with toasty oak flavors riding on top of baking spice, plum and cassis notes. Vanilla and mint flavors on the finish are oak-based, while modest heat and burn call for short-term aging. Drink through 2019. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: NA Price: \$25

91 Montebaco 2011 Semele (Ribera del Duero).

Blackberry, dark plum, mineral, char and leather aromas are what you want from a quality wine from Ribera del Duero. A layered, fresh palate houses lightly brined plum, black cherry and leathery flavors. A toasty finish with licorice notes hums along in fine form. Drink through 2021. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

91 Pingón 2011 Altamimbre (Ribera del Duero).

Savory aromas of cumin, leather and oak mix well with floral berry scents. Tannic and firm in the mouth, this delivers earthy blackberry, leather and baked flavors. This is calm and dense on the finish, with integrated but grabby tannins. Drink through 2022. Palette of Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 Arrocal 2012 Passión (Ribera del Duero).

Deep, earthy aromas of cassis and black cherry set up a full, balanced palate with subtle but present acidity. Black plum, blackberry, vanilla and dill flavors finish strong, with savory, saucy tomato notes. This is a classic Ribera wine; drink through 2020. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

90 Arrocal 2009 Máximo (Ribera del Duero).

Charred, tarry, smoky aromas are gritty and outpace this boutique wine's fruit character. Hard and tannic, with citric acidity, this is steered by flavors of charred oak, licorice, chocolate and barrel resin. Toasty, spicy raspberry and blackcurrant

flavors finish it up. Drink through 2026. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$115

90 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2011 Clave de Tábula (Ribera del Duero).

With an opaque purple color and gritty, reduced aromas of grapy black fruits and hot stones, this hard, tannic, impermeable Tinto Fino tastes of lemony oak, baked blackberry and herbs. A dark, charred finish with notes of shoe polish and licorice is intense. Overall, this is fully extracted, concentrated and on the cusp of overdone. Drink through 2020. Las Arribes LLC. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$140

90 Marqués de Vargas 2009 Conde de San Crisóbel Raíces (Ribera del Duero).

Rubbery, mossy aromas of toasted black fruits, fresh asphalt and black olive come before a hard-driving palate with blackened berry, licorice and chocolate flavors. A heady, long finish tastes oak and chocolaty as it unwinds. Drink through 2025. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$55

90 Pingón 2011 Carramimbre Reserva (Ribera del Duero).

A bouquet of floral cherry and plum aromas mixed with savory spice, fine oak and earth notes spans the full spectrum of Ribera del Duero. This has a jammy, wide, tannic mouthfeel and flavors of blackberry, boysenberry and chocolate. A wide, tannic finish with light herbal notes is rock solid. Drink through 2019. Palette of Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$32

90 Tierra Aranda 2011 Ribera del Duero.

A pure nose based on raspberry, blackberry, spice, leather and meaty aromas is attractive. This Tinto Fino features a tight, tannic mouthfeel and roasted plum, grilled beef and savory spice flavors. Long, spicy and lightly toasty on the finish; drink through 2020. Saranty Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

89 Bodega San Pedro Regalado 2011 Embocadero (Ribera del Duero).

This is a bit clipped on the nose, with notes of saline, seashell, metal, leather and earthy blackberry. The palate feels wide and a touch wayward, while leathery berry and plum flavors include a note of mushroom. Lemony oak and herbal notes rise up on the finish. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

89 Pingón 2011 Torrepingón Reserva (Ribera del Duero).

Aromas of vanilla, herbs, black cherry, plum and dried cheese are sturdy and nice. This feels expansive, with chewy weight. Oaky flavors of vanilla, blackberry and dark plum are leathery and finish long, spicy and toasted. Drink through 2022. Palette of Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

88 Rento 2011 Ribera del Duero.

Heavy, rooty aromas of stewed black plum, raisin and prune set up a thick, tannic palate that's jammy like the nose. Prune, raisin and chocolate flavors are oak and very ripe, thus the finish is earthy, baked in feel and raisiny in flavor. Matarromera USA, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$75

87 Bodegas Ribón 2012 Tinto Ribón Crianza (Ribera del Duero).

Aromas of iodine, horse hide and saucy berry fruits are intriguing on the nose. The palate is tannic and mildly astringent offering rustic notes of baked, leathery black-fruit flavors. The finish is hot and jammy, with a leathery kick. Exworld Corporation. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$32

87 Pingón 2011 Torrepingón Selección (Ribera del Duero).

Aromas of stalky blackberry and earthy, mulched leaves are a bit strained. This feels tight and narrow, with saucy black plum, black cherry and raspberry flavors. This shows modest depth but is overall appealing. Palette of Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

86 Matarromera 2013 Melior 6 Meses en Barrica (Ribera del Duero).

Dark, dense, mossy aromas of leathery blackberry, baked black plum and forest floor feed into a grabby, heavy, slightly clumsy palate. Blackened flavors of baked plum, savory oak and peppery spice finish salty, resiny and woody. Matarromera USA, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

85 Finca El Encinal 2013 Roble (Ribera del Duero).

Dark, raisiny aromas of kirsch and marzipan open this jammy Tempranillo. Dark berry, black plum, foresty accents and mulchiness define the flavors on this stewy, plump offering. Vision Wine & Spirits. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

84 Vicente Gandia 2013 Dolmo (Ribera del Duero).

Heavily roasted, leathery, earthy aromas slightly override the fruit tones. This has a grabby, tannic palate and burnt, herbal, earthy black-fruit flavors. Saltiness and blackened notes are to be found on a clumpy finish. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$10

83 Pagos del Rey 2013 Altos de Tamarón (Ribera del Duero).

Raspberry and plum aromas are leathery and horsey. This has a jammy, flat mouthfeel and mulchy, lightly woody flavors of red plum and raspberry. On the finish, there's little besides a red-fruit note or two and earthiness. MHW, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$11

81 Tramuz 2013 Ribera del Duero.

Heavy oak on top of cherry aromas results in a chemical-driven, woody bouquet. This feels high in acid, with

an oaky, resinous offset. Sour plum, vanilla and resinous flavors finish short, lean and citric. The Other Wine & Spirits. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

RIOJA

92 Contino 2009 Viña del Olivo (Rioja). Initial oaky aromas of dried cheese, coffee grinds, lemon peel and vanilla welcome in plum and other red-berry scents. This rings loudly across the palate, with punchy acidity attributable to the Graciano in this Tempranillo-led blend. Flavors of tomato, raspberry, dried Manchego cheese and vanilla finish savory, long and fresh, with elegance. Drink 2017–2026. Europvin USA. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$150

92 Muga 2010 Reserva Unfiltered (Rioja). Lightly charred aromas of plum and blackberry carry meaty, savory, leathery notes that crank up the complexity quotient. A round, balanced mouthfeel and generous flavors of baked plum, black cherry and savory spices finish ripe and deep, with hints of tobacco and raisin. Drink this exemplary reserva from a great vintage through 2025. Fine Estates From Spain. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Beronia 2007 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Rooty, herbal, oaky aromas include notes of blackberry, raspberry and molasses. A layered, creamy palate has just enough structure and tannic grab to come across as firm. Charred, toasty flavors of oaky berry fruits and tobacco finish earthy, mature and lightly baked. Drink through 2020. Vin Divino. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

91 CVNE 2009 Cune Gran Reserva (Rioja). This opens with leathery aromas of earthy plum and red-berry fruits. It's medium in body and intensity, with racy, tomatoey acidity. Baked flavors are a bit stalky and echo the nose, while this gran reserva finishes ripe and easy. Drink through 2021. Europvin USA. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

91 Launa 2010 Selección Familiar Reserva (Rioja). Blackberry, black cherry, earth and rubery scents create a blunt, dense bouquet. This is round and full in body, with solid tannins balanced by fleshy, fruity depth. Dark plum, cassis and raspberry flavors linger on an earthy finish with toast and cola notes. Best enjoyed 2017–2022. Aviva Vino. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Marqués de Cáceres 2008 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 7.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Bodegas Bilbainas 2010 Viña Pomal Reserva (Rioja). This is the epitome of a composed, approachable Rioja reserva; it's earthy and dry up

front, with aromas of fine herbs, brandied cherry and plum. A solid palate houses oaky flavors of vanilla and butter in addition to plum and currant, while the finish is dry, elegant and oaky enough to give off a popcorn-like character. Drink through 2022. Aveniu Brands, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 Campillo 2008 Reserva (Rioja). Tobacco, rooty spice, black cherry and earthy aromas set up a high-acid palate that's racy and shearing. Flavors of toasty oak, plum, raspberry and carob finish long and wiry, with a note of citric acidity. Drink through 2023. Aviva Vino. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Conde de Hervías & Mencos 2008 Conde de Hervías (Rioja). Oak-heavy aromas of vanilla, graphite, blackberry and cassis come in front of a tannic, firm palate. Toasty blackberry aromas show a note of wood resin, while flavors of licorice and blackened toast ride high on a brisk finish. Drink this off-vintage Rioja through 2022. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$74

90 Viña Otano 2009 Reserva (Rioja). This opens with hot, fiery aromas, but with airing the nose turns toward cola, leather and plum. Wiry and lively on the palate, this is a focused, slightly tannic wine that reveals earthy, saucy flavors. A leathery, sun-baked finish is a bit stewy. Drink through 2019. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Viñedos Real Rubio 2007 Reserva (Rioja). Mature, ripe aromas of rooty berry fruits mix with tobacco scents on a soft, raisiny nose. This is easygoing in feel, with jammy roundness. Raisin, cocoa and ripe berry flavors finish heady, soft and chocolaty. Drink now. Distant Vines Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

89 Beronia 2008 Reserva Selección de 198 Barricas (Rioja). Inviting aromas of tobacco, cedar, vanilla and rooty blackberry are a high point on this slightly hollow Rioja reserva. Plum, blackberry and citric flavors are short and tart, while the finish is light in step, with juicy acidity. This is solid for a 2008, a notoriously difficult vintage. Drink through 2024. Vin Divino. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

89 Covila 2007 II Reserva (Rioja). Earthy, lightly baked cassis and raspberry aromas come with a dose of oaky vanilla. A full, bright, healthy palate delivers baked berry and cocoa flavors in front of a solid finish with molasses, vanilla and raspberry notes. Drink this mature Rioja now. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 CVNE 2010 Viña Real Oro Reserva (Rioja). This is austere on the nose, with a strong animal note riding along. The palate is both jammy

and tannic, while flavors of plum and boysenberry turn raisiny as it breathes. A thick, loamy finish tastes baked and jammy, with brawny tannins. This may benefit from more time in bottle. Europvin USA. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 El Coto 2010 Coto de Imaz Reserva (Rioja). An oaky opening with aromas of coconut, dried cheese, herbs, wood resin and berry fruits introduces a fresh, healthy palate with power but also resinous stickiness. Lightly baked cherry and plum flavors finish with lingering spice and wood notes. Drink through 2020. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Viña Olvido 2007 Reserva (Rioja). Cola, lemon and herbal aromas are like an Italian amaro in that they are rooty and earthy, with zing. This feels loamy and a bit creamy. Flavors of baking spices, vanilla, caramel, raspberry and pepper finish solid. Drink now. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Marqués de Riscal 2009 Reserva (Rioja). Soft, flat, raisiny aromas reflect a hot Rioja vintage. This is a bit soft and baked on the palate, but for the most part it's healthy. Raisin and prune flavors come with root beer and nutmeg notes, while a smooth, earthy, raisiny finish closes this out. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Bodegas Medrano Irazu 2007 Reserva (Rioja). Rooty berry and cherry aromas are brambly on the nose. This is mature and medium in body and extraction. Rooty flavors echo the bouquet, while the finish offers flavors of vanilla, root beer and light herbs. Drink now. Matadorvino LLC. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

87 Castillo Clavijo 2009 Crianza (Rioja). Jammy aromas of ripe but flat berry fruits and tree bark settle on medicinal and rooty. This feels solid but a touch soupy, with leafy, herbal plum and raspberry flavors. An herbal, saucy tasting finish is easygoing, with drying tannins. Siltstone Wines. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Lágrimas de María 2012 Madurado (Rioja). Earthy, meaty berry aromas have a foresty overtone along with leafy, herbal notes. This is stocky on the palate, with good grip. Plum, mixed black fruits and peppery spice make up the flavor profile on this ripe Rioja that loses some snap and turns loamy on the finish. Ascent Wines Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 Bodegas Berceo 2013 Viñadrian (Rioja). Earthy notes of saline and cheesy leather accent plum aromas on this tight number with rubery tannins. Plum, cherry and herbal flavors carry

BUYINGGUIDE

some bitterness onto a finish with medicinal plum notes. 4Front Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Bodegas Riolanc 2012 Vendimia Seleccionada (Rioja). Unusual aromas of cardamom and cinnamon accent blueberry and plum scents. In the mouth, this is robust and voluminous but mild in terms of tannins and structure. Earthy, stewy plum and blackberry flavors finish charred, with herbal notes and heat. Matadorvino LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

86 Patrocinio 2012 Zinio Tempranillo-Graciano (Rioja). Earthy, rooty aromas of cola, tobacco and baked black plum give way to a drawing, drying palate with rubbery, clumpy tannins. Roasted plum, prune and herbal flavors finish loamy in feel but salty in flavor. Ascent Wines Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Viña Los Valles 2012 Rioja. Leathery, roasted plum and berry aromas come with a noticeable charred, smoky side. This is full and edgy on the palate, with rubbery tannins. Flavors of charred oak steer leafy berry flavors toward a dry, herbal, spicy finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Bodegas Muriel 2012 Vendimia Seleccionada (Rioja). Cherry and berry aromas are earthy, leathery and a touch stalky, with a note of compost. A round, fairly full mouthfeel and lightly oaked, medicinal flavors of black plum and berry fruits finish short. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Bodegas Riojanas 2013 Canchales Vino Joven (Rioja). Raspberry and red-plum aromas are light and generic. This feels a touch rough and rubbery, with acidity that stands out. Plum and berry flavors taste rustic and burnt, while the finish is fresh but rugged. Bodegas Riojanas USA Corp. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Valenciso 2008 Reserva (Rioja). Stalky, mulchy aromas of compost and underripe fruit are a low point on this otherwise decent high-end Rioja from a poor vintage. Hard and grating across the palate, this tastes stalky, burnt and raw, with oak for cover. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

84 Faustino Rivero Ulecia 2013 White Label (Rioja). This is a spunky, jumpy Tempranillo with horsey aromas of cherry and plum. A light, fresh palate delivers lightly herbal flavors of plum and pie cherry, with an earthy twist. Mild and hollow on the finish. Vinaio Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

84 Valdelana 2012 Agnvs de Autor (Rioja). Aromas of tire rubber, graphite and wet cement are oak-driven and overshadow wine's berry

components. A tannic, resinous palate is expected, given the nose. Heavy oak overshadows black-plum flavors, while the finish is oaky, minty and a touch green. Murphy Distributors. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

83 Valdelana 2013 Selección Braille (Rioja). Gritty aromas of raisin and dusty earth are jumbled. This has a heavy, somewhat awkward palate, while raisiny flavors finish chunky, candied and slightly bitter. Murphy Distributors. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

NAVARRA

88 Príncipe de Viana 2011 Edición Limitada (Navarra). Plum, tobacco and cheesy aromas register as spicy and rustic on the nose. A raw, hard-tannin palate offers herbal flavors of thyme and rosemary to go with chocolate and raspberry notes. Toasty oak, heat and length on the finish suggest that this may improve over the next five years. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Finca Albret 2011 Juan de Albret Crianza (Navarra). This Tempranillo-led blend shows an overripe raisin note on the nose. The palate low on acidity, eventually showing baked plum, blackberry and meaty flavors. Spice and heat rise up on a chewy finish that's softly structured. Drink through 2017. Oak Barrel Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Príncipe de Viana 2011 Crianza (Navarra). Ripe aromas of prune, blackberry, marzipan and leather announce a palate tougher than the nose indicates. Plum, cherry, prune and peppery flavors finish baked and loamy, with some heat. This is Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Otazu 2011 Premium Cuvée Señorío de Otazu (Navarra). This Navarran blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Tempranillo opens with mulchy aromas of compost, tomato and herbs as well as currant and plum. The palate is thick and syrupy in feel, with a mix of baked, stewy berry flavors offset by green notes. Herbal berry and chocolate flavors control a rooty, sweet-tasting finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

CALATAYUD

86 Marqués de Montañana 2013 Selección Especial Garnacha (Calatayud). This forcefully oaked Garnacha offers rustic berry fruit aromas over clove. The high acidity is offset by resinous oak, while flavors of clove and char vie with generic red-berry flavors over a slightly hot finish. Axial Wines USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Acentor 2013 Garnacha (Calatayud). This opens with an aromatic note of wet dog along with wild berry and plum. The palate is spunky, jumpy and lively, while flavors of plum, raspberry and berry skins finish short and simple. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Cruz de Piedra 2013 Selección Especial Garnacha (Calatayud). Earthy blackberry flavors include carob and herbal accents. This is drawing and high in acidity, while earthy, herbal flavors of raspberry and plum are a bit green. Charred oak, clove and leafy berry flavors take over on the finish. Axial Wines USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

80 Agustín Cubero 2013 Unus Old Vine Garnacha (Calatayud). The aromas of this wine are gummy and candied on the nose. Weird flavors of pastry, mulched earth and clay are devoid of clean fruit and finish jumbled and flat. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

CARIÑENA

88 Montgó 2012 Garnacha (Cariñena). This Garnacha opens with earthy plum and raspberry aromas as well as licorice, horse hide and herbal accents. A fresh, energetic, lively palate delivers plum, cherry and raspberry flavors in front of a clumpy, tannic finish with savory notes. Hammeken Cellars USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Bodegas San Valero 2012 Particular Old Vine Garnacha (Cariñena). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Marqués de Almonacid 2012 Vendimia Seleccionada San Nicolás De Tolentino Garnacha-Tempranillo (Cariñena). Dense blackberry, licorice, leather and herb aromas come together nicely on this Garnacha-Tempranillo blend. Bracing, racy acidity creates edge and sharpness on the palate, while hickory-smoked plum and raspberry flavors finish with firm tannins and dashing acidity. Axial Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Ignacio Marín 2012 Ballad Garnacha (Cariñena). Prune and raisin aromas are dominant and suggest overripeness. Following that lead, this is chunky and heavy on the palate, with pounding tannins. Baked blackberry, prune and savory flavors finish long and dense. Beacon Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

85 Pago Aylés 2012 Aldeya Garnacha (Cariñena). Leathery, horsey lead aromas include hints of licorice, baked plum and green herbs. This Garnacha has a saucy, tomatoey feel and leafy red-

berry flavors that finish with a hint of sweet caramel and herbal overtones. Matadorvino LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

CATALUNYA

83 Ressò 2013 Garnacha (Catalunya). Loamy, earthy aromas of raspberry and raisin fall flat as this breathes. A heavy palate is low on freshness and acidity, while prune, cherry and cassis flavors veer toward raisin on a finish that quickly loses clarity and snap. Winesellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

JUMILLA

89 Genio Español 2013 Roble Monastrell (Jumilla). Plum and blackcurrant aromas are rustic, dark and leathery. In the mouth, this strikes the right notes courtesy of good body weight and solid overall balance. Lightly oaked, medicinal flavors of plum and raspberry finish with juicy acidity and a reasonable amount of oak. SAWM Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Casa de la Ermita 2013 Roble (Jumilla). This is interesting from the opening. Floral aromas include violet, bath soap and lavender along with blueberry. This is tight on the palate, with exotic flavors of blackberry and licorice that turn darker and grittier with airing. Cassis and exotic spice notes push the finish. The Spanish Acquisition. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 El Molet 2013 Red (Jumilla). Briny, leathery, horsey berry aromas are alarming at first but settle in due time. A chunky mouthfeel struggles before finding its timing, while oaky flavors of hickory, bitter char and black fruits finish baked and herbal. This is good but raw, raspy and green. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

85 Nacido del Quórum 2013 3 Meses en Barica Monastrell (Jumilla). This was aged but three months in oak, but it smells and tastes woody. Char, resin and toasty blackberry and black plum aromas lead into a resinous palate with charred flavors of black cherry and plum. Burnt, bitter notes rise up on the finish. The Artisan Collection. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

83 Juan Gil 2013 Honoro Vera Organic Monastrell (Jumilla). Red fruit aromas of plum and cranberry are green and grassy, with snap. This has an edgy, grating feel and herbal flavors of raspberry and red plum that turn green before finishing short. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$9

TIERRA DE CASTILLA

88 Venta Morales 2013 Made With Organic Grapes Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Concentrated, muscular aromas of leathery blackberry set up a full, grinding, powerful palate with dark, earthy flavors of toast, blackberry and black plum. A peppery, spicy finish simmers with mild heat and burn. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Tinedo 2013 Cala N.1 (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Drawn-down aromas of berry fruit and hard spices are narrow. This is hard on the palate, with pounding tannins and dark, almost burnt black-fruit flavors that finish peppery to the point of bitterness. This is a blend of Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Viña Galana 2013 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Cool, calm black cherry, raspberry and leather aromas come in front of a pure, juicy palate. Blackberry and blackcurrant flavors are bold but basic, while this Tempranillo holds its fruit and form on a slightly hot finish. SAWM Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

86 Venta Morales 2013 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Berry and plum aromas are rustic and stalky. Snappy and a bit sharp in feel, this shows leathery, roasted cherry and berry flavors in front of a short finish with black cherry notes. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$8

84 Trecalòs 2013 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of tomato sauce and red-wine vinegar create sharpness on the nose. Plum and raspberry flavors run short, with a fresh, basic finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

TUSCANY CHIANTI RUFINA

93 Selvapiana 2013 Chianti Rufina. Elegant and fragrant, this opens with aromas of pressed rose, crushed violet, wild berry and a whiff of baking spice. The vibrant, focused palate delivers juicy red cherry, raspberry, white pepper, cinnamon and dried herb. It's well balanced, with supple tannins and bright acidity. Drink through 2018. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

92 I Veroni 2012 Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Blue flower, plum, leather and underbrush aromas come together in the glass. The full-bodied palate delivers ripe black cherry, crushed raspberry,

clove, tobacco and aniseed alongside velvety tannins. A black pepper note signals the close. Drink through 2018. Jandell Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Fattoria Il Lago 2010 Riserva (Chianti Rufina). This 100% Sangiovese offers aromas of ripe wild berry, pressed iris, leather and a whiff of baking spices. The firm, savory palate delivers black cherry, licorice, espresso, ground black pepper and tobacco. Tightly knit but polished tannins provide the framework. Eagle Eye Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Fattoria Lavacchio 2012 Cedro (Chianti Rufina). Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, Canaiolo and Ciliegiolo grapes, this classically crafted red offer aromas of ripe berry, pressed violet, tobacco, leather and a whiff of dark baking spices. On the savory palate, notes of anise, clove and ground white pepper accent a core of dried black cherry. It's fresh and well balanced, with polished tannins. Drink through 2019. Montcalm Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

90 I Veroni 2013 Chianti Rufina. Sleek and fresh, this vibrant wine opens with aromas of dark berry, leafy underbrush, grilled porcini mushrooms and a whiff of tilled soil. The savory palate doles out juicy black cherry, clove, dried herb and anise alongside bright acidity and polished tannins. Drink through 2017. Jandell Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Fattoria Il Lago 2012 Chianti Rufina. Wild cherry, ripe strawberry, graphite, clove and licorice sensations emerge in this elegant red. It's well balanced and already enjoyable thanks to supple tannins and fresh acidity. It will provide easy-drinking pleasure over the next few years. Enjoy through 2017. Eagle Eye Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Grati 2011 Villa di Vetrice Riserva (Chianti Rufina). A blend of 90% Sangiovese, 7% Canaiolo and 3% Colorino, this opens with aromas that recall charred earth, blackberry, blue flowers and a whiff of game. The taut palate offers dried black cherry, mint and brown baking spices alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. New England Wine and Spirits Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Travignoli 2010 Tegolaia Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Aromas of underbrush, baked earth, cedar and a whiff of game lead the nose. The palate offers dried black cherry, anise, black pepper and grilled sage alongside brooding tannins. It's a bit rustic but has an earthy appeal. Drink through 2019. Kysela Père et Fils. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Castello del Trebbio 2010 Lastricato Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Aromas of baked earth,

vanilla, toasted oak and grilled herb waft out of the glass. The meaty palate has a rustic appeal, offering blackberry, cherry and cured meat, with a smoky note alongside chewy tannins. Total Wine & More. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Colognole 2009 Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Dark berry, purple iris and a whiff of cake spice float from the glass. The palate offers up black cherry, blackberry, clove and cinnamon alongside round, smooth tannins. It's already extremely accessible and will provide easy-drinking pleasure for the next few years. Drink through 2018. Vino et Spiritus. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 Dreolino 2013 Chianti Rufina. Aromas of black plum and fragrant blue flowers waft out of the glass. On the bright, easygoing palate, notes of mint and white pepper add interest to the black cherry core. Fresh acidity and supple tannins back up the juicy flavors. New France Wine Co. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Fattoria di Basciano 2012 Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Aromas of baked plum, truffle, coconut, toasted oak and espresso lead the nose of this blend of 93% Sangiovese and 7% Colorino. The palate doles out fleshy black cherry, ripe raspberry, mocha and baking spice alongside chewy tannins. HB Wine Merchants. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Fattoria Lavacchio 2008 Ludiè (Chianti Rufina). Made entirely with Sangiovese, this seven year-old is showing some age. It opens with aromas of prune, resin, toast and vanilla that all carry over to the dense palate along with blackberry extract and oak-driven spice. It lacks fruit richness while astringent wood tannins leave an abrupt, drying finish. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

88 Grati 2013 Villa di Vetrice (Chianti Rufina). This vibrant wine opens with aromas that recall tilled soil, iris, strawberry and an earthy note of porcini mushroom. The racy palate offers underripe wild cherry, grilled herb and a hint of baking spice while smooth tannins and bright acidity provide an easy-drinking framework. New England Wine and Spirits Inc. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Marchesi Gondi 2010 Villa Bossi Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Aromas of charred earth, grilled sage, allspice, pressed blue flowers and a whiff of game emerge in the glass. The palate offers ripe black cherry, overripe plum, mocha and a hint of leather. It's evolving quickly so drink soon. Quigley Fine Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Podere il Pozzo 2011 Vigna Vecchia Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Aromas of charred soil, dark spice and a whiff of barnyard lead the nose. The palate offers fleshy black cherry, baked plum, mocha and a confectionary note alongside dusty tannins. It's a bit rustic and shy on fresh acidity, so drink soon. Saranty Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Cantine Bellini 2012 Chianti Rufina. Truffle, forest floor, wild berry and scorched soil aromas lead the nose of this easygoing, earthy red. The lively palate offers juicy wild cherry and a hint of cake spice alongside pliant tannins. It would pair nicely with hearty Tuscan soups. Saranty Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Colognole 2011 Chianti Rufina. This opens with an attractive fragrance of ripe plum, violet, aromatic herb and baking spice. The straightforward palate offers dried black cherry, crushed raspberry, ground pepper and leather alongside polished tannins. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit freshness. Vino et Spiritus. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Fattoria di Grignano 2012 Chianti Rufina. This blend of 85% Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 5% other red grapes opens with aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, crushed blue flowers and a whiff of clove. The easygoing palate offers dried black cherry, espresso and a hint of anise alongside dusty tannins. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Fattoria Lavacchio 2010 Cedro Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Made with Sangiovese and 10% Merlot, this opens with aromas of vanilla, ripe plum and a whiff of coconut. The aromas carry over to the palate along with dried black cherry, licorice and roasted coffee bean. It's still tightly wound, with raspy tannins that leave an astringent finish. Drink soon as the fruit richness is starting to dry up. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Marchesi Gondi 2010 Pian dei Sorbi Riserva (Chianti Rufina). This opens with aromas of blue flowers, ripe blackberry, aromatic herb and an earthy note of tilled soil. The palate offers dried black fruit, toast, vanilla and coffee alongside smooth but rather fleeting tannins. Quigley Fine Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Podere il Pozzo 2013 Chianti Rufina. Fruity aromas of red berry mingle in the glass together with a light note of cooking spice. The easygoing but rather fleeting palate offers wild cherry, strawberry and grilled herb alongside bright acidity and loose knit tannins. Saranty Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Selvapiana 2011 Vigneto Bucerchiale Riserva (Chianti Rufina). This robust wine opens with aromas of spiced plum, iris and grilled herb. The warm palate offers raisin, licorice, game, black pepper and the heat of evident alcohol. Reflecting the torrid vintage, this is evolving quickly and the fruit richness is already drying up, so drink sooner rather than later. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

86 Dreolino 2011 Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Aromas of nail varnish, overripe black-skinned fruit and prune lead the nose. The evolved palate offers dried black cherry, raisin, clove and a confectionary note alongside fleeting tannins. Drink now. New France Wine Co. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

86 Fattoria di Basciano 2013 Chianti Rufina. Bright and earthy, this informal red offers aromas of dark-skinned berry, leafy underbrush, tilled soil and a whiff of clove that carry over to the easy-drinking palate. Racy acidity and mild, fleeting tannins provide the easygoing framework. HB Wine Merchants. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Fattoria di Grignano 2009 Poggio Gualtieri Riserva (Chianti Rufina). This blend of Sangiovese and 10% Merlot opens with aromas of baked plum, spice, menthol and a whiff of cellar floor. The palate offers sawdust, licorice and blackberry extract alongside assertive wood tannins that dry out the mouth. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Travignoli 2013 Chianti Rufina. Here's a bright, informal red that offers sour cherry, red berry and a light note of cooking spice. Lively acidity and soft, rather fleeting tannins give it an easy-drinking quality. Kysela Père et Fils. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

CHIANTI COLLI FIORENTINI

90 Le Torri di Campigioni 2012 Chianti Colli Fiorentini. Aromas of iris, plum and woodland berry unfold in the glass. The savory palate is elegantly structured and displays juicy red cherry, red currant, anise seed and black pepper alongside supple tannins. Drink through 2018. SPW Importers. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Tenuta San Vito 2012 Darno (Chianti Colli Fiorentini). Intense blue flower and mint aromas lead the nose and follow through to the juicy palate of ripe red berry and black cherry. It's well-structured and easy drinking, with modest but fresh acidity and fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2017. Good Earth Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Il Corno 2010 San Camillo Riserva (Chianti Colli Fiorentini). Elegantly structured, this

opens with aromas of blue flowers and perfumed berries. The savory palate offers wild cherry, plum, dried herb and a licorice note alongside fresh acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins. Morandell Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Il Corno 2011 Foss'a Spina (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Made with a classic blend of Sangiovese, Canaiolo and Colorino, this offers quintessential Chianti aromas of wild berry, forest floor, leather, savory herb and game. On the palate, notes of licorice, sage and white pepper accent a core of juicy black cherry. It's quickly approaching its ideal drinking window so enjoy soon. Morandell Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Le Torri di Campiglion 2011 Riserva (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Here's a hearty, friendly red that delivers ripe wild cherry, ripe black plum, dried mint and black pepper sensations accompanied by a eucalyptus note. It's at its ideal drinking window so enjoy soon. SPW Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

87 **Castelvecchio 2011 Chianti Colli Fiorentini.** This opens with aromas of underbrush, tilled soil, grilled porcini, espresso and ripe black berry. The palate offers dried black cherry, roasted coffee bean and coconut alongside drying, astringent tannins and soft acidity. Drink through 2015. Atlantic Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 **La Querce 2012 La Torretta (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Aromas of toast, coconut and ripe black-skinned fruit lead the nose. The soft, one-dimensional palate doles out fleshy black cherry, vanilla and mocha alongside round but rather drying tannins. Sunrise Wines. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$23

87 **Uggiano 2013 1265 (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Subdued aromas of wild berry and forest floor lead the nose of this easygoing red. The vibrant palate delivers crunchy red cherry, tart red currant and a hint of mint alongside zesty acidity and fine-grained tannins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 **Castelvecchio 2010 Vigna La Quercia Riserva (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Aromas of blue flower, dark-skinned fruit, brown spice and grilled bell pepper come together in the glass. The palate offers dried black cherry, prune, espresso, coconut and a toasted note alongside tightly knit tannins. It's starting to dry up so drink soon. Atlantic Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

84 **Lanciola 2012 Chianti Colli Fiorentini.** This informal red opens with aromas of leafy underbrush, wet soil and dark plum. The simple palate

offers up tart cherry, black raspberry and an earthy note of game alongside brisk acidity. Angular but fleeting tannins give it an abrupt finish. Drink now. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

84 **Villa Corliano 2013 Briccole (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Made with 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this opens with earthy aromas of wet soil, underbrush and a whiff of barnyard. The simple palate offers overripe black cherry and a funky note of game alongside soft tannins. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

84 **Villa Corliano 2011 Briccole Riserva (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** Made with 90% Sangiovese and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with funky aromas of leafy underbrush, scorched earth, toasted oak and a whiff of barnyard. The rustic palate displays game, leather, dried black cherry and bitter prune alongside astringent tannins. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

CHIANTI MONTESPERTOLI

90 **Fattorie Parri 2009 Tenuta Corfecciano Urbana Riserva (Chianti Montespertoli).** Menthol, savory herb and dark-skinned berry aromas lead the nose along with a balsamic note. The full-bodied but accessible palate doles out black cherry, crushed plum, sage and soothing licorice alongside velvety tannins. Enjoy through 2016. Gimelli Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

87 **Castello Sonnino 2013 Chianti Montespertoli.** Pretty aromas of violet, iris and woodland berry waft out of the glass. The vibrant palate offers raw red cherry, orange zest and dried Mediterranean herb alongside racy acidity and sleek tannins. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

87 **Castello Sonnino 2010 Castello di Montespertoli Riserva (Chianti Montespertoli).** This opens with oak-driven aromas of toast, espresso, coffee and coconut. The concentrated palate offers oak, dried blackberry, ripe plum, roasted coffee bean, vanilla and a confectionary note alongside packed tannins. The fruit is starting to dry out so drink soon. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

86 **Le Fonti a San Giorgio 2011 Chianti Montespertoli.** This earthy expression of Sangiovese and 10% Colorino opens with funky aromas of scorched soil, truffle and game. The palate offers dried black cherry, toast, clove and a truffle note. Round but somewhat fleeting tannins provide the easy-drinking framework. Drink through 2015. Morandell Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE

95 **San Felice 2011 Il Grigio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 3.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

94 **Castelli del Grevepesa 2011 Lamole Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Made entirely with Sangiovese, this offers lovely aromas of iris, fresh violet, perfumed berry and a whiff of sweet baking spice. The elegantly structured palate doles out juicy black cherry, crushed raspberry, mocha, white pepper and cinnamon while firm, velvety tannins offer support. It closes on a tobacco note. It's already delicious but hold for complexity. Drink 2016–2021. Votto Vines Importing. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 **Castelli del Grevepesa 2011 Panzano Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Made entirely with Sangiovese, this offers aromas of forest floor, tilled soil, violet, woodland berry and a whiff of leather. The structured but elegant palate doles out juicy black cherry, licorice, tobacco and ground pepper alongside velvety tannins. It's already delicious but hold for more complexity. Drink 2016–2026. Votto Vines Importing. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 **Fattoria di Corsignano 2012 L'Imperatrice Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of dark plum, sun-baked soil, cooking spice and grilled herb flow together in the glass. Made entirely with Sangiovese, the palate shows breeding and class, offering ripe black cherry, ground pepper, tobacco and aniseed alongside youthfully austere tannins. Give this time to fully develop. Drink 2017–2027. Due Fratelli Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 **Volpaia 2011 Il Puro Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** This single-vineyard Sangiovese—made with organically farmed grapes grown 1,470 feet above sea level—offers aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit, pipe tobacco, scorched earth, menthol and a whiff of leather. The full-bodied palate delivers dried black cherry, licorice, clove and ground black pepper alongside brooding tannins. Drink 2017–2023. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

92 **Castello Vicchiomaggio 2011 La Prima Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Elegantly structured, this opens with aromas of dried berry, ground pepper, grilled herb and a cedar note. On the firm palate, notes of licorice, ground pepper and sage add depth to the core of dried black cherry. Firm, fine-grained tannins provide the backbone. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Fontodi 2012 Vigna del Sorbo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Ripe plum, black cherry, blue flower, baking spice, toasted oak and a balsamic note are just some of the aromas and flavors you'll find on this full-bodied, structured red. Velvety tannins support the juicy flavors and the fruit richness absorbs the hefty alcohol. It's still a bit on its oak and will be even better once it has a chance to come together. Drink 2017–2027. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Il Molino di Grace 2011 Il Margone Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of underbrush, ripe dark-skinned fruit, clove, espresso and a balsamic note lead the nose of this structured Sangiovese. The generous palate delivers juicy black cherry, blackberry, licorice and tobacco alongside velvety tannins. Drink 2016–2021. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Losi 2010 Millenium Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Malvasia, this savory wine has aromas of prune, sweet baking spice, pressed violet, truffle and a whiff of mocha. The chewy palate doles out juicy black cherry, mint, grilled herb, cinnamon, clove and tobacco accompanied by round, ripe tannins. It's already accessible but will also age modestly. Drink through 2020. Tricana Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Rocca delle Macie 2012 Riserva di Fizzano Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of woodland berry, forest floor, spice and a toasted note lead the nose of this blend of 95% Sangiovese and 5% Merlot. The elegantly structured palate offers dried black cherry, licorice, clove and espresso alongside tightly knit but polished tannins. Drink 2017–2027. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Tenuta di Nozzole 2012 La Forra Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of iris, plum, leather and a whiff of clove lead the nose. The firm, savory palate offers black cherry, red currant, licorice, black pepper and tobacco backed up by assertive, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2016–2022. Ko-brand. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Tolaini 2011 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Truffle, ripe berry, plum, oak-driven spice, espresso and leather aromas lead the nose. The firm palate delivers dried black cherry, raisin, licorice and tobacco alongside tightly knit tannins. It closes on a note of grilled herb. Drink 2016–2021. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Castello di Querceto 2012 Il Picchio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of ripe plum, scorched earth, dark baking spice, toast and a hint of leather open up in the glass. The ripe palate delivers ripe black cherry, grilled herb, pipe tobacco

and a coffee note. Velvety tannins hold up the savory flavors. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

90 Rocca delle Macie 2011 Sergio Zingarelli Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). A blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Colorino, this opens with aromas of underbrush, toasted oak, blackberry and grilled herb. On the firm palate, notes of espresso, clove and aniseed accent a core of dried black cherry while assertive tannins provide the framework. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

89 Bindi Sergardi 2011 Mocenni Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of baked plum, coconut, scorched earth and oak emerge in the glass. The palate offers dried black cherry, oak-driven spice, licorice and tobacco alongside firm but fine-grained tannins. Drink 2016–2021. CV Tuscan Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Mazzei 2011 Castello Fonterutoli Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of roasted coffee bean, toast, oak-driven spice, ripe berry and scorched earth lead the nose. The firm palate offers black cherry extract, espresso, licorice, oak and coconut alongside assertive, grippy tannins. Still oak driven and tightly tannic, give this a few years to fully develop but then drink to capture the remaining fruit richness. Drink 2017–2021. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

89 Rocca di Castagnoli 2011 Stielle Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of blackberry, blue flower and a whiff of aniseed lead the nose. The medium-bodied palate offers ripe black cherry, vanilla, clove, white pepper and grilled herb alongside assertive, tightly knit tannins that leave a rather astringent finish. Drink 2016–2021. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 Rocca di Castagnoli 2010 Stielle Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Underbrush, espresso and plummy aromas take shape in the glass. The tight palate offers dried cherry, grilled sage and aniseed alongside packed tannins. Drink after 2018. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 San Fabiano Calcinaia 2011 Cellole Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). This full-bodied red opens with aromas of sun-baked soil, iris, baking spice and plum. The warm palate offers black berry, dried black cherry, espresso and tobacco alongside raspy tannins that leave a drying finish. Matchvino. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA

95 Cafaggio 2010 Basilica Solatio Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of leather, tilled soil, black-skinned fruit, spice and a balsamic note slowly take shape on this classically crafted, full-bodied red. The smooth, delicious palate doles out ripe wild cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon, licorice and clove alongside firm but ripe tannins. Hold for complexity. Drink 2016–2025. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

95 Monteraponi 2011 Baron' Ugo Riserva (Chianti Classico). This gorgeous wine boasts alluring scents of fragrant blue flower, wild berry, sun-baked earth, leather and a balsamic note. The linear, structured palate shows depth and finesse, delivering juicy red cherry, crushed raspberry, strawberry, clove, white pepper and tobacco. This is one of the best and freshest showings from the torrid 2011 vintage. Drink 2016–2026. A.I. Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$82

94 Felsina 2012 Rancia Riserva (Chianti Classico). Full-bodied and loaded with finesse, this opens with aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, exotic spice, toast and a whiff of new oak. The firm palate delivers ripe black cherry, crushed plum, clove and ground pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2017–2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

94 Monteraponi 2012 Il Campitello Riserva (Chianti Classico). Fragrant and focused, this poised wine opens with alluring scents of violet, iris, wild berry, aromatic herb and a balsamic note. On the elegant palate, notes of anise and baking spice accent the juicy core of red cherry and crushed raspberry. It's impeccably balanced, with polished tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2022. A.I. Selections. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$56

93 Cafaggio 2010 Basilica S. Martino Riserva (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, this offers aromas of toasted oak, cedar, mocha and plum. The fresh palate delivers juicy blackberry, black cherry, vanilla, dark chocolate and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. A licorice note tops off the lingering finish. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Casa al Vento 2012 Foho Riserva (Chianti Classico). Red berry, pressed violet, tilled soil and a whiff of tobacco lead the nose. Firm and refined, the delicious palate doles out wild cherry, crushed black raspberry, mint, white pepper and menthol. Tightly knit but polished tannins and fresh acidity provide structure. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 **Castello di Verrazzano 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

93 **Volpaia 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

93 **Lamole di Lamole 2010 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Classic varietal aromas of fragrant purple flower, wild berry and baking spice jump out of the glass. A blend of Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo, the juicy palate doles out fleshy black cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon, herb and mocha alongside velvety tannins and fresh acidity. It's already delicious and well balanced. Drink through 2020. SM USA. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 **Castellare di Castellina 2012 Il Poggiale Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of violet, plum, mint and sun-baked earth lead the nose of this blend of 90% Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Cilieggiolo. The lively, elegant palate delivers juicy red cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and white pepper alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

92 **Castello di Monsanto 2012 50th Harvest Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 5.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

92 **Losi 2010 Querciavalle Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Dark berry, cooking spice and tilled soil aromas lead the nose. The sleek, savory palate delivers juicy wild cherry, black raspberry, cinnamon, white pepper, mint and clove alongside supple tannins. Enjoy through 2018. Tricana Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

92 **Marchesi Antinori 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

92 **Mazzei 2012 Ser Lapo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Sangiovese and 10% Merlot are behind this savory red. It opens with aromas of plum, blue flower, forest floor and baking spice. The aromas follow through to the elegantly structured palate, along with juicy black cherry crushed raspberry, clove and tobacco. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

91 **Badia a Coltibuono 2010 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Made with Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, Colorino and Cilieggiolo, this boasts an alluring aroma of red berry, fragrant iris, anise, underbrush and a balsamic note. The bright palate offers ripe black cherry, menthol, baking spice, grilled herb and a tobacco note. It's nicely balanced, with

ripe tannins and freshness. Drink through 2020. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

91 **Castello d'Albola 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of wild red berry, sun-baked earth and dark cooking spices blossom in the glass. The medium-bodied, elegant palate delivers juicy wild cherry, crushed black raspberry, baking spice and grilled herb while smooth, polished tannins provide support. Zonin USA. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

91 **Fattoria di Corsignano 2012 L'Imperatore Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Ripe plum, iris, violet and underbrush aromas lead the nose. The firm palate offers dried black cherry, raspberry, licorice, clove and a hint of tobacco. Tightly knit but ripe tannins and fresh acidity provide support. Drink 2016–2022. Due Fratelli Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

91 **Marchesi Antinori 2012 Villa Antinori Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

91 **Rocca delle Macie 2012 Famiglia Zingarelli Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 8.
abv: 14% Price: \$26

91 **Terrabianca 2011 Croce Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Fragrant purple flower aromas, with red berry and vanilla lead the nose of this round, succulent wine. Notes of mocha, white pepper and aniseed accent the juicy black cherry core while chewy tannins provide the framework. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

90 **Capannelle 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of sun-baked earth, pressed iris, wild berry, underbrush and a whiff of game lead the nose. The round, open palate delivers fleshy black cherry, ripe plum, ground pepper, leather and anise alongside velvety tannins. It's already accessible but will hold up well for the next few years. Drink through 2018. Capannelle US. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

90 **Carobbio 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Made entirely with Sangiovese, this opens with earthy aromas of underbrush, baked earth, black-skinned berry and a whiff of menthol. The palate delivers black cherry, clove, white pepper, grilled herb and tobacco alongside chewy tannins. American B.D. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

90 **Castello di Meleto 2012 Vigna Casi Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This opens with aromas of baked plum, toast, grilled herb and a whiff of espresso. The soft, round palate offers up fleshy black cherry, licorice, mocha and a hint of coconut alongside polished tannins. Drink sooner rather

than later to capture the juicy fruit flavors. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$43

90 **Castello di Monsanto 2010 Il Poggio Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of underbrush, tilled soil, toast and espresso lead the nose. The firmly structured palate offers ripe black cherry, blackberry, coffee, anise and grilled herb alongside assertive tannins that need to unwind. Drink 2016–2020. MW Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA Price: \$50

90 **Castello Vicchiomaggio 2012 Agostino Petri Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A blend of Sangiovese topped up with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of ripe plum, baked earth, pressed blue flower and brown spice. The firm palate delivers dried black cherry, mocha, anise and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 **Fattoria Poggerino 2012 Bugialla Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This 100% Sangiovese opens with aromas of plum, wild berry, grilled herb and a menthol note. The structured palate offers ripe black cherry, mint and ground white pepper alongside firm, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2016–2020. Voliovino. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

90 **Felsina 2012 Berardenga Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This took a few minutes to open up in the glass to reveal enticing aromas of dark berry, fragrant purple flowers and mint. The palate offers black cherry, vanilla, espresso, clove and well-integrated oak alongside firm tannins. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 **Nittardi 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Made with Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this opens with aromas of dried plum, scorched earth, exotic spice and a whiff of cedar. On the palate, ground black pepper, clove, mocha and espresso accent a core of dried black cherry. Firm, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

90 **San Felice 2011 Il Grigio da San Felice Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This firmly structured Sangiovese opens with aromas of underbrush, fragrant purple flowers, ripe berry and a whiff of ground pepper. On the savory palate, notes of licorice, clove and espresso add depth to the core of ripe cherry. Premium Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

90 **San Felice 2011 Villa La Pagliaia Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of leafy forest floor, grilled porcini, ripe plum and toast lead the nose. The palate offers ripe black cherry, grilled herb, cinnamon and mocha alongside tightly knit, fine-

grained tannins. It closes on a tobacco note. Premium Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 San Leonino 2011 Monsenese Riserva (Chianti Classico). Fragrant and elegantly structured, this poised Sangiovese opens with aromas of pressed violet, wild berry and a whiff of dark baking spice. The palate delivers black cherry, crushed raspberry, white pepper and clove alongside polished tannins. Seaview Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Tenuta di Nozzole 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of scorched earth, black cooking spice and ripe berry lead the nose. The medium-bodied, easy-drinking palate doles out fleshy black cherry, ripe raspberry, licorice and ground pepper alongside polished tannins. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Vignamaggio 2012 Gherardino Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of Sangiovese and 15% Merlot, this opens with aromas that recall red currant, cedar and rose petal. The savory palate doles out wild cherry, white pepper, cinnamon and aniseed alongside polished tannins. Bedford International. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Villa Calcinaia 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of red currant, blackberry, cedar and a whiff of blue flower lead the nose. Made with Sangiovese and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, the palate doles out spiced blueberry, fleshy plum and juicy black cherry while clove, white pepper and grilled herb provide backup. Sleek tannins make this already very accessible. The Marchetti Co. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Agricoltori del Chianti Geografico 2012 Montegiachi Riserva (Chianti Classico). Made with 95% Sangiovese and 5% Colorino, this opens with aromas of ripe blackberry, blue flower and a whiff of exotic spice. The palate offers dried black cherry, cedar and black pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. USA for Little Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Borgo Scopeto 2011 Misciano Riserva (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Brancaia 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of 80% Sangiovese and 20% Merlot, this opens with aromas of sun-baked earth, ripe plum, blue flower and a whiff of oak-driven spice. The firm palate delivers dried black cherry, anise, coconut, mocha and grilled sage alongside dusty tannins that leave a slightly astringent finish. E & J Gallo. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Cantalici L'Antica Fornace di Ridolfo 2011 Baruffo Riserva (Chianti Classico). This boasts

enticing aromas of pressed blue flower, perfumed red berry and a balsamic note. The smooth palate delivers dried black cherry, licorice, clove and tobacco while velvety tannins provide the framework. Reflecting the hot vintage, it's a bit shy on fresh acidity so enjoy soon. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

89 Castellare di Castellina 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo, this medium-bodied red initially opens with rather funky aromas that eventually burn off in the glass to reveal dark berry, tilled soil and a whiff of baking spice. The ripe palate offers juicy wild cherry, ground pepper, dried aromatic herb and an earthy note of game alongside smooth tannins. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Castello di Gabbiano 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A full-bodied mix of Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this offers aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, dark cooking spice, menthol and tobacco. On the firm, forward palate, notes of clove, peppercorn and anise accent the core of dried black cherry. Assertive, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Treasury Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Fattoria di Montemaggio 2009 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this opens with scents underbrush, scorched earth, cedar and baked plum. The palate offers dried black cherry, ground pepper, licorice and a confectionary note supported by assertive, fine-grained tannins. A grilled herb note signals the close. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Tenuta del Nanfro 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of tilled soil, leather, spiced berry and menthol lead the nose. The palate offers blackberry, Marasca cherry, cedar, mint and white pepper alongside fresh acidity and assertive but fine-grained tannins that leave a somewhat drying finish. Drink 2016–2020. Villa Italia. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Tenuta di Arceno 2011 Strada al Sasso Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of scorched earth, grilled porcini, black plum and a confectionary note lead on this robust red. The hearty palate offers dried black cherry, espresso, toasted oak, anise, coconut and oak-driven spices alongside the heat of evident alcohol. Velvety tannins carry the warm, ripe flavors. Jackson Family Wines. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

89 Tenuta di Capraia 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). This 100% Sangiovese opens with aromas of dried black-skinned fruit, menthol, pressed flowers, allspice and leather. The palate offers dried black cherry, licorice, espresso and tobacco

alongside tightly knit but refined tannins. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Villa Cerna 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of toast, mocha and baked plum lead the nose of this blend of Sangiovese and 10% Colorino. The taut palate offers dried wild cherry, raspberry, mint and ground pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2016–2021. Banfi Vintners. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Castello di Monastero 2010 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of 85% Sangiovese and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this offers aromas of blackcurrant, cedar, underbrush and black pepper. The palate offers dried black cherry, blackberry, clove, anise and espresso alongside assertive tannins. A slightly bitter note of dried sage marks the finish. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

88 Castelvechi 2010 Lodolaio Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of baked plum, coconut and roasted coffee bean lead the nose. The palate offers dried black cherry, vanilla, toast and a confectionary note alongside assertive but ripe tannins. Premier Beverage. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

88 Fattoria di Valiano 2009 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Fragrant purple flowers, dark berries and a whiff of baking spices lead the nose of this medium-bodied red. The round, soft palate offers black cherry, vanilla, milk chocolate and cinnamon alongside smooth, polished tannins. A confectionary note signals the close. Foley Family Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Il Molino di Grace 2009 Riserva (Chianti Classico). This 100% Sangiovese opens with aromas of scorched earth, stewed prune and clove. The forward palate offers ripe black cherry, ground black pepper, anise and tobacco alongside assertive but fine-grained tannins. Reflecting the heat of the vintage, this is evolving quickly so drink sooner rather than later. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

88 Le Bocce 2010 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of sawdust, espresso and ripe dark-skinned fruit lead the nose. The plush palate offers dried black cherry, coffee, toast, licorice and black pepper alongside evolved tannins. Drink soon to capture the remaining fruit and freshness. Heritage Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Piccini 2009 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Underbrush, dark berry and spice aromas lead the nose. The palate doles out ripe blackberry, rasp-

berry, clove, espresso and a hint of herb alongside soft, supple tannins. Foley Family Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Poggio Bonelli 2009 Riserva (Chianti Classico). This offers subdued aromas of scorched earth, leafy underbrush and ripe dark-skinned fruit. The evolved palate delivers dried black cherry, raisin, clove, leather and ground pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink soon to enjoy the remaining fruit flavors. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 Viticcio 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Comprised of Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this offers aromas of plum, blackberry, roasted coffee bean and a whiff of toasted oak. The palate offers dried black cherry, prune, licorice and espresso alongside tightly knit tannins. Drink 2016–2020. Massano Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Barone Ricasoli 2011 Brolio Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of toasted oak, coffee bean, anisette, dried plum and a whiff of coconut lead the nose of this blend of Sangiovese, 15% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Reflecting the heat of the vintage, the palate is rather evolved and abrupt, offering dried black cherry, espresso and grilled sage but not much fruit richness. Aggressive, astringent tannins dry out the finish. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

87 Castelli del Grevepesa 2011 Clemente VII Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of blackberry, plum, coffee and toast lead the nose. The full-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, toasted oak, coconut and oak-driven spice alongside assertive tannins that leave a drying finish. Drink soon before the remaining fruit disappears. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Castello di Querceto 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Subdued aromas of underbrush, toast, truffle and ripe black-skinned fruit emerge in the glass. The forward palate offers raisin, dried black cherry, espresso and oak-driven spice alongside dusty tannins that leave a drying, astringent finish. Drink sooner rather than later before the remaining fruit dries up. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Monterotondo 2011 Seretina Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of organically farmed Sangiovese and 5% Malvasia Nera, this opens with aromas of scorched earth, underbrush and roasted coffee bean. Reflecting the hot vintage, the palate is evolved, offering raisin and dark spice alongside firm tannins. The fruit richness is already drying up so drink sooner rather than later. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

87 Podere Capaccia 2011 Riserva (Chianti Classico). This opens with aromas of ripe plum, coffee, Mediterranean brush and a whiff of exotic spice. The palate offers dried cherry, anise, oak and black pepper alongside drying, woody tannins, yet it lacks fruit richness. Zancanella Importing Co. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

87 Setriolo 2010 Riserva (Chianti Classico). This full-bodied red opens with aromas of ripe plum, vanilla, coconut and a whiff of exotic spice. The palate delivers oak extract, anise, dried blackberry and oak-driven spice alongside rather raspy tannins that leave an astringent finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

86 Cennatoio 2011 O'Leandro Riserva (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese and a small percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of coconut, toast and oak-driven spice. The evolved palate offers coconut, clove and ground black pepper but the fruit richness has almost dried up entirely, leaving an astringent finish. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

86 Mannucci Droandi 2009 Ceppeto Riserva (Chianti Classico). This blend of Sangiovese and 10% Merlot opens with aromas of forest floor, ripe blackberry, cedar and menthol. The warm, evolved palate offers dried black cherry, licorice, mint, ground pepper and a gamy note alongside assertive, almost gritty tannins that leave an astringent finish. Zancanella Importing Co. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$31

86 Sensi 2012 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A blend of Sangiovese and 20% Canaiolo, this opens with aromas of baked plum, dark berry, mocha and vanilla. The palate offers dried black cherry, sweet baking spice and a confectionary note alongside smooth but rather fleeting tannins. Rolivia, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

CHianti CLASSICO

93 Volpaia 2011 Coltassala (Chianti Classico). Produced entirely with organically farmed Sangiovese, this earthy, structured red opens with classic aromas of ripe berry, fragrant blue flowers, leather and a whiff of forest floor. The savory palate delivers black cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice, ground pepper and tobacco alongside big, velvety tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

93 Fontodi 2012 Chianti Classico. Aromas of blackberry, crushed violet, tilled earth and a hint of tobacco lead the nose of this generous wine. The chewy palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, ground pepper, clove and anise alongside ripe, velvety tannins. It's already delicious but will continue

to develop over the next few years. Drink through 2020. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Monteraponi 2013 Chianti Classico. Red berry, wild cherry, earthy underbrush, tobacco and clove are just some of the aromas and flavors you'll find on this vibrant, elegant blend of organically farmed Sangiovese (95%) and Canaiolo. Fermented with wild yeasts, it combines finesse and sheer drinking pleasure. A.I. Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Cafaggio 2012 Chianti Classico. A pure expression of Sangiovese, this classically crafted wine offers aromas of wild berry, blue flowers, sun-baked earth, clove and a whiff of menthol. The generous, open palate doles out juicy black cherry, plum, white pepper, mint and cinnamon while smooth, polished tannins provide support. It's already accessible but will age well for another few years. An anisette note signals the close. Drink through 2018. Ethica Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

92 Casa al Vento 2013 Aria (Chianti Classico). This pure expression of Sangiovese offers classic varietal aromas of red berry, plum, violet and a whiff of dark cooking spice. The vibrant palate offers juicy black cherry, ripe raspberry, white pepper, anise and a hint of tobacco. Bright acidity and polished tannins provide the framework. Enjoy 2016–2020. Votto Vines Importing. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Felsina 2013 Berardenga (Chianti Classico). Dark berry, underbrush and tobacco aromas lead the nose of this vibrant, structured wine while the palate doles out black cherry, fresh raspberry, licorice and clove. Fresh acidity and supple tannins balance the juicy flavors. Drink through 2018. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Isole e Olena 2012 Chianti Classico. Here's a structured but elegant wine that opens with aromas of wild berry, mint, clove and a balsamic note. The firm, fresh palate offers dried black cherry, raspberry, menthol, white pepper, grilled herb and a note of well-integrated oak while velvety tannins provide support. It's great now but it will be even better in a few years. Drink through 2020. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Badia a Coltibuono 2012 Chianti Classico. A classically crafted blend of organically farmed Sangiovese, Canaiolo, Cilieggiolo and Colorino, this opens with alluring aromas of red berry, pressed violet, dark cooking spice and leather. The savory, linear palate doles out juicy Morello cherry, black raspberry, black pepper, grilled herb and tobacco. It's fresh and well balanced, with firm, pol-

BUYINGGUIDE

ished tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Castello d'Albola 2012 Le Ellere (Chianti Classico). An elegantly structured Sangiovese, this opens with aromas that recall fragrant blue flowers, underbrush, tilled soil, dark berry and a whiff of Mediterranean herb. The firm palate delivers black cherry, plum, vanilla, mocha and licorice alongside chewy but fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2019. Zonin USA. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Volpaia 2013 Chianti Classico. For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 Badia a Coltibuono 2012 RS (Chianti Classico). Dark berry, pressed violet, toast and a whiff of espresso lead the nose of this savory, easy-drinking red. The ripe, round palate delivers juicy wild cherry, black raspberry, clove and mocha. It's already extremely accessible, with supple tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Badia a Coltibuono 2011 Sangiovese (Chianti Classico). Big and bold, this opens with aromas of baked plum, blue flowers and sweet baking spice. The robust, chewy palate doles out fleshy black cherry, espresso, clove and licorice alongside the warmth of evident alcohol. Solid but velvety tannins support the ripe fruit flavors. Drink 2016–2021. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

90 Badia a Coltibuono 2010 Cultus Boni (Chianti Classico). Made with 80% Sangiovese and 20% Colorino, Ciliegiole and other native grapes, this vibrant red offers ripe black cherry, licorice, clove, black pepper, espresso, Mediterranean herb and a balsamic note. It's still young but well balanced with youthfully assertive tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2016–2022. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Barone Ricasoli 2013 Brolio (Chianti Classico). Fresh aromas of red berry, violet and aromatic herb lead the nose of this blend of 80% Sangiovese, 15% Merlot and 5%, Cabernet Sauvignon. The vibrant palate delivers wild cherry, crushed raspberry, white pepper and a hint of coffee alongside bright acidity and silky tannins. Drink through 2017. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Barone Ricasoli 2012 Rocca Guicciarda (Chianti Classico). Aromas of ripe plum, roasted coffee bean and espresso come together in the glass. A blend of 80% Sangiovese and 20% Merlot, the firm palate offers dried black cherry, espresso,

toasted oak and grilled herb alongside assertive but fine-grained tannins. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Carobbio 2012 Chianti Classico. A blend of Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this fragrant wine opens with aromas of purple flowers, ripe plum, sage and sweet baking spice. The juicy palate offers fleshy black cherry, blackberry, licorice and clove accompanied by velvety tannins. It's already open and generous but will age well for a few more years. Drink through 2018. American B.D. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Castello d'Albola 2012 Chianti Classico. Enticing aromas of violet, iris, wild berry, forest floor and cooking spice lead the nose of this savory blend of Sangiovese and Canaiolo. The sleek, easy-drinking palate doles out juicy black cherry, ripe plum, mocha and anise alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2016. Zonin USA. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Castello della Paneretta 2012 Chianti Classico. Made with 85% Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 5% Colorino, this medium-bodied red has delicate but enticing aromas of violet, iris, red berry, spice and a whiff of truffle. The glossy palate offers juicy wild cherry, crushed raspberry, white pepper and a hint of tobacco alongside supple tannins and fresh acidity. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Castello di Gabbiano 2012 Chianti Classico. Made with 90% Sangiovese, 5% Merlot and 5% Colorino, this straightforward, savory wine opens with aromas of ripe berry, tobacco, blue flowers and a whiff of cedar. The bright, accessible palate delivers crushed black cherry, licorice and white pepper alongside supple tannins and fresh acidity. It's made for sheer drinking pleasure so enjoy over the next few years. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Castello di Monterinaldi 2012 Campopazzo (Chianti Classico). Structure and finesse come together nicely on this sleek red. It opens with aromas of baked earth, underbrush and blue flowers while the palate delivers ripe plum, dried black cherry, mint and tobacco. Firm, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity carry the savory flavors. Drink through 2018. Imperial Wine & Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Castello di Verrazzano 2012 Chianti Classico. Underbrush, rose, dark spice and black-skinned fruit aromas lead the nose of this elegantly structured red. The savory palate delivers fleshy plum, juicy black cherry licorice and ground pepper alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2018. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2013 San Jacopo (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 10. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Castelvocchi 2012 Capotondo (Chianti Classico). Aromas of wild cherry, raspberry, rose, grilled herb and a balsamic note follow through to the firm palate along with fresh mint and orange zest. Fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity support the juicy flavors. Serendipity Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Fattoria di Corsignano 2012 Chianti Classico. Made with Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and Malvasia Nera, this offers earthy aromas of truffle, scorched earth, crushed violet and baked plum. The ripe, savory palate delivers juicy black cherry, raspberry, licorice, white pepper and tobacco. Chewy tannins provide the framework. Drink through 2018. Due Fratelli Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Fattoria Poggerino 2012 Chianti Classico. Blue iris, violet and wild berry aromas waft out of the glass of this pure expression of Sangiovese. The structured but still easy-drinking palate doles out juicy black cherry, clove, ground pepper and anise alongside firm, polished tannins. The warmth of alcohol closes the finish but doesn't throw off the balance. Voliovinio. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Gagliole 2012 Rubiolo (Chianti Classico). Bright and savory, this opens with aromas of blue flowers, mint, dark berry and an earthy whiff of underbrush. The firm palate doles out black cherry, crushed raspberry, peppermint and white pepper alongside firm, sleek tannins. Drink through 2020. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Le Bocce 2012 Chianti Classico. Fragrant and savory, this opens with attractive aromas of crushed violet, iris, perfumed berry and a whiff of tilled soil. The bright, linear palate doles out black cherry, ripe plum, white pepper and clove while polished tannins and fresh acidity provide the lithe, easy-drinking framework. There's not much complexity but it will make fine drinking over the next few years. Heritage Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Le Bocce 2012 Podere della Sala (Chianti Classico). Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo are behind this polished red. It opens with aromas of black cherry, red berry, underbrush and white pepper that follow through to the medium-bodied palate along with a tobacco note. It's linear and easy-going, with supple tannins. Heritage Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Mazzei 2013 Fonterutoli (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese and 10% other va-

rieties, this offers scents of dark berry, purple flowers and a whiff of allspice. The firm palate delivers black cherry, toasted oak, espresso and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Nittardi 2012 Vigna Doghessa (Chianti Classico). You'll find aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, espresso, brown spice and sun-baked earth on this medium-bodied red. The palate delivers dried black cherry, blackberry licorice, coffee and ground black pepper set in a framework of packed, fine-grained tannins. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Poggio Scalette 2013 Chianti Classico. Aromas of wild berry, violet, rose and Mediterranean herb lead the nose of this easy drinking, polished red. The juicy palate doles out blackberry, black cherry, white pepper and star anise while bright acidity and supple tannins offer support. Drink through 2017. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Rocca delle Macie 2013 Famiglia Zingarelli (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 11. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Rocca di Castagnoli 2013 Chianti Classico. Made with Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Colorino, this opens with aromas of dark berry, grilled herb, menthol and a whiff of leather. The savory palate doles out juicy cherry, black raspberry, licorice, clove and mocha. Firm but polished tannins and fresh acidity hold it all together. Drink through 2018. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 San Felice 2012 Chianti Classico. A blend of Sangiovese, 10% Pugnitello and 10% Colorino, this offers aromas of forest floor, baked earth, ripe berry and spice. The chewy palate delivers dried black cherry, clove, black pepper and tobacco balanced by firm, fine-grained tannins. A licorice note signals the close. Premium Brands. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 San Leonino 2012 Al Limite (Chianti Classico). Perfumed berry, pressed violet, leather and a balsamic note lead the nose of this 100% Sangiovese. The sleek, savory palate doles out fleshy black cherry, licorice, clove and tobacco interwoven with lithe tannins and fresh acidity. Seaview Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Setriolo 2012 Chianti Classico. This expression of Sangiovese and 5% Merlot opens with aromas of plum, red berry, toast, grilled herb and a whiff of mocha. On the savory palate, hints of exotic spice, mint and cocoa accent a core of wild

cherry. Chewy but fine-grained tannins hold up the juicy flavors. Jan D'Amore Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Tenuta di Capraia 2013 Chianti Classico. Here's a charming, savory blend of Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo and Colorino that opens with aromas of red berry, violet and a whiff of sweet cake spice. The bright, juicy palate offers crunchy red berry, cinnamon, anise and orange zest while lithe tannins and fresh acidity offer support. Easy drinking and delicious, it's made for sheer drinking pleasure. Drink through 2018. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Bindi Sergardi 2012 La Ghirlanda (Chianti Classico). Plum, espresso, cedar and underbrush aromas unfold on this straightforward Sangiovese and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon blend. The ripe, warm palate doles out juicy black cherry, blackberry, vanilla, white pepper and a licorice note alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. CV Tuscany Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Borgo Scopeto 2013 Chianti Classico. For full review see page 10.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Cantalici L'Antica Fornace di Ridolfo 2012 Baruffo (Chianti Classico). Aromas of menthol, underbrush, scorched soil, licorice and ripe plum lead the nose. The structured palate delivers dried black cherry, aniseed, eucalyptus and ground pepper alongside a backbone of fine-grained tannins. It closes on a coffee note. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 Castellani 2012 Campomaggio (Chianti Classico). Aromas of plum, dark berry, iris, tobacco and a whiff of menthol emerge in the glass. The palate is a bit more subdued than the nose, offering dried black cherry, mint, dark spice and a hint of coffee. Soft, smooth tannins give it polish and an easy-drinking vibe. Mission Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Castellani 2010 Vigneti di Campomaggio Riserva (Chianti Classico). Classic aromas of fragrant blue flowers, ripe plum and sweet baking spice lead the nose. The polished palate delivers dried cherry, crushed raspberry, anise, clove and grilled herb alongside smooth tannins that make this already extremely accessible. Drink through 2018. Mission Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

89 Castellare di Castellina 2013 Chianti Classico. This pretty expression of Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo opens with aromas of wild berry, plum, violet, wet earth and a whiff of Mediterranean herb. The lively, easy-drinking palate delivers sour cherry, black raspberry, black pepper and

espresso alongside sleek tannins and bright acidity. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Castelli del Grevepesa 2012 Clemente VII (Chianti Classico). Aromas of ripe blackberry, ripe plum, toast, espresso and a whiff of coconut lead the nose. The brooding palate offers dried black cherry, mocha, licorice, tobacco and a hint of oak alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2018. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

89 Castello di Monsanto 2013 Chianti Classico. Made with 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo and Colorino, this medium-bodied red opens with aromas of black-skinned fruit, licorice, wet earth and a whiff of toast. The firm palate offers black cherry, ripe plum, espresso and clove alongside fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2018. MW Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 I Sodi 2013 Chianti Classico. A blend of Sangiovese and 7% Canaiolo, this bright red opens with pretty aromas of violet, woodland berry and a whiff of baking spice. The vibrant palate offers tart cherry, black raspberry and anise alongside sleek tannins and fresh acidity. Due Fratelli Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Il Molino di Grace 2012 Chianti Classico. This pure expression of Sangiovese offers alluring aromas of ripe plum, blue flowers and baking spice. The straightforward palate delivers black cherry, licorice, toast, espresso and ground pepper alongside polished tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Lamole di Lamole 2011 Chianti Classico. Made with 80% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, this offers aromas of ripe plum, wild berry, underbrush and espresso. On the palate, notes of mocha and grilled herb add depth to the core of dried black cherry while fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Reflecting the heat of the vintage, it's evolving quickly and is already accessible. SM USA. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Marchesi Antinori 2013 Pèppoli (Chianti Classico). You'll find aromas of violet, iris, red berry and baking spice on this savory blend of 90% Sangiovese, Merlot and Syrah. The vibrant palate doles out wild cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and a hint of tobacco alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Panzanello 2013 Chianti Classico. Underbrush, ripe plum and baking spice aromas waft out of the glass. On the palate, vanilla, licorice,

dark chocolate and espresso accent the black cherry core while polished tannins provide the framework. Drink through 2017. Oenos. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Podere Capaccia 2012 Chianti Classico. Aromas of black-skinned fruit, menthol, blue flowers and spice lead the nose. The fresh palate offers dried black cherry, plum, aromatic herb and clove. It's balanced, with firm, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Zancanella Importing Co. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

89 Principe Corsini 2012 Le Corti (Chianti Classico). Black-skinned berry, menthol, aromatic herb and dark spice are some of the aromas you'll find on this generous red. The firm palate shows juicy black cherry, fleshy plum, clove, sage and black pepper. It's sleek and balanced, with polished tannins. Drink through 2018. Henriot Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 San Fabiano Calcinaia 2012 Chianti Classico. Aromas of ripe plum, violet, vanilla, toast and leafy underbrush come together on this is full-bodied red. The palate offers black cherry marinated in spirits, grilled porcini mushroom and dried aromatic herb alongside assertive tannins that leave a somewhat drying finish. Matchvino. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 San Felice 2012 Villa La Pagliaia (Chianti Classico). A blend of Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this offers aromas that recall ripe plum, sun-baked earth and black pepper. The round, ripe palate doles out fleshy black cherry, cinnamon, mocha and a confectionary note alongside lithe tannins. Premium Brands. —K.O.

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

89 Tenuta degli Dei 2013 Chianti Classico. Aromas of leafy underbrush, tilled soil, blue flowers and dark berry lead the nose. The vibrant, straightforward palate offers crushed wild cherry, black raspberry, anise and white pepper. It's easy drinking and well balanced thanks to fresh acidity and sleek tannins. Massanois Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Tenuta di Arceno 2013 Chianti Classico. Fresh and savory, this vibrant red offers classic Sangiovese sensations of violet, red berry, black cherry, tilled soil and dark spice. It's medium bodied and balanced, with bright acidity and refined tannins. An aniseed note marks the close. Jackson Family Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Toscolo 2013 Chianti Classico. Made with Sangiovese and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of violet, blackberry and a whiff of baking spice. The fresh, easy-drinking palate offers juicy black cherry, clove and a hint of

ground espresso alongside supple tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

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

89 Vignamaggio 2013 Gherardino (Chianti Classico). A blend of Sangiovese and 15% Merlot, this round, medium-bodied wine offers aromas of dark berry, blue flowers and a whiff of cedar. The friendly, accessible palate delivers juicy black cherry, tobacco and a hint of licorice alongside soft tannins and bright acidity. Drink through 2017. Bedford International. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Vignamaggio 2013 Terre di Prenzano (Chianti Classico). Bright and savory, this juicy red opens with aromas of violet, red berry and a whiff of earth. The vibrant, easy-drinking palate doles out sour cherry, crushed raspberry, orange zest, anise and spice alongside silky tannins and fresh acidity. Bedford International. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Villa Calcinaia 2012 Chianti Classico. A blend of Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this opens with aromas of underbrush, red berry, blue flowers and a whiff of tilled soil. The juicy palate doles out fleshy wild cherry, crushed raspberry, white pepper and clove alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2018. The Marchetti Co. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Villa Calcinaia 2012 Piegai (Chianti Classico). Bright and savory, this offers aromas of wild berry, lilac, baking spice and a whiff of menthol. On the palate, notes of grilled herb, coffee and aniseed accent the wild cherry core while chewy tannins offer support. The Marchetti Co. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Viticcio 2012 Beatrice (Chianti Classico). This opens with aromas of small woodland berries, cedar and tilled earth. The chewy palate offers fleshy black cherry, red currant, mocha and baking spice alongside assertive but fine-grained tannins. Drink 2016–2020. Massanois Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

88 Agricoltori del Chianti Geografico 2012 Contesa di Radda (Chianti Classico). Made with Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this offers aromas of ripe red berry, fragrant blue flowers and grilled herb. The straightforward palate delivers dried black cherry, clove, black pepper and a hint of espresso. Fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity make it enjoyable now. USA for Little Wine Co. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Astorre Noti 2012 Chianti Classico. Savory and ripe, this organically produced wine opens with aromas of dark plum, blackberry and blue flowers. The open, easygoing palate offers juicy black cherry accented with notes of clove and an-

ise. Polished tannins provide the framework. Alma Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Cafaggio 2012 Single Estate (Chianti Classico). Aromas of forest floor, game and ripe berry come together on the nose. The earthy palate delivers dried black cherry, clove, smoke, baked plum and aniseed alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2016. Ethica Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Carpineto 2013 Chianti Classico. Savory and approachable, this opens with earthy aromas of tilled soil, ripe plum, dark berry and a whiff of game. The straightforward palate delivers juicy black cherry, blackberry, clove and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Opici Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Castello di Monastero 2012 Chianti Classico. Aromas of cedar, plum, toast, espresso and a whiff of blue flowers lead the nose of this Sangiovese blended with 15% Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The ripe, straightforward palate offers ripe cassis, coconut, mocha and a hint of anise alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Siltstone Wines. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Castello di Monterinaldi 2012 Chianti Classico. Composed of Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this offers aromas of blackberry, espresso, toast and a whiff of exotic spice. The palate offers black cherry extract, coconut, vanilla, toasted oak and licorice accompanied by fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2017. Imperial Wine & Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Cennatoio 2012 Oro (Chianti Classico). Wild berry, fragrant blue flowers, pipe tobacco and sun-baked earth aromas come together in the glass. It's bright, with notes of clove, white pepper and tobacco adding interest to the black cherry core. Lithe tannins and fresh acidity support the juicy flavors. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Collazzi 2012 I Bastioni (Chianti Classico). Here's an easygoing blend of Sangiovese, 18% Merlot and 2% Malvasia Nera that opens with aromas of wild berry, violet and a whiff of baking spice. The fresh palate offers crushed wild cherry, raspberry, white pepper and a sprinkle of cinnamon alongside sleek tannins. The Sorting Table. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 I Colombi 2013 Chianti Classico. Ripe plum, baked earth, blue flowers and coffee aromas waft out of the glass. The straightforward palate delivers black cherry, blackberry, espresso and licorice. It's already accessible, with fresh acidity and supple tannins. WS Selections. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Le Fonti 2012 Chianti Classico. Ripe blackberry, blueberry, violet and cooking spice aromas all come together on this blend of Sangiovese and a small amount of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate offers up juicy black cherry, plum steeped in spirits, white pepper and clove while firm, chewy tannins hold it all together. Drink through 2018. Villa Italia. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

88 Melini 2012 Terrarossa (Chianti Classico). Aromas of dark berry, cedar and allspice take shape in the glass. The straightforward, medium-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and espresso alongside round, ripe tannins. Drink through 2017. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Nittardi 2012 Belcanto (Chianti Classico). Aromas of toast, coffee, ripe plum and caramel lead the nose of this Sangiovese-based wine. On the palate, espresso and dark chocolate notes back up dried black cherry while firm tannins provide the framework. It's a bit shy on fruit richness so drink soon. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Poggio Borgoni 2011 Curva del Vescovo (Chianti Classico). Baked plum, truffle and mocha aromas emerge on this blend of 85% Sangiovese and 15% Merlot. The warm, chewy palate offers ripe black cherry, coffee, vanilla and anise alongside brooding tannins. Drink through 2018. Snarky & Spirited LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

88 Renieri 2012 Chianti Classico. This opens with aromas of toasted oak, fennel, roasted coffee bean and a whiff of sage. The extracted palate offers ripe black plum, dark chocolate, espresso and grilled herb alongside tightly packed tannins. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Terrabianca 2012 Scassinio (Chianti Classico). Made with 95% Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo, this offers a fragrance of woodland berry, iris and pressed violet. The easy-drinking palate doles out red cherry, crushed raspberry and a hint of baking spice alongside soft, loose knit tannins. Enjoy soon. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Agricoltori del Chianti Geografico 2012 Chianti Classico. A bright blend of Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 5% Colorino, this opens with classic varietal aromas of wild berry and fragrant blue flowers. The easygoing palate offers up black cherry and a hint of ground pepper alongside lithe tannins and fresh acidity. It's made to be drunk young so enjoy soon. USA for Little Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Banfi 2013 Fonte alla Selva (Chianti Classico). Blackberry and pressed violet aromas come together along with a whiff of espresso on this medium-bodied red. The easy-drinking palate offers wild cherry, plum and cooking spice accompanied by smooth, polished tannins. Drink through 2018. Banfi Vintners. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Bindi Sergardi 2011 Calidonia (Chianti Classico). Underbrush, raisin, charred earth, mocha and toast aromas lead the nose. The palate offers dried black cherry, prune, chocolate, toasted oak, vanilla and a green note of dried sage alongside astringent tannins. It lacks fruit richness to stand up to the oak. CV Tuscany Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

87 Candialle 2012 Chianti Classico. This opens with aromas of baked plum, violet, coconut and espresso. The palate offers fleshy black cherry, vanilla, toasted oak, anise and a confectionary note alongside assertive tannins that leave a rather astringent finish. David Bowler Wine. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

87 Candialle 2012 La Misse (Chianti Classico). Bright and easy-to-drink, this Sangiovese delivers aromas and flavors of candied cherry, raspberry, Mediterranean herb and white pepper. Supple tannins and fresh acidity support juicy flavors. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Castelli del Grevepesa 2012 Castelgreve (Chianti Classico). Aromas of violet, ripe plum and a whiff of espresso lead the nose of this straightforward red. The easygoing palate offers dried cherry, crushed raspberry and a hint of ground pepper alongside fresh acidity and dusty, rather fleeting tannins. Cape Code. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Castello di Meleto 2012 Meleto (Chianti Classico). Dried cherry, dark berry, tobacco and grilled herb sensations all come together in this fresh, straightforward red. Smooth but rather fleeting tannins support the bright, juicy flavors. Drink through 2016. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Viticcio 2013 Chianti Classico. Aromas of dark berry, toast and a whiff of brown spice lead the nose of this easygoing blend of Sangiovese and 5% Merlot. The bright, fresh palate offers juicy black cherry, clove and a hint of ground pepper alongside sleek tannins. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Bonacchi 2013 Casalino (Chianti Classico). Here's a fruity expression of Sangiovese that opens with aromas of blueberry extract, plum, resin and a confectionary note. The simple palate has fleshy blackberry, black cherry and a hint of

clove accompanied by dusty, almost gritty tannins. Drink now. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Castello di Querceto 2013 Chianti Classico. Aromas of strawberry, plum, wild flower and a whiff of spice waft out of the glass. The simple, lively palate offers fleshy black cherry, ripe raspberry and a hint of baking spice alongside soft tannins. Drink soon. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Coli 2013 Chianti Classico. Here's a fruity blend of Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 10% Colorino that doles out plum, black cherry, coffee and a hint of spice. It's simple and easy drinking, with soft, round tannins. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

86 Coli 2013 Pratale (Chianti Classico). This blend of Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 10% Merlot offers aromas of violet, black plum and a whiff of baking spice. The simple but fleeting palate offers black cherry, raspberry and a hint of clove alongside mild tannins and fresh acidity. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

86 Coppiere 2013 Chianti Classico. This informal red opens with aromas of tilled soil, blackberry and a whiff of game. The simple palate offers juicy black cherry and a hint of baking spice alongside angular, fleeting tannins and racy acidity. WS Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Piccini 2011 Chianti Classico. Made with Sangiovese and 10% Merlot, this opens with aromas of red currant and a whiff of exotic spice. The straightforward palate offers dried black cherry, clove and a hint of grilled herb alongside smooth tannins. Simple but well made, it's made to be enjoyed young so drink soon. Foley Family Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Sensi 2013 Forziere (Chianti Classico). A blend of Sangiovese and 20% Canaiolo, this fruity, friendly red opens with aromas of wild berry, ripe plum and fragrant blue flowers. The simple, easygoing palate offers dried black cherry and a hint of white pepper accompanied by soft and rather fleeting tannins. Rolivia, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

85 Brancaia 2013 Chianti Classico. This simple wine opens with subdued aromas of blue flowers, red berry and a whiff of menthol. The informal palate offers raw, red cherry alongside hints of mint and anise. Brisk acidity and rather fleeting tannins lead to a short, drying finish. E & J Gallo. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

84 Poggio Bonelli 2012 Chianti Classico. This opens with funky aromas of leather, game, overripe plum and a whiff of barnyard. The aromas all carry over to the rustic palate along with dried black cherry while raspy, fleeting tannins give it an abrupt, astringent finish. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

CHIANTI SUPERIORE

89 Pieve de' Pitti 2011 Cerretello (Chianti Superiore). Black plum, ripe dark berry, dried herb and menthol aromas lead the nose along with a whiff of leather. The firm palate delivers dried black cherry, prune, mocha and orange zest alongside compact tannins and soft acidity. A licorice note signals the finish. It's at its ideal drinking window so enjoy sooner rather than later. Fred Thomas. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Castel di Pugna 2011 Villa Cambi (Chianti Superiore). Aromas of underbrush, wild berry, dried herb and a balsamic note take shape in the glass. The round palate doles out crushed black cherry, ripe plum, sage and clove alongside soft acidity and polished tannins. Drink through 2016. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

88 Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2012 Chianti Superiore. Made with 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this opens with pretty aromas of crushed berry, violet and a whiff of menthol. The juicy palate offers black cherry, white pepper and licorice alongside firm but fine-grained tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Tenuta di Morzano 2010 Emilio (Chianti Superiore). Aromas of menthol, pressed violet, espresso and a whiff of cellar floor lead the nose. The palate offers dried black cherry, ripe plum, roasted coffee bean and vanilla. Assertive, drying tannins provide the framework. Drink soon before the fruit dries up further. Peerless Wine Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Villa da Filicaja 2013 Vincenzo da Filicaja (Chianti Superiore). Aromas of plum, blue flowers and a whiff of truffle lead the nose. The juicy palate delivers fleshy black cherry accented with an earthy hint of game while fresh acidity and refined tannins give it an immediate, easy-drinking quality. Enjoy now. Chloe Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

86 Tenuta di Morzano 2010 Il Quarto Riserva (Chianti Superiore). Aromas of underbrush, plum, toast, sage and menthol emerge in the glass. The palate offers dried black cherry, vanilla, coffee

and a confectionary note alongside raspy tannins. Peerless Wine Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

85 Fattoria Fibbiano 2012 Casalini (Chianti Superiore). Aromas of ripe—nearly over-ripe—black fruit, sweat and wet fur lead the nose. The palate offers fleshy black cherry, crushed plum, coconut and espresso alongside drying tannins. Op-era Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

85 Villa da Filicaja 2013 Chianti Superiore. This easygoing wine opens with subtle aromas of dark-skinned fruit, toast and bell pepper. The simple, easy-drinking palate shows black cherry and a hint of coffee. Drink through 2015. Chloe Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

CHIANTI RISERVA

90 Pietralta 2010 Riserva (Chianti). Underbrush, violet, woodland berry and Mediterranean herb aromas lead the nose of this savory wine. The firm palate delivers ripe wild cherry, black currant, mint and orange peel alongside polished tannins. A balsamic note accents the finish. Enjoy through 2017. Piedmont Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Agricola Tamburini 2011 Italo Riserva (Chianti). Ripe plum, scorched earth, espresso, warm spices and toast aromas come together in the glass. The concentrated palate offers dried black cherry, chocolate, anise, baking spice and vanilla alongside firm tannins and soft acidity. Drink through 2016. Glazer's. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Fattoria Campigiana 2011 Federico II Riserva (Chianti). Leather, tilled soil, ripe dark-skinned berry, pressed violet and game aromas all take shape in the glass. The structured palate delivers black plum, clove, white pepper and grilled herb alongside firm tannins. Vinità USA. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Piccini 2011 Collezione Oro Riserva (Chianti). Toast, coffee, dark-skinned fruit and vanilla aromas take shape in the glass. The firm palate delivers crushed plum, ripe black cherry, oak-driven spice and espresso. It's already accessible with soft acidity and smooth tannins so enjoy soon. Foley Family Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Tenuta San Jacopo 2009 Poggio ai Grilli Riserva (Chianti). A blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Montepulciano, this opens with aromas of violet, toast and spiced plum. The ripe palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and espresso. It's balanced with round, hearty tannins. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Agricola Pugliano 2012 Vigna 54 Riserva (Chianti). Aromas of coconut, toast, plum and vanilla shine in this hearty red. The aromas follow through to the ripe palate along with crushed black cherry, sage and chocolate. It's round and ready to drink, with modest acidity and chewy tannins. Enjoy through 2016. Wine Worldwide. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Fattoria di Petrognano 2011 Meme Riserva (Chianti). Aromas of red berry, savory herb and a balsamic note lead the nose. The ripe palate delivers black cherry, crushed plum, sage and licorice. Soft acidity and fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Drink through 2016. Sun Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Fattoria Petriolo 2011 Riserva (Chianti). A blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet aged in barriques, this opens with aromas that recall perfumed berry, wild violet and a balsamic note. The dense, ripe palate doles out ripe black plum, crushed wild cherry, toast and roasted coffee bean alongside soft acidity and chewy tannins. Drink through 2016. Vintage Wine Marketing. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Uggiano 2009 Riserva (Chianti). This opens with aromas of blue iris, plum and menthol. On the palate, subtle notes of sage, toast and coffee accent a core of fleshy black cherry. It still has tightly wound, drying tannins that need to unwind but it's rather shy on fresh acidity so best to enjoy soon. Wine-Cask. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

86 Cantine Leonardo Da Vinci 2010 Da Vinci Riserva (Chianti). Aromas of toast, oak, espresso and a whiff of smoke lead the nose. The palate offers oak extract, coconut, coffee and vanilla but there's not enough fruit richness to support the oak. It's already reached its ideal drinking window so enjoy sooner rather than later. E & J Gallo. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Fattoria Lavacchio 2011 Puro Riserva (Chianti). The nose on this structured red offers oak-driven aromas of toast, coconut and vanilla. The warm palate doles out ripe plum, coffee, a confectionary note and oak spices alongside the warmth of evident alcohol. Wood tannins leave an astringent, mouth-drying finish. Bon Vivant Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Viticoltori Senesi Aretini 2009 Riserva (Chianti). Aromas of toast, milk chocolate and black-skinned fruit lead the way. The soft, low-acid palate doles out crushed plum, fleshy cherry and mocha alongside drying, angular tannins that create an abrupt finish. Ecorp. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

85 Cantine Bellini 2011 Riserva (Chianti). Underbrush, menthol, dark berry and allspice aromas take shape in the glass. The simple palate, which has a slightly fizzy character, offers fleshy black cherry, overripe plum and soft acidity alongside buffed tannins. Saranty Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

85 Cantine Ravazzi 2011 Riserva (Chianti). This opens with aromas of dark berry, violet, toast, menthol and a whiff of cellar floor. The one-dimensional palate offers crushed plum, blackberry, vanilla and a confectionary note alongside drying, astringent tannins. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

85 Guidi 1929 2010 Riserva (Chianti). This opens with aromas of toasted oak, coffee and butterscotch. The ripe, evolved palate doles out dried black cherry, vanilla, espresso and chocolate alongside abrasive tannins that leave the mouth feeling rough. WS Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 La Cignozza 2009 Riserva (Chianti). Aromas of tilled earth, leather, ripe black-skinned fruit and a gamey note set the stage for this funky wine. The overripe palate displays fleshy black plum, dried blue flowers and bitter barnyard sensations set against a backdrop of soft acidity. Drying, astringent tannins cut the finish short. L'Amore di Vino. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

85 Sorelli 2011 Riserva (Chianti). For full review see page 12. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

CHIANTI

89 Fattoria Valacchi 2012 Chianti. Aromas of ripe plum, pressed blue flowers, dark berry and coffee lead the nose. The round, savory palate offers dried black cherry, cinnamon-spice and espresso alongside soft acidity and supple tannins. Drink through 2016. Wines LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Agricola Tamburini 2012 Mauro (Chianti). Pretty aromas of violet, iris, pressed powder and perfumed berry mingle in the glass. The ripe, round palate offers juicy black cherry, ripe raspberry, nutmeg and licorice alongside dusty tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2016. Glazer's. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

88 Fattorie Parri 2012 Tenuta Il Monte (Chianti). This medium-bodied red opens with aromas of red berry, tilled earth, underbrush and dried herb. The firm palate doles out black cherry, plum, licorice and crushed mint alongside modest acidity and fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2017. Gimelli Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Tenuta San Vito 2013 Chianti. Aromas of red berry, tilled earth and forest floor set the tone for this bright, friendly red. The juicy palate doles out wild cherry, crushed raspberry and savory herb framed by firm acidity and fine-grained tannins. There's not much complexity but it is delicious. Good Earth Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Agricola Pugliano 2013 Chianti. Bright aromas of woodland berry, tilled earth and violet waft out of the glass. The vibrant palate offers crunchy red cherry, unripe strawberry and a hint of anise accompanied by racy acidity and firm tannins. Wine Worldwide. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Barone Ricasoli 2013 Chianti. This opens with pretty floral aromas that recall violet and iris together with a whiff of dark berry. The bright palate delivers juicy black cherry, crushed cranberry, clove and dried anise. Smooth tannins and zesty acidity give it an easy-drinking quality so enjoy soon. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Bartali 2013 Ducceto (Chianti). This medium-bodied, luminous red boasts a pretty fragrance of blue flowers and wild berry. The vibrant, easy-drinking palate doles out crushed raspberry, wild cherry and a hint of clove alongside racy acidity. Enjoy through 2016. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Cantine Leonardo Da Vinci 2013 Da Vinci (Chianti). This opens with aromas of red berry and black-skinned fruit. On the fresh, easy-drinking palate, savory notes of black pepper accent ripe plum and juicy strawberry. Bright acidity and soft tannins balance the juicy fruit. Enjoy through 2015. E & J Gallo. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Cantine Ravazzi 2013 Chianti. This blend of 80% Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 10% Cilieggiolo opens with bright aromas of red berry, violet and a whiff of Mediterranean scrub. The vibrant, easygoing palate brings juicy black cherry, raspberry and a note of clove alongside bright acidity and supple tannins. Enjoy through 2016. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Fattoria Campigiana 2013 Chianti. This earthy wine opens with aromas of wild red berry, wet soil and a gamey note. The vibrant palate offers juicy red cherry while touches of cinnamon, dried herb and orange zest add interest. Vinità USA. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Fattoria Lavacchio 2013 Puro (Chianti). Made entirely with organically grown Sangiovese, with no added sulfites, this medium-bodied red opens with earthy aromas of tilled soil, underbrush,

game and black-skinned fruit. The lively palate doles out ripe black plum, wild cherry and crushed raspberry accented by subtle notes of white pepper and clove. Bon Vivant Imports. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

87 Fattoria Valacchi 2012 Geiso (Chianti). Aromas of oak, toast and espresso lead the nose. Oak-driven spices takes center stage on the palate but don't mask the dried black cherry, plum, licorice vanilla and coffee in the background. Firm tannins provide structure. Drink through 2016. Wines LLC. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$22

87 Le Fonti a San Giorgio 2013 Chianti. A blend of 85% Sangiovese, 10% Colorino and 5% Pugnitello, this savory red offers dark berry and blue flower aromas with a whiff of cooking spice. The bright palate displays juicy black cherry, crushed raspberry and a note of ground white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Enjoy soon to capture the fresh fruit flavors. Morandell Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Pietralta 2012 Chianti. Aromas of coffee and plum lead the nose. The round palate offers black cherry, plum, espresso and a hint of mocha alongside soft acidity and polished tannins. It's at its ideal drinking window so enjoy soon. Piedmont Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Salcheto 2013 Chianti. Made with organic grapes, this charming young red has a delightful fragrance of blue flowers and woodland berries. The zesty palate doles out crunchy red berry and a hint of white pepper accompanied by lively acidity. Massanois Imports. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Tenuta di Fraternita 2012 Priore (Chianti). Aromas of black raspberry, blue flowers and a note of baking spice lead the nose of this fruity, savory wine. The round, ripe palate doles out black cherry, ripe plum and mocha alongside dusty tannins. Drink now. Franco Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Tenuta La Gigliola 2013 San Enrico (Chianti). Black cherry, plum and mint aromas lead the nose and carry over to the juicy palate. It's round, smooth and accessible thanks to soft tannins and fresh acidity. Enjoy soon. ID Beverage Group. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Val di Botte 2013 Chianti. This charming red opens with aromas of woodland berry and violet. The savory, easy-drinking palate offers plum, black cherry, a hint of spice and a smoky note alongside soft, polished tannins. Enjoy soon. JA Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Bartali 2013 Bozzetto (Chianti). Here's a simple but savory red that delivers fruity aromas and flavors of wild cherry, crushed strawberry and juicy raspberry. Vibrant acidity and soft tannins lend an immediate, easy-drinking quality. Villa Italia. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Fattoria Bini 2013 Chianti. Here's a bright, fruity red that delivers blue flower, wild cherry, black raspberry and tart red currant sensations. Vibrant acidity and round tannins give this a delightful, easy-drinking quality. Alarich Distributing. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Fattoria di Petrognano 2013 Meme (Chianti). This offers aromas of red berry and blue flowers. The vibrant palate delivers tart red cherry, unripe strawberry and a note of white pepper. Racy acidity and firm tannins make this a good match for pastas topped with ragù or hearty Tuscan soups. Condes Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Fattoria di Sammontana 2013 Chianti. Made with organically farmed grapes, this opens with earthy aromas of ripe black fruit and whiffs of barnyard. The rustic palate offers fleshy black cherry, crushed raspberry and gamey notes alongside rather fleeting tannins. Red & White International Brands, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Fattoria Uccelliera 2013 Chianti. Subtle berry and wildflower aromas lead the nose of this bright, friendly red. The informal palate offers crushed wild cherry, raspberry and a hint of clove alongside soft, rather fleeting tannins. Ribevi Wine Int. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

86 Tenuta San Jacopo 2010 Poggio ai Grilli (Chianti). Made entirely with Sangiovese, this opens with aromas of wet leaves, underbrush, leather and prune. The palate offers dried red and black cherry, grilled sage and a confectionary note alongside lithe tannins. Drink soon to capture the remaining fruit. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Vecchia Cantina di Montepulciano 2013 Chianti. Aromas of blue flowers and dark berry lead the nose of this informal blend of Sangiovese and Canaiolo Rosso. The easygoing palate delivers tart red cherry, crushed strawberry and a hint of orange peel alongside bright acidity. Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

85 Fattoria Petriolo 2012 Chianti. This ripe, easygoing red offers fruity yet fleeting aromas and flavors of fleshy black cherry and baked

plum. It's made to be drunk young so enjoy now. Vintage Wine Marketing. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

85 La Querce 2013 Sorrettele (Chianti). Fruity aromas of fresh, dark cherry and a whiff of leafy underbrush lead the nose of this blend of Sangiovese, Colorino and Merlot. The soft, simple palate delivers juicy black cherry and a gamey note alongside delicate, fleeting tannins. Sunrise Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Piccini 2013 Orange (Chianti). This enjoyable, informal red delivers fruity flavors of juicy red cherry and crushed raspberry. Fresh and easy drinking, it would match nicely with pizza and pasta dishes topped with tomato sauce. Foley Family Wines. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

85 Sorelli 2013 Chianti. For full review see page 12. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

84 Artimino 2013 Chianti. This is an informal wine that offers hints of raw red cherry, strawberry and a dash of cinnamon. Brisk acidity and fragile, fleeting tannins give it an abrupt finish. Siena Imports. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$6

83 Fattoria il Palagio 2012 Chianti. Diluted and ultrasimple, this delivers weak sensations of cooked black-skinned fruit. It's already tired and has an extremely short finish. Voliovinio. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

CHIANTI COLLI SENESI

90 Felsina 2013 Berardenga (Chianti Colli Senesi). A pure expression of Sangiovese, this savory red offers aromas of blackberry, plum, Mediterranean herb, violet and moist earth. The juicy palate delivers black and red cherry, grilled sage, aniseed and tobacco. Supple tannins and fresh acidity provide the easy-drinking framework. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Agricoltori del Chianti Geografico 2013 Chianti Colli Senesi. Made with Sangiovese and Canaiolo Nero, this charming wine opens with fruity aromas of wild red berry and a whiff of dried herb. The bright, easygoing palate offers juicy wild cherry, crushed raspberry and clove alongside lithe tannins. It's made for pure drinking pleasure so enjoy soon. Epic Wines. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Castel di Pugna 2012 Ellera (Chianti Colli Senesi). Here's a blend of Sangiovese, Canaiolo Nero and Ciliegiole that opens with aromas of dark skinned fruit, underbrush and a whiff of leather. The easygoing palate delivers ripe Morello

cherry, crushed black cherry, savory herb and a balsamic note alongside fresh acidity and smooth tannins. There's not a lot of complexity but it is delicious. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Falchini 2012 Titolato Colombaia (Chianti Colli Senesi). Truffle, black plum, game and leather aromas come together in the glass. On the savory palate, notes of mint, dried sage and white pepper accent a core of juicy black cherry while polished tannins provide the framework. It's already accessible and delicious. Drink through 2016. Martin Scott Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Castel Pietraio 2009 Chianti Colli Senesi. This opens with aromas of toast, pressed violet, mint and woodland berry. On the palate, notes of dried Mediterranean herb and mocha accent a core of dried black cherry. Polished tannins lend it an easy-drinking quality so enjoy sooner rather than later. Colline d'Italia. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Farnetella 2012 Chianti Colli Senesi. Aromas of woodland berry, violet, underbrush and a hint of tilled earth lead the nose. The savory palate doles out fleshy black cherry, crushed raspberry, spice and a tobacco note. Firm but polished tannins support the juicy flavors. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Tenuta di Trecciano 2012 Terra Rossa Riserva (Chianti Colli Senesi). Black plum, dark berry, fragrant blue flower, coffee and cake spice aromas take shape in the glass. The juicy palate delivers wild cherry, espresso and mocha alongside fine-grained tannins. An anise note signals the close. Saranty Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Farnetella 2011 Riserva (Chianti Colli Senesi). Made with Sangiovese and small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this opens with aromas of blackberry, grilled herb, cedar and toasted oak. The palate offers raw cherry, vanilla, anise and a hint of espresso alongside dusty tannins that leave a drying finish. Drink sooner rather than later as the fruit is drying up. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Fattoria Il Colombaio 2012 San Cirino (Chianti Colli Senesi). Aromas of toast, espresso, oak and sage come together in the glass. On the palate, notes of coconut and coffee accent a ripe core of wild cherry. Soft acidity and round tannins lend it an easy-drinking quality. Delectatio Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Guidi 1929 2011 Chianti Colli Senesi. Rose, violet, charred earth and plummy aromas emerge from the glass. The soft, straightforward

palate offers dried black cherry, prune, mint and mocha alongside round tannins. Enjoy through 2016. WS Selections. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

87 Vecchia Cantina di Montepulciano 2013 Pogio Stella (Chianti Colli Senesi). Fruity aromas of red berry and a whiff of forest floor lead the nose of this medium-bodied red. The lively palate doles out tart red cherry, crushed strawberry and orange zest alongside racy acidity and polished tannins. Arte Vino. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$14

87 Viticoltori Senesi Aretini 2012 Celliere (Chianti Colli Senesi). Wild berry, savory herb and balsamic aromas take center stage in this medium-bodied red. The round palate offers ripe black cherry, crushed raspberry and a hint of orange zest. Modest acidity and soft tannins make it extremely accessible. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. *Best Buy.* —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$10

86 Bindi Sergardi 2013 Al Canapo (Chianti Colli Senesi). Aromas of underbrush, toast and dark-skinned fruit lead the nose of this easy-drinking red. The bright, informal palate offers red cherry, pomegranate and a hint of white pepper alongside zesty acidity. Tanaro River Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$15

86 Tenuta di Trecciano 2013 Chianti Colli Senesi. Made entirely with Sangiovese, this easygoing, friendly red opens with aromas of fresh plum and crushed blue flowers. The juicy palate offers up fleshy black cherry, raspberry and a hint of Mediterranean herb alongside round, soft tannins. Enjoy soon. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$10

VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

95 Contucci 2010 Mulinvecchio (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14% Price: \$50

93 Contucci 2010 Pietra Rossa (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Fragrant purple flowers, iris, dark berry and tilled soil aromas come together in the glass along with a balsamic note. The elegantly structured palate offers wild cherry, aniseed, white pepper and aromatic herb. It's nicely balanced, with fresh acidity and still austere but refined tannins that need to loosen up. Drink 2017–2025. Caffo Beverages Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$50

93 Trerose 2012 Santa Caterina (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

92 Montemercurio 2009 Damo (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Savory and full-bodied, this blend of 80% Sangiovese and 20% Canaiolo, Mammolo, Colorino and Barbera offers aromas of ripe dark berry, tobacco, ground pepper and truffle. The firmly structured palate delivers black cherry, black raspberry, mocha and licorice alongside velvety tannins. Golden Vines. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

92 Romeo 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Tilled soil, iris, violet, black plum and tobacco aromas come together on this classically crafted blend of Sangiovese, Colorino and Mammolo. The structured, balanced palate delivers black cherry, licorice, ground pepper, leather and grilled herb alongside youthfully austere tannins. It's still tightly knit so give it time to fully develop and bloom. Drink 2017–2027. Mike Kaufher Wine Selection. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$43

92 Valdiplatta 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. A blend of Sangiovese and 15% Canaiolo, this chewy wine offers enticing aromas of violet, ripe berry, underbrush and baking spice. The fresh, savory palate doles out fleshy black cherry, licorice, black pepper, clove and tobacco alongside velvety tannins. Enjoy 2016–2020. Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$31

91 Godiolo 2008 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Made with Sangiovese and just a drop of Canaiolo and Colorino, this full-bodied red offers subdued aromas of ripe blackberry, baking spice and tobacco. On the palate, notes of licorice, ground pepper, clove and leather add depth to the core of ripe black cherry. Tightly knit but polished tannins provide the framework. Drink 2016–2023. Indie Wineries. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$43

91 Il Macchione 2010 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Subdued aromas of underbrush, pressed violet, ripe berry and cake spice slowly emerge in the glass. Made entirely with Sangiovese, the palate offers dried black cherry, blackberry, ground pepper, licorice, tobacco and sage alongside assertive, grippy tannins. A note of grilled sage signals the close. It's still tightly wound and needs time to come together. Drink 2017–2022. APS Wine & Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$36

91 Le Bèrne 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. This 100% Sangiovese opens with pretty aromas of iris, violet, dark berry and a blend of cooking spices. On the palate, ground black pepper, anise and espresso accent a core of dried black cherry while tightly knit, assertive tannins provide backup. Drink 2017–2022. PGM Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

91 Trerose 2011 Villa Romizi (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). This Sangiovese and Cabernet

Sauvignon blend offers aromas that recall ripe black-skinned fruit, cedar, scorched earth, vanilla and ground pepper. The ripe, round palate delivers juicy black cherry, ripe plum, mocha and tobacco. Velvety tannins provide a polished framework. Palm Bay International. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

90 Avignonesi 2011 Grandi Annate (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Forest floor, ripe berry and cake spice aromas emerge in the glass. The structured palate doles out dried black cherry, blackberry, licorice, ground pepper and tobacco alongside assertive tannins that need time to unwind. Drink 2017–2021. Tabaccaia USA. —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$60

90 Dei 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. A blend of Sangiovese with 10% Canaiolo, this opens with a fruity fragrance of fresh red berry, Mediterranean brush and a whiff of iris. The savory palate doles out juicy black cherry, black raspberry, clove and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. An anise note signals the finish. Drink 2016–2020. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Fattoria della Talosa 2011 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of red currant, blue flowers, exotic spice and a whiff of grilled herb lead the nose. On the palate, fine-grained tannins back up candied cherry, raspberry, black pepper, anise and a confectionary note. Curious Cork Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

90 Folonari 2012 Torcalvano (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). This bright, medium-bodied red offers aromas and flavors of ripe black cherry, ripe plum, ground black pepper, clove, grilled herb and a hint of anise. Firm, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Drink 2016–2020. Kobrand. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

90 La Braccasca 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Sangiovese and 10% Merlot are behind this vibrant, medium-bodied red. Aromas of ripe plum and clove follow through to the firm palate alongside juicy black cherry, ripe raspberry, ground pepper and grilled herb. It's interwoven with tightly knit but polished tannins while subtle notes of mint and espresso back up the finish. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 Le Casalte 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. A blend of Sangiovese, 15% Canaiolo and 5% Mammolo, this has earthy aromas of truffle, tilled soil, iris and ripe dark-skinned fruit. The chewy palate doles out juicy black cherry, ripe blackberry, black pepper, clove and a hint of mocha alongside solid tannins. Artisan Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Palazzo Vecchio 2012 Maestro (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of underbrush, leather, scorched earth and dark berry lead the nose of this firmly structured blend of Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 5% Mammolo. The chewy palate offers a juicy core of black cherry accented with notes of black pepper, licorice and grilled herb. Tightly knit, ripe tannins provide structure. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

90 Poliziano 2012 Asinone (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Made entirely with Sangiovese, this offers aromas of spicy plum, violet, blackberry, toast and a whiff of oak-driven spice. The firmly structured palate delivers black cherry, clove, anise and a note of grilled sage alongside assertive tannins that leave an astringent finish. Give it time to unwind. Drink 2017–2025. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Salcheto 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. A pure expression of Sangiovese, this delivers aromas and flavors of black cherry, dried plum, licorice, ground black pepper and hints of leather and tobacco. Solid tannins give it a firm structure. Drink 2017–2022. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Toscolo 2010 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). A blend of 90% Sangiovese, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, this opens with aromas of red currant, cedar and exotic spice. The medium-bodied palate delivers black cherry, peppermint, black pepper and grilled herb alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Enjoy through 2020. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Villa S. Anna 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Fragrant blue flower, wild berry and spiced plum aromas come together in the glass. The vibrant palate offers fleshy black cherry, ground pepper, coffee and grilled herb while firm, fine-grained tannins back up the juicy flavors. Rosenthal Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

89 Antico Colle 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. This classically crafted, 100% Sangiovese offers varietal aromas of forest floor, freshly turned soil, dark berry and a whiff of violet. The firm palate offers dried black cherry, ground pepper and aniseed alongside assertive tannins. It's still rather closed and needs a couple more years to open up. Drink 2017–2022. Domenico Valentino. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Boscarelli 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. This linear blend of Sangiovese and 15% Colorino, Canaiolo and Mammolo opens with a subtle fragrance of violet, red berry and licorice. The focused palate offers dried plum, ripe black cherry,

leather and grilled herb alongside fine-grained tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Canneto 2011 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). This full-bodied red opens with aromas of ripe plum, crushed violet, leather and dried aromatic herb. The firmly structured palate delivers dried black cherry, aniseed, tobacco and clove accompanied by tightly knit, assertive tannins. Wait a couple of years for the tannins to unfold then drink up to capture the remaining fruit richness. Drink 2017–2021. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Carpineto 2010 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of dried black-skinned fruit, cedar, charred earth and ground pepper lead the nose. The palate offers dried black cherry, ripe blackberry, clove, allspice and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2018. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

89 Carpineto 2007 Sant'Ercolano (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of underbrush, blackcurrant, oak and cake spice lead the nose of this blend of Sangiovese and 15% Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate offers dried blackberry accented with oak-driven spices of coconut, vanilla, mocha and cedar alongside assertive tannins. Drink through 2016–2022. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

89 Casale Daviddi 2011 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. This opens with earthy scents of scorched soil, underbrush and a hint of game. Made with 90% Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and Mammolo, the chewy palate offers dried black cherry, ripe plum and ground pepper alongside tightly woven tannins. Drink 2016–2019. Vinarium Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

89 Gattavecchi 2010 Padri Serviti Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of violet, earth, plum and spiced berry lead the nose. The palate delivers ripe black cherry, white pepper and clove alongside assertive tannins. Drink 2016–2022. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Gattavecchi 2010 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Ripe black plum, dark berry and allspice aromas take shape in the glass. The firm palate offers dried black cherry, leather, licorice and ground pepper alongside tightly-woven tannins. Drink through 2020. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 La Bracesca 2008 Santa Pia Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). This opens with aromas of blackberry, truffle and forest floor. The firm palate offers ripe black cherry, plum, espresso

and clove alongside round, chewy tannins. It's already accessible and will also offer lots of near and mid-term enjoyment. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Poggio alla Sala 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Aromas of ripe plum, oak-driven spice and a whiff of pressed violet waft out of the glass. The sturdy, straightforward palate delivers dried black cherry, peppercorn and licorice alongside solid tannins. Drink 2017–2022. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Poliziano 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, spice rack, grilled herb and a whiff of leather lead the nose of this blend of 85% Sangiovese, with 15% Colorino, Canaiolo and Merlot. The taut palate offers dried black cherry, espresso, aniseed and tobacco alongside bracing tannins that leave an astringent finish. Even though the tannins need to unwind, drink sooner rather than later to enjoy the remaining fruit richness. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

88 Barbanera 2012 Duca di Saragnano (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of raisin, blackcurrant and a whiff of blue flowers lead the nose. The tightly knit palate offers dried black cherry, vanilla and mocha alongside dusty tannins that leave a drying, rather astringent finish. Hold until 2016 to let it unwind then enjoy soon to capture the remaining fruit. Pazzione Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Canneto 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Ripe blackberry, grilled herb, toast and ground pepper aromas lead the nose of this blend of Sangiovese, 5% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The taut palate offers dried black cherry, roasted coffee bean and bitter sage alongside grippy tannins that leave a drying, astringent finish. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 Carpineto 2007 Poggio Sant'Enrico (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Made entirely with Sangiovese, this opens with aromas of new oak, leafy underbrush, exotic spice and steeped plum that carry through to firm palate along with notes of dried black cherry and coconut. Grippy tannins give it an astringent, teeth-coating finish. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Gattavecchi 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Subtle aromas of plum, blackberry and a whiff of baking spice emerge in the glass. The polished palate offers black cherry, clove and a hint of tobacco alongside sleek, smooth tannins. Drink through 2018. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

88 Gattavecchi 2011 Poggio alla Sala (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Blue flower, red berry and mint aromas lead the nose. The straightforward palate offers fleshy wild cherry, raspberry, vanilla and mocha alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2019. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Il Conventino 2011 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). This hearty blend of Sangiovese, Colorino and Canaiolo offers aromas of forest floor, truffle, ripe black-skinned fruit and spice. The warm, meaty palate doles out dried black cherry marinated in spirits and clove alongside solid tannins. Drink this sooner rather than later due to the overall lack of freshness and the heat of evident alcohol. Vignaioli Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Montemercurio 2009 Messaggero (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of underbrush, blackberry, ground black pepper and a whiff of leather come together in the glass. The warm, forward palate shows dried black cherry, licorice, clove and sage accompanied by dusty tannins that leave a drying finish. Drink sooner rather than later to catch the remaining fruit richness. Golden Vines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Tiberini 2012 Podere Le Caggiole (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Produced with Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Mammolo, this opens with subtle aromas of turned soil, ripe plum and dark cooking spice. The palate offers dried black cherry, licorice, coffee, oak and a leathery note accompanied by solid tannins. Rodinia LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Vecchia Cantina di Montepulciano 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. This straightforward red opens with aromas of scorched earth, ripe dark-skinned fruit, clove and an earthy whiff of game. The palate offers dried plum, ripe blackberry, ground pepper and grilled herb while assertive but fine-grained tannins provide support. Arte Vino. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Gattavecchi 2011 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Blue flower, wild berry and baking spice aromas unfold in the glass. The straightforward palate offers dried wild cherry, licorice and black pepper alongside ample, polished tannins. The fruit is drying up quickly so drink sooner rather than later. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Le Casalte 2012 Quercetonda (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Here's an earthy expression of Sangiovese that opens with aromas of truffle, forest floor, ripe plum and a whiff of barnyard. The rustic appeal carries over to the palate, which offers ripe blackberry, ground pepper, bitter sage and a gamey note. Assertive tannins provide backup

but leave an astringent finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Tenuta Santavenere 2012 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. A blend of Sangiovese, 5% Merlot and 5% Colorino, this opens with subtle aromas of red currant, brown cooking spice and a whiff of sun-baked earth. The straightforward, accessible palate offers wild cherry, coffee, toasted oak and black pepper. Drink through 2018. Wine Emporium. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

86 Astorre Noti 2011 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Aromas of charred earth, overripe plum, game and a confectionary note lead the nose of this blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo-Mammolo. The simple, rather rustic palate offers dried black cherry, leather and a hint of clove alongside dusty tannins. Alma Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Vecchia Cantina di Montepulciano 2011 Redi (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). A blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this forward wine opens with aromas that recall scorched earth, blue flowers and baked plum. The evolved, rather rustic palate offers black cherry, cured meat and game alongside fleeting tannins. Arte Vino. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

OTHER RED WINES

91 Paterna 2012 Chianti Colli Aretini. Made with Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo and Colorino, all organically farmed, this savory red opens with aromas of perfumed berry, blue flowers, new leather and a balsamic note. The juicy, delicious palate delivers black cherry, plum, licorice, clove, menthol, sage an earthy note of game alongside a backbone of fine-grained tannins and firm acidity. Enjoy through 2018. Select Beverage Company. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Tenuta Pierazzuoli 2013 Chianti Montalbano. Aromas of pressed blue flowers, ripe plum, dark berry, anise, coffee and nutmeg lead the nose. The lively palate delivers juicy black Morello cherry, milk chocolate, orange zest and a hint of baking spice alongside bright acidity and supple tannins. Made to be drunk young so enjoy now. Petit Pois. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Manucci Droandi 2012 Chianti Colli Aretini. Made with organically grown grapes, this opens with aromas of ripe dark plum, crushed flower and a whiff of vanilla. The juicy palate offers black cherry, game and a licorice note alongside fine-grained tannins. Zancanella Importing Co. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Sangervasio 2013 Chianti Colli Pisani. Made with organically farmed fruit, this opens

with aromas of brown spices, tilled earth and black-skinned fruit. The vibrant, medium-bodied palate offers blackberry, dried cherry, licorice and orange zest alongside zesty acidity and round tannins. MJM Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

86 Tenuta Pierazzuoli 2011 Riserva (Chianti Montalbano). Aromas of wood shop, espresso and licorice lead the nose. The firm palate delivers oak extract, licorice, clove, dried black cherry and sage alongside tightly-knit, drying tannins. It has structure but not much fruit richness remains. Petit Pois. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

ISRAEL CABERNET SAUVIGNON

94 Recanati 2011 Reserve David Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). For full review see page 4. Kosher. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

93 Golan Heights Winery 2011 Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). Violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberries and gingerbread spice. It is well balanced, with equal amounts of velvety tannins and refreshing brightness cavorting on the palate. Pronounced flavors of blackberry, aniseed, smoke, flint and thyme are accentuated by notes of mint tea. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

92 Dalton 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). For full review see page 6. Kosher.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 Jerusalem Wineries 2013 3400 Premium Cabernet Sauvignon (Judean Hills). For full review see page 6. Kosher. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Golan Heights Winery 2011 Gilgal Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). Aromas of black cherry, almond and espresso bean open on the palate to flavors of cassis, black cherry, strawberry, black pepper and custard. Smooth tannins linger on the palate accompanied by flavors of juicy fruit. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

SHIRAZ

93 Jerusalem Wineries 2013 3400 Premium Shiraz (Judean Hills). For full review see page 5. Kosher.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

93 Recanati 2014 Shiraz (Galilee). For full review see page 5. Kosher. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

92 Dalton 2012 Reserve Shiraz (Galilee). For full review see page 6. Kosher.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

RED BLENDS

93 Recanati 2012 Reserve Red (Galilee). A co-fermented blend of 97% Syrah and 3% Viognier, this wine has a bouquet of black cherry, chocolate covered espresso bean and rose petal. It is a nicely crafted wine that offers flavors of blackberry, cranberry, *sambuca* and sage. Velvety tannins persist through a long lasting finish that is punctuated by bursts of fresh fruit. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Recanati 2011 Special Reserve Red (Galilee). Deep red-violet to the eye, this wine has a well-defined nose of blueberry pie and flint. There is a good mix of tart fruit and spice, with flavors of blueberry, cranberry, black pepper, anise and smoked meat cavorting amidst very soft tannins. The smooth finish is characterized by flavors of smoke and orange zest. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

91 Galil Mountain 2010 Meron (Upper Galilee). Deep garnet in color, this wine has a fruity nose of blueberry and cranberry. It is well rounded in the mouth, with flavors of black cherry, aniseed, violet, orange zest and rose petal. Rich tannins linger on the palate through a finish that offers a nice burst of pomegranate flavor. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Golan Heights Winery 2012 Gilgal Cabernet-Merlot (Galilee). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine offers a nose of raspberry, talc and violet. There is a nice mix of baking spice and fruit flavors, dominated by blackberry, black cherry, clove and anise with touches of black pepper. The finish is reminiscent of cherry pie, with mingling flavors of cherry, spice and vanilla. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

91 Golan Heights Winery 2011 Yarden 2T (Galilee). Ruby to the eye, this wine has an enticing bouquet of black cherry and soft baking spices. Flavors of black cherry, cranberry, vanilla, sage and orange rind are at home amid a labyrinth of soft but persistent tannins. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

90 Galil Mountain 2011 Yiron (Upper Galilee). Inky garnet in the glass, this wine offers aromas of black cherry and bell pepper. Fruit, cooling herb and spice flavors coexist peacefully on the palate, with hearty doses of cassis, black cherry, licorice, eucalyptus, chili flakes and bell pepper. Strong but smooth tannins never overcome a nice

sense of fruity brightness that lingers on the palate. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

90 Golan Heights Winery 2013 Hermon Red (Galilee). Fragrances of cherry, vanilla custard and black licorice prepare the tastebuds for flavors of cherry conserves, cassis, anise, smoke, flint and jalapeño. While this wine may be a little too smoky and spicy for some palates, fruit flavors hold their own; overall, it is well balanced. Strong tannins persist into the jalapeño-laced finish. with dark fruits lingering on the post-palate. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

90 Golan Heights Winery 2013 Hermon Indigo (Galilee). Deep garnet in the glass, this red blend has aromas of blackberry, vanilla and cedar. There is a good balance of tannins and strong fruit, with flavors of blackberry, cedar, tart cherry and smoked meat. The rich but not overpowering tannins last well beyond a smooth finish that offers flavors of smoke and cranberry. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

90 Recanati 2014 Yasmin Red (Galilee). For full review see page 11. Kosher. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

89 Galil Mountain 2011 Alon (Upper Galilee). Aromas of cranberry and yellow pepper prime the palate for flavors of cherry pie, cranberry, smoked meat, almond paste and baking spices. A sense of spicy coolness can sometimes overpower the cherry and cassis flavors, and light tannins persist into a finish that is equal parts baking spice and strawberry tart. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

OTHER RED WINES

92 Golan Heights Winery 2010 Yarden Merlot (Galilee). This wine is dark garnet to the eye, with a fragrance of raspberry, cherry and Mediterranean herbs. There is a pleasing balance of fruit and dried herb notes. Smooth tannins prevail, with flavors of black cherry, blueberry, eucalyptus, smoked meat and fresh-cut herbs of thyme and oregano paving the way for a blueberry, oregano and orange rind finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Recanati 2013 Merlot (Galilee). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine offers rich aromas of cherry, black licorice and orange rind and flavors of blackberry, black cherry, cassis, anisette and eucalyptus. Long-lasting tannins coat the mouth but there is always a sense of fresh fruit on the palate and a brightness that lingers right into the satisfying finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

92 Recanati 2013 Wild Reserve Carignan (Judean Hills). A bouquet of cherry, blueberry and vanilla prepares the tastebuds for flavors of blueberry, strawberry, fennel bulb and white chocolate. There is a nice play on the palate between bright acidity and chewy tannins, and the delightful finish is like a mouthful of blueberry pie with a sprinkling of pomegranate seeds. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

90 Golan Heights Winery 2012 Gilgal Sangiovese (Galilee). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine offers fragrances of black cherry, cranberry and espresso. A net of soft tannins plays host to flavors of strawberry, cherry, white chocolate and Thai basil. The finish is a balancing act between smooth and bright sensations on the palate. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Recanati 2013 Reserve Petite Sirah (Galilee). With aromas of strawberry and blueberry, this wine is tart at first sip, but then opens to rich flavors of slightly savory black cherry, strawberry, thyme and aniseed. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

89 Recanati 2013 Reserve Marselan (Galilee). Violet-red in the glass, this wine has fragrances of watermelon and black cherry. Tannins come on strong at first but are undercut by astringent notes of cranberry alongside flavors of cherry, pomegranate, vanilla and French toast. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

WHITE WINES

92 Recanati 2013 Special Reserve White (Galilee). Aromas of melon and barley lead to flavors of white peach, almond blossom and jasmine in this Rhône-style blend. A touch creamy with full mouthfeel, this wine is a delight through the bright finish, which offers a glimpse of pink grapefruit. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

90 Dalton 2014 D Unoaked Pinot Gris (Galilee). For full review see page 10. Kosher. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Dalton 2013 D Series Chardonnay (Galilee). Medium straw-colored in the glass, this wine offers aromas of orange blossom, white tea and seawater. There is a nice balance of smooth fruit and brightness, with flavors of ripe peach and pear that will cause a bit of a pucker on the side palate right into the lingering peach finish. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Recanati 2014 Diamond Sauvignon Blanc (Shomron). A nose of lemon and apple with the scent of slightly feral brambles leads to flavors of lemon, guava, passion fruit, pineapple and rose petal. This is a grownup Sauvignon Blanc that feels nice on the palate, with a finish that is equal amounts spicy, savory and bright. Kosher. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Golan Heights Winery 2014 Yarden Sauvignon Blanc (Galilee). Light straw to the eye, this wine offers aromas of pineapple, grapefruit and cut grass. There is a nice balance of citrus and herbal notes on the taste buds, with flavors of pear, peach, lemon and chopped parsley and basil. It has a bright, fresh finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Golan Heights Winery 2014 Hermon Moscato (Galilee). Deep straw in color, this low alcohol (6%) wine has a nose of lime sorbet, lilac and orange blossom. It offers flavors of lime sorbet, white peach, honey, orange blossom and Turkish delight. It is sweet but not overly so, with a nice touch of tartness on the finish. Consider pairing it with creamy desserts or fruit tarts. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 6% **Price:** \$15

89 Recanati 2013 Chardonnay (Galilee). Aromas of apricot and cantaloupe pave the way for flavors of apricot, apple and smoked meat with a touch of river rocks. This wine feels a little stiff at first sip, but as it opens up to a pleasing combination of fruit and savory flavors that lead to a soft guava finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Galil Mountain 2012 Yiron Viognier (Upper Galilee). Soft gold in color, this wine offers fragrances of apple tart and vanilla. Flavors of pear, apple, lemon curd and eucalyptus come on strong but mellow as it moves into the pear and lemon peel finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Golan Heights Winery 2013 Hermon White (Galilee). A nose of pear, honeydew melon and freshly-starched linens sets the stage for soft pear and melon flavors that are overpowered by intense minty notes. There is a burst of fresh citrus on the finish, but there is a lingering sense of cotton on the palate throughout each sip. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉ

89 Recanati 2014 Rosé (Galilee). Deep pink in the glass, this wine has a nose of strawberries and freesia. It is full in the mouth, with flavors of strawberry, tart cranberry, bitter almond and lavender. Soft but ever-present tannins are felt

through the tart but pleasant finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Nautilus 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a tight, crisp rendering of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Struck flint aromas add nuance, while the bright lemon-lime flavors whirl together into a citrus sorbet of refreshment. *Negociants USA, Inc. Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

91 Omaka Springs 2014 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Craggy Range 2014 Te Muna Road Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). Craggy's style of Sauvignon Blanc has always favored texture over flamboyant aromatics, but the 2014 offers subtle notes of tomato stalk layered over citrus fruit. Grapefruit predominates, but there's a hint of stone fruit and the hallmark Craggy creaminess to the wine's texture. Kobrand. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Forrest 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is on the pungent side, boasting aromas of boxwood and white grapefruit. Try it with a ceviche or herb-steamed mussels to lessen the impact, or embrace the potent, leaf-inflected flavors on their own. Either way, savor the silky texture and crisp, vibrant finish. Pacific Prime Wines. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Lake Chalice 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Struck flint, fig and melon aromas lead the way, followed by similar flavors, plus a strong backbone of mixed citrus. It's pleasantly light in weight, with a long, crisp, citrusy finish. Pacific Prime Wines. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Selaks 2014 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). The combination of leafiness and pink grapefruit on the nose suggests red currants, while the flavors on the palate are more tropical in nature. Still, crisp citrus carries the day, giving vibrancy to this medium-bodied wine. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Barker's Marque 2014 Three Brooms Single Vineyard Certified Sustainable Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Jules Taylor 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This medium-bodied Sauvignon

Blanc adds a bit of creamy depth on the midpalate, while its aromas and flavors of fig and melon are on the ripe side for Marlborough. Despite that, it's still clean and refreshing, with a long, citrus-pith finish. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Peregrine 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Otago). Central Otago isn't exactly known for its Sauvignon Blanc, but this is a credible version. It's pungent and sweaty, but compensates with a rich texture, ample grapefruit flavors and a long finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

89 Yealands 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For such a large-production wine, this is admirably complex, featuring delicate herbal shadings accenting hints of nectarine and citrus. The texture is a bit oily, but that's balanced by a long, mouthwatering finish. Palm Bay International. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Craggy Range 2013 Te Muna Road Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). This is plump, medium-weight Sauvignon Blanc that's fully ripe and easy to drink. Pineapple and pink grapefruit aromas and flavors are mellow and harmonious at this stage. Drink up. Kobrand. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Forefathers 2014 Wax Eye Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). California winemaker Nick Goldschmidt reaches back to his New Zealand roots for this bottling. It's a finely balanced mélange of grapefruit, cut grass and fig notes carried by medium body and a soft, appealing finish. Goldschmidt Vineyards. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Goldwater 2014 Wairau Valley Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This light- to medium-bodied wine is composed, restrained and balanced. Scents of struck flint and tomato leaf add a welcome edge, while delicate white-fruit notes play in the background. Pasternak Wine Imports. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Kennedy Point 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This Waiheke Island-based winery sources its Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough. The result is a rather leafy, slightly vegetal wine that's reminiscent of tomato stalk and celery leaf, yet remains refreshing and pleasant, with a strong citrus core. Try it with ceviche or simple broiled sole. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Tussock Jumper 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Nectarine and fig notes mark the nose, while the palate is mellow and well-ripened, then delivers a refreshing citrusy kick on the long, grapefruit finish. Drink this medium-

BUYINGGUIDE

bodied wine over the next 6–9 months. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Frenzy 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (South Island). This medium-bodied wine smells a bit like a bouquet of pineapple, sage and lemony thyme. On the palate, the wine is restrained and citrusy, with a clean, refreshing finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Yealands 2013 Aware Valley Single Vineyard Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A wine of contradictions, this attempts to merge ripe elements, like fig, nectarine and melon, with taut notes of citrus and hints of garden peas. It's medium bodied, with a crisp, pleasant finish. Palm Bay International. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

86 Ata Rangi 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). The Sauvignon Blanc here never seems to hit the highs of the Burgundian varieties, but the 2013 is a solid effort. Aromas of struck flint give a faintly Old World character to this medium-bodied wine, followed by hints of stone fruit and pineapple and an abbreviated finish. Epic Wines. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

86 Fire Road 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Ever get served a grapefruit half topped with a maraschino cherry? That's kind of what this wine smells like. So it's a bit confected, but pleasant, with hints of currant and citrus, with a slightly sweet-and-sour finish. Winesellers Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

86 Framingham 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This wine hits all the standard Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc notes: ripe notes of fig and melon joined by cut grass and citrus. It's not overly concentrated, but it's easy to drink and comes together harmoniously on the finish. Evaton, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Jackson Estate 2013 Stich Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a crisp, clean and zesty wine, built on a simple but tasty base of white grapefruit. It's light to medium in body, with a refreshing finish. Kendall-Jackson Winery. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

86 Oyster Bay 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). At this scale (170,000 cases imported), the quality is remarkable. Leafy notes accent pink grapefruit aromas and flavors, coming together in a harmonious, easy-drinking finish. Oyster Bay Wines. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Smythe & Renfield 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This wine seems a bit con-

fected and simple, combining ripe stone fruit with lemon zest to achieve a sense of balance. Short on the finish. Prestige Wine & Spirits Group. —J.C.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

85 The Crossings 2014 Awatere Valley Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a bit herbal and sweaty, even a little boxwood-pungent. The herbal, leafy flavors are light and refreshing, vanishing too quickly on the finish. Siltstone Wines. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Zeal 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 12. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

PINOT NOIR

94 Escarpment 2013 Kupe Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). The best of Escarpment's latest bevy of single-vineyard releases, Kupe (ku-pay) is from the close-planted vineyard nearest the winery on Te Muna Road. It's floral upfront, loaded with raspberry and blueberry fruit and amazingly supple despite using 70% whole clusters and 50% new oak. Drink 2016–2025. Empson USA Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —J.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$69

93 Pegasus Bay 2012 Pinot Noir (Waipara Valley). Peg Bay is the flagship winery of Waipara, yet the wines remain realistically priced. Plum, cola and cherry notes are accompanied by strongly umami sensations akin to mushroom and roasted beef, giving this wine ample complexity. While the wine is concentrated, it has an airy, graceful feel to it. Drink 2016–2024. Empson USA Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

92 Escarpment 2013 Te Rehua Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). Veteran winemaker Larry McKenna says Te Rehua consistently shows the most ripeness of his various single-vineyard wines. In this vintage, that comes across as a slightly jammy midpalate filled with plums and blackberries. Upfront, there's a floral element, and on the finish, some dusty tannins. Try it once 2016 rolls around, and drink it through 2025. Empson USA Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$59

91 Escarpment 2013 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). Escarpment's basic blended Pinot is anything but basic in 2013. There's a pleasing mixture of red and black fruit, notes of dried flowers and thyme and hints of mocha, cola and vanilla. It's medium bodied, with a firm feel on the palate and some dusty tannins on the long finish. It should drink well through 2023. Empson USA Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

91 Escarpment 2013 Kiwa Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). This wine shows a bit

of brown-sugar-inflected oak at the moment, along with hints of cola, menthol and vanilla. Cocoa, cinnamon and cedar notes are all backed by dark cherry fruit and crushed-velvet-textured tannins. Drink now–2023. Empson USA Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

91 Escarpment 2013 Pahi Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). "Delicate" is how owner-winemaker Larry McKenna describes Pahi, and that seems apt. It's smoky and vaguely herbal, hinting at tomato, then offers cherry fruit and soft, gentle tea-like tannins that turn silky on the finish. Drink now–2021. Empson USA Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

91 Two Paddocks 2013 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). This is a supple, silky Pinot, the kind that wins friends for the variety. Bold plum and cherry fruit is both sappy and spicy, with ample weight on the palate and a long, mouthwatering finish. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

90 Two Paddocks 2012 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Compared to Two Paddocks' 2013 The Last Chance bottling, this is lacier in texture—delicate and enchanting for its weightlessness. It still boasts many of the same flavors—tart cherries and herbal, tea-like notes, with a silky finish. Drink now–2020. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

90 Two Paddocks 2012 The Last Chance Earnscleugh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Central Otago). It was fascinating to compare this to Two Paddocks' regular bottling. The Last Chance is slightly richer, but otherwise features many of the same elements: smoke, tart cherries and delicate herbal notes. Despite the extra concentration, it's still supple and approachable now. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

89 Two Paddocks 2013 The First Paddock Gibbston Vineyard Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Meaty, plummy and dark, this is very different in character from Two Paddocks' other bottlings. While it's still only medium bodied, it comes across as chunkier and less ethereal. Give it until 2016 or so, then drink it over the following decade. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

87 Lagoon Hill 2013 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). The sourcing for this wine has shifted from Martinborough to Marlborough, but the wine is still well made. It's pale in color, with aromas of strawberry and tomato leaf, and light in weight. The flavors are crisp, clean and inviting, albeit with some herbal overtones. Drink it over the next year or two. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$20

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

95 Sojourn 2013 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Sizzling lemon and Asian pear-tinged acidity give this wine an electricity on the palate that finds its companion in the richer overtones of racy cardamom and nutmeg. The 40% new French oak imparts structure and spice rather than an overt influence, letting the complex stone minerality and depth of fruit linger on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$48

94 Saxon Brown 2012 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). Concentrated, silky smooth and subtly complex, this is almost like a dessert wine, yet technically dry. Aromas of pear tart and toasted walnut grab the attention, followed by deep, layered flavors reminiscent of lemon, cream and frangipane. The texture is seductively smooth and the finish lasts for at least 30 seconds. This wine provides a great example of posh indulgence. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$48

94 Sojourn 2013 Campbell Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). From a high-elevation site near the outpost of Annapolis, close to the Mendocino border, this is a briny, salty and soft wine, complex and bristling in acidity, yet possessed of subtle power and finesse. Enjoy now or over time, cellaring through 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

93 Kessler-Haak 2013 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a complex blend of oak, citrus and butter on the nose of this wine, like a sourdough roll cooked over a campfire and then topped with lemon marmalade. The well-balanced palate further blends the experience, with smoke and vanilla coalescing around Mexican lime and yellow apple, culminating in a finish redolent with hard butterscotch candies. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$29

93 Saxon Brown 2012 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). Subtle fruit and baking spice aromas lead to expansive peach, pear and fig flavors riding on a wave of fresh, crisp acidity that keeps this lively through the finish, even though the texture is quite lush and creamy. The wine is almost a meal in itself, but will make a grand pairing with rich seafood dishes or even a cheese course. Delicious now through at least 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$58

93 Sojourn 2013 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A rich golden color, this unctuous offering is luxuriously layered in honeycomb and vanilla crème brûlée, complex, big

and bold. A wall of oak adds structure and density without taking over, opening the door to a finish of juicy ripe fig. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

92 Concannon 2013 Reserve Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

92 Gundlach Bundschu 2013 Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Asian pear and Meyer lemon curd form a viscous, sensual core of balanced richness and acidity in this lovely wine, from a set of vineyard blocks planted partly to 40-plus-year-old heritage vines. A stony quality permeates throughout the fruit, combining for a sense of refreshing complexity. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$27

91 Archival 2013 Farina Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% Price: \$32

91 Masút 2013 Haiku Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino County). Bold aromas and generous but sophisticated flavors shape a rich tasting experience in this full-bodied, buttery wine. Aromas resemble nutmeg and ripe pear, while the flavors are like lively green apple. The texture is both smooth and crisp at the same time, and the long finish denotes quality. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$40

91 Sea Monster 2013 Los Alamos Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). This stylishly labeled wine by Adam Lazarre and Christian Tietje shows salted apples, lime blossoms and white flowers on the nose. The energetic palate offers just-cut green pears at first, then opens into a touch of vanilla. It tightens back down on green apple peels before ending with vanilla cream. The wine delivers a full experience. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Sojourn 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). From a selection of vineyard-designated sites, including Durell, Campbell Ranch and several Sangiacomo sites, this well-crafted blend is buzzing in minerality, a wet-stone character that overlays a depth of silky richness. Approachable now and yet structured for aging, its medium-level weight is awash in ripe apple and pear, finishing lean. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

91 Villa Oneiro 2013 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$38

90 Black Stallion 2013 Limited Release Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$35

90 Buena Vista 2013 Chardonnay (Carneros). Decadent swirls of petrol and oak inform the entry of this young wine, golden in color and viscous on the palate. Coconut flakes season a core of ripe pear compote and cinnamon before a streak of sizzling acidity tempers the richness of the wine's initial impression, ultimately finding freshness on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 Les Voleurs 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). White flowers and wild anise give this a crisp, tangy quality, the fruit balanced and refined, showing up as Asian pear and Meyer lemon. The voluptuous finish adds depth without overbearing power. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$25

89 Dave Koz 2012 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). The smooth jazz saxophonist produces a dynamic wine with the help of the Terraviva facility in Buellton. Aromas suggest kumquat peel, just-cut pineapple, nectarine, brie cheese rind and steel. The palate entertains with lots of chalky grip, lime zest and pink grapefruit pith flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$18

89 Parducci 2013 Small Lot Blend Chardonnay (Mendocino County). For full review see page 11. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

89 Testarossa 2013 Cuvee 107 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Unique aromas of lime blossoms, flowering herbs and a tiny bit of jalapeño combine for a fascinating nose on this winery's entry-level offering. There is a slightly bell pepper element on the palate, but it's quite tasty alongside the ripe pears and other familiar flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

89 True Myth 2013 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Butterflies dance across the label of this Niven Family wine from their Paragon Vineyard, but it packs a flavorful punch too. Aromas of lime juice drizzled on apples, honeysuckle and a bit of struck match lead into broad flavors of cooked apples and chalk, all held together by lemony zest. It's pretty on the label and in the glass. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

88 Baileyana 2013 Firepeak Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Very tight and shy aromas of lime zest, gray slate and white rocks show on the nose of this wine from the pioneering Niven Family and their winemaker Christian Roguenant. The palate shows some grassiness, Mexican lime and an interesting warmth on the back end, proving quite lean and sharp. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$28

88 Chateau St. Jean 2013 Sonoma Estates Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A caramelized apple nose gives way to toasty oak and spicy lemon.

This wine is balanced yet made in a style highlighting ripeness and richness. A touch of fresh peach leads the generous finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$20

88 Frank Family 2013 Chardonnay (Carneros).

Tropical in personality, with a leanness of pineapple and guava, this wine holds a concentration of oak-influenced flavor and texture at its heart. It ends generously sultry in sweet Tahitian vanilla. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

88 Kunde 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley).

This is a well-crafted, well-distributed wine, from sustainably farmed and estate-grown grapes. It offers a scent of jasmine and anise around flavors of Meyer lemon and grapefruit. Well rounded and medium bodied, it stays lively and refreshing in the glass. —V.B.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$18

88 Zaca Mesa 2012 Chardonnay (Santa Ynez Valley).

Aromas of lychee, wet slate and just-cut kiwi combine for a tightly wound nose on this wine from one of the region's pioneering properties. The palate clings close to the lime, lemon and pink grapefruit pith flavors that open a little toward apple flesh and a pinch of herbs. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$16

87 Dark Earth 2012 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).

There's the slightest touch of oxidation on the nose of this wine, with aromas of roasted walnut and seared lemons. The palate is quite interesting, with lemon oil, hints of toasted nuts and a faint marshmallow element on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$18

87 Kenwood 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).

Oaky on the nose, this is a lean, crisp wine on the palate, straightforward and balanced in its combination of green apple, pear and Meyer lemon characteristics. Medium bodied, it'll work wonders with midweek meals. —V.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

87 Mazzocco 2013 Chardonnay (Alexander Valley).

Honeysuckle and Good & Plenty combine on the entry of this fruity, floral wine, full-bodied and intriguing on the palate in ripe apple and vanilla. A funkiness on the finish gives it an earthy ending. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$20

87 Pezzi King 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).

Sizzling in high-toned citrus and a helping of freshly squeezed pineapple, this wine combines delicate floral aromas and refreshment with a more weighty complexity of caramelized oak, finding a sense of leanness on the finish. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$18

87 The Forager 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

From a variety of coastal vineyard locations, this wine, an inaugural offering from the producer, opens in zesty lemon and tangerine, before developing into a fuller-bodied, unctuous experience on the palate. It offers tamped-down acidity and briny back note on the finish. —V.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

86 Cima Collina 2013 Tondre Grapefield Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).

A unique blend of fermenting orange, aging white flowers, dried apples and a musky sandalwood show on the nose of this wine. The palate is simultaneously rich, sour and creamy, with tangerine and banana flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$38

86 Sonoma-Cutrer 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

Toasted oak and vanilla are noticeably present on the palate and nose of this wine, which evolves in the glass to take on a more tropical feel and tastes of ripe pineapple and guava. Medium to light in texture, it finishes smoothly and flat. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$21

86 The Federalist 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).

Golden in color, this wine has a light presence on the palate, offering both floral and herbal highlights of jasmine and cinnamon. A faint squeeze of citrus is perceptible throughout, before the wine finishes in a flash. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$22

85 Dark Horse 2013 Chardonnay (California).

This well-made wine in a rich style smells like ripe pears and melted butter, and tastes soft and almost sweet, resembling pear and peach juice. The texture is smooth and soft and the body is medium, so it's easy to enjoy. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$10

85 Gen5 2013 Chardonnay (Lodi).

Softly sweet, this brings bright Fuji apple and Anjou pear aromas and flavors. It charms with fresh fruit character and stays away from the dry balance of more serious wines. —J.G.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$11

85 JCB 2012 N 76 Chardonnay (Marin County).

This shows a bright yellow-gold color and light lemon and butter aromas. Pronounced butter, lemon and almond flavors almost overwhelm the lean texture. Tart in taste and light in texture, it refreshes the mouth. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

85 Leese-Fitch 2013 Chardonnay (California).

This shows fresh, crisp apple and lemon-cream aromas, with clean appley flavors and buttery accents. Medium bodied, it tends toward the soft, rather than crisp, side. Lively fruit flavors make it refreshing. —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

85 Lockwood 2013 San Lucas Unoaked Pure Chardonnay (San Lucas).

Slightly sour elements of lemon and lime meet with a riper nectarine tone on the nose of this wine. There is good citrus-driven acidity on the palate with limeade flavors, though it trends a bit sour and wipes up with not much finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

84 Moniker 2013 Chardonnay (Mendocino County).

This has a dull, brown-tinged color and floral, almost soapy aromas at first. Then the flavors deliver some tasty oak-aged notes and a texture livened with crisp appley acidity. It's an unusual mash-up of smells and tastes. —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

84 Tortoise Creek 2013 Jam's Blend Chardonnay (Lodi).

Fresh, clean and rather soft in balance, this shows easy-to-like aromas of pear and apple, slightly sweet flavors of honey and pear juice, and an almost syrupy, soft mouthfeel. It's agreeable and sweet. —J.G.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$12

83 401K 2013 Chardonnay (California).

An extremely rich texture, like pear juice, and sweet flavors of ripe pear, peach and pineapple give this wine a big personality. It has no apparent crispness to balance it out and keep it lively. All that sweetness and richness suggest a good pairing with salty cheeses. —J.G.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$15

83 Stephen Vincent 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).

Baked pear and ripe tropical guava and papaya muddle their way between high-toned aspects of lemon and sheer acidity, which veers into sour territory on the finish. The dueling personalities give this wine a sense of imbalance. —V.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$13

82 Goyette 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

Sweetly overripe with a briny backwash of green olive, this is a plain, weighty white wine that's indistinct. —V.B.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$15

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Frog's Leap 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).

For full review see page 9.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$22

90 Round Pond 2014 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).

From the heart of the Napa Valley, this estate white is dry in floral lemon and lime, in addition to more voluptuous helpings of apricot and peach. Stainless-steel fermented, it offers crisp acidity before taking on complexity on the finish, more weighty than on the palate. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

90 Shannon Ridge 2014 High Elevation Collection Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).

grant and lively, this dazzling and refreshing wine combines grapefruit, kiwi and honeydew melon flavors with crisp acidity and medium body. With all that fruit flavor, it remains nearly dry and will be quite versatile with food. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

90 Wines Gone Wild 2014 Frank Johnson Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). The appellation continues to impress with this variety, well showcased by this producer. White flowers and waxy apple form its character foremost, followed by lemon peel and zest. A dry, salty finish makes for a conclusively satisfying end. **Best Buy.** —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Raymond 2013 Estate Collection Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Fleshy and dry, this voluptuous wine has an abundance of creamy weight on the palate, but it never veers too far, remaining balanced and ultimately elegant. Stone fruit and quince vie for attention, with a salty undertow of lemongrass and ginger. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Raymond 2013 Reserve Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Toasted oak and vanilla give this wine substance and style. It's fuller bodied and robust on the palate, still young and holding on to some weight. A touch of grapefruit spruces up the proceedings, providing crispness just in time. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 St. Supéry 2013 Dollarhide Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Sweet aromas of jasmine jump from the glass in this vineyard-designate, followed by palpable acidity that makes the wine fresh and refreshingly dry. A finish of grapefruit pith provides for a citrus-tinged end. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

86 Two Angels 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). This smells sugary, floral and herbaceous, then the flavors become more crisp and zesty like lemon and green apple. While the wine seems to start sweet, it finishes very dry and tangy, and should stand up well to rich salads, cheeses and seafood. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$17

86 Vigilance 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Red Hills Lake County). This tastes bright and lively, just a bit sweet and brimming with fruit flavor. It smells like green apples and grapefruit, tastes like honeydew melon and adds a bit of acidity to balance out the ripeness. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

85 McFadden 2014 Estate Grown Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Potter Valley). While a bit earthy in aroma, this gains more fruit flavors on the palate and wraps them in a soft, smooth texture. Elements of apple and pear make it rich rather than bright. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

85 St. Supéry 2014 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Racy, this stainless-steel fermented white is fuzzy in gooseberry and pineapple, not quite veering into fresh-cut grass, but staying more tropical and generous in ripe fruit. A dry, lemony finish provides refreshment. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

84 McFadden 2014 Blue Quail Sauvignon Blanc (Potter Valley). A slightly earthy aroma leads to lean citrus aromas, attractive kiwi and apple flavors and a somewhat tangy texture. Overall it is light-bodied and modest in flavor. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO

90 Swanson 2014 Pinot Grigio (Sonoma Mountain). For full review see page 9. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

88 Piro Piro Piccolo 2014 Pinot Grigio (Santa Barbara County). Aromas of Golden Delicious apples, nectarine flesh, lemon-lime soda and poached pears drizzled lightly with agave syrup show on the nose of this wine made by Mike Roth. The palate offers apple and pear cider along with white peach and a steely, nearly gunmetal minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Barber 2013 Rougissant Keller Vineyard Pinot Gris (Sonoma Coast). Medium in weight, this dry, refreshing white from a single-vineyard site holds layers of flavors and complexity. Aromatically it imparts almonds and white flowers in equal measure, followed by honey-tinged tastes of mango and melon. It finishes crisp. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 FlyWine 2013 The Party Starter Pinot Gris (Sonoma Valley). Flowers, melon and stone fruit inform the aromas and flavors of this unctuous, weighty and viscous wine, smooth with a lingering taste of ripe peach on the finish. Tiny percentages of Riesling and Gewürztraminer figure into the mix, too. —V.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$32

ALBARIÑO

88 Caren 2013 La Presa Vineyard Albariño (Santa Ynez Valley). Bright aromas of lime peels, green pear skins, ruby red grapefruit and lemongrass are leveled by slightly rounder nectarine flesh notes. The ripe grapefruit flavors come with touches of honeydew melon, all dazzled by a sharp acidity and vibrancy that makes the mouth water. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

88 Dancing Coyote 2013 Estate Grown Albariño (Clarksburg). Light-bodied, lean and very refreshing, this lively, crisp wine will make a great counterpoint to lots of appetizers and many kinds

of seafood. A tangy apple and peach-skin flavor is mild but tasty, and the finish is crisp and clean. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 En Garde 2013 Vista Luna Vineyard Albariño (Lodi). This unoaked wine smells like melons and pears, and tastes even more crisp and lively, like green apples and lemons. There's a touch of buttery richness in both the aroma and the flavor, and it's well balanced out by bright acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

87 Metate Hill Vineyards 2010 Barrica Albariño (Calaveras County). This offers an unusually full-bodied take on this variety. It shows a vivid gold color, with generous apricot and pear aromas followed by a lush texture that carries apricot, vanilla and almond flavors across the palate. This was barrel-fermented and had extended aging before release. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

RIESLING

91 Pey-Marín 2013 The Shell Mound Riesling (Marin County). In this distinctive, delicate, dry Riesling, the signature aromas of pine, petrol and white peach lead to crisp, tangy, green apple and peach skin flavors that tingle the taste buds. It's light bodied, lean in texture and makes the mouth water. —J.G.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$28

84 Chacewater 2013 Limited Edition Riesling (Lake County). This has aromas of yellow peach and butter. Straightforward flavors faintly resemble peach, with more of the buttery richness that seems unusual for this variety. It's a good, basic, full-bodied white wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

84 Drytown 2014 Estate Riesling (Sierra Foothills). A sweet version of Riesling, this offers fresh apple and strawberry aromas, sweet melon and cucumber flavors, a soft texture and light body. —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

WHITE BLENDS

87 Eponymous 2013 Proprietary White (Carneros). Crisp green apple and lime zest aromas form the entry of this unidentified blend, which tends toward richer, creamier layers of vanilla in flavor and texture. The finish is both full-figured and floral. —V.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

86 Helwig 2013 Marsanne-Roussanne (Shenandoah Valley). This fruity white Rhône-style blend has aromas and flavors of banana and honeydew melon, fresh acidity and a clean, tangy finish. It

is medium bodied and refreshing, and will make a charming lunch or pre-dinner drink. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

86 Vinum 2013 White Elephant (California). This tradition-bucking blend of 61% Chenin Blanc, 31% Viognier and 8% Roussanne offers soft aromas of sweet apple blossoms and peach, with a hint of barrel smoke. The palate offers a similar blend of peaches, pears and apples, warmed up with some oak influence. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 La Sirena 2013 Moscato Azul Dry Muscat Canelli (Calistoga). Almost clear in color, this wine has pungently floral aromas of honeysuckle that pave the way for sizzling acidity and fresh layers of peach and lime zest to complement one another on the palate. Refreshing, light bodied and dry, this is a wonderful additional to any arsenal of aromatic wines for summertime enjoyment. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Bodkin 2014 Unto the Breach Dry Muscat Canelli (Lake County). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

90 Tablas Creek 2014 Vermentino (Paso Robles). This grape is obscure for California but excels in this bottling, with intriguing aromas of yellow melon, crushed white rocks and an array of citrus, from tangerine peels to kumquats. The palate is a lime shade of green, featuring flavors of lime blossoms, Key lime pie and kaffir lime leaves, but also shows limestone minerality and a hint of passion fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$27

90 Wise Villa 2014 Estate Torrontés (Alta Mesa). This bright and attractive dry wine has exotic floral and pistachio aromas, rich grapefruit and rosewater flavors, and a lively texture that seems to keep the flavors tripping over the tongue on the aftertaste. It will be a real treat for brunch or with spicy food. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 Cliff Family 2013 Gewürztraminer (Mendocino). Smooth, dry and full bodied, this subtly floral wine has a rich texture that soothes and coats the mouth. It should make a nice pairing with everything from spicy Asian or Latin American cuisine to sausages and sauerkraut. It smells like roses, tastes like pink grapefruit with a dash of kiwi, and has a long finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

89 Dancing Coyote 2013 Estate Grüner Veltliner (Clarksburg). Although this is a delicate wine in terms of aroma and flavor, it has a vividly tart texture that's especially refreshing. It smells

subdued, resembling cucumber and white pepper, then the flavors add white peach and crisp apple notes. This will make a great match with raw oysters, sushi and other appetizers. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 La Folia Winery 2013 Fiano (Sierra Foothills). This is an interesting, dry white wine from an unusual grape variety. It's more savory than fruity, as the aromas resemble white and black pepper, while flavors are subtle and figgy. The texture is quite rich and the finish lingers nicely. It's very full-bodied for a white, and definitely worth a try. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Baker & Brain 2013 Paragon Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). This is a tight and racy take on a rarely planted grape for the region, with scratched lemon peel and lime pith aromas, plus a brie cheese-rind character. It's lively on the palate, with grapefruit peels, white flowers, lime juice and a touch of ripe apple flesh. Expect longevity. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

87 Il Moons 2012 Elan Chenin Blanc (Paso Robles). Taking an oxidized approach to the grape, this golden wine shows aromas of crushed almonds, hazelnut brittle, dried apricot mash and a bit of iodine. The palate is reminiscent of lemon preserves—salty, tart, rich and exotic—with a marzipan touch on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

86 St. Supéry 2014 Estate Grown Moscato (Napa Valley). This wine made from Muscat Canelli grapes is slightly spritzy and sweet, pungent in apricot fuzz and grass, a mélange of tropical goodness from there on out. Mango, kiwi and pineapple fill the medium-weight waves of viscous texture, concluding in a vanilla-tinged, light, fresh finish. —V.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉS

90 Koehler 2014 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Inviting macerated strawberry aromas mix with light plum, pink peach flesh and the original Hubba Bubba bubblegum scent. The delicious palate is driven by a subtle sense of cotton candy, all cut with a lime peel acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

90 The Withers Winery 2014 Rosé (El Dorado). This crisp, lively and dry rosé is made from Mourvèdre and Grenache grapes. It shows great acidity and a rather lean and thirst-quenching texture that carries the vibrant raspberry and apple flavors right along. The color is a pale salmon, the body is light, and the finish fresh and clean. It's a perfect lunch wine for salads, seafood and grilled fare. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20

89 Midsummer Cellars 2014 Grenache Rosé (Yolo County). A bright pink color and absolutely fresh grapefruit aromas suggest a crisp and lively wine, and that's what this 88% Grenache and 12% Viognier delivers. The flavors are quite dry but vivid, like lemon, tart cherry and ruby grapefruit. The texture is lean, the body is not heavy and the finish is tangy. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

89 Sanguis 2013 Rosé (Central Coast). Rather dark in mauve colors and slightly cloudy, this wine by urban vintner Matthias Pippig offers rather heady aromas for a rosé, with smashed olallieberry, blackberry and a touch of cardamom spice. Once sipped, aromatic plum flavors ensue, with help from Turkish spices and noticeable grip. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

88 Angels & Cowboys 2014 Rosé (Sonoma County). Made from Grenache, Malbec, Pinot Noir and Tempranillo, this is a light, zesty and dry wine. Light copper-pink in color, it is high-toned in grapefruit, plum and peach, completely bright and refreshing. Easy to love from start to finish, it finishes with a twist of tart lemon. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$15

88 High Valley 2014 Rosé (High Valley). This dry rosé has a bright pink color, subtle aromas like strawberry and watermelon, and fairly rich fig flavors that are well balanced by crisp acidity. Light and refreshing on the palate, this style of rosé seems to be the profile of choice for a growing number of California winemakers. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

88 Zaca Mesa 2014 Z Gris Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley). Aromas suggest pink watermelon and bubble gum ester, with an intriguing twist of licorice. It's high and tight on the palate with pink lemonade-driven acidity, offering strawberry fruit in the midpalate and more bubble gum on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$18

87 Beckmen 2014 Purísima Mountain Vineyard Grenache Rosé (Ballard Canyon). This wine tends toward an orange coloration, and shows aromas of warm watermelon, a touch of cantaloupe and even some orange rind. The flavors are very lively, if a little sour, with tangerine peels laced across the cotton-candy warmth. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

87 Chacewater 2014 Organic Grapes Rosé (Sierra Foothills). This has a candied cherry color, vivid strawberry and cotton candy aromas, and on first sip a freshness that's almost startling. On second sip it's more like a light red wine, delicate, medium-bodied, very fruity but easy on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$17

87 Virage 2014 Dry Rosé of Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). A direct-pressed wine, this has a pretty copper-pink color. It is intense in cranberry and subtle herbes de Provence, with notions of fresh-cut grass and tart Meyer lemon. Young, it needs time in the glass to reveal its complexity and range of flavor. The finish is dry and succulent on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$26

87 Wines Gone Wild 2014 Dragonsleaf Dry Rosé (Sonoma Mountain). Made from Syrah, this is a zesty, dry and medium-bodied wine, soft and thirst-quenching in waves of strawberry and raspberry. Undertones of dried herb and citrus mark the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Andis 2014 Belle en Rosé (Amador County). This is Provence pink in color—light and just slightly shaded with copper. It smells floral and fruity, like watermelon, canteloupe and cucumber. The balance is on the sweet side, lending a softness in texture. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 Bruliam 2014 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). There's an intensity of spicy cardamom and dried herb in this wine, otherwise layered in soft, refreshingly dry elements of cranberry and rhubarb. Darker hued than many of its counterparts, it retains a tannic grip to the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

86 Galatea Effect 2013 Conoscenti Rosé (California). Not a simple refreshment, this has a deep pink color tinged with copper. In aroma and flavor it's almost as substantive as a red wine. It has plummy, rich and slightly earthy aromas, a smooth mouthfeel, and soft cherry and spice flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$40

86 MacPhail 2014 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a substantial wine, concentrated in dark red berry color and flavor, from cherry to wild strawberry to more savory rhubarb compote. Muted on the nose, it has an underlying woody, herbal character that balances the vibrancy of the fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Drytown 2014 Estate Rosé (Sierra Foothills). Looking more like a light red wine than a supposedly pink one, this smells like ripe cherries and boysenberries, has a luscious, smooth texture and a soft, almost sweet finish. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$10

85 Matchbook 2014 Estate Bottled Rosé (Dunigan Hills). The color is a deep copper, while aromas suggest chocolate and vanilla, and the flavors are buttery and rich. Together with a thick texture it makes for a full-bodied rosé that will be

more of a dinner wine than something for a sunny outdoor lunch. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

85 Naggair 2013 Estate Rosé (Sierra Foothills). Bright copper in color, this substantial wine offers light strawberry and plum aromas, ripe plum and pear flavors and a creamy texture. Fruit flavors come out and linger on the taste buds with the help of the soft texture and somewhat sweet finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$21

PINOT NOIR

94 Aequorea 2013 Spanish Spring Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Aaron Jackson sources from the Central Coast's most extremely coastal vineyards, and this one from Edna Valley shows complex cola, black cherry, star anise and Dr Pepper aromas. It's soft and slate-driven on the lively palate, with graphite flavors that lead into tart cherry, clove spice and Sichuan pepper, entertaining the mouth for a long time —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

94 Donum 2012 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 3.
Editors' Choice.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$72

94 Kynsi 2011 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Made from Pommard and Martini clones planted in 1973, this wondrous wine shows black and white pepper, black slate, dried sage, rainy cement and touches of raspberry and blueberry on the nose. Pencil shavings hit the palate first, followed by rose petals and violets that open onto a sense of cherry-black olive compote over roasted pork. Expect more exotic spice and fruit to emerge 2018–2026. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

94 Martin Ray 2013 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 3.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

94 Silver 2010 Coteau Palmer Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This wine from Benjamin Silver is peaking right now, with fascinating aromas of exotic red fruits, sesame oil, maple syrup, hoisin sauce, Korean BBQ spareribs and smoked, coffee-crusted meats. It's in your face on the palate too, with pomegranate and rhubarb ripeness mixing into espresso and meatiness. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

94 Sojourn 2013 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From a relatively warm site within the burgeoning Petaluma Gap, this wine offers lush, velvety layers of blackberry, mint and dried herb, employing some whole-cluster fermentation to add to the weight and concentration. Perfumed in spice, it retains plenty of structure; it

would be a good one to cellar, through 2023. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59

94 Three Sticks 2012 Durell Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 4.
Editors' Choice.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

94 Williams Selyem 2013 Terra de Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

94 Wrights Station 2012 Far Away Block Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

93 Aequorea 2013 Riven Rock Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). This spicy wine from grapes grown above the coastal hamlet of Cambria offers expertly integrated aromas of black cardamom, chai spice, root beer, black raspberry and roasted game. There are dense fruits on the palate, nearing boysenberry and blackberry, along with a plum-skin sourness and a black-sage spice —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Aequorea 2013 SeaFarer Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Aaron Jackson blends extreme coastal vineyards from Cayucos, Cambria, Pismo Beach and San Simeon into this wondrous wine, which shows blackberries, black cherries, damp fennel and wisps of blood on the nose. Mashed plums and Bing cherries emerge on the palate, along with black olives, elderflowers and a coyote brush grip. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Cerro Prieto 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Paso Robles). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Couloir 2013 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From the extreme wilds near Annapolis, this vineyard-designate is rapaciously earthy in all the right ways, a taste of its environs, savage and demanding. Dark cherry and blueberry exude on the nose and follow through on the palate, in between jolts of baking spice and dried herb. Medium bodied, the wine is on the money right now, but should also do well in the bottle for years to come. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$58

93 Flying Goat Cellars 2011 Salisbury Vineyards Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Norm Yost presents luscious and broad aromas of black currant candies, black slate and well-integrated clove and allspice aromas on this wine from an extreme coastal slice of the Central Coast. It's quite boisterous for the restrained vintage, with blood,

iodine, black cherry juice and black pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$38

93 Gallegos 2012 Boekenooogen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Black raspberry and wet black slate are most prevalent on the nose of this wine from one of the appellation's most reliable vineyards, but it also shows an ample amount of black spices, from cardamom to star anise. The palate is also gravelly with earth, enhanced by purple berries, Earl Grey tea and lavender flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

93 Red Stich 2013 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Longtime San Francisco Giant Rich Aurilia teams with fellow baseballer Dave Roberts to produce a wine with restrained, focused aromas of black cherry, pencil shavings, sarsaparilla and hints of allspice. The palate is all about black gravel and turned loam, with tiny bits of black cherry and noticeably firm tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

93 Saintsbury 2013 Pratt Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Lean on the entry in savory black tea and black pepper, this wine's soft, supple tannins belie a strong core of concentrated fruit and richness on the palate, that should become ever more intriguing through 2021. From a fantastic, cooler climate site near Sebastopol, this shows a feral quality that's entirely appealing here. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

93 Saintsbury 2013 Sundawg Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley). From a cool spot planted within classic Goldridge soils, this wine opens with smoky graham cracker and soft red and blue berry fruit. Black tea and clove speak to its site, providing intriguingly exotic and savory undertones that meld well with the fruit and oak. Still young, the wine needs to open for full effect. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

93 Storm 2013 Presqu'île Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). The nose on this wine by Ernst Storm comes with this vineyard's telltale herbal hints, with Kalamata and green olives, black loam and a touch of compost. The lithe, graceful palate tingles with energy and proves intriguingly pretty, with tapenade, crushed peppercorns and a touch of strawberry on the finish *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

92 Baxter 2012 Black Label Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). A traditional and relatively light garnet color is the first sign that this is not a blatantly commercial wine. Savory, almost meaty, and cranberry-like aromas confirm the impression. Take a good sip and more crisp fruits like raspberries and

red cherries emerge along with hints of cinnamon and clove for complexity. While medium bodied, it's vibrant in texture and elegantly balanced. It should improve through 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

92 Flying Goat Cellars 2011 Rio Vista Vineyard 2A Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A dark core of strawberry and cherry fruits is leveled by lots of turned earth, graphite, slate and brown spice at the edges on this single-clone showcase from a vineyard on the appellation's eastern front. The palate is full of lively lemon peel acidity, showing dried strawberry ripeness and sagebrush herbals. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Flying Goat Cellars 2011 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Hailing from one of the westernmost vineyards in the appellation, this wine offers aromas of plum wine-soaked cherries, graphite minerality and slightly rotting violets, like a florist's shop at the end of the day. The palate blends crab-raspberry fruit with licorice, iodine and black pepper spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Kessler-Haak 2011 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There is a stunningly unique resinous quality on the nose and palate of this wine by Dan Kessler, very much like the aromatic, crystalline sap that comes from the obscure dragon's blood tree. There's also root beer, cinnamon, dried orange rinds, raspberry tea and potpourri in the nose, and mulberry, black tea and spiced cherry on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Kynsi 2011 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). This wine, which shows a touch of age, offers heady aromas of damp morel mushrooms, dried seaweed, a soy-like umami, iodine and beef jerky. It's meaty on the palate, with tart cranberry and dried orange rind flavors, lifted with hints of violets, lavender and pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

92 La Fenêtre 2011 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Delicate, high-toned aromas of tight red raspberries, dried rose petals, pencil shavings and rust introduce this wine by Joshua Klapper. The palate is very alive, linear and focused on a blend of turned earth and brown spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

92 La Fenêtre 2011 Presqu'île Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Josh Klapper delivers an earthy take on the grape, with aromas of loam, tree roots, dusty chert, a touch of green olive and barely ripe wild berries. Once sipped, there are flavors of dried rose petals, raw meat, iodine, graphite and a Kalamata olive-dried cherry tapenade. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Storm 2013 John Sebastiano Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). South African winemaker Ernst Storm is one to watch. This bottling offers a smoky, black raspberry nose, with hints of brown mustard and beef char. There's tremendous energy on the palate, though it's rather light in body, with flavors of anise, black rocks approaching asphalt, and dark but not overly ripe plums. Solid tannins ensure more interesting drinking 2017–2025. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Wrights Station 2012 Cave Block Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). From a winery named after a summit train stop between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz comes aromas of red cherry, rhubarb and clove spice. Flavors of vanilla cookies, dried strawberries, black cherries and a spicy dollop of licorice power the tasty palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$49

91 Donum 2012 Single Vineyard Angel Camp Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Very polished in texture and rich in flavor, this medium- to full-bodied wine has a deep red color. Gorgeous fruit and spice aromas resemble black cherry, cinnamon and raspberry with a wisp of wood smoke. It feels ultra-smooth on the palate yet has firm tannins to keep it from being soft. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$72

91 Red Stitch 2013 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This wine from an ownership team of former pro baseballers Rich Aurilia and Dave Roberts is plush on the nose with dried strawberry, gingerbread and baking spices. The palate offers pomegranate-cherry juice along with graphite and coffee notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

91 Sojourn 2013 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From the family's Roberts Road Vineyard below Gap's Crown, this earthy, foresty, plummy and gamy wine offers a luscious mouthfeel and silky tannins. Structured, it's built for pairing. A tangy red cherry and citrus twist on the palate provides a refreshing sensibility, before ending bright and light. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

91 Whetstone 2013 Jon Boat Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A seamless commingling of cardamom and allspice around bursts of black cherry, this is a soft, dark and brooding wine, with an earthy soul and a spicy finish. Still young, it should take on further nuance over time, but is good to go right now. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Baxter 2012 Oppenladner Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This very vibrant, fresh wine bursts with strawberry and red cherry aromas, and then delivers bright, tangy raspberry and cherry flavors on a stream of crisp acidity and fine-grained tannins. Medium bodied, it relies on an al-

most electric mouthfeel for its appeal, and should age well through 2020. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

90 Galatea Effect 2013 Conoscenti Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Sourced from two high-profile vineyards, Silver Eagle and Lancel Creek, both farmed by Ulises Valdez, this wine offers an intensity of earthiness on the nose. It otherwise is softly layered in waves of forest floor and dark cherry, with even darker undertones of blackberry and chocolate that rise on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

90 JCB 2012 No. 11 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Full-bodied and expressively juicy, this is an enjoyable wine right now, rich, earthy and balanced between its notions of red cherry and blackberry fruit and exotic cardamom spice. Harmonious and layered, it finishes with aplomb. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Les Voleurs 2013 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a vibrantly energetic wine, explosive in raspberry and cherry, with a weedy, herbal undertone that gives it intrigue. Concentrated on the midpalate, with well-ingrained tannins, it finishes in a highlight of toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Saintsbury 2013 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine holds an allowable amount of Anderson Valley fruit, in addition to grapes from Sonoma Coast, including many of the winery's vineyard designates. Rose petals and a helping of clove mark the entry, followed by savory elements of black tea, tart cherry, blueberry and black pepper on the palate. These continue with subtle force through the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

90 WillowBrook Cellars 2012 Kaufman Sunnyside Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). Rhubarb, cranberry and strawberry mix on the nose in this richly inviting wine that is textured and not overwhelming in weight. Featuring electric acidity, the wine finishes boldly in blackberry and licorice. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

89 JCB 2012 No. 7 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Fulsome and voluptuous in red and dark cherry, No. 7 is meant to be "debonair, charismatic and seductive." It is all those things, and stays well balanced between fruit, spice and oak, the weight and texture indeed silky and seductive. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Cline 2013 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Cinnamon, nutmeg and black pepper vie for attention in this full-bodied, concentrated estate-grown wine. Dried herb, earth and plummy blackberry compote form the midpalate,

before tart cranberry and rhubarb elements arise on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Les Voleurs 2013 Hurst Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This soft, light-bodied wine is on the savory side, a taste of cranberry and rhubarb at its core. It dances in cooler-climate aspects of forest floor and herb, with an unexpected aroma of menthol sneaking into the mix. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

88 Malk 2013 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). There's a generosity of tannin and richness to this wine, which offers a depth of high-toned cranberry and strawberry-rhubarb. Still a baby, it needs to open in the glass or decanter to reveal its more shyly etched elements of forest floor and black tea. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

88 Nicholson Ranch 2012 Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This light, bright and juicy wine from estate vineyards exalts in the goodness of red cherry and cola spice. Not fussy, the wine has medium body and acidity. It finishes clean and restrained on the palate, making for an easygoing quaff. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

84 Canihan 2012 Canihan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). There's a bitterness within this wine, a taste of tobacco and tomato leaf that lords over subtle blackberry, black cherry, plum and a healthy dose of cinnamon and pepper. Medium bodied, it finishes flat. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

84 Napa Cellars 2013 Classic Collection Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). A generic expression of the variety with some notions of ripe plum, dark cherry and black pepper, this straightforward wine is ready to drink now. It takes on full tannic strength on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

84 Rippey 2012 Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). A distinct candied sweetness announces itself on the nose, a Jolly Rancher strawberry high-toned ripeness. Beyond that, expect fierce, as yet unresolved, tannins and a peppery finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

84 Stephen Vincent 2012 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Smoky funkiness permeates this wine, which is lean on the palate and mushy in terms of structure. Cherry and pepper are the most distinguishable characteristics before the quick finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

83 Ghost Pines 2012 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County-Monterey County). Smoky, with traces of cherry and vanilla, this is a heavily tannic version

of the variety, seemingly aged in full-strength oak. Aromas are elusive and the finish brief. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

83 Robert Goyette 2012 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Funky earth and a diluted body make for a generic experience with this wine, which simultaneously offers a large tannin profile plus a weedy, dried herb component. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

82 Kirkland Signature 2013 Pinot Noir (Carneros). A minty strangeness permeates this wine, which comes off as artificial in flavor. Rumblings of cherry grenadine try to emerge from the muddled midpalate, which otherwise lacks flavor. The quick finish is medicinal and sweet. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$10

80 Peter Cellars 2011 Carneros Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). This wine is flawed, with rustic leathery undertones that veer into Band-Aid, and an intensely sour note. Multiple bottles tried over several months. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Portfolio 2011 Limited Edition Red (Napa Valley). This is a tiny-production blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Cabernet Franc, the latter sourced from Detert East Vineyard along the Oakville bench, the former from Hendry Ranch in western Napa. Made by Genevieve Janssens, it has an old-world soul with plenty of California complexity, balanced in woody notes of coconut flake and black cherry, the tannins are fine-grained and integrated. A simply gorgeous wine. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$140

94 Mithra 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$190

94 Sojourn 2012 Proprietary Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from a number of hillside and valley floor vineyards, including Beckstoffer Georges III, this still-developing wine is delicately layered in soft-grained tannins, a dusty, graphite spark around the mellow red fruit and anise. With a lingering finish, it ends with a touch of dust. Cellar through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

94 Vine Cliff 2012 Private Stock 16 Rows Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This small-production wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon with smaller percents of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Pencil lead, cedar and tobacco leaf greet on entry before soft yet generous layers of tannin swirl on the palate, informed by a depth of blackberry. A mix of savory and fruity, the finish is

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subtle in white pepper. Cellar through 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150

93 B Cellars 2012 Ehrlich Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$115

93 Hess Collection 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Sculpterra 2011 Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Sojourn 2012 Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). A 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the heart of the appellation, this wine expands on the palate, and is an all-around rich, round and ripe expression of health and vigor. Dried cherry and chalky, dusty tannins form the core of the palate, before a satisfying finish of dark, deep chocolate. Cellar through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$95

92 Cooper-Garrod 2009 George's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). This patiently aged wine boasts an amazing nose of dried olallieberry fruit leather, chocolate-cherry sauce, vanilla extract and exotic black spices, showing its years in only the best ways. It's surprisingly lean on the palate at first, then evolves into red cherries and plums, with well-integrated dried oregano and black pepper spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$41

92 Vine Cliff 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Concentrated in black currant, cedar and olive, this has subdued tannins that are chalky and smooth. The aroma takes on pretty lavender and violet connotations that allure. Dried herb and black pepper mingle on the finish. This wine is lovely now, but should cellar nicely through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

92 Vine Cliff 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Brawny, with an explosive concentration of blackberry, this intense wine offers hints of tobacco, smoked meat and black licorice elevated on the palate. Blended with small amounts of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot, it finishes on a bittersweet note and with some black pepper. Cellar through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Feliz Noche 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Barbara County). A concentrated nose of cherry compote, burned vanilla bean, black pepper and dried dill invite the nose into this wine by former field hand turned respected winemaker Felipe

Hernandez. It's incredibly delicious upon sipping, with cherry sauce and blueberry and blackberry fruits, all leveled by a graphite and slate minerality. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$95

91 Hunnicutt 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Elegant in fine-grained tannins, this well-made, complex wine offers savory cranberry and cassis plus brighter, spicier red fruit, alongside a layering of graphite, dried herb and chocolate. Full bodied, it remains balanced throughout, finishing with length and breadth. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Joseph Phelps 2012 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Paul Dolan 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Menocino County). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 St. Supéry 2012 Dollarhide Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

90 Inglenook 2011 Cask Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Originally made between the 1930s and early 1960s, Cask was given new life by Francis Ford Coppola in the mid-1990s. This vintage is on the money in terms of style, going for a timeless, elegantly lean wine with dense tannins and plenty of vibrancy. Cranberry, black tea and a tease of green olive mark the entry, before denser elements of coffee and tobacco feature on the finish. Cellar through 2021. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

90 Vellum 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Made from a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon with a handful of Merlot and Petit Verdot, this wine is on the cooler-climate side of the sensory equation, a note of pencil and olive here, a bit of juicy cranberry there. Chalky tannins complete the picture, the wine balanced and medium to light in weight. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

89 Braveheart 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This engages the taste buds with bright, ripe fruit flavors and balances them with good crisp acidity and light tannins, plus spicy oak accents that resemble vanilla, allspice and nutmeg. Medium to full bodied, it feels smooth in the mouth but the lip-smacking tannins carry through on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Clayhouse 2013 Red Cedar Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Martellotto 2013 La Bomba Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). A lively and fresh nose of blackberries, black cherries, black pepper, turned earth and fresh fennel greet the nose on this wine that's made by Mike Roth for Greg Martellotto. There are flavors of blackberry-filled licorice spice cake on the palate, though the tannins could use a bit of mellowing. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 Slingshot 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is still a baby, pudgy and withdrawn, yet still it imparts enough herbal and black cherry to be inviting and promising. It retains the girth of tannins expected in a youthful wine, but is already integrative in oak. Let it open for the full effect. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Aviary 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Blended with smaller amounts of Merlot and Petite Sirah, this wine has a shock of smoky leather and cigar box on the entry, before becoming soft and juicy in mulberry, cherry and vanilla on the palate midway through the glass. Midweight, it remains juicy and smooth on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

88 G. Reedy 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Rich and thick in blackberry and licorice, this wine is also soft and juicy on the midpalate, with big black fruit, vanilla and leather. Integrated tannins remain chewy until the finish, when a taste of bittersweet chocolate comes into play. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

88 Martin Ray 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Muted on the nose and entry at first, this wine develops in the glass, offering juicy blackberry and plum around sturdy, powerful tannins and a whiff of tobacco. Approachable on the palate, it finishes in a splendor of white pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

88 Patel Napa Valley 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A strong marking of cedar, pencil and green tobacco exude aromatically and emphatically before soft, silky waves of integrated oak and tannin play on the palate. Elegant, this wine finishes in a hurry. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

88 Pugilist 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). There is rich blackberry juice enhanced by campfire ash and a touch of roasted game on the fruity nose of this wine. Black cherries power the palate, but in a re-

strained fashion, with graphite, black loam and pencil shavings adding to the mix. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

88 Saddleback 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Almost entirely Cabernet Sauvignon, with 9% Petit Verdot, this wine spent two years in barrel. There's a lightness of being to the overall texture and flavor, a high-toned sensibility that remains lively and fresh on the palate. Cranberry, black cherry, clove and cigar have had time to intermingle and accent the velvety tannins. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$72

88 Tamber Bey 2012 Deux Chevaux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). A Cab-based wine with 20% Merlot, this has juicy blackberry and currant to soften the overreaching tannic profile. Blessed in cedar and tobacco, this also presents a strong showing of dried herb. The fruit leans black and blue, from blueberry to black plum, a nod to the Merlot. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

87 Insatiable 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A beautifully fragrant but not overpowering oak aroma wafts up from the glass. The same sort of sophisticated spicy element joins in the flavors along with vivid black cherry notes supported by firm acidity, moderate tannins and medium body. It's built like a classic, but it costs much less. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

87 Rutherford Grove 2009 Pestoni Family Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Thick, like blueberry syrup, this is a soft, layered wine with notions of vanilla, toasted oak and spearmint that confound on the palate. A substantial, concentrated wine, it finishes in mocha chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

87 Tortoise Creek 2012 Cherokee Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 11.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 401K 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A gentle wine, this has warm, fruity aromas, ripe red cherry and raspberry flavors, a soft texture and fine-grained tannins. Medium to full bodied and almost sweet in balance, it's easy to enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

86 Chateau St. Jean 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Substantially tannic and robust in tar and tobacco, this wine smells and tastes big and broad, a good choice for generous cuts of meat, preferably grilled. Black cherry and blackberry expand in waves around the oak and tobacco. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

86 Hill Family Estate 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A stamp of smoke and toasted oak mark the entry into this wine, followed by chewy tannins that wrap themselves around dark layers of chocolate and tobacco leaf, the structure at first impenetrable. The finish is relaxed and somewhat short. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

85 Bota Box 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This full-bodied wine has an earthy, smoky aroma, an abundance of fresh grapy flavors and a soft but supportive texture. The aroma is pretty strong, and then the otherwise-generous fruit characteristics take over. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23/3L

84 Oak and Vine 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This easygoing wine smells mellow and plummy, tastes more like brown sugar than fruit and has a soft texture and medium body. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$12

MERLOT

93 Hourglass 2013 Blueline Vineyard Merlot (Napa Valley). So rich it tastes like chocolate, this ambitious and lavishly oak-influenced wine pulls out all the stops to achieve maximum flavor impact. It smells full of baking spices and savory herbs, tastes very ripe, concentrated and feels lush and creamy in texture. While full bodied, it has plenty of firm acidity and lots of fine tannins to stand up to all that flavor. It's ready to enjoy now through 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$75

93 Pride Mountain 2012 Vintner Select Merlot (Sonoma County). A 100% varietal wine, grown in an area called the Lower Mountaintop, this offers a compelling candied cherry and raspberry element, supported by complex accents of vanilla and cured meat. With plenty of body to stay fresh and vibrant on the palate, it never gets bogged down, finishing in richer components of dark chocolate and oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$80

92 Monticello Vineyards 2011 Estate Merlot (Oak Knoll). Very dense and eminently intriguing on the nose, this wine shows aromas of turned earth, black olive, concentrated strawberry and gravel. Sagebrush and tarragon power the tip of the palate, which emerges into dense yet restrained blueberry and black cherry, all presented in a very appealing way. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

91 Black Stallion 2012 Limited Release Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Darioush 2012 Merlot (Napa Valley). Velvety and seductive, this provides a fine example of the variety's sultriness, a study in ripe black cherry,

clove and cinnamon that's generous in tannin without going overboard. With a decant or couple swirls of the glass, expect the power to soften and the complexity to take on new vigor. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Keenan 2012 Mailbox Vineyard Reserve Merlot (Spring Mountain). A 100% varietal wine, this still has a puckering sense to the tannins, the power and weight of the wine generous and robust. Leather and banana figure into the bouquet, with the savory-laden flavors leaning toward black pepper and dark, ripe plum. This wine needs time; cellar through 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$68

91 Occasio 2011 Thatcher Bay Vineyard Merlot (Livermore Valley). An attractive array of cedar, cinnamon, red cherry and black currant aromas and flavors fill this medium-bodied wine to the rim. The acidity, tannins and flavors are all well proportioned and balance each other out in a sophisticated way. The result is an elegant but firm wine that will be appetizing at the table now through 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$36

91 Pride Mountain 2012 Merlot (Napa County-Sonoma County). Joined by 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, this stellar wine from an almost 50-50 Napa-Sonoma divide delivers big flavor and tannin and yet exudes vibrant juicy plum and blueberry, keeping it grounded and alive. Silky through and through, it's complex in dark chocolate and a touch of dried herbs. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

90 Bargetto 2012 Reserve Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains). Cracked pepper and blackberry combine for a very fresh and lively nose on this wine from a longtime producer. Chipped slate is the first impression once sipped, but an olallieberry flavor then steadily emerges, picking up some tongue-tingling pepper spice and a touch of vanilla on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

90 McGrail 2009 Picazo Vineyard Merlot (Livermore Valley). This tastes deep, ripe and yet very smooth and drinkable for its full body and firmly tannic texture. Aromas recall cedar, dark plums, blueberry and black cherry plus a whiff of mint, while the flavors are grand, dark and rich. Enjoy it now through 2019. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

90 St. Francis 2012 Behler Vineyard Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Soft and subdued in black fruit and leather, along with tufts of tobacco and clove, this wine contains an unexpected 4% Zinfandel, which may well add to both the brawniness of the oak and tannin and the juicy core of fruit that keeps it lifted on the palate. Drink now through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

90 St. Supéry 2012 Estate Merlot (Rutherford). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Trefethen 2012 Merlot (Oak Knoll). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

90 Y Rousseau 2012 Pèpé Cavedale Vineyard Merlot (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Named for the producer's French grandfather, who loved Merlot, this 100% varietal wine from a high-elevation site is leathery, meaty and quite debonair. With a scent of bacon grease giving a sense of rustic deliciousness, it's also soft and unctuous on the palate, medium to full bodied. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$50

88 Fetzer 2012 Eagle Peak Merlot (California). For full review see page 11. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

88 Firestone 2011 Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Meaty, dusty aromas of leather, cigar box, old books, roasted lamb, tobacco smoke and purple flowers make for a compelling nose on this wine. The palate is quite leathery, with beef crust, wood smoke and incense ash flavors, delivered in a smooth manner. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$20

88 Greenwood Ridge 2012 Estate Bottled Merlot (Mendocino Ridge). This well-balanced, medium-bodied wine blends ripe strawberry aromas and blackberry flavors with a lively texture that's bolstered by good acidity and firm tannins. It's easy to enjoy the fresh fruitiness. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

88 Grgich Hills 2011 Estate Grown Merlot (Napa Valley). Billed as a Cabernet lover's Merlot, this wine offers robustness as well as a soft, angular quality that provides a certain level of elegance. Oak, green olive and sage mark its bouquet, followed by flavors of red currant and dried herb. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

88 Gundlach Bundschu 2012 Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Sourced from the winery's estate vineyard, this bottling presents a compelling depth of earthiness, a stony, rocky sense that gives it a savory edge. Tobacco and tea surround ample plum and blueberry. The wine is approachable and soft, with tiny percentages of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$32

88 Keenan 2012 Merlot (Napa Valley). Combining estate grapes with others from cooler Carneros, this wine offers a dried herb component and plenty of pencil and cedar. Tannic and oaky before airing, it'll benefit from a decant. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

88 Le Vigne 2012 Di Domenico Merlot (Paso Robles). Red cherries, ripe strawberries and recently tanned leather aromas greet the nose on this wine. It's quite lively and spicy once sipped, with more strawberry fruit as well as a plum skin tartness and pencil lead tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$33

88 Page Mill Winery 2012 Côté Vineyard Merlot (San Francisco Bay). The fruit and herb flavors in this medium-bodied wine have good depth, conveying black cherries, raspberries and a light touch of thyme. It offers an appropriate savory element as well as a core of ripe grape flavors. Tasting solid but smooth, it is well made and unfussy. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$28

88 Ramspur 2012 Otton Vineyards Merlot (Carneros). On the one hand, this wine offers juicy, varietally characteristic layers of juicy plum and red cherry. Seamless tannins provide more pleasure, with a compelling end note of candied cherry and cranberry. —V.B.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$59

88 Robert Mondavi 2012 Merlot (Napa Valley). Pungent clove and cinnamon appear upon entry to this medium-bodied wine, which also offers smooth, rounded tannins and subtle oak. Plum, raspberry and tobacco all make an appearance, finished off by a healthy dose of black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$23

88 Swanson 2011 Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$38

88 Textbook 2013 Merlot (Napa Valley). A splash of Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon supports this juicy, smoky wine, from vineyards scattered across the wider Napa Valley appellation. Textured, it tastes of brambly, just-picked blackberry, with a robust body through to the finish, which ends lean. —V.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

87 Clos Pegase 2012 Mitsuko's Vineyard Merlot (Carneros-Napa Valley). Softly layered in crisp red fruit, from currant to strawberry, this is a medium-bodied wine with a medium finish, seasoned in compelling jolts of cinnamon spice. From the relatively cool climes of its appellation, it's juicy without ever becoming overwhelming in tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$35

87 Firestone 2011 The Chairman Series Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Red cherries, dark spices of clove and anise and gingerbread show on the nose of this wine from the Foley family portfolio. Darkness pervades the concentrated palate, with black fruits, dark chocolate, beef char and condensed purple flowers. It's so deep that it lacks noticeable flavor layers. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

87 Franciscan 2012 Merlot (Napa Valley). Medium in build, with soft, approachable layers of texture and tannin, this wine is big on blackberry and black olive, blending the sweet and savory successfully. It builds tension as it goes, finishing with a taste of smoky leather. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

87 Frei Brothers 2013 Reserve Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Rich in plum, black cherry and blackberry, this wine is subtle in cinnamon and dried herb, with additional embellishments of leather and earth. Soft and subdued, it's approachable and versatile. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$20

87 Kirkland Signature 2013 Signature Series Merlot (Oakville). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

87 Peter Cellars 2012 Carneros Estate Merlot (Carneros). Cinnamon and clove adorn a medium-sized body that's soft and relatively silky, with ample plum and black cherry. More fruity than savory, the wine is enjoyable now, with a mid-length finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

87 Sculterra 2012 Estate Merlot (Paso Robles). Leather, dried cherries, plums, dark chocolate and sagebrush aromas are woven into a decent if not entirely lively nose. Lots of chopped fresh and dried herbs arise once sipped, along with gravel, black fruit and sticky tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

87 Ty Caton 2012 Caton Vineyard Upper Bench Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Sanguine in black olive tapenade, this is a soft, smooth, 100% varietal wine that's full-bodied and expressive in black cherry and dark plum. It finishes in tight, chewy tannins. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$38

86 Barlow 2012 Unfiltered Merlot (Calistoga). A 100% varietal wine, this opens in floral violet perfume, delicate notions that are soon overpowered by the chock-a-block blackberry and plum. The tannins are robust and still integrating, giving the wine a somewhat harsh feel. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$35

86 Decoy 2013 Merlot (Sonoma County). Smoky tar and plum highlight this approachable wine that's straightforward in focus and intent. Meant for enjoying now, it stays firm and flavorful in the glass, finishing without a fuss. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

86 Delectus 2012 Merlot (Knights Valley). This is a gigantic expression of the variety, from high-elevation sites, an explosion of coffee, black licorice and red fruit. With a powerful backbone of

bittersweet tannins and weight, the finish is reminiscent of cigar smoke. —V.B.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$78

86 Hanaiali'i 2013 Merlot (Napa Valley). This 100% Merlot offers a lot of heat around its otherwise approachable lift of soft, smooth tannins and reasonable oak. Sage, cedar and tobacco provide a weedy aspect to the wine, offset by plenty of ripe blackberry and cherry. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$30

86 Loft 2013 Merlot (Monterey). This is box wine taken seriously, even featuring a picture of winemaker Denise Wordenon. Fresh-squeezed blueberry fruit mixes with black rocks, milk chocolate and cedar on the nose, followed by an easy-to-quaff juiciness on the lightly bodied palate. It's not very complex, but perfect for summer barbecues or car camping. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30/3 L

86 Peju 2012 Merlot (Napa Valley). Smoky barbecue and big oak and tannin combine for power and density in this wine, which has a handful of Malbec blended in. Hard to penetrate at first, it over time reveals notes of blackberry, savory leather and cedar. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

85 60 North 2012 Merlot (California). Smooth and fruity, soft and rich, this medium-bodied wine will be easy to enjoy at a casual meal or big party. The aromas are like black cherries, the flavors like candied cherries and the texture relaxed. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Lockwood 2013 Merlot (San Lucas). Dust, black cherries and a hint of tarragon arise on the nose of this wine from a small appellation in Monterey County. Char and turned black soil power the very dark palate, which also shows a bit of sagebrush and prominent tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Thorn 2012 Merlot (Napa Valley). This bombastically brawny Merlot is blended with Syrah and Malbec. The grapes have been sourced from some fine vineyards, including Hudson, Stagecoach and Antica, as well as the cooler Trefethen in Oak Knoll. Juicy blackberry veers into syrupy territory, a thickness that never lets up, accented in smoky oak and vanilla. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$40

84 Esser 2013 Merlot (Monterey County). Red and black currants, wild berries and a graphite minerality show on the nose of this attractively priced wine. The palate is a tad sweet, showing dark red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

84 St. Francis 2012 Merlot (Sonoma County). Leathery cedar and ripe, almost baked

blackberry and blueberry commingle in this generously tannic wine, which has a note of bitterness at its end. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$20

83 Rutherford Hill 2011 Merlot (Napa Valley). This is a green, lean and somewhat sour wine, with an herbal personality that lies atop a world of smooth tannins. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

83 Table No. 7 2011 Merlot (Lodi). This offers smoky, toasted oak and herb aromas, full candied cherry and plum flavors, low acidity and fairly firm tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$11

82 Garré 2010 Private Reserve Merlot (Livermore Valley). Earth, mint and blackberry flavors make this full-bodied and firmly-tannic wine both flavorful and eccentric. As the wine sits in the glass for several minutes the aroma become like beef bouillon and the texture on the palate is a bit astringent. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

82 Kunde 2012 Kinneybrook Merlot (Sonoma County). A rustic, barnyard aroma greets one on the nose before a basic taste of stewed prunes waltzes in. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

ZINFANDEL

91 Amador Foothill Winery 2012 Clockspring Vineyard Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley). Tart cherry, ripe plum and black cherry flavors and barely a trace of detectable oak character make this a lively, fruit-driven wine. The aroma has touches of clove and black pepper, the texture is not too rich but braced with firm acidity and tannins that keep the fruit flavors zooming along through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$18

91 Amador Foothill Winery 2011 Esola Vineyard Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley). This intriguing wine shows aromas of tart fruits like rhubarb and tart cherry. The flavors add layers of richness to that impression, almost coating the tongue with black cherry and blackberry backed up with good, firm acidity and a welcome nip of tannin in the texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$20

91 Artezín 2013 Zinfandel (Mendocino County). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$18

90 Dry Creek Vineyard 2013 Heritage Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Gnarly Head 2013 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 10. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Pedroncelli 2012 Bushnell Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Dark plum and cinnamon intermix on the nose and on the palate in this high-toned version of the variety from an appellation in which it grows well. Black licorice and mocha chocolate play off one another before a dusty finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Seghesio 2012 Estate Home Ranch Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Dry and refined in fine-grained tannin, this long-standing vineyard-designate dances in black leather and brambly blackberry, which expand gradually on the palate, peppered by baking spices. Soft and velvety, the finish lingers in spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

89 Peirano 2012 The Heritage Collection Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). Here is a big, friendly wine with plenty of sweet, spicy oak in the aromas and flavors, and an easygoing texture that's not too tannic or acidic. It shows smoky, almost sweet, toasted oak aromas and basically melts in your mouth like milk chocolate, which would make a good pairing. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Folie à Deux 2012 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fruity and dense in brambly blackberry, with a waft of smoky oak, this wine offers a lean, balanced entry before taking on complexity and concentration on the finish, softly layered as it goes. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$19

88 Kunde 2012 Reserve Century Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Raspberry and vanilla introduce this wine, made from a selection of vines 21 to 130 years old, with some planted in 1882. Lusty and lush layers of cinnamon and cola accent the fruit and provide complexity, the tannins resolved and thick. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

88 Mettler Family Vineyards 2012 Epicenter Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This is rich and generously spiced, smelling and tasting like chocolate, vanilla, smoke and blackberries. Aging for 19 months in American and French oak certainly boosted the spices. It tastes full-bodied, very deep and almost sweet in flavor, with moderate tannins to lend some support. —J.G.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Scott Harvey 2012 Mountain Selection Zinfandel (Amador County). A relatively light color and a cinnamon-sugar aroma might indicate a simply fruity wine, but this turns more serious and lean in flavor and texture, suggesting tart cherry and cranberry. It brings firm acidity and tannins to the

BUYINGGUIDE

mouthfeel, for a refreshing, dry and restrained character that will be very food-friendly. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

88 St. Francis 2012 Old Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Dense, juicy and spicy, this easygoing and easy-to-like wine will please a range of palates. Blackberry and black cherry dominate on the palate, softened by fine tannins and integrated oak. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

87 High Valley 2012 Zinfandel (High Valley). A tasty blend of almost-sweet fruit flavors and a supple texture makes this very user-friendly. It smells like raspberry syrup, tastes like some chocolate has been added to the syrup and it glides over the tongue like warm butter on pancakes. Some might like more tannin or acidity but others will love it. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

87 Oakville Winery 2013 Estate Grown and Produced Zinfandel (Oakville). Robust and brawny, this substantial offering features concentrated layers of smoke, leather and sage-inflected tannins. It finishes in a wrapping of bittersweet chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

87 Woodenhead 2012 Mariah Vineyard Zinfandel (Mendocino Ridge). This has particularly ripe and concentrated fruit flavors and a feeling of alcoholic strength in the body and on the finish. Aromas and flavors resemble very ripe plums, dried cherries and blackberries. It's styled for fans of power and ripeness. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$46

86 Frey 2013 Estate Grown Biodynamic Zinfandel (Mendocino). This has a deep, dense red-black color and quite smoky aromas. Herbal, almost thick flavors resemble plum juice, black pepper and roasted mild chipotle chilies. Plenty of tannin adds grip to the texture. Despite the bold flavors, this is light in body. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$20

86 Rosenblum 2012 Rockpile Road Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). Forceful flavors of leather pouch, black pepper and blackberry throw their weight around an extracted, jammy core that's intensely powerful on the palate. The sizable tannins give the wine a chewiness, but become softer through the cinnamon conclusion. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

86 Rosenblum 2012 Winemaker Selection Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Flavors of berry, vanilla and tar form around thick, rich tannins, giving this wine a puckering quality that may benefit from opening before enjoying. The finish is sturdy and robust in leathery black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$55

86 Truett Hurst 2012 Rattler Rock Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Syrupy and dense, this is a burly wine, soft but powerful, that keeps coming back to the theme of blackberry syrup. Velvety tannins buoy the midpoint, before it finishes in a burst of intense ripeness. —V.B.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$33

82 Sterling 2013 Cellar Club Zinfandel (Calistoga). A burnt, reduced quality mars the fruit in this wine, made in a big style with full-bodied power and density. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$35

MOURVÈDRE

92 Brecon Estate 2013 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Paix Sur Terre 2013 The Other One Glenrose Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Aromas of buttered blackberries, plum extract, black pepper, leather and dark tobacco emerge on this powerful, 100% whole-cluster wine by Ryan Pease. It's very elegant and complex on the silky, concentrated palate, with espresso grinds and deep purple fruits. It's darkness in a glass and will get more interesting with time. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$52

91 Paix Sur Terre 2013 Comes a Time Alta Colina Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Using dry-farmed grapes, Ryan Pease crafts a heavily structured wine with aromas of black gravel, mocha and blueberries reduced in a vanilla vinaigrette. The sticky tannins will need some time to unravel, but the flavors of cooked cherries, blackberries and coffee paste are promising. Drink 2018–2024. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$48

91 Sculpterra 2012 Estate Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). Slightly lighter than other takes on the grape, this wine shows hibiscus, black plum, grape soda and gravel on the nose. It's soft on the palate with red cherry, cranberry and dried strawberry fruit, balanced by dill and black pepper on the edges. Some sales proceeds go to a medical relief organization. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$36

90 Cima Collina 2013 Antle Mourvedre (Chalone). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

GRENAICHE

92 Levo 2012 Ransom (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

90 La Sirena 2012 Grenache (Napa Valley). This brand is winemaker Heidi Peterson Barrett's ode to Rhône, as well as a place for her own

Bordeaux-varietal wines. The first vintage of this 100% varietal wine on its own, it's soft and supple with a tannic backbone. Pretty plum aromas and a streak of peppery spice and leather are joined on the palate by juicy blueberry and finished off in restrained oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

88 V. Sattui 2012 Grenache (Napa Valley). A brooding foundation of blackberry and mushroomy earth lift this full-bodied, tannic wine, which needs further time in bottle to develop. Spicy cinnamon, clove and pepper keep it lively on the palate, between the density and concentration of oak. Let this wine unwind in the bottle through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

SANGIOVESE

86 Girasole 2011 Organic Grapes Sangiovese (Mendocino). This lighter-style wine provides a break from your average California red and offers fruit flavors reminiscent of cranberries and dried cherries and a lean, lively texture with moderate tannins. It's medium bodied, not too ripe, and very well balanced to match with Italian food. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Wise Villa 2013 Estate Grown Sangiovese (Placer County). A strong oak influence dampens the varietal character in this full-bodied, spicy wine. It smells like cinnamon and cedar, tastes slightly sweet and smoky, is full bodied and rich in texture. Nice and smooth, it shows only mild varietal character. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

82 Barra of Mendocino 2012 Estate Grown Organic Grapes Sangiovese (Mendocino). This has sharp, tangy aromas, tart cranberry flavors, a lean texture and drying tannins that seem to coat the teeth. Difficult to enjoy on its own, it needs to pair with very rich, fatty food to tame the tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

RED BLENDS

93 Aaron 2012 Trespasser (Paso Robles). Almost pitch-black in color, this blend of 69% Petite Sirah, 12% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah and 9% Grenache hits the nose with concentrated black cherries, blackberries, charred beef tips and a touch of vanilla candy. It's dense but not overly tannic on the palate, which is the flavor of blackness personified, offering blueberries, boysenberries, plum skin tartness and black tea depth. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$44

93 Paix Sur Terre 2013 Either Side of the Hill Glenrose Vineyard (Adelaida District). Sexy, luscious aromas of buttered plums and seared beef fat invite the nose on this blend of 70% Syrah and 30% Mourvèdre, which proves more delicate than

brawny. Beef char and blackberry paste power the palate, but it coalesces around a focused line of licorice and graphite. —M.K.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$48

93 Paix Sur Terre 2013 Songs of Its Own Glenrose Vineyard (Adelaida District). Lilac and violet hang with blackberries, black plums and sweet mocha on this purple chiffon-cake scented wine from winemaker Ryan Pease. The blend of 55% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 12% Syrah and 3% Counoise is full and silky on the palate, with olallieberry fruits, proving juicy but not jammy or overpowering. —M.K.

abv: 15%

Price: \$48

92 Baker & Brain 2012 Pendulum (Monterey County). This tasty blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache offers blueberry, olallieberry, gamy goat meat and minty cola on the ever-so-slightly reductive nose. The palate picks up a bit of tar as well as cooked beef and pork, served in a sauce of elderberry and blackberry fruits. —M.K.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$35

91 Carina Cellars 2012 Clairvoyant (Adelaida District). Ripe boysenberries, sweet tar and uncracked peppercorns greet the nose on this blend of 50% Syrah, 35% Grenache and 15% Mourvèdre. It's quite juicy with dark fruits once sipped, then picks up a minty and licorice lift in the midpalate, proving both dense and lively. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$28

91 Carina Cellars 2012 Sibylline (Adelaida District). This is a lively wine on both nose and palate, showing velvety aromas of fresh-squeezed boysenberry laced with violet and black pepper, reminiscent of a lavender-roasted lamb. Dense, very spicy elderberries emerge once sipped, with wild sage, oregano and a definite woody character. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$36

91 Kale 2012 Broken Axle Stagecoach Vineyard (Napa Valley). From the Pritchard Hill section of the vineyard, this wine consists of 75% Syrah and 25% Grenache. A hearty, fruity and big-boned explosion of blueberry and strawberry, it's rimmed in coconut flake and black, leathery pepper. Dense and full bodied, the minerality should allow it to cellar and integrate through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$65

90 Calcareous 2012 Tres Violet (Paso Robles). Heavy and concentrated vanilla-cherry cola and gingerbread spice notes power the dense nose on this blend of 45% Mourvèdre, 37% Grenache and 18% Syrah. The dried cherries and vanilla bean character extends to the palate, where it also shows Vietnamese coffee flavors mixed with creamy mocha. —M.K.

abv: 15.8%

Price: \$48

90 Kale 2012 Kick Ranch Vineyard Home Run Cuvée (Sonoma County). A mere youth, this blend of 68% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 2% Viognier needs time, suggesting a decant before enjoying. High-toned and juicy blueberry and blackberry remain shy on the palate, while the wine's more exotic handfuls of black licorice and tea are more pronounced, alongside a dark chocolate vibe and pinches of white pepper. —V.B.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$45

90 Keating 2012 Finvarra (North Coast). Dark colored, fragrant and firm-textured, this Bordeaux-style blend has a lot of substance and will appeal to lovers of full-bodied, tannic wines. The aromas resemble dark cherry, black currant and that tempting cigar box note. It feels full and weighty on the palate and well laced with supportive tannins. —J.G.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$55

90 La Sirena 2012 Pirate TreasuRed (Napa Valley). A playful blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Grenache, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Petite Sirah, this hearty bottling delivers something for everyone, from the austere, classic nature of the Bordeaux varieties to the fruitiness and savory leather tones of the Rhônes. It's made to be bold, black and enjoyable now; pack a bottle or two for your next adventures, eye patch optional. —V.B.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$65

90 Sculpterra 2013 Mega Focus (Paso Robles). This blend of 47% Grenache, 39% Mourvèdre and 14% Syrah from two different vineyards shows concentrated rose and violet petals, minty cherry juice and dark slate on the nose. It's quite balanced and even on the palate, with black pepper spicing up the red and purple fruits, and a strong acidity keeping the mouth alive. —M.K.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$40

90 V. Sattui 2012 Entanglement (Napa Valley). A Grenache-driven blend with 28% Syrah and 9% Mourvèdre, this is a substantial, concentrated wine generous in leather, pipe tobacco and blackberry pie, accented teasingly in clove. With a big, meaty presence and long, grippy finish, it should stand the test of cellaring, through 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$36

90 Wargin Wines 2011 Big & Beautiful (Solano County). This impressively concentrated, full-bodied and firmly tannic wine will be a great match for the next juicy steak or lasagna. It has a thick, inky, red color, attractive cedar and spice aromas, and full flavors like blackberries and pomegranate juice. The thick, velvety tannic feel is perfect for adventurous tastes. It's made with Montepulciano, Sangiovese and Freisa grapes. —J.G.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$18

89 Cedarville Vineyard 2012 The Rules of Fair Play (Fair Play). More of a Zinfandel than a red blend, this has plenty of flavor and more tannin than usual. Containing 40% Petite Sirah, it offers a surplus of juicy plum and black cherry flavors, good balance and just enough grippy tannin to make it robust. —J.G.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$35

89 Tablas Creek 2013 Côtes de Tablas Estate Grown & Bottled (Paso Robles). One of the annual blends from the historic West Paso winery, this mix of 55% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Counoise and 5% Mourvèdre shows black cherry extract, elderberries, concentrated rose petals, marjoram leaf and a gamy touch of bloody organ meat on the nose. The flavors prove more slate-driven, with a bit of bacon fat and crushed herbs. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

89 Tablas Creek 2012 Espirit de Tablas (Paso Robles). This blend of 40% Mourvèdre, 30% Syrah, 21% Grenache and 9% Counoise shows a dense core of fruit on the fresh, tart nose, with blueberry, blackberry and boysenberry, as well as lava rocks and a licorice lift. The palate is all about texture, with good acidity and grip containing the purple fruit flavors —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

88 Envy 2012 Estate Bee Bee's Blend (Calistoga). A majority of Cabernet Sauvignon serves as the foundation, with Merlot and Petite Sirah filling in the rest. A big wine, with sizable components of black cherry and smoked meat making their way on the palate, it offers a bite of bitterness to the tannins that smooth themselves out on the finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$45

88 Van Ruiten 2012 Cab-Shiraz (Lodi). Deep, rich fruit flavors and a soothing texture add up to a user-friendly wine. Made from 55% Shiraz and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, it smells like blackberries and ripe purple grapes, tastes equally fruity, and adds hints of light baking spices like vanilla and nutmeg. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14%

Price: \$17

87 Cameron Hughes 2012 Lot 466 (Lodi). The color is deeper than usual. Aromas are thick with blackberry and boysenberry, and similarly generous flavors seem to spread out and coat the mouth. Accents of chocolate and vanilla add welcome complexity to this rich-tasting wine that's based on Tempranillo grapes. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$12

87 Dark Horse NV Big Red Blend (California). Supperri black cherry and dried plum aromas, generous and rich fruit flavors and a smooth texture make this appealing all the way through. Made from Tempranillo and four other varieties, it's boldly flavored but not especially full-bodied, and feels just

BUYINGGUIDE

grippy enough on the palate to go well with burgers and ribs. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price: \$10**

87 Jamieson Ranch 2012 Whiplash Red (California). This lands on the sweet side of the corral, and has a good texture of tannins and acidity as well as oodles of grapy, blackberry jam flavors to complete the package. It's full bodied, rich in mouthfeel, and the ripe fruit character stays on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$15**

87 San Francisco Wine Press NV Yerba Buena Red (Mendocino County). Despite a deep color, the aromas and flavors are surprisingly light, resembling red cherries and strawberries. Welcome, firm tannins and acidity keep this feeling fresh in the mouth rather than heavy. It tastes more like a classy dry red varietal than the usual red blend. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$20**

86 Dalliance 2012 Red (Lake County). Full body, ripe grapy fruit flavors and a healthy pinch of spicy oak join with a smooth texture that is just slightly tannic. The feeling is mouthfilling, and the wine is dense enough with cherry and berry flavors to be satisfying. It's a blend of mostly Zinfandel and Syrah. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$20**

85 Rebusity 2011 Red (California). Not too big and not too lean, this strikes a middle ground where generous strawberry and plum aromas and similarly soft flavors make it easy to drink. The texture is smooth and light, and the finish is short. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$12**

84 Bota Box 2013 RedVolution (California). This is good and grapy from the fresh berry aroma to the juicy, slightly sweet cherry flavor, to the soft texture with just a hint of crispness. An accent of smoky spiciness in the aromas and the aftertaste adds extra interest. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$23/3L**

OTHER RED WINES

90 People's Wine Revolution 2013 Three Rivers Ranch Syrah (Bennett Valley). Definitively taking a cool-climate approach, this 100% varietal wine opens with indelible wafts of violets and white pepper, followed by a presence of more pepper and black currant around a medium-sized body. Earthy leather and mushroom pronounce themselves on the midpalate before it finishes in black licorice. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price: \$18**

88 Seghesio 2012 Barbera (Alexander Valley). Muted red cherry and blackberry commingle for a fruity character in this variety not found much these days in Sonoma County. Soft and high-

toned in acidity, the wine finishes in a swirl of wild vanilla bean. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$38**

86 Buena Vista 2013 The Count's Selection Valdiguié (Calistoga). Light in color and medium bodied, this unusual wine presents a weightiness, a throwback to California's earlier days of more widespread plantings of Gamay. This one offers a thick, syrupy overtone of blueberry and cherry, soft on the midpalate with nominal structure. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$50**

83 Winery by the Creek 2012 Helwig Vineyard Reserve Tempranillo (Shenandoah Valley). Dried fruit flavors give a Port-like character to this full-bodied, mature and dry red wine. It smells like cherries and prunes and tastes juicy and ripe. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price: \$26**

WASHINGTON CHARDONNAY

93 Côte Bonneville 2012 DuBrul Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). Barrel fermented and aged on lees for 17 months, this straw-colored wine offers nuanced aromas of spice, pear, pineapple and peach. It's full bodied in feel but far from over the top with well-balanced fruit and barrel flavors and a lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$50**

92 Tenor 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Aromas of barrel spices, nougat and pear lead to a full-bodied palate, with tart, lemony acidity drawing out the flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price: \$60**

91 Abeja 2013 Chardonnay (Washington). A blend of top sites Celilo and Conner Lee, this appealing wine displays aromas of candy corn, corn silk and chamomile. The stone-fruit flavors are elegantly styled, showing a sense of restraint and balance that carries through the lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$36**

91 Alleromb 2012 La Reyna Blanca Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Pleasing aromas of toast, nut oil and citrus are followed by textured, well-balanced stone-fruit flavors and a long, drawn-out finish. This is a thoroughly delicious, nuanced wine that keeps you coming back for more. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$48**

91 Reininger 2012 Reserve Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley). It's rare to see a varietal bottle of Chardonnay from this appellation. This one comes from Birch Creek Vineyard and has alluring aromas of lees, almond, peach and straw. The creamy stone-fruit flavors have a sense of richness

but are also quite deft, with a finish that lingers. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price: \$48**

91 Woodward Canyon 2013 Estate Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley). This wine comes from some of the oldest vines in the valley, planted in 1977. Aromas of pear, hay and hazelnut lead to stone-fruit and butterscotch flavors that are light and elegant in style with a very pretty sense of balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$66**

90 Maryhill 2013 Proprietor's Reserve Tudor Hills Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Aged sur lie for 10 months in 100% new French oak, this golden-colored wine leads with aromas of toast, pineapple and peach. The tropical fruit flavors are full bodied and rich with a creamy, almost unctuous feel. It's full-bore but an excellent representation of the style. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price: \$27**

90 Tranche 2012 Celilo Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). Mesmerizing aromas of toast, roasted pumpkin and spice are followed by medium-bodied, lightly spritzy feeling flavors and a citrus-filled finish. This drinks young now and will benefit from some additional time in the cellar. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$45**

90 Waterbrook 2013 Reserve Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The aromas of toast, pear, pineapple and spice are nuanced and reserved. Flavors are light, focused and textured, displaying both varietal and winemaker intent. —S.S.
abv: 13.84% **Price: \$17**

89 Foundry Vineyards 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). Aromas of mineral, burnt toast, talc and spice are lighter in style. Flavors show elegance and delicacy, with citrus notes lingering on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 12.85% **Price: \$28**

89 Saviah 2013 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Lees aromas mix with notes of custard, poached pear, cinnamon and well-integrated barrel accents. The palate shows a sense of finesse and grace that carries through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$25**

88 Columbia Winery 2013 Limited Release Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). Barrel fermented and aged in French oak (16% new), this wine has a creamy, textured feel that plays well with its aromas of melted butter, pear and spice. Pair it with seafood risotto. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$25**

88 Dusted Valley 2013 Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). Aromas of pear, melted butter and toasty spice lead to a lightly creamy, elegantly styled

palate with lingering stone-fruit flavors. It seems faint but what's there shows a fine sense of balance. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$29

88 Hard Row To Hoe 2013 Chardonnay (Lake Chelan). Butter, toast and spice aromas are followed by creamy, elegant stone-fruit flavors that linger. It's an enjoyable offering from this young appellation. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$25

88 Novelty Hill 2013 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Notes of poached pear, peach and spice lead to elegant, lightly creamy fruit flavors and a lemony finish. The concentration is light but what's there possesses a good sense of balance. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$23

87 Januik 2013 Cold Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Appealing aromas of apple, citrus, pear and corn husk are followed by light, elegant fruit flavors and a tart finish. The concentration isn't all there but it retains a sense of balance. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

87 Maryhill 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Pear and spice aromas lead to rich pineapple and prickly pear flavors. There's much to love, with unmistakable varietal expression. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$14

86 Columbia Crest 2013 Grand Estates Unoaked Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Freshness and elegance are at the fore on this appealing wine, with aromas and spritzy flavors of pear, spice, stone fruit and melted butter. Pair it with broiled fish. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

86 Gravel Bar 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The aromas of pear, chrysanthemum and star fruit are followed by lighter-styled flavors that display a sense of elegance. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

86 Guardian Cellars 2013 Entrapment Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Hailing from Conner Lee Vineyard, this barrel-fermented wine was aged in two-thirds new French oak. It has aromas of toast, char, nut oil and lemon. The flavors seem faint by comparison, with the concentration not all there. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$30

86 Tamarack Cellars 2014 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Aromatic for the variety, this wine shows notes of apple and pear. It's lightly spritzy with an almost unctuous feel. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

86 Wild Meadows 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Pineapple, pear and straw aromas

lead to sweet, medium-bodied fruit flavors. It's a straightforward, varietally correct quaffer that goes down easy. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$11

84 Acre Twenty-one 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). It would seem like other varieties must be in the mix on this perfumed wine with its notes of apricot, grapefruit and flowers. The flavors are lighter in style with a fresh feel. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$15

84 Two Vines 2013 Chardonnay (Washington). A straightforward wine, this has aromas of light spices and stone fruit. The flavors are lighter in style with the concentration a bit wanting but it still provides easy drinking pleasure. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$6

84 Voila! 2013 Chardonnay (Ancient Lakes). The aromas of guava and other tropical fruits are faint while the flavors seem washed out. There's enjoyment to be had but it all needs to be dialed up. —S.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

83 Westport Winery 2013 Shorebird Conner Lee Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Aromas of pear and yellow apple are at the fore. It drinks off dry with full feel. There's enjoyment to be had but the varietal is hard to discern. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

PINOT GRIS

89 Tranche 2013 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). Light aromas of citrus, herbs and nut oil are followed by a full-bodied palate with lightly sweet fruit flavors. It's a fine display of the variety. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$18

87 Ross Andrew 2014 Celilo Vineyard Pinot Gris (Columbia Gorge). Aromas of hazelnut, mineral and pear lead to off-dry, full-feeling fruit flavors that are stitched up with citric acidity on the finish. It doesn't entirely come together but there's plenty to enjoy. —S.S.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$20

86 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2014 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). This aromatically appealing wine boasts aromas of melon, pear and spice. It drinks dry and is lightly spritzy, with a sleek feel and a tart finish that shows pleasing freshness. Try it with shellfish. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$11

85 Goose Ridge 2014 Estate Bottled Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). In this straightforward quaffer, aromas of pear, melon and apple lead to off-dry fruit flavors with a full feel. The flavor concentration is light but it still provides easy drinking enjoyment. —S.S.

abv: 11.7%

Price: \$16

RIESLING

89 Ancestry Cellars 2013 Reminiscence Riesling (Columbia Gorge). This wine is all from Underwood Mountain and shows perfumed aromas of grape skins, pear and apricot. It drinks medium sweet with abundant stone-fruit flavors. —S.S.

abv: 10.4%

Price: \$18

89 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2014 Riesling (Columbia Valley). With all fruit coming from Dineen Vineyard, this wine shows alluring aromas of honeysuckle, melon, pear and zesty spices. It drinks almost dry, with the flavors tapering slightly toward the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$18

88 Saviah 2014 The Jack Riesling (Columbia Valley). The aromas of apricot, drizzled honey, lime and pear are followed by off-dry, lightly spritzy stone-fruit flavors that linger. —S.S.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$15

88 Sleight of Hand 2014 The Magician Evergreen Vineyard Riesling (Ancient Lakes). All Riesling, this aromatic wine conveys notes of jasmine, peach and pear. It drinks off dry, with spritzy soda water and stone-fruit flavors and mouthwatering acidity. —S.S.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$18

87 Januik 2013 Bacchus Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Valley). Moderately aromatic for the variety, this wine shows aromas of flowers, pear and mandarin orange. It drinks medium sweet with lightly spritzy flavors that need a bit more acid to hold them all together. —S.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

87 Rasa 2013 The Composer Riesling (Columbia Valley). Lees notes take the lead on this unusual wine, followed by aromas of apricot, almond butter and cream. It drinks a hair off dry with a lightly creamy feel. —S.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

86 Revelry 2014 Riesling (Columbia Valley). It's difficult to find the aromas of apple, pear and jasmine. This drinks off dry with nicely balanced acids. —S.S.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$14

85 Kennedy Shah 2013 Reserve Riesling (Columbia Valley). Pear, dried flower and ripe green apple aromas lead to lighter-styled, dry, mouthwatering stone-fruit flavors. This brings interest but the concentration doesn't seem all there. —S.S.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$25

85 Moonbeam 2013 Riesling (Washington). Aromas are light for the variety, with notes of jasmine and poached pear. The medium-sweet flavors deliver notes of mandarin orange and Nestea ice tea, finishing dry. —S.S.

abv: 10.8%

Price: \$12

85 San Juan Vineyards 2014 Riesling (Yakima Valley). Light aromas of ripe pear and jasmine precede medium-sweet, somewhat oily-feeling flavors. It doesn't all come together but still provides enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$17

85 Two Vines 2013 Riesling (Washington). Aromas of ripe apple and poached pear are accented by spice. It drinks medium sweet with mandarin-orange flavors that linger. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$6

84 Perimeter 2014 Riesling (Washington). This medium-sweet offering has aromas of lime leaf and jasmine that lead to apricot and floral flavors. There's not a lot of complexity but it offers easy drinking enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$10

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Alleromb 2012 La Reyna Blanca Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Made in a full-bodied style, this wine possesses aromas and flavors of nut oil, lemongrass, citrus and herbs, with a rich texture and a finish that lingers. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

90 Novelty Hill 2013 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Barrel fermented in new and used French oak and aged sur lie for seven months, this appealing wine brings aromas of pear, spice, fig and papaya. The Sémillon blended in (16%) adds to the palate's richness and weight, with the pleasingly long finish contributing to the enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Januik 2013 Sagemoor Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This wine is more a Bordeaux Blanc with Sémillon (15%) playing a prominent role. It leads with aromas of custard, barrel spices, pear and fig followed by lighter-styled fruit flavors. The concentration isn't all there but the balance of what is spot-on. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Auclair 2014 Artz Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Red Mountain). After starting out reductive, this wine opens to reveal light aromas of fig and tropical fruit, seeming a bit muddled. The flavors, however, come through clearly, providing a textured feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$19

88 Browne Family Vineyards 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). A new wine for this winery, this is all varietal and aged in neutral French oak. Notes of pineapple and papaya are followed by full-bodied, rounded, sweet tropical flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

86 Barnard Griffin 2014 Fumé Blanc Dry Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). A mix of Sauvignon Blanc (77%) and Sémillon, this wine comes from three separate vineyards in the Columbia Valley. It shows plenty of Sauvignon's herbal character while also displaying the ripeness of the vintage, with lightly spritzy tropical fruit and fig flavors that possess a fleshy feel. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$9

85 Songbird 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This is a straightforward easy-drinker with aromas of cantaloupe and kiwi leading to off-dry, lightly styled fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

84 Goose Ridge 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Aromas of melon, grapefruit and herbs lead to sweet tropical fruit flavors. The concentration isn't all there and the acid seems a bit wanting. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$17

SÉMILLON

89 Amavi Cellars 2013 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). Coming from Les Collines (54%), Seven Hills (22%) and Goff vineyards, this wine saw only neutral French oak. Generous aromas of fig, freshly spun cotton and spice lead to lightly styled but rich tropical flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

88 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Sémillon (Columbia Valley). Though not labeled as such, this is a single-vineyard wine coming from Dineen Family Vineyard. It shows appealing aromas of toast, nut oil and melon. The flavors are lighter in style but bring a sense of balance that carries through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Reininger 2013 Birch Creek Vineyard Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). Birch Creek Vineyard provides the fruit for this stainless-steel-fermented and aged wine. It offers notes of custard, lees and herbs. The clover flavors show a richer feel but the concentration doesn't all seem to be there, trailing toward the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

88 Bunchgrass 2013 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). This is a 100% varietal wine coming from Birch Creek Vineyard. The barrel fermentation shows with aromas of butterscotch melding with fig, lees and beeswax. The stone and tropical fruit flavors are plenty rich and stick around on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

VIOGNIER

90 Abeja 2014 Estate Grown Viognier (Walla Walla Valley). Walla Walla Valley-designated whites are a rarity. Here aromas of vanilla, toast,

honeysuckle and peach show nuance and detail and lead to sweet, light bodied, lightly spritzy stone-fruit flavors with a long finish that commands attention. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Cayuse 2013 Cailloux Vineyard Viognier (Walla Walla Valley). Light aromas of wet stone, smoke, stone fruit and white flowers lead to ethereally light yet sweet and flavorful peach notes. It's a very pretty and compelling expression of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$70

90 McCrea 2010 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Viognier (Red Mountain). Pale yellow in color, this five-plus-year-old white has aromas of lees, dried apricot and flowers. The palate feels full bodied, but with lighter-styled flavors and a zing of acid on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

89 Novelty Hill 2013 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Viognier (Columbia Valley). Aromas of pear, honeysuckle, cream and peach rise up from the glass. This is lightly creamy in feel, with elegantly styled but well-balanced fruit flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Gramercy Cellars 2014 Viognier (Columbia Valley). This wine offers bright aromas of watermelon and cherry Jolly Ranger. It drinks dry with candied fruit flavors that show a pleasing sense of texture and richness. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

87 Watermill 2014 Viognier (Columbia Valley). It's difficult to find the aromas of stone fruit and herbs in the glass. The flavors show a lot of lightness and elegance but also a sense of balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$16

85 Telaya 2013 Viognier (Columbia Valley). Aromas of pear, stone fruit and lees lead to peach and floral flavors. The concentration is light and elegant. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$17

84 Hudson Shah 2012 Viognier (Red Mountain). Aromas of lees, apricot, vanilla and wheat lead to full-bodied fruit and cinnamon flavors. It's fleshy in feel but the flavor concentration isn't all there. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

82 Wedge Mountain 2014 Evergreen Vineyard Viognier (Ancient Lakes). Barrel notes take the lead with aromas of char, butterscotch and spice overrunning the fruit. There's a pleasing creamy feel to the sweet fruit flavors but the variety is near impossible to find. —S.S.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$25

WHITE BLENDS

91 Sparkman 2014 Apparition White (Yakima Valley). Light golden-colored, this blend of 75% Roussanne, 12% Grenache Blanc and 13% Marsanne comes from Boushey and Olsen vineyards. It draws you into the glass with aromas of marzipan, nectarine and spice. The stone fruit flavors are lightly creamy in feel, showing a pleasing sense of balance and a lengthy finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24

91 Tranche 2012 Slice of Pape Blanc (Columbia Valley). This blend of Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier displays aromas of almond, corn husk and apricot. There's a pleasing, nuanced feel to the sweet, full-bodied fruit flavors along with a finish that won't quit. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

89 Forgeron 2013 Façon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This blend of Roussanne (33%), Grenache Blanc (30%), Viognier (22%) and Marsanne has light aromas of apricot, citrus and flowers. The flavors are similarly restrained but it shows a sense of balance and length that holds the attention. Drinks best at 60 degrees. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

88 Cor Cellars 2014 ALBA Gewürztraminer-Pinot Gris (Columbia Gorge). With the two varieties co-fermented in concrete, this has no oak to interfere with its aromas of spice, pear and honeysuckle. It drinks off dry, seeming a bit sweeter than recent vintages, but still bringing the acidity that this region is known for. —S.S.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$18

88 Kontos Cellars 2014 Gossamer White (Columbia Valley). This is a unique blend of Chardonnay, Viognier, Roussanne and Orange Muscat. Aromas of pear, almond, white flowers and orange peel lead to off-dry fruit flavors that have a full, lightly oily feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$28

87 DeLille 2013 Chaleur Estate White (Columbia Valley). This blend of Sauvignon Blanc (65%) and Sémillon comes from Sagemoor, Boushey and Klipsun vineyards. It starts out barrel-forward with aromas of char and toast followed by citrus oil, spice and herbs. The concentration of the tropical fruit flavors is light and elegant but shows pleasing nuances and a good sense of balance. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

87 Goose Ridge 2013 Estate Bottled GRV (Columbia Valley). This wine is half Viognier with the rest Grenache Blanc and Roussanne. It offers aromas of almond, lees and peach. It's unctuous in feel but lighter in style with a touch of bitterness that distracts. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$24

86 Waterbrook 2013 Mélange White Varietal Blend (Columbia Valley). Seven different varieties make up this blend with Riesling (34%), Chardonnay (18%), Gewürztraminer (16%) and Viognier (13%) taking the lead. Aromas of flowers, mandarin orange and citrus are followed by moderately sweet stone-fruit flavors that providing easy drinking pleasure. —S.S.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$12

85 J. Bookwalter 2013 Couplet Conner-Lee Chardonnay-Viognier (Columbia Valley). In this near-equal split between the two varieties, both show themselves on the aromas and flavors of overripe pear, peach and flowers, with the alcohol evident throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

83 Kennedy Shah 2013 Auntie Meredith's Picnic Blend White (Columbia Valley). A blend of Riesling and Muscat with a pinch of Gewürztraminer, this wine offers vibrant aromas of orange peel, fresh flowers, spice and jasmine that don't entirely meld. It drinks dry with light concentration and a slightly bitter finish. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 L'Ecole No. 41 2014 Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Walla Walla Valley). Coming from vines planted in 1979 or earlier, this wine offers aromas of yellow apple, melon, honey and starfruit. It's lightly spritzy and drinks off dry, with a textured feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Novelty Hill 2013 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Roussanne (Columbia Valley). The aromas of pear, butterscotch and apricot show plenty of detail. The palate is full bodied in feel but with lighter-styled fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Barnard Griffin 2013 Albariño (Columbia Valley). Bright aromas of tangerine, cantaloupe and pear lead to just off-dry notes of tropical fruit and spritzy soda-water flavors. It goes down easy. —S.S.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$18

87 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2014 Roussanne (Columbia Valley). Aromas of wet stone, citrus and honeysuckle are light and elusive while the palate brings a full, rounded feel that trails toward the finish. There's enjoyment to be had but it's more about texture and feel than fruit flavor. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

85 San Juan Vineyards 2014 Estate Grown Madeleine Angevine (Puget Sound). This is a perfumed wine with aromas of fresh flowers, orange peel and citrus. It drinks dry with a broad, fleshy feel, falling a bit flat on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$18

SWEET WINES

91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2013 Ethos Reserve Late Harvest Riesling (Columbia Valley). At 160g/L residual sugar, this late-harvest wine brings plenty of sweetness with its lightly spritzy marmalade, orange peel and pear aromas and flavors, yet it still retains an appealing sense of lightness and balance as well. The length is impressive. —S.S.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$40/375 ml

91 Finn Hill 2013 En Fleur Sémillon Ice Wine (Wahluke Slope). This appealing offering comes in at a whopping 195g/L residual sugar. It displays light, nuanced aromas of flowers, orange peel and pineapple. The flavors are sugary sweet but well balanced and linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 10.6% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

ROSÉS

91 Seven Hills 2014 Dry Rosé (Columbia Valley). Principally Cabernet Franc with small amounts of Petit Verdot and Malbec (8% each) blended in, this wine is almost irresistible with its pretty, pale salmon color. It does not disappoint with its aromas and flavors of melon, white peach and grapefruit, with a light spritz giving it some lift. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Cayuse 2013 Edith Grenache Armada Vineyard Rosé (Walla Walla Valley). Pale copper colored, this wine is more focused on mineral than fruit expression, with aromas of wet stone out in front of citrus rind. The medium-bodied flavors dance lightly on the palate but still show concentration, texture and balance. —S.S.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$45

90 Tranche 2014 Pink Pape Blackrock Vineyard Rosé (Yakima Valley). A blend of Cinsault, Counoise and Grenache, this very pretty salmon-colored wine offers aromas of strawberry, melon, soda water and spice. It drinks dry but the fruit flavors are sweet, with tart acids finishing it off. —S.S.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$18

89 Julia's Dazzle 2014 Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills). This gris-de-gris-style wine is a pretty, pale salmon color. Aromas of cherry, watermelon and mineral lead to lightly spritzy, slightly off-dry fruit flavors and a fresh, drawn-out finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$16

89 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2014 Rosé (Columbia Valley). Equal parts Grenache and Mourvèdre, this appealing wine displays aromas of strawberry, orange rind and light peppery spices. It drinks dry with a lightly spritzy feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$18

88 Gramercy Cellars 2014 Olsen Vineyard Rosé (Columbia Valley). An appealing pale salmon color, this blend of 50% Cinsault, 28% Gr-

enache and 22% Syrah displays aromas of strawberry, cherry Jolly Rancher and melon. Reflective of the warmth of the vintage, it's fruitier than recent vintages but it's still hard to put down. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

88 OS Winery 2014 Sonas Devon's Rosé (Yakima Valley). This saignée-style, Cabernet Franc rosé has a pale salmon color, with aromas of pink grapefruit and strawberry. It drinks a hair off dry with spritzzy melon and berry flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$14

86 Charles & Charles 2014 Rosé (Columbia Valley). A blend of six different varieties with Syrah (72%) in the lead, this pale cherry-color wine pops with aromas of bubble gum, wild strawberry and orange peel. The concentration is a bit light with the tart finish that pulls it together. —S.S.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$12

85 Cor Cellars 2014 Ro-Sae (Horse Heaven Hills). Cherry colored and lightly bricked, this wine offers aromas of herbs, orange peel, wet stone and cherry. It drinks dry with fleshy, boozy-seeming fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Waterbrook 2014 Sangiovese Rosé (Columbia Valley). Light cherry colored, this wine displays aromas of herbs, cherry and melon. It drinks off dry (6.6g/L residual sugar) but lacks the acid to support the sugar. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$12

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Betz Family 2012 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

94 Corliss Estates 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The 2010 vintage wines from Washington can be unforgiving on release but this wine—already a full five years old—is an exception. It shows a compelling assortment of jammy red and black fruit along with milk chocolate and barrel spices. The flavors convey both power and finesse with a spot-on sense of balance and a long finish that kicks it up a notch. It's drinking beautifully now but has a long life in front of it. Best from 2020 to 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

93 Abeja 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine is pulled from vineyards across the Columbia Valley, including Heather Hill, Bacchus, Dionysus, Ciel du Cheval and Destiny Ridge. A nuanced wine, it shows winemaker John Abbott in top form with its rich, layered fruit flavors, dazzling sense of texture and lengthy finish.

It's drinking beautifully but promises to have a long life in front of it in the cellar. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

93 Doubleback 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$99

93 Januik 2012 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Almost all varietal (with 2% Malbec) from one of the state's premier sites, this wine draws you into the glass with aromas of coffee, scorched earth, herb, spice and dark fruit. The palate shows a beguiling sense of restraint and detail, with the tannins combed to a fine sheen, perfectly framed acidity and a lengthy finish. It's an exquisite example of the variety that should have a long life ahead of it. It will be best after 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

93 Januik 2012 Reserve Red Wine (Columbia Valley). A blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec, this wine is more about elegance and detail than outright power, though it brings plenty of that as well. The blackberry, dark coffee and herb flavors are alternately light but rich, showing plenty of nuance and precision as well as great length. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

93 Maloney 2012 Single Vineyard Elephant Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rattlesnake Hills). This is the inaugural release from this winery that focuses on the expression of Cabernet in a different site each year. It's dazzling, rich with blackberry, black currant, herb, dark chocolate and barrel spices. The full-bodied flavors are candy-bar sweet with some chewy tannic heft that bodes well for its potential in the cellar. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Dunham 2011 VXXVII Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This 100% varietal wine from Lewis and Wallula vineyards beguiles with its aromas of vanilla bean, butterscotch, baking spice, cherry and cinnamon. Whereas many wines from this vintage put a focus on elegance, this one also displays power, with a pleasing mixture of fruit and barrel flavors that carry through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

92 Feather 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This 100% varietal wine comes from Wallula, Dionysus and Stone Tree vineyards. It brings alluring aromas of red currant, cranberry, coffee and dried herbs. The palate is concentrated and layered, backed by chewy tannins. The textured feel adds to its appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

92 Force Majeure 2012 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This winery's young

estate vineyard shows lots of promise. Aromas of dried herbs, bittersweet chocolate, mineral, licorice, raspberry and cherry lead to textured, rich cranberry flavors with a firm handshake of tannins and a tart, cranberry-filled finish. It needs time to all come together but has the stuffing to go the distance. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

92 Gorman 2012 The Bully Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Wound up like a drum, this wine opens to reveal hedonistic aromas of toast, barrel spice, blackberry and light meaty notes. It's made in a full-bodied, concentrated style, with wound-up tannins that would benefit from time in the cellar. Best after 2020. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

92 Novelty Hill 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Appealing aromas of cocoa, vanilla and spice intermingle with dark fruit. The palate brings plenty of the same, with pleasing richness and texture to the flavors, and lots of hang time on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$26

92 Pursued by Bear 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Fruit and barrel intertwine on this wine, with aromas of toffee, shaved coconut and spice leading to layered blackberry and cherry flavors. This wine is stylish and undeniably tasty. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Upchurch 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromas of coffee, graphite, herb, barrel spice and black fruit lead to a power-packed palate full of dark fruit and earth flavors supported by chewy tannins. It's a classic Red Mountain style, not shy but delivering the goods with a long life ahead of it. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

92 Walla Walla Vintners 2012 Sagemoor Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine commands attention with aromas of coffee, milk chocolate, toast, herb and black cherry. The palate has elegant, layered chocolate and cherry flavors, backed by a light squeeze of tannins. Just a baby now, it needs some time in the cellar to be fully appreciated. It will be best from 2018 to 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$44

91 Alder Ridge 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Aromas of dried herb, cherry cola and barrel spice are out in front on this 100% varietal wine. The cherry and blackberry flavors are sweet and plump, showing concentration and depth along with dry, grippy tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.05% **Price:** \$30

91 Bunchgrass 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine is all varietal from up-and-coming Phinny Hill Vineyard. Aromas of

earth, herbs, dark cherry and bittersweet chocolate lead to supple, elegant, focused cherry and herb flavors that are framed by lively acidity. Put it on the dinner table to see it shine. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Cayuse 2012 Widomaker En Chamberlain Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Brooding aromas of fresh and dried herbs mix with freshly tilled soil, tomato leaf, coffee, mineral and spice box. It's restrained in style with supple smoke, herb and cherry flavors backed by soft tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$90

91 Dusted Valley 2012 V.R. Special Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). No punches are pulled on this blend of Dionysus, Northridge, Red Heaven and Stone Tree vineyards. Light aromas of coffee, toffee and herbs lead to über rich, sweet, high-octane cherry flavors that are backed by grainy tannins. —S.S.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$60

91 Guardian Cellars 2012 The Rookie Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A blend of Klipsun and Obelisco vineyards, this Cabernet Sauvignon leads with aromas of blackberry jam, espresso, fresh herbs and toasty barrel spices (60% new French). The black fruit flavors are rich, ripe and sweet, with the oak playing a prominent part in the show. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 Januik 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This appellation is best known for its power but this wine shows it can just as easily demonstrate subtlety and nuance. Coffee, milk chocolate and cherry flavors lead to a textured palate that shows a lot of polish and detail. It's impossible to take a sip without wanting to take another. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

91 Januik 2012 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). There's plenty of nuance on this wine's aromas and flavors of café au lait, herb, dark cherry, plum and barrel spice. The balance is pitch-perfect with a light grip of tannins that need some time in the cellar to soften. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

91 L'Ecole No. 41 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). All varietal, this blend of fruit from seven vineyards across the valley shows nuances of cocoa, earth, coffee, herbs and cherry. There's a lot of generosity and midpalate depth to the flavors along with a sense of balance that carries through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Obelisco Estate 2012 Nefer III Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromas of woodspice, cedar, cranberry and cherry are at the fore on this 100% varietal wine. It shows concen-

tration, finesse and polish, with dry, chewy tannins lending support. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$125

91 Pepper Bridge 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A blend of fruit from Seven Hills (75%), Octave (21%) and Pepper Bridge vineyards, this wine shows intriguing aromas of anise, cassis, herb and woodspice. It still seems to be in its shell. The flavors are dense and supple, rich but restrained with the tannins combed to a fine sheen. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

91 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 The Classic Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Hailing from the winery's In the Rocks Vineyard, this wine opens with aromas of nori, black olive and blackberry that evolve into herb and plum. The dark fruit flavors are sweet and concentrated, lightly tacky in feel, backed by velvety-soft tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$70

91 Underground Wine Project 2012 Devil's Playground Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). A new project from winemakers Mark McNeilly and Trey Busch, this wine leads with aromas of fresh green herbs, raspberries, dark chocolate and cherry. The palate is full bore but not overweighted, showing intensity to the red and black fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Amavi Cellars 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A blend of fruit from Les Collines, Octave, Seven Hills, Summit View, Pepper Bridge and Goff vineyards, this wine leads with aromas of dried herbs, violets, woodspice, coffee, plum and bittersweet chocolate. The cherry flavors combine richness and elegance, with grainy tannins and oak providing the frame. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Bunchgrass 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This 100% varietal wine displays aromas of coffee, pipe tobacco and spice. The dark fruit and espresso flavors show a mixture of elegance and richness, with a textured mouthfeel providing appeal. It's a high-quality example from this cool vintage. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Double Canyon 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

90 Forgeron 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This lightly colored wine displays high-toned aromas of dried herbs, dried flowers, cranberries and cherries. The flavors show a pleasing mixture of concentration and restraint with the Petit Verdot blended in (10%) adding some heft and dryness to the tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

90 Gorman 2012 The Albatross Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The oak is at the fore on this wine. Notes of toast, vanilla and café au lait lead to full-bodied chocolate and blackberry flavors surrounded by firm, dry tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

90 Januik 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A blend of fruit from Weinbau, Ciel du Cheval, Lady Hawk, Champoux and Obelisco vineyards, this is clearly Cabernet with its aromas of milk chocolate, herbs, vanilla, dark coffee and cherry. Flavors are rich yet supple, with a finish that lingers. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Januik 2012 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). Coming from a vineyard best known for its Cabernet Franc, this wine offers aromas of fresh herbs, coffee, cherry and bittersweet chocolate. Cherry and chocolate flavors play well off of each other, with the finish lingering. The barrel influence plays a prominent role. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

90 Novelty Hill 2012 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is almost all varietal, with just smidgeons of Merlot and Malbec (2% each) blended in. It displays an appealing mix of fruit and barrel, with aromas and flavors of coffee, spice, pencil lead, herbs and cherry, showing a sense of vibrancy and richness. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Seven Falls 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Stevens 2012 StevensXY Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). A blend of fruit from Dineen, Meek and Sheridan vineyards, this wine delivers aromas of black cherry, orange peel, sweet spices and fresh herbs. The black cherry flavors convey polish and depth. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Walla Walla Vintners 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). There's no mistaking the variety with this wine's aromas of dried and fresh savory herbs, poblano, coffee, dark chocolate and cherry, accented by earthy undertones. The palate is deft while showing good depth of flavor and persistence. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

89 Abeja 2011 Heather Hill Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). All varietal, this offers aromas of coffee, cherry, chocolate, oak spices and green herbs that show a touch of under-ripeness. The palate displays elegance, restraint and polish along with a tart finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

89 Alleromb 2011 Scarline Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). High-toned aromas of dried herbs, cocoa, licorice, woodspice and blackberry lead to full-bodied yet elegantly styled black fruit flavors, with the tannins showing some grit. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$90

89 Damsel 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A blend of Shaw and Boushey vineyards, this 100% varietal wine displays aromas of bittersweet chocolate, savory herbs, an earthy funk, sawdust and woodspice. It's supple in feel, with sweet cherry and chocolate flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

89 Nelms Road 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). Fresh blackberry, black currant and tar aromas lead to full-bodied dark fruit flavors backed by dry, chewy tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

89 Saviah 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Coming from a who's who of valley vineyards that includes McClellan, Anna Marie and Summit View, this wine shows restrained aromas of vanilla, cocoa, herbs, tobacco and toasty barrel spices. The soft cassis and cherry flavors are considerably more generous though elegantly styled, leading to a spice-filled finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

89 The Leader 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Light aromas of dark chocolate, plum, herbs, flowers and tropical fruit provide intrigue. The dark fruit flavors are full in feel, showing depth and concentration along with a grip of tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

88 Barons 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Oak takes the lead on this wine. Aromas of dill, black licorice and woodspice are followed by baking spices and dried dark fruit. It's dry and chalky in feel with dark fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

88 Boudreaux Cellars 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). This blend is largely from Bacchus, Seven Hills and Wallula vineyards. It offers aromas of fresh herbs, thyme, dry chocolate, cherry and medicine cabinet. The flavors are quite sweet, with dry, chalky tannins backing them up. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Kontos Cellars 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Showing this variety's more savory side, this wine has aromas of dried leaves and herbs. The fruit flavors seem a bit dried out and raisinated, with a grip of dry tannins on the finish. Drink now. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromas of coffee, tire rubber, woodspice, dried herbs and cherry tussle in the glass. The coffee and cherry flavors show a mixture of elegance and richness, with chalky tannins backing it all up. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Revelry 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). No punches are pulled on this 100% varietal wine. Aromas of freshly sliced red apple, cranberries and milk chocolate lead to candy-bar-sweet cherry and chocolate flavors. It doesn't entirely come together but provides enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$52

88 Six Prong 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Aromas offer raspberries, stemmy herbs, jalapeño and spice while the palate brings plush and lightly sweet cherry and blackberry flavors. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$17

88 Tranche 2010 Blue Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This wine leads with somewhat locked-up, slightly porty aromas of herb, barrel spice and dark fruit. The ripe, rich dark fruit flavors show considerably more generosity, with firm, slightly gritty tannins backing them up. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$NA

88 Trellis Gate 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This 100% varietal wine is wound up tightly. Blackberry, coconut, vanilla and high-toned green herb aromas lead to ripe, full-bodied dark fruit and baking-spice flavors. The oak plays a lead role in the show. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

87 14 Hands 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Lightly sweet blue fruit aromas and flavors mix with coffee, mocha, toast and herbs. It doesn't seem entirely like Cabernet but it's hard to ignore its appeal. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Assorted dried herbs, pink peppercorn and bell pepper aromas mix with dark cherries. The cherry and black currant flavors are sweet with dry, chalky tannins backing them up. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

87 Kennedy Shah 2012 Reserve Artz Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromas of blackberry jam, dried fruit and woodspice lead to full-bodied black fruit and vanilla flavors. Despite its youth, this wine seems advanced. Drink now. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$52

87 Revelry 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This rich wine shows sweet, luscious cherry, green herbs, medicine cabinet and leather aromas and flavors. It doesn't bring a lot of complexity but yields plenty of enjoyment. Drink now. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

87 Waterbrook 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Aromas of coffee, cocoa, green wood and fresh herbs lead to pleasing cherry, cola and chocolate flavors with abundant vanilla and wood accents, with tannins lending some grip. —S.S.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$24

86 Acre Twenty-one 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The plum and blue fruit aromas and flavors don't seem entirely varietal but this still offers plenty of appeal. It's lightly sweet with a squeeze of tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

86 Gravel Bar 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is a distinctive offering of Cabernet with aromas of vanilla, sugared plum, herb and baking spice. The sweet fruit flavors have a plush feel along with light, plump tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Revelry 2011 D11 Dionysus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Vanilla and green wood aromas are at the fore, followed by cherry and herbs. The fruit flavors are sweet and elegant, with the oak nearly completely overriding them. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

86 Telaya 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Aromas of baking spices, green pepper and cherry lead to lighter-styled fruit flavors that seem a bit diluted. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

85 Buried Cane 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Aromatic for Cabernet, this wine possesses notes of black currant, green pepper, blackberry and herbs. It drinks slightly off dry, offering lighter flavors with a tangy feel and chalky tannins. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

84 Barnard Griffin 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Gorge). Despite its youth, this wine seems dried-out with aromas and flavors of medicine cabinet, leather and raisinated black and blue fruit. Drink now. —S.S.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$17

81 Wild Meadows 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas of blueberry, milk chocolate and tire rubber are pleasant enough but the palate distracts with sweet, lightly spritzly blue fruit flavors backed by chalky tannins. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$11

MERLOT

92 Abeja 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Cocoa, dark chocolate, raspberry and barrel spice aromas intoxicate the senses. The flavors are sweet and concentrated with a hedonistic styling. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

92 Bunchgrass 2012 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). All varietal coming from Seven Hills Vineyard, this displays aromas of café au lait, black raspberries and dried herbs. The fruit and barrel flavors are palate coating, displaying exceptional polish and texture. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

92 Januik 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). With grapes coming from Weinbau, Klipsun and Ciel du Cheval vineyards, among others, this wine offers brooding aromas of dark raspberries and bitersweet chocolate. The oak (half new French) provides a perfect complement, with flavors of coffee and spice mixing with dark fruit. It's hard to put the glass down. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

92 Novelty Hill 2012 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine commands attention with its aromas of dark raspberries, milk chocolate and barrel spices. Flavors show plenty of richness and intensity with a supple texture that dazzles. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

92 Stevens 2012 Stevens Merlot (Yakima Valley). This blend of DuBrul and Meek vineyard fruit broods with aromas of dark raspberries and licorice. Ripe fruit flavors accompany exquisitely balanced tannins and acidity. It's drinking well now but should have a long life in front of it. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Woodward Canyon 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine is all Merlot coming from equal parts Weinbau and Woodward Canyon Estate vineyards. It charms with aromas of café au lait, cherry, spice and earth. The chocolate and cherry flavors are rich and full bodied with a firm handshake of tannins. It's drinking young now, with the oak up front. Give it plenty of time to open up. —S.S.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$52

91 Pedestal 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This leads with aromas of dark raspberries, toast and woodspice, seeming to still be in its shell. Flavors are high-octane, rich and sweet, with enough tannins to go the distance. It doesn't seem entirely integrated right now, but it will go up a notch or two if it comes together. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$60

90 Guardian Cellars 2012 Confidential Source Merlot (Columbia Valley). Aromas of toast, espresso, chocolate and dark fruit lead to creamy-

feeling fruit and barrel flavors. The oak (54% new French) is a bit out front but there's still much to enjoy. —S.S.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Novelty Hill 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Milk chocolate, cherry and raspberry aromas lead to sweet, supple luscious fruit flavors. It keeps you coming back for more. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$23

90 Pepper Bridge 2012 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Truly a Bordeaux-style blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec from Seven Hills (51%), Pepper Bridge (32%) and Octave vineyards, this wine offers aromas of wood, dark raspberry and licorice. The supple, reserved fruit flavors bring plenty of appeal. Give it time for the oak to fully integrate. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

89 3 Horse Ranch Vineyards 2011 Barrel Select Reserve Merlot (Washington). Aromas of sweet barrel spices, dried flowers, herbs and dark fruit lead to tart cherry flavors and a cranberry-filled finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$21

89 Browne Family Vineyards 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This 100% varietal wine comes from Mirage, Klipsun, Seven Hills and Force Majeure vineyards. The oak (50% new French) takes the lead with aromas of vanilla, coffee and cinnamon in front of plum and berry. Flavors are reserved, showing a mixture of fruit and barrel that continues through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

89 Forgeron 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Made completely from Merlot, this wine comes from Candy Mountain (52%), Birch Creek (25%) and Bacchus vineyards. The oak (35% new American) plays a central role, with aromas of vanilla and green wood out in front of raspberries and cherries. Flavors are light yet concentrated, with the tannins showing some astringency. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

89 Golden Ridge 2012 Estate Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of baking spices, clove, vanilla and dark fruit lead to a nuanced palate with fruit and barrel flavors and a light grip of tannins. The alcohol shows through a bit but overall it holds it. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$29

89 Revelry 2012 Reserve Alder Ridge Vineyard Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine is 100% varietal and comes from a single block and clone (clone 3). Aromas of woodspice, blue fruit and herbs lead to sweet, supple fruit flavors and grainy tannins. There are a lot of good things going on but the wood steps a bit in front of them. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

88 Adamant Cellars 2012 Winemaker's Select Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). All varietal coming from Dwelley and Minnick Hills vineyards, this wine leads with aromas of black licorice, dates and green herbs. There's plenty of richness to the flavors, which are backed by a squeeze of grainy tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

88 Boudreaux Cellars 2009 Merlot (Washington). Medicine cabinet, licorice, leather and dried and fresh red and black fruit aromas lead to rich, concentrated flavors. The variety seems subsumed by the style but it's still pretty delicious. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$50

88 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Merlot (Red Mountain). All varietal from up-and-coming Scooteney Flats Vineyard, this wine displays aromas of fresh herbs, dark raspberries and barrel spices. There's no lack of richness to the fruit flavors but the chalky tannins need time to stitch together. —S.S.
abv: 15.02% **Price:** \$34

88 Gordon Estate 2012 Block 3 Reserve Merlot (Columbia Valley). The oak (21 months spent in French and American) takes the lead, with aromas of baking spices, green wood and vanilla out in front of cherry. The flavors are sweet, supported by grainy tannins that show some dryness. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

88 Januik 2012 Klipsun Vineyard Merlot (Red Mountain). All varietal from one of the state's most highly regarded vineyards, this wine offers aromas of dark raspberries, green herbs, vanilla and barrel spices. The fruit and barrel flavors show concentration and depth, with a light chalkiness to the tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

88 Kontos Cellars 2011 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Hailing from Les Collines and Seven Hills vineyards, this 100% varietal wine displays aromas and flavors of cedar, herbs, licorice and red fruit that seem a bit dried out. It's lighter in style, showing elegance along with a light squeeze of tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$34

88 Reininger 2011 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). An unusual aroma profile of sandalwood, broccoli and exotic spices leads to coffee and dark cherries. The fruit flavors are silky in feel, showing plenty of depth with lightly grainy tannins supporting them. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$43

87 Gordon Estate 2013 Estate Grown Merlot (Columbia Valley). Aromas of woodspice, char, pickling spices and herbs are out in front of red and

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black fruit. The flavors are light and appealing, but ultimately the oak provides distraction. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$21

87 Tamarack Cellars 2013 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Woodspice, herb and dark fruit aromas are out in front. The flavors show a lot of barrel influence, with the tannins providing some grit. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

87 Waterbrook 2012 Reserve Merlot (Columbia Valley). There's much to enjoy with this wine's aromas of vanilla, coffee, baking spices, raspberry and green wood. The sweet flavors show cranberry-like tartness and grainy tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$24

85 Kirkland Signature 2013 Merlot (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 12. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$9

84 Kennedy Shah 2012 Merlot (Columbia Valley). The variety is hard to find on this wine with aromas of tire rubber, barrel spice, green pepper and herb in the lead. It's medium bodied in feel, with soft tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$14

80 James Wyatt 2013 Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills). This Merlot has not fully ripened, with aromas of bell pepper, green herbs and savory notes overriding any sense of variety. Flavors are faint and lighter in style, trailing on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

MALBEC

93 Kontos Cellars 2012 Summit View Vineyard Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). This wine comes from an up-and-coming area of the valley above Seven Hills Vineyard. The varietal notes are spot-on, with aromas and flavors of green herbs, black pepper and boysenberry bringing intensity of flavor and purity. It's completely dazzling. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$42

92 Reininger 2012 Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). There's a mixture of fruit and barrel on this wine with dark fruit aromas melding with cocoa, clove and spice. Sweet and concentrated flavors coat the palate, with a light squeeze of tannins backing it up. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Stevens 2012 Stevens Timley Malbec (Yakima Valley). It's unusual to see a Washington wine from this vintage at this listed alcohol level but there's no question about the ripeness. It's all Dineen Vineyard fruit coming from the oldest block at the vineyard, with aromas of leafy herbs and sweet plums. There's a pleasingly supple feel to the

polished dark fruit flavors that linger effortlessly. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$32

91 Alleromb 2011 Vineyard Collection Scarline Vineyard Malbec (Columbia Valley). The aromas of fresh herbs, tobacco and barrel spice seem quite locked-up at present on this dark purple-colored wine. The full-bodied dark fruit flavors and lightly chewy tannins show a mix of grace and power. —S.S.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$60

91 Browne Family Vineyards 2012 Malbec (Columbia Valley). This 100% varietal wine blends fruit from Summit View and Canyon Vineyard Ranch vineyards. Aromas of plum, fresh herb and woodspice are followed by plump blue and black fruit flavors and a tart lick of acid. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

91 Dusted Valley 2012 Malbec (Columbia Valley). Weinbau, Stone Tree and Dionysus vineyards make up the backbone of this wine. Aromas of dry chocolate, dark plum and sage lead to a densely flavored, hedonistic palate, with full-bodied plum and chocolate flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$42

90 Cor Cellars 2012 Hogback Ridge Vineyard Malbec (Columbia Valley). Seeing no new oak, the fruit is front and center. The flavors of pepper, dark fruit and herbs are pure, concentrated and soft in feel with a tart uptick on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

90 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Malbec (Columbia Valley). All coming from Upland Vineyard, this 100% varietal wine has a lighter color. Supple flavors of coffee, spice, plum, dried herbs and pepper contribute to a finish that lingers. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Novelty Hill 2012 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Malbec (Columbia Valley). The oak—a mixture of new and used French and American—takes the lead on this wine, with aromas and flavors of vanilla, cocoa and coffee out in front of plum and dark fruit. There's a pleasing mixture of richness and lightness. The variety gets a bit subsumed but there's still much to enjoy. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

89 Bunchgrass 2012 Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). Varietal bottles of Malbec are an extreme rarity in this appellation. This one, which hails from Frazier Bluff Vineyard, offers light aromas of dried herbs, plum, pepper and tobacco. The blue fruit flavors are sweet and lithe, with the texture upping the enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

89 Forgeron 2012 Anvil Malbec (Wahluke Slope). This wine is all varietal, aged in a mixture of new French (40%) and aged American

oak. It shows a mixture of fruit and barrel notes of vanilla, freshly hewn wood, cranberry and blue fruit. The high-octane richness carries through the finish, with chewy tannins backing it all up. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

89 Januik 2012 Weinbau Vineyard Malbec (Wahluke Slope). This was aged in equal parts new and used French oak. The new takes the lead with its aromas and flavors of coffee, cocoa and barrel spices out in front of dark fruit. It brings undeniable appeal but the variety seems to get a bit lost. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

89 Lookout Point 2011 Malbec (Rattlesnake Hills). A single-variety wine coming from Two Coyote Vineyard, it shows aromas of woodspice, dried green herbs and plum. Flavors are soft and fruit filled, trailing toward the finish. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$24

88 Waterbrook 2012 Reserve Malbec (Columbia Valley). This wine is 100% varietal aged in a mixture of largely American oak (24% new). It offers aromas of dill, plum and woodspice with a soft feel and a tart finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$24

87 :Nota Bene 2011 Verhey Vineyard Malbec (Yakima Valley). This wine displays generous aromas of white pepper, woodspice, raspberry and cherry. The flavors are elegant with a peppery finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.38% **Price:** \$30

87 Waterbrook 2013 Malbec (Columbia Valley). Aromas of green, leafy herbs, plummy blue fruit and woodspices are followed by moderate flavors that show a mix of fruit and barrel. It's a pleasingly varietal wine at the right price. —S.S.
abv: 13.12% **Price:** \$14

CABERNET FRANC

93 Owen Roe 2012 The Pearl Block Union Gap Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). There's no mistaking the variety with this wine's aromas of herbs, dried tobacco, coffee, flowers and cherry. It dazzles with its supple feel and exquisitely balanced cherry flavors that carry off into the distance. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$72

91 Januik 2012 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). Aromas of cocoa, coffee, flowers and herbs lead to a velvety palate that possesses a real sense of texture, flavor and balance. The finish lingers. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

91 Stevens 2012 Stevens Franc Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). Equal parts Dineen and Sheridan vineyard, this 100% varietal wine shows a mixture of dried and fresh herbs, savory notes,

graphite and floral aromas. It's reserved and ultra-polished in feel with a divine sense of texture and plenty of tart acidity. Serve it at the dinner table to see it truly shine. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

90 Browne Family Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). This blends fruit from Force Majeure, Blackrock and Alder Ridge vineyards. Aromas of crushed rock, dried leaves, cherry and barrel spices lead to sweet cherry and chocolate flavors. The oak (58% new French) plays a big part but it works. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$35

90 Dusty Cellars 2013 The Queen Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). Quite light in color, this wine has aromas of green herbs, flowers and cherries. The palate is all about mouthfeel and texture, showing an almost ethereal lightness. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$26

90 Tamarack Cellars 2013 Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). All varietal with most of the fruit coming from Weinbau Vineyard along with pinches from Ciel du Cheval and Taptiel, this wine displays aromas of herb, plum, cherry and barrel spice. The palate shows elegant styling plus richness and balance. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$30

89 Garofalo 2011 Les Collines Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of fresh herbs, tobacco and barrel spices are followed by soft, textured cherry flavors that show a lot of polish. Exploring the variety's more elegant side, it provides perfect accompaniment for the dinner table. —S.S.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$22

89 Revelry 2012 Block 13 Clone 2 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). Light aromas of flowers, dried herbs and barrel spices lead to velvety cherry and chocolate flavors that have a fine sense of presence, but could use a bit more tannic structure to stitch them together. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$52

89 Tranche 2011 Estate Grown Blue Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). It's rare to see a varietal bottling of Franc from this appellation. This one offers aromas of fresh and dried herbs along with cherry, still seeming a bit locked-up. The cherry and raspberry flavors are on the lighter side of medium bodied, trailing toward the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$40

82 Voila! 2013 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). This wine shows aromas of green olive, herbs, flowers and tire rubber. Flavors are sweet with a light spritz and chalky mesquite notes. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$24

SYRAH

96 Cayuse 2012 Bionic Frog Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of dried herbs, green olive, grilled asparagus and smoke lead to intensely concentrated savory flavors with a flat-out dazzling mouthfeel. It's a knockout that overloads the senses. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$95

96 Horsepower 2012 Sur Echolas Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Arresting and perfumed, this wine displays aromas of stargazer lilies, fire pit, tapenade and smoked meat, displaying exquisite nuance and detail. Flavors are intensely rich yet light in their styling, with a savory and floral finish that continues as long as you care to count. It displays a rare sense of delicacy and intensity that is breathtaking. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$115

96 Horsepower 2012 The Tribe Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). An aromatic tour de force, this perfumed wine offers hypnotic notes of flowers, green olive, asparagus, sea breeze, mineral, peat, smoke flowers and an earthy funk, showing layers of complexity. The palate's lithe frame belies the richness of the smoke, fire pit and grilled meat flavors that linger. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$115

95 Cayuse 2012 Armada Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This wine displays a broader fruit profile than The Rocks is often known for, with aromas of plum leading to crushed rock, cracked pepper, olive, herbs and smoked meat. The texture is captivating, both elegant in its styling yet rich, commanding attention with floral notes on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$90

95 Cayuse 2012 En Chamberlain Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Aromatically this wine is not yet entirely ready to reveal its charms, with reserved notes of mineral, smoked meat, olive brine, fire pit, peat and crushed flowers. The generous earth and savory flavors feel rich and full, leading to a lengthy finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$75

95 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 Foothills Reserve Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Locked up tightly on first pour, this wine shows brooding aromas of black pepper, smoked meat, brown stems, olive and herbs. It explodes across the palate with rich yet elegant, nuanced savory flavors that lead to a hyperextended finish. It will be best after 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$65

95 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 In the Hills Estate Foothills in the Sun Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). A wine glass can hardly contain this lightly colored wine's generous aromas of black olive, sea salt, crushed flowers, orange peel,

black pepper, mineral and smoked meat. The smoke and savory flavors display a fascinating mixture of lightness and intensity, leading to a floral finish that seems near endless. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$60

94 Cayuse 2012 Cailloux Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Light in color, this über aromatic wine conveys flowers, black and green olive, mineral, peat and smoke. The palate is all about elegance of expression and texture, with smoked meat and coffee flavors that linger. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$80

94 Cayuse 2012 En Cerise Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of green olive, grilled asparagus, moist peat, mineral and coffee meld with earthy funk. The smoke and savory flavors are lithe yet concentrated, lingering on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$80

94 Côte Bonneville 2012 DuBrul Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). Aromas of dark raspberries, blackberry seed, iron and earth are at the fore on this fruit-focused wine. It offers a dazzling sense of purity and richness along with exceptional balance and an endless finish that kicks it up a notch. The freshness is arresting. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$65

94 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 Stonesense Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The color is light but that's deceptive. Brooding aromas of coffee, smoke, peat, earth, mineral and fire pit lead to lightly styled but rich, focused savory flavors that display both deftness and intensity, with a sense of texture. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$85

94 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 The Tender Estate In the Rocks Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Aromatically dazzling, this wine shows complex notes of smoked meat, fire pit, black olive, peat, crushed flowers and sea breeze. The savory flavors are rich yet light and restrained, with a long, drawn-out finish. It's an impressive wine whose best years are far in front of it. Drink 2020 to 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$75

93 Force Majeure 2012 Collaboration Series III Syrah (Red Mountain). This irrepressible wine has aromas and flavors of coffee, mineral, barrel spice, chocolate and dark raspberries. There's a lot of richness to the flavors but also an impeccable sense of balance, along with some grip to the tannins. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$60

93 Gorman 2012 Black Curtain Reserve Syrah (Red Mountain). Closed up tightly, this wine is not yet entirely ready to reveal its charms. Over time it offers aromas of blackberry, huckleberry, bittersweet chocolate, barrel spices and mineral. True to the house style, it pulls no punches with

creamy feeling, rich black and blue fruit flavors that sail into the distance. Give it time to open up. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

93 No Girls 2012 La Paciencia Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Peat, flower, smoked meat and earthy funk aromas are at the fore. The flavors show a combination of richness and elegance, with smoked meat and olive brine flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$75

93 Owen Roe 2012 Union Gap Syrah (Yakima Valley). This is a dazzler of a wine. Aromas of herbs, coffee, spice and blue and black fruit are expressive but still seem a bit locked up. The sweet, concentrated palate shows mesmerizing texture along with purity and richness, an impeccable sense of balance and a finish that won't quit. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$55

93 Saviah 2012 The Funk Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Blended with 4% Viognier, this is an attention-getting wine with aromas of black olive, nori, brown stems, smoked meat and blue fruit, unmistakably coming from The Rocks District. The layered, supple mouthfeel is where this wine truly struts its stuff with abundant blue fruit and savory flavors. It's a complete knockout. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55

92 Doyenne 2012 Grand Ciel Grand Ciel Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). This intriguing wine brings aromas of cumin, mineral, dry chocolate, barrel spice and dark fruit. It delivers a mouthful of seamless fruit flavors that coat the palate from end to end. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Force Majeure 2012 Estate Syrah (Red Mountain). From this winery's young estate vineyard, this displays aromas of crushed rock, plum, raspberries and herbs along with coffee accents. It's rich and concentrated with layers of red and black fruit flavors. A firm squeeze of grainy tannins could use additional time to unwind. It will be best from 2020 to 2025. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

92 Gorman 2012 Sleeping Giant Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). A new offering from this winery, this pulls no punches with its dense, concentrated flavors of raspberry jam, red apple, peppery spices and huckleberry. It offers a dazzling mouthfeel and an extended finish. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Januik 2012 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). Aromas of baking spices, cocoa, coffee and blue and black fruit lead to rich, textured flavors. The extended finish kicks it up a notch. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

92 Januik 2012 Weinbau Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). A hedonist's delight, this wine is rich and flavorful with notes of dark roasted coffee, bittersweet chocolate and dark fruit. The oak (50% new French) is prominent but plays its part well. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

92 JM Cellars 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This is Syrah co-fermented with Viognier coming from Boushey and Stillwater Creek vineyards. The aromas pop with notes of boysenberry cobbler, orange peel and whiffs of smoked meat, while the palate delivers intensity, flavor and richness. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Lantz 2012 Syrah (Red Mountain). Aromas of raspberry jam, pencil lead and barrel spices are followed by rich, full-bodied fruit flavors that pack a hefty punch. Not for the faint of heart, it shows the power this growing region can bring. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$36

92 McCrea 2009 Cuvée Orleans Syrah (Yakima Valley). The six years this wine has had to stretch its legs have been well spent. It shows appealing aromas of chocolate along with dried and fresh dark fruit that lead to rich, ripe flavors. It's in full bloom and ready to drink. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$40

92 Proper 2013 Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). On first pour, this wine is still in its shell with aromas of huckleberries, dried herbs and plums, with savory notes lurking in the background. It's fleshy in feel with plush, pure blue fruit and smoked meat flavors that linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$NA

92 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 In the Rocks Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of green olive, tapenade, mineral, peat, flowers and earthy funk lead to plum and savory flavors. It's lighter styled and all about elegance of expression, with guava flavors on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Reynvaan Family Vineyards 2012 The Unnamed Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The color is light and the black and green olive, smoked meat and savory aromas are reserved. However, there's an elegant yet rich, captivating feel to the savory flavors that make this wine hard to resist. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Stolen Horse 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This perfumed wine offers aromas of plum, flowers, orange peel, smoked meat and coffee. The blue fruit flavors are soft, focused and rich, lingering on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

91 Corliss Estates 2011 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine smells like a bowl of fresh fruit. Aromas of huckleberries and raspberries mix with dried flowers, orange peel and milk chocolate. It's rich and hedonistic in style, with a velvety texture and a finish that won't quit. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

91 Kontos Cellars 2012 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of vanilla and baking spices take the lead, followed by dark fruit. The palate is all about texture, showing a creamy richness to the fruit and barrel flavors that linger. The oak plays a prominent role but it generally works. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

91 McCrea 2009 Syrah (Yakima Valley). A full six years old, this wine is in a sweet spot, with aromas of fresh and dried blue and red fruit. It's rich in style with plump, luscious fruit flavors. It still has time but it's hard to imagine it could get much better. Drink now. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

91 McCrea 2009 Boushey Grand Cote Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). Already six years old, this is in full bloom, offering aromas of jammy red and black fruit sprinkled with cocoa and iron. Flavors show purity and richness, with barrel influences dialed back. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

91 Novelty Hill 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). The variety is unmistakable, with aromas of coffee, earth and plummy fruit. Rich flavors display a mix of fruit and barrel (45% new French and American), making it a delicious find at this price. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$23

91 Pursued by Bear 2011 Baby Bear Syrah (Columbia Valley). Aromas of vanilla bean, coconut and cocoa meld with cherry cola and dark fruit. The palate has tart, focused cranberry and cherry flavors with a restrained, velvety feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$54

91 Sequel 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This hedonistic wine has aromas of embers, dark coffee, earth, cranberry and blackberry. It coats the palate with supple, concentrated dark fruit flavors showing some heft and grip to the tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Tenor 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). The aromas of blue fruit, fresh lavender, game and herbs are quite reserved at present. The palate offers rich but balanced dark fruit flavors, with floral notes taking over on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$58

91 Tenor 2011 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine commands attention with its aromas of black pepper, dried flowers, asparagus, fresh herbs and

mineral. The potpourri and blue fruit flavors are sweet and rich, carrying some warmth along with them but generally holding it well. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$60

91 Tranche 2011 Estate Grown Blue Mountain Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Brooding aromas of violets, fresh herbs, potpourri, medicinal notes and dark fruit are followed by full-bodied, rich raspberry flavors. It's not for the dinner table but perfect as a cocktail. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

91 Underground Wine Project 2012 Idle Hands Red (Red Mountain). Don't let the Red Wine label fool you. This is 92% Syrah with the balance Cabernet Sauvignon. It provides immediate appeal with its aromas of raspberry, plummy fruit, orange peel and chocolate. The palate has full-bodied, sumptuous flavors that linger. Drink now. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Guardian Cellars 2012 The Informant Syrah (Wahluke Slope). All coming from Stone-Tree Vineyard and aged in half new French oak, this full-throttle wine offers aromas of blackberry jam, cassis and barrel spice. It's rich and high octane, showing some warmth on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Mercer 2012 Reserve Dead Canyon Vineyard Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

90 Novelty Hill 2012 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). There's no denying this wine's appeal with its aromas and flavors of dark fruit, café au lait, earth and herbs. It's restrained yet flavorful, with a lingering, coffee-filled finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

90 Revelry 2012 Weinbau Vineyard Block 19 Syrah (Wahluke Slope). The second of two wines from the same vineyard made from different clones (this one Entav 877), this wine displays aromas of orange peel, mocha, blue fruit and barrel spices showing nuance and detail. It's supple in feel with good concentration to the sweet fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$54

90 Ross Andrew 2010 Old Block Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine provides aromas of iron, red currant, cranberry and herb, along with a rubbing alcohol note that provides a bit of distraction. It's reserved but flavorful, with fruit and savory notes lingering on the tart, extended finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

90 Stevens 2012 Stevens Black Tongue Syrah (Yakima Valley). This wine pops with aromas of orange peel, raspberry, herb and clove. The

jammy fruit flavors are pure in feel and linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

89 Amavi Cellars 2012 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This appealing wine provides aromas of blueberries, mulberry, herbs and cream. Flavors show concentration and intensity, with a touch of bitterness that runs throughout and provides some distraction. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$32

89 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). All coming from Stillwater Creek Vineyard, this leads with aromas of green herbs, dark fruit and milk chocolate. It's hedonistic in style with layers of fruit flavors and tart acids that seem a bit out of place. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$30

89 Tamarack Cellars 2012 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). There are good things going on on this wine, with its aromas of leather and brown spices and sweet fruit flavors. However, they don't quite all seem to come together. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

88 Alleromb 2011 Scarline Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). A brooding wine, this shows aromas of high-toned dark raspberries, woodspices, mineral and bay leaf, with the alcohol poking through. The red plum flavors are full bodied and rich, with grainy tannins backing them up. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$90

88 Goose Ridge 2011 Cellar Select Artist Series Dan Ostergaard Estate Bottled Syrah (Columbia Valley). Aromas of vanilla, coconut and clove mix with dark fruit and black pepper on this fruit-and-barrel-style wine. It's full bodied and high octane, needing more fruit intensity to balance it out. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$42

88 Gordon Estate 2013 Estate Grown Syrah (Columbia Valley). Aromas of orange peel, blue fruit, flowers and dried herbs are appealing and direct. The flavors and feel are elegant, showing freshness and acidity. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$21

88 Lookout Point 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). All Syrah coming from Lonesome Spring Ranch Vineyard, this wine has aromas of violets, green wood and blue fruit. It's sweet and concentrated with a green, woody edge. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$32

88 Revelry 2012 Weinbau Vineyard Block 18 Syrah (Wahluke Slope). One of two wines from the same vineyard, a block apart with different clones (this one Entav 179), this all-varietal bottling features notes of orange peel and flowers mixing with jammy fruit and mocha. The plum flavors

show pleasing purity and freshness, lingering on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$56

88 Telaya 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This well-made wine has appealing aromas of milk chocolate, coffee and plum. The style is lighter, with the concentration not seeming quite all there, but it still provides plenty of appeal with its elegance. Put it at the dinner table to see it at its best. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

87 Boomtown 2013 Syrah (Columbia Valley). The plush-feeling plum and blue fruit flavors provide much of the appeal on this pleasant, easy-drinking wine. Aromas of tar and berry provide accents. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$19

87 Boudreaux Cellars 2011 Wallula Vineyard Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). This unusual wine offers aromas of nori, dried flowers, bittersweet chocolate and cherry cola. It's full flavored with a lightly tacky feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

87 Helix by Reininger 2011 Syrah (Columbia Valley). Blue fruit, herbs and brown spices vie for attention. The palate brings lighter-styled yet still generous-feeling fruit flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$31

87 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Syrah (Red Mountain). This wine doesn't entirely seem in harmony with aromas of tire rubber, coffee ice cream, herbs and barrel spice. The dark fruit flavors have a full feel but a bitter note that runs from head to tail distracts. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Dussek Family Cellars 2012 Syrah (Columbia Valley). The oak is far out front, with this wine's aromas of Mounds Bar and green wood followed by raisinated fruit. Dark chocolate and cherry flavors are lighter in style with the concentration a bit wanting. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

86 Lagana 2013 Minnick Hills Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This is an aromatically brooding wine with notes of herbs, pepper and brown spices. It drinks quite sweet with a lightly chalky feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

86 Voila! 2013 Syrah (Washington). With fruit coming from the Ancient Lakes appellation, this pungent wine has aromas of flowers, tire rubber, berries and herbs. The floral and plum flavors are sweet with a plush feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

85 Hard Row To Hoe 2012 Reserve Syrah (Lake Chelan). This wine is aromatically reticent

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with cocoa, berry, brown spices and light volatile notes. The palate is medium bodied with a thick feel and cranberry-like tartness. —S.S.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

85 Kennedy Shah 2012 Reserve Syrah (Yakima Valley). The oak (85% new French) is at the fore on this wine. Aromas and flavors of coffee, butterscotch and woodspice head out in front of dark fruit that doesn't have the heft to match it. —S.S.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$42

84 Hard Row To Hoe 2012 Syrah (Lake Chelan). Light volatile notes distract from the aromas. It's a shame because the tart dark cherry flavors provide plenty of enjoyment. —S.S.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

GRENACHE

97 Horsepower 2012 Sur Echelas Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.1% Price: \$115

96 Cayuse 2012 God Only Knows Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). It takes some time to open up but when it does, this wine reveals perfumed aromas of potpourri, green olive, savory spices, peat, pepper and mineral. The palate is equal parts light and dense with almost chewy, savory flavors that won't quit. —S.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$90

94 No Girls 2012 La Piedad Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). Quite lightly colored, this wine displays perfumed aromas of green and black olive, stargazer lilies, mineral, peat and moist earth. The flavors are both ethereally light and rich, tingling the palate with seemingly endless savoriness. —S.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$75

92 Sparkman 2013 Wonderland Grenache (Yakima Valley). Aromas of tobacco, dried herbs and strawberry are followed by focused, creamy-feeling raspberry and cranberry flavors. It shows a real sense of purity but the mouthfeel is where it truly shines. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$32

91 Novelty Hill 2012 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Grenache (Columbia Valley). The oak (50% new French) plays a big part in this show, with aromas of coffee and pencil lead alongside the variety's strawberries and herbs. It's supple and pillowy in feel with a high yum factor. —S.S.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$28

88 Lantz 2013 Grenache Noir (Walla Walla Valley). Despite its light color, this wine's aromas pop with notes of flowers, orange peel, red currant and earth. Grapes largely come from River Rock Vineyard. The fruit flavors are light and deli-

cate with the oak pulled way back. It's a very pretty expression of the variety. —S.S.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$29

88 McCrea 2009 Grenache (Yakima Valley). Volatility interferes with the otherwise pleasing mixture of fruit and barrel, with notes of raspberry jam, fresh and dried fruit and vanilla. Flavors are quite sweet and ripe, showing a hedonistic styling. Drink now. —S.S.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$28

SANGIOVESE

91 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 7.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$25

90 Novelty Hill 2012 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). Although this wine only saw 35% new French oak, the wood plays prominently, with aromas of toast and spice out in front of cherry and raspberry. The supple feel is where this wine shines, adding multiple layers to the concentrated flavors. —S.S.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$28

87 Cana's Feast 2012 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Sangiovese Grosso (Columbia Valley). Coming from one of the state's most esteemed vineyards, this wine offers aromas of assorted dried herbs, tobacco and glue. The cherry, herb and plum flavors have good depth, with the tannins providing some heft. —S.S.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

87 Helix by Reininger 2010 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). This wine brings aromas of toast, dried herbs, dark raspberries and cranberries. It's silky in texture, with the concentration a bit wanting. It doesn't seem entirely varietal but it still provides enjoyment. —S.S.

abv: 13.2% Price: \$30

85 Cana's Feast 2012 Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). Dried herb, tobacco, plum and woodspice aromas are followed by tart cranberry and cherry flavors that have a lick of dry tannins behind them. There's plenty of interest but this wine needs food to combat the tannins. —S.S.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

83 Westport Winery 2012 Smoky Nor'wester Red Willow Vineyard Red (Yakima Valley). Mostly Sangiovese, this wine appears to have seen some oxygen exposure that interferes with its blue fruit and herb aromas. It drinks quite sweet with a mixture of chocolate and cherry flavors. —S.S.

abv: 14% Price: \$26

ZINFANDEL

88 Angel Vine 2012 Zinfandel (Columbia Valley). There's no question of the variety of this wine with its notes of raspberry jam, plum and

herbs. It's full bodied with a mixture of fruit and spice flavors, running hot on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$20

87 Angel Vine 2012 Les Collines Vineyard Zinfandel (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of tire rubber mix with herbs, red fruit, plum and allspice. Candied red fruit flavors are plump in feel, trailing on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$24

86 Cana's Feast 2013 Northridge Vineyard Primativo (Columbia Valley). This wine doesn't seem to have fully ripened, with green, reedy aromas along with notes of cranberry and cherry Jolly Rancher. The full-bodied palate delivers more but seems disconnected with tart, tangy cranberry flavors. —S.S.

abv: NA Price: \$30

PINOT NOIR

88 Voila! 2012 Pinot Noir (Columbia Valley). Pale in color, this wine shows perfumed aromas of potpourri, wild strawberries and smoke. The palate reveals mesquite and juicy berry flavors that show a lot of delicacy and restraint. —S.S.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$22

86 Lagana 2013 Breezy Slope Vineyard Pinot Noir (Walla Walla Valley). Grown in the southern section of the valley in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, this rare varietal bottling from this appellation shows aromas of cranberry, raspberry and citrus, along with some hints of oxidation. It's tart and full in feel, not seeming entirely varietally correct. —S.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

84 Jacob Williams 2012 Underwood Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). This moderately colored wine offers an unusual assortment of cherry, smoke, green wood and medicinal notes. The strawberry, cranberry and mesquite flavors are elegant, with a chalky feel. —S.S.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$28

RED BLENDS

94 Alleromb 2012 La Gran Flor Scarline Vineyard (Columbia Valley). This wine is an unusual blend of 60% Malbec and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of tar, fresh dark plum, flowers and herbs lead to flavorful blue fruit and cherry notes. A sense of purity, texture and balance captures the attention. Give it plenty of time to open up. —S.S.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$80

94 Betz Family 2012 Clos de Betz (Columbia Valley). Just over two-thirds Merlot with the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and a pinch of Petit Verdot, this thoroughly delicious wine opens with a complex assortment of aromas, including incense, toast, crushed flowers, spice, bay leaf, licorice and red and black fruit. The palate is deft but brings

waves of layered fruit flavors that show great density and richness. It's hedonistic but doesn't sacrifice one iota of balance. It drinks best at 62 degrees. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$57

94 Côte Bonneville 2009 Carriage House DuBrul Vineyard (Yakima Valley). An arresting blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (62%), Merlot (27%) and Cabernet Franc, it displays purity with its herb, bay leaf, earth and cherry flavors. The exquisite balance is where this wine really shines, winning over on its elegance, detail and length rather than power. It shows first-class fruit and exceptional winemaking. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

94 Côte Bonneville 2008 DuBrul Vineyard Red (Yakima Valley). Just about two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Merlot, this delivers complex aromas of blackberry, raspberry, earth, licorice and barrel spice. There's a mesmerizing sense of freshness, richness and concentration to the fruit and earth flavors along with a purity that commands attention. Just a baby now, it has decades in front of it. It will be best from 2020 to 2026. **Cellar Selection.** —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$120

93 Alleromb 2012 Cuvée B (Columbia Valley). Holding 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, this wine leads with inviting aromas of blackberries, dark cherries and tar, showing a fresh, fruit-forward profile. The dense fruit flavors deliver on all of this promise with layers of complexity, spot-on balance and good length. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

93 Cayuse 2012 Camespelo (Walla Walla Valley). There's no other area this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (84%) and Merlot could come from than The Rocks. Wafting aromas of earth, mineral, green leaves and funk accent the variety's dried herb. It's soft in feel with elegant tannins and abundant savory flavors, simultaneously distinctive and delicious. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$75

93 Corliss Estates 2010 Red (Columbia Valley). This blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot saw 31 months in French oak and another two years in bottle prior to release. There's plenty of detail to the concentrated coffee, cherry, graphite and blackberry aromas and flavors that reflect perfect balance. It's drinking exquisitely now but has a long life in front of it. It will be best from 2020–2026. **Cellar Selection.** —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

93 DeLille 2012 Harrison Hill (Snipes Mountain). Coming from some of the oldest vines in the state, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot is all about elegance of expression and nuance. Lighter in color, it offers aromas of raspberry, cherry, herb

and graphite that lead to focused coffee, cranberry and earth flavors. The restraint and balance are pitch perfect. It will be best 2019–2026. **Cellar Selection.** —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Cuvée Arlette (Columbia Valley). Merlot (47.5%) and Cabernet Franc (35.5%) make up the majority of this blend along with Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Aromas of coffee, cranberry, herbs, pencil lead and butterscotch lead to rich, textured sweet fruit and barrel flavors that linger. It displays balance throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Matthews 2012 Claret (Columbia Valley). This wine is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot, 5% Syrah, 3% Malbec and 3% Petit Verdot. It displays fruit-forward aromas of blackberry seed, plum, asphalt and spice. The flavors are dense, focused and layered, showing depth, purity and texture. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Tenor 2011 2:2 (Columbia Valley). This wine is 35% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Franc, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Malbec. It brings a whole lot of appeal with its aromas of coffee, woodspice, blackberries and dark cherries. The palate shows a mixture of grace and power and the finish won't quit. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

92 Bunchgrass 2012 The Bard (Walla Walla Valley). A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Malbec, this lightly colored wine offers aromas of wild strawberries, coffee, tobacco and incense, showing pleasing purity and nuance. It's light yet palate coating, possessing a mesmerizing texture along with an assortment of fruit and savory flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Cana's Feast 2012 Mountain Cuvée (Columbia Valley). Though not labeled as such, this is truly a Red Mountain wine with all of the fruit coming from Ciel du Cheval and Taptiel vineyards. A blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot, it shows a mixture of fruit and barrel. Flavors of herbs, plum, oak spices and black currant offer impressive density and finish with a tart lick of acidity. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Cayuse 2012 Flying Pig (Walla Walla Valley). Merlot (48%) blends with Cabernet Franc (40%) and Cabernet Sauvignon on this earth-laden wine. Aromas of funk, earth, peat, savory herbs and dark flowers lead to soft, sweet, smoky flavors. The texture and richness keep the interest high. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$90

92 Chester Kidder 2011 Red (Columbia Valley). A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Syrah and 7% Petit Verdot, this wine saw 30

months in barrel. Aromas of blackberry, licorice, herb, dark coffee and earth are primary and lead to full-bodied flavors that persist on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

92 Columbia Crest 2012 Reserve Coyote Canyon Vineyard Red (Horse Heaven Hills). Smelling like a fresh bowl of fruit, this blend of co-fermented Syrah (73%), Grenache (20%) and Viognier provides pure aromas of blueberries, raspberries, smoked meat, fresh flowers and orange peel. The oak (30% new French) is dialed back, letting the fresh, light and appealing texture and sweet fruit flavors shine. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

92 Corvus 2011 Syrah-Petite Sirah (Red Mountain). Made with 57% Syrah and 43% Petit Sirah, this aromatic brooder offers aromas of cherry, dried herbs, baking spices and freshly tilled soil. The flavors are full bodied, rich, layered and tightly coiled, needing extended time in the cellar or a day-long decant to show their best. Drink after 2021. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

92 DeLille 2012 Chaleur Estate (Red Mountain). More than 75% of this wine comes from Ciel du Cheval vineyard, with the rest from Upchurch. A blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it's reserved at present, with light aromas of woodspice, coffee, assorted dried herbs and mineral. The cherry and casis flavors show a mixture of richness and restraint, persisting on the finish along with enough tannins to go the distance. It will be best 2022–2027. **Cellar Selection.** —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

92 Force Majeure 2012 Collaboration Series VI Red (Red Mountain). This blend of 55% Mourvèdre, 39% Syrah and 6% Grenache comes from Syncline winemaker James Mantone. It brings generous aromas of white pepper, herbs, mulberry jam and dried tobacco. The palate packs a hefty punch with über rich, dense fruit flavors that coat the palate from end to end, leading to a warm, tart finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

92 Goose Ridge 2010 Sol Duc Estate Meritage (Columbia Valley). Near equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with the rest Malbec and Petit Verdot, this wine saw 28 months in French oak. It offers aromas of herbs, baking spices, vanilla and fresh and dried cherries. The rich red and black fruit flavors are starting to show some age but the wine still has plenty of life in front of it. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2012 Ferguson Vineyard Estate Grown Red (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 6. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2012 Perigee Seven Hills Vineyard Estate Grown Red (Walla Walla Valley).

This is just over half Cabernet Sauvignon, with the balance Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. The aromas of herb, barrel spice, black cherry and coffee need time to reveal themselves fully. The dark cherry and blackberry flavors show richness and polish. Give it an extended decant if opening in the near term but it will be worth it. It will be best from 2020 to 2027. **Cellar Selection.** —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

92 Matthews 2011 Reserve Red (Columbia Valley).

This Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend shows aromas of blackberry, red and black currant and barrel spices (100% new French), seeming a bit wound up at present. The fruit and barrel flavors are elegant yet rich with a polished, seamless feel and a warm finish. —S.S.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$70

92 Pirouette 2012 Red (Columbia Valley).

This wine is Cabernet Sauvignon (63%) blended with Merlot (19%), Petit Verdot (12%) and Cabernet Franc. Aromas of black cherry, herbs, cranberries and dry chocolate are reserved while the palate offers hedonistic fruit flavors, with lightly dry tannins that hopefully will smooth out with additional time in the cellar. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$55

92 Saggi 2012 Red (Columbia Valley).

A blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, this brings out the best of each of them with beguiling aromas of barrel spice, cranberry, raspberry and herb. The fruit flavors are rich and full bodied. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$45

92 Saviah 2011 Big Sky Cuvée (Columbia Valley).

A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec, this wine all comes from Stillwater Creek Vineyard. The aromas of vanilla, dried herb, plum and black cherry are brooding. It's palate coating and velvety in feel, showing richness and elegance to the sensuous plum and coffee flavors. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$35

91 Alleromb 2012 Cuvée R (Columbia Valley).

This wine is 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache. Jammy aromas of red and blue fruit are followed by a plush, flavorful palate that shows a pleasing sense of balance and length with a raspberry-filled finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

91 Alleromb 2011 Red (Columbia Valley).

Two-thirds Grenache and one-third Syrah, this wine has intriguing aromas of white pepper, earthy funk, garrigue and berry. It's full bodied with the oak (33% new French) dialed back, putting the focus on the rich red and black fruit flavors. —S.S.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$72

91 Cavatappi 2012 San Pietro Tuscan Style Red (Columbia Valley).

A blend of Sangiovese (38%), Merlot (31%) and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine displays each in turn with aromas and flavors of dried herbs, coffee, tobacco and cherry. The style is reserved, with plenty of fruit and acid but subtle oak—perfect for the dinner table. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$23

91 Cayuse 2012 The Lovers (Walla Walla Valley).

This wine rises up from the glass with an earthy funk, dried herbs, black pepper, cherry, smoke and mineral, showing complexities and detail. The palate is restrained yet rich, with savory flavors that linger. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$90

91 DeLille 2012 D2 Red (Columbia Valley).

This blend of Merlot (50%), Cabernet Sauvignon (42.2%), Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot is somewhat lighter in color, with reserved aromas of woodspice, coffee, café au lait, cherry and herbs. The flavors are rich yet restrained in style, with firm tannins and a lingering finish. Best after 2020. —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$49

91 Dusted Valley 2013 Squirrel Tooth Alice (Wahluke Slope).

A blend of 37% Syrah, 32% Grenache, 26% Mourvèdre and 5% Petit Sirah, this wine shows aromas of wild blueberries, garrigue and flowers, conveying purity. It's full bodied, with ripe blue fruit flavors that lead to a warm finish. —S.S.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$39

91 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Artisan Blend (Walla Walla Valley).

Mostly Cabernet Sauvignon (70%) with the balance Merlot (25%) and Malbec, this blend is aromatically reserved with notes of cocoa, dried herbs, green pepper, tobacco and dark cherries. It coats the palate with sweet dark fruit flavors with lightly gritty tannins providing the frame. —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$36

91 Goose Ridge 2010 Vireo (Columbia Valley).

The oak, a mixture of French, American and eastern European, provides aromas of baking spices, pencil lead and cocoa on this blend of Syrah, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The plum, dark fruit and cranberry flavors play along beautifully, with the silky feel adding to the appeal. —S.S.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$35

91 Guardian Cellars 2012 Chalk Line (Columbia Valley).

This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot starts out with aromas of dark coffee, toast, blackberry, fresh herbs and barrel spices (53% new French). It pulls no punches with rich blackberry and cherry flavors. —S.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$24

91 J. Bookwalter 2013 Suspense Conner-Lee Vineyard (Columbia Valley).

Freshly brewed coffee, green herbs, graphite and dark fruit aromas leap up from this blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. The flavors are sweet, with a soft, lush feel. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$60

91 Kontos Cellars 2011 Alatus Blend (Walla Walla Valley).

Principally Cabernet Sauvignon, this also holds with Merlot, Malbec and Syrah. The coolness of the vintage shows through with aromas of dried and fresh savory herbs along with coffee, licorice and dark fruit. The palate is equal parts elegant and flavorful, with supple fruit notes that glide. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$36

91 L'Ecole No. 41 2012 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley).

The aromas of tobacco leaf, herbs, milk chocolate, vanilla and dark cherries are generous on this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. The flavors are equal part rich and restrained, with a delightful sense of balance along with a light grip of tannins. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

91 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Cuvée Estelle (Columbia Valley).

A blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, this wine offers generous aromas of café au lait, butterscotch, blackberry, herb and barrel spice. Flavors are focused and rich, backed by lightly dry tannins. The finish lingers. —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$40

91 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Proprietor's Cuvée (Columbia Valley).

Made with 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 10% Malbec and 3% Petit Verdot, this lightly colored wine offers aromas of freshly brewed coffee, cocoa and herbs. Flavors are elegant yet concentrated, with black fruit on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$50

91 Nine Hats 2012 Red Wine (Columbia Valley).

For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$25

91 Pepper Bridge 2012 Seven Hills Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley).

This compelling blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (49%), Merlot (27%), Cabernet Franc (19%) and Petit Verdot provides aromas of coffee, mocha, sautéed herbs, cherry and woodspice. The flavors are rich and focused, backed by chewy, slightly dry tannins. It needs significant time in the cellar to show itself and will be best after 2021. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$60

91 Saviah 2012 G-S-M (Columbia Valley).

With the blend consisting of 40% Grenache and equal parts Syrah and Mourvèdre, this wine hails from Lonesome Spring, Watermill and Sugarloaf

vineyards. Aromas of milk chocolate, herbs, plum and peppery spices lead to a textured palate with a luxurious feel. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$38

91 Stevens 2012 Stevens424 Red (Yakima Valley). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec, this wine exudes complex aromas of leafy herbs, pencil lead, black licorice, citrus peel and dark cherries. On the palate, the blue and red fruit flavors are front and center, well framed by lively acidity and lick of tannins. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$36

91 Tamarack Cellars 2011 Ciel du Cheval Reserve Red (Red Mountain). Cabernet Sauvignon (42%) takes the lead with the rest equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Aromas of dried herbs, flowers, graphite and dark fruit lead to supple, layered dark fruit flavors back by the grip of dry tannins. Drink now. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$50

91 Tamarack Cellars 2011 Sagemoor Vineyards Reserve Red (Columbia Valley). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (67%), Merlot (22%) and Cabernet Franc draws you in with aromas of dark coffee, dried herbs, medicine cabinet and dark cherry. The sweet flavors are layered and tightly wound, with tart acidity and lightly gritty tannins stitching it all together. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$50

91 Tranche 2011 Slice of Pape (Columbia Valley). A Southern Rhône-style blend, this wine shows aromas of cranberry, raspberry, fresh herbs and peppery spices. The flavors show purity, richness and restraint, with a finish that lingers. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$35

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2012 Bello Rosso Cabernet Sauvignon-Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). An equal split of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon from Bacchus and Kiona vineyards, this generous wine has aromas and flavors of chocolate-covered cherries and leather. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$38

90 14 Hands 2012 Limited Release Kentucky Derby Red (Columbia Valley). Comprised of 62% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Syrah, this wine brings aromas of coffee, herbs and dark fruit. The fruit and barrel flavors are candy-bar sweet but still retain a sense of deftness. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

90 Angel Vine 2012 The Hellion (Columbia Valley). This blend of Primitivo (43%), Petite Sirah (28%) and Zinfandel offers aromas of blackberry jam, plum, dried fruit and baking spices. It's

full bodied and palate coating with high-octane fruit flavors that linger. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$24

90 Forgeron 2012 Façon Rouge Boushey Vineyard (Yakima Valley). Equal parts Syrah and Grenache with 30% Mourvèdre blended in, this wine offers aromas of green herbs and cherry along with pepper and woodspice. The flavors are supple in feel, gliding on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

90 Goose Ridge 2011 First Flight Estate Bottled Red (Columbia Valley). Two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon with the balance near-equal parts Merlot and Syrah, this wine displays aromas of vanilla bean and baking spices along with cherry and fruit leather. Flavors mingle fruit and barrel, with spice lingering on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$22

90 Helix by Reininger 2012 SoRhô (Columbia Valley). Holding 42% Mourvèdre, 31% Cinsault and 27% Grenache, this full-bodied wine has aromas of peppery spices, herbs and jammy red and black fruit. Flavors are sweet and ripe, with restrained oak. —S.S.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$36

90 Kontos Cellars 2011 Brynnan Red (Walla Walla Valley). This reserve-style blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (50%), Syrah (20%), Merlot (20%) and Malbec comes from Summit View and Les Collines vineyards. The dark cherry, herb, vanilla and plum aromas lead to silky fruit flavors that show restraint and polish. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$50

90 Lookout Point NV Tableau Red (Washington). A blend of 40% Cabernet Franc and 40% Malbec, with the balance Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this appealing offering has aromas of vanilla, woodspice, raspberry and black tea. The cranberry and cherry flavors are restrained in feel, with tart acids that carry through the cranberry-filled finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$24

90 Matthews 2012 Blackboard (Columbia Valley). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Syrah, this wine offers aromas of dark plums, blackberry, dark chocolate and asphalt, with floral and spice top notes. The fruit flavors are sweet and approachable, backed by lightly chalky tannins. —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$30

90 Matthews 2011 Claret (Columbia Valley). The oak shows prominently on this blend of Merlot (68%), Cabernet Sauvignon (21%), Malbec (7%), Petit Verdot (3%) and Cabernet Franc. It leads with notes of barrel spices, green herbs and blackberry. The palate is full and rich, with dry tannins that need time to stretch their legs. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

90 McCrea 2009 Sirocco (Yakima Valley). A blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cunoise, this wine brings an intriguing assortment of red and blue jammy fruit, herbs, cranberry and peppery spices. Reflective of the warm vintage it comes from, it's ripe, full bodied and in a sweet spot. Drink now. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$28

89 Pepper Bridge 2012 Trine (Walla Walla Valley). This is the first offering of this wine where Cabernet Franc (37%) takes the lead, blended with Cabernet Sauvignon (27%), Merlot (23%), Malbec (7%) and Petit Verdot. It's drinking young now, with wound-up herbs, cherry, chocolate and cranberry flavors backed by firm, gripping tannins. It will be best after 2021. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$65

89 Reininger 2011 Mr. Owl's Red (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of Bing cherry, herbs, earth and exotic spices tussle a bit on this blend of Sangiovese (55%), Cabernet Sauvignon (27%), Merlot and Syrah from Seven Hills and Stillwater Creek vineyards. Flavors are generous yet reserved, with a seamless feel and zippy acids stitching it together, followed by bitters on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$34

89 Tenor 2010 1:1 (Columbia Valley). This wine is 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc and 9% Malbec from Hedges Estate, Red Mountain, Stillwater and Weinbau vineyards. It's youthful at present, with aromas of woodspice, coffee, blackberry and graphite. The palate displays muscular fruit flavors surrounded by a framework of dry, chewy tannins. —S.S.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$98

88 Bunchgrass 2011 Founder's Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This wine is 55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot. Light aromas of herbs, tobacco, flowers and cherries lead to sweet, elegantly styled fruit flavors. It's a well-made wine from a challenging vintage. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$30

88 Bunchgrass 2011 Triolet (Walla Walla Valley). Comprised of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, this wine shows aromas of herbs, pencil lead, flowers and cherry, with light meaty notes. There's an elegance to the plum and cherry flavors along with a supple feel. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$30

88 Cana's Feast 2012 Joie de Vivre (Columbia Valley). Syrah (55%) along with a dollop of seldom-seen Cunoise (28%) makes up the majority of this wine, with the rest Grenache and Mourvèdre. It's aromatically quite reserved, with notes of blue fruit, dried herb and baking spice. The palate is full with concentrated plum and berry flavors, finishing a bit short. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$30

88 Columbia Crest 2012 Grand Estates Red Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 11. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

88 Columbia Winery 2012 Limited Release Element (Wahluke Slope). Merlot dominant with a balance of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine shows aromas of vanilla, coconut and jammy red and black fruit, with the alcohol poking through. The fruit flavors feel supple, backed by gritty tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$36

88 Den Hoed 2011 Marie's View Wallula Vineyard (Horse Heaven Hills). The volatiles are amped up on this wine along with aromas of fruit leather and cherry cough drops. It's full bodied with firm, chewy tannins that need time to soften. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

88 Foundry Vineyards 2012 Foundry Red (Walla Walla Valley). A blend of Syrah (40%), Merlot (30%), Malbec (16) and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is dark in color, with aromas of plum, chocolate, orange peel and peppery spices. Flavors are soft and full, bringing appeal at a seldom-seen in this appellation. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$18

88 Gravel Bar 2013 Alluvial Red (Columbia Valley). This wine is principally Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with the balance other Bordeaux varieties. Aromas of clove, sweet plum, vanilla and tire rubber lead to sweet, palate-coating blueberry and smoke flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

88 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2012 Cuvée Mirabelle (Columbia Valley). This blend of near-equal parts Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre hails from Den Hoed and Ambassador vineyards. Aromas of herbs and tire rubber are somewhat uneasy, but lead to dense, layered cherry and blackberry flavors that make up for them. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

88 Sparkman 2013 Kindred Red (Columbia Valley). This blend of 42% Malbec, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot offers aromas of carob, plum, barrel spices, anise and herbs. It's light but fleshy in feel with abundant blue fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

88 Waterbrook 2013 Mélange Red Varietal Blend (Columbia Valley). This kitchen-sink blend is fruit forward with aromas of raspberry jam and plum along with pencil lead and vanilla accents. Flavors are sweet and generous, with a rounded feel and a lingering finish. It drinks best at a cool 62. —S.S.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$14

87 :Nota Bene 2011 Miscela (Columbia Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon (66%) takes the lead on this Bordeaux-style blend, followed by Cabernet Franc (16%), Merlot (12%) and Malbec. Aromas of anise, dried herbs, dried cherries and tomato leaf are followed by lighter-styled medicinal flavors that linger. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$25

87 Revelry 2012 The Reveler (Columbia Valley). All five Bordeaux varieties are represented in this wine that leads with light aromas of raspberry, cola and medicine cabinet. The blue fruit flavors are quite sweet, with chalky tannins providing support. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$20

87 Voila! 2012 Cashmere Red (Columbia Valley). Lighter in color, this blend of Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc and Syrah has aromas and flavors of mesquite smoke, strawberry and cherry, with the Pinot seemingly in the lead. The smoky flavors are medium bodied, with a light grip of chalky tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

87 Waterbrook 2012 Mélange Red Varietal Blend (Columbia Valley). This kitchen sink-style blend is made up of Cabernet Sauvignon (32%), Merlot (25%), Grenache (12%), Malbec (10%) and several other varieties. It's fruit forward, with aromas of raspberry jam, herbs and plum. Flavors are lightly sweet, with restrained but rich flavors and a light grip of tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

86 James Wyatt 2013 Untamed Cuvée (Yakima Valley). This lightly colored wine blends Grenache (43%), Syrah (32%) and Mourvèdre. It brings aromas of red raspberries, currant and flowers. The palate is fresh and lighter in style, with the emphasis on fruit. —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

86 Kennedy Shah 2012 La Vie en Rouge (Columbia Valley). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Syrah shows a somewhat uneasy mix of woodspice, green herb and cherry aromas. Flavors are pleasant, lighter in style and easy drinking, with a refreshing finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$14

86 :Nota Bene 2011 Ciel du Cheval Red (Red Mountain). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this offers aromas of raisinated cherries, herbs, bittersweet chocolate and a whiff of barnyard. Medicinal flavors are backed by chalky tannins. —S.S.
abv: 14.71% Price: \$40

86 :Nota Bene 2011 Dineen Vineyard Red (Yakima Valley). This wine is 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Cabernet Franc. It shows aromas of green herbs, raisinated red fruit and raspber-

ry. The cherry cola flavors are lighter in style, with a firm squeeze of tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.28% Price: \$35

86 Wild Meadows 2012 Red Beauty (Columbia Valley). Lighter in color, this Syrah (83%)-dominated blend shows aromas of dehydrated blueberries, milk chocolate, black olive and plum. The blue fruit flavors are lightly sweet, with some residual sugar holding it together. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

85 Jacob Williams NV Sadie Red (Columbia Valley). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet Franc, this nonvintage wine displays aromas of vanilla, green pepper, woodspice and herbs. The sweet chocolate and cherry flavors are accented by light meaty notes. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

84 Barnard Griffin NV Blend 31 Cabernet-Merlot (Columbia Valley). Herb, medicine cabinet, leather and dried cherry aromas precede an unusual mixture of sweet and tangy flavors. It all creates a somewhat uneasy mix in the glass. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$14

OTHER RED WINES

91 Reininger 2012 Seven Hills Vineyard Carménère (Walla Walla Valley). Though it's a niche variety in the state, Carménère has always been a flagship wine for this winery. This one is all varietal, with aromas of herbs, freshly cut green and jalapeño peppers. It coats the palate with dark fruit and savory flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$51

91 Saviah 2012 Tempranillo (Walla Walla Valley). This compelling wine comes largely from The Rocks District. Seeing just a kiss of new French oak (25%), it offers exquisitely fresh, rich aromas and flavors, with notes of plum, pipe tobacco, leather and earthy funk. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$38

90 Dusted Valley 2012 Stone Tree Petite Sirah (Wahluke Slope). A signature variety for this winery, this bottling includes 20% Syrah. It offers appealing aromas of jammy blue fruit, dried herbs and milk chocolate. It's high octane, with sweet barrel notes and chewy tannins. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$42

90 Januik 2012 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Petit Verdot (Red Mountain). Brooding aromas of dried flowers, vanilla, cocoa, fresh herbs and potting soil lead to cherry flavors, tightly wound tannins and tart acids. It will stand up to the biggest steak. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$35

89 McCrea 2010 Mourvèdre (Yakima Valley). Aromas of vanilla and baking spices are out

in front of fruit leather, herbs and peppery spices. Flavors are exceptionally sweet and ripe, lingering on the finish. Drink now. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$28

87 Cavatappi 2008 Maddelena Nebbiolo (Columbia Valley). This wine offers aromas of leather, maraschino cherries, rose petal and medicine cabinet. It shows a bit of its age but still has time, with grainy tannins and soy flavors propping it up. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$26

87 McCrea 2010 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cunoise (Red Mountain). This rare varietal bottling has lightly volatile aromas of Dimetap, raspberries, woodspice and herbs. Cranberry, raspberry and rose-hip flavors are full bodied and show purity. Drink now. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$32

86 Kennedy Shah 2011 Tempranillo (Columbia Valley). Somewhat lighter in color, this wine has aromas of dried tobacco, coffee, vanilla and purple flowers. The orange peel and cranberry flavors are elegant, backed by soft tannins and citrusy acids. —S.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$20

NEW YORK

PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO

91 Channing Daughters 2012 Ramato Pinot Grigio (Long Island). Like rose gold in a glass, this skin-fermented Pinot Gris glimmers with complexity. Aged in a combination of French and Slovenian oak, it's lavishly aromatic, penetrating the palate with tones of potpourri and spice, citrus rind and smoked tea leaves. Tart tangerine acidity lends vibe and refreshment through a long, long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$24

89 Channing Daughters 2013 Pinot Grigio (Long Island). Intensely concentrated and nuanced with oak, spice and citrus rind, there's a whole lot more than insipid quaffing in store for this Pinot Grigio. Lithe, lean and deeply mineral in style, it's a wine meant for slow sipping and pondering. —A.I.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

89 Sheldrake Point 2014 Pinot Gris (Finger Lakes). Lusciously round and rich on the palate, this silken Pinot Gris balances bright apple and pear flavors against a crisp, mineral edge. A whiff of lavender carries through a moderately long, but perfumed finish. —A.I.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$16

87 Hosmer 2013 Pinot Gris (Cayuga Lake). Earthy, musky notes lend a savory complexity to this bold, richly bodied Pinot Gris. Dry in style,

it juxtaposes crisp white grapefruit and lime flavors against hints of smoked nuts. The finish is brisk and mineral. —A.I.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$16

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Channing Daughters 2014 Mudd Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Long Island). An intoxicating whiff of musky floral perfume persists throughout this bright, full-bodied Sauvignon Blanc. Gooseberry and white grapefruit flavors are tart and crisp, gaining plushness through the addition of Chardonnay in the blend. Elegant and substantial in mouth feel, it finishes long. —A.I.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

90 Paumanok 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). This bright, citrusy Sauvignon Blanc is full of mouthwatering grapefruit and lemon flavors. It's delicately framed, yet cutting and spry with a mineral-tinged backbone that begs for pairing with oysters and other briny seafood. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$24

90 Raphael 2014 First Label Sauvignon Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). Bristling grapefruit pith and gooseberry notes are concentrated and crisp on this bright, punchy Sauvignon Blanc. While delicate in body, partial skin contact seems to lend richness to palate, freshened by swathes of herb and orange blossom on the finish. —A.I.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$28

90 Wölffer 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Long Island). Musk and herbal tones dissipate with air, revealing layers upon layers of plush white melon and peach flavors. It's dry and refreshing, cut with a spray of lime, but there's a plumpness in mouthfeel that lingers long on the finish. —A.I.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

89 Bedell 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). Intensely ripe gooseberry and white grapefruit flavors are cut by a razor's edge of acidity in this juicy, bracing Sauvignon Blanc. Fermented using indigenous yeasts, it's brisk on the finish, ending on a distinctly saline, mineral tone. —A.I.

abv: 11.8%

Price: \$40

88 Raphael 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). A distinctly musky note mingles amidst pretty orange blossom and grapefruit on this dainty, but surprisingly complex Sauvignon Blanc. Mouthwatering acidity yields a brisk but clean finish. —A.I.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$20

87 Bouquet 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). While elegant and a bit restrained, this dry, mineral-laden Sauvignon Blanc boasts crisp white grapefruit and lemon flavors. It's

refreshing and brisk, finishing on a delicate green, herbaceous tone. —A.I.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Paumanok 2014 Chenin Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). Zesty acidity and an enticing slick of honeycomb lend varietal character to this lavishly floral, peachy white. So spry and revitalizing, with a salty tang of minerality, it's surprisingly still the only Chenin Blanc grown in New York. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 11%

Price: \$28

90 Lamoreaux Landing 2013 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 10. *Best Buy.*

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$15

90 Paumanok 2014 Festival Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). This unoaked Chardonnay highlights a remarkable intensity of fruit flavors—from zesty tangerine and lime to ripe, rich yellow cherry and peach. While refreshingly crisp and sprightly on the palate, it boasts a long, blossomy finish. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

SPARKLING WINES

89 Channing Daughters 2014 Pétillant Naturel Rosato (Long Island). Soft bubbles and bracing acidity meld with sweet-tart wild-berry and red-cherry flavors in this cheeky, effervescent treat. A pétillant naturel fermented on its own indigenous yeasts, there's a distinctly untamed, savage feel to this Merlot sparkler that's hard to resist. —A.I.

abv: 9%

Price: \$26

87 Atwater NV Bubble Pinot Noir Rosé (Seneca Lake). Ebullient blossom and berry notes waft from this unique carbonated Pinot Noir (blended with proportions of Cabernet Franc and Cayuga grapes). Plump strawberry and cherry flavors are dry on the palate, but concentrated, accented by brisk acidity and sharp, piercing bubbles. —A.I.

abv: 11%

Price: \$16

85 Hosmer 2013 Pinot Noir Brut Rosé (Cayuga Lake). Spine-tingling acidity shines a spotlight on crisp sour cherry and cranberry flavors in this bristling Pinot Noir sparkling. Dry and a bit stark in style. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$35

ROSÉS

91 Paumanok 2014 Dry Rosé (North Fork of Long Island). This is a stand out rosé amidst an excellent lineup of New York pinks this vintage. Made from Cabernet Franc, it juxtaposes plump, silken mouthfeel against bright, crisp red cherry and

bramble berry notes. It's a sprightly, yet concentrated and deeply satisfying sip. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Anthony Nappa 2014 Anomaly Rosé (New York). This barely-blush Pinot Noir vinified like a white wine (with no skin contact) is rapidly becoming a new Long Island classic. It's gorgeously aromatic, wafting of cherries and citrus blossom. The palate is brisk and zesty, yet mouth-filling, concentrated in crisp peach and red cherry flavors. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Channing Daughters 2014 Rosato (Long Island). This dry Merlot rosé is the benchmark from which to compare each of Channing Daughter's seven rosato wines this vintage. It's elegantly framed, perfumed with waxy-white florals and crisp strawberry and cherry notes. Dry and crisp, yet luscious in body with a lingering touch of bramble on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Channing Daughters 2014 Sculpture Garden Rosato (Long Island). Hints of fresh sage lend complexity to cheery watermelon, berry and cherry notes in this refreshing dry rosé. It's buoyantly floral with a concentrated, peachy palate. A blend of predominantly Merlot with proportions of exotic Teroldego and Blaufränkisch lending structure and naunce. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Wölffer 2014 Summer in a Bottle Rosé (Long Island). This unusual rosé blends Merlot rosé with substantial portions of Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc and Gewürztraminer, highlighting textural and flavor attributes from each. It's luscious in mouthfeel with a dense concentration of tropical fruit flavors, yet brisk and effortlessly quaffable. A delightful new take on a Hamptons classic. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Bedell 2014 Taste Rosé (North Fork of Long Island). An enterprising blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Syrah, this zippy, light-footed rosé is full of tart cranberry and sour cherry acidity. Crisp yellow peach notes add sunshine on the palate. It finishes crisp and clean. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Wölffer 2014 Rosé (Long Island). Crisp and cutting, this exceptionally refreshing dry rosé balances a dainty foot print with concentrated red cherry and raspberry flavors. There's a whisper of savory herb notes throughout but the finish is peachy and bright. An unusual blend of Merlot accented with a mélange of other red and white grapes. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Atwater 2014 Dry Rosé of Merlot (Finger Lakes). Exuberantly floral, this perfumed, pale-pink wine offsets ripe peach and strawberry

flavors with zesty, spine tingling acidity. Robust in body, it finishes briskly on a savory herb note. —A.I.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$25

87 Bouké 2014 Rosé (North Fork of Long Island). Black cherry notes persist throughout this bluish-pink dry rosé. Ripe white peach, watermelon and plum flavors are punchy and fresh, marked by a razor-edged line of acidity. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Fox Run 2014 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Initially savory tones of bramble and dried herb dissipate to reveal delicate floral and raspberry aromas on this refreshing Pinot Noir rosé. Dry in style with crisp, cutting acidity, it's a versatile and thirst quenching summer quaffer. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Sheldrake Point 2014 Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes). Swathes of savory dried sage lend earthiness to deep, rippling cherry and raspberry flavors in this dry, Cabernet Franc rosé. It's zesty and bright, with a dancing, delicate mouthfeel. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

86 Atwater 2014 Dry Rosé of Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Chalky, intensely mineral aromas stand out in contrast to the plush, intensely fruity palate of this Cabernet Franc rosé. Slightly off dry in style, its black plum and cherry flavors are voluptuously rich and ripe, accented by fresh cranberry acidity. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Lamoreaux Landing 2014 Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes). While bright and tropical on the nose, the intense ripeness of this dry Cabernet Franc rosé lends a caramelized, almost ruddy richness to the palate. Brisk acidity lends balance and structure. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$16

86 Ventosa 2014 Rosato (Seneca Lake). Delicate red berry aromas intensify on the palate of this juicy, full-bodied rosé made from Lemberger (also known as Blaufränkisch). The palate is unabashedly fruit forward, but finishes briskly on a sweet-tart watermelon note. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

CABERNET FRANC

90 Lucas Vineyards 2012 Limited Reserve Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Penetrating tannins hold a tight grip over rich layers of blackberry and cherry liqueur in this bold, structured Cabernet Franc. Zesty cranberry acidity lifts the mid palate, exposing complex shades of chocolate, herb and granite. It's a solid wine now, but should meld beautifully from 2017–2020. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$20

90 Lucas Vineyards 2010 Limited Reserve Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Spice and ce-

dar accent aromas of ripe red cherry and plum on this buoyantly aromatic Cabernet Franc. Dense and ruddy with black fruit flavors, it's unabashedly oaky and forward, yet surprisingly balanced. There's an irresistible freshness throughout, augmented by crisp acidity and a green, leafy edge. —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$20

90 Shaw 2013 Reserve Unoaked Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). While lusciously ripe, there's a granite-laced edge to this surprisingly complex unoaked Cabernet Franc. Juicy plum and cherry flavors are plump in mouthfeel, yet refreshingly bright in acidity. Fine grained tannins and touches of mint, bramble and earth tease out a long, lingering finish. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Bedell 2013 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Violets and lavender perfume lend lift to this plush, velveteen Cabernet Franc. Ripe black cherry and berry flavors are rich and concentrated, off set by crisp cranberry acidity and soft, lingering tannins. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Raphael 2013 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Ripe, rich black cherry and plum flavors are struck by ripples of coffee, dried herbs and granite in this elegant, structured Cabernet Franc. Crisp acidity and fine grained tannins frame a moderately long finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$25

89 Ventosa 2011 Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). This bold, perfumed Cabernet Franc is richly, lusciously textured, as if infused with a heady dose of crème de cassis. Ripe, ruddy black cherry and berry flavors are plump and forward, cut by brisk acidity and a jagged edge of tannin on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$26

88 Lucas Vineyards 2013 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Plump, juicy blackberry and cassis are accented by granite and woody pine notes in this deeply fruity yet nuanced Cabernet Franc. Supple in mouth feel and tinged with the faintest whisper of tannin, it's an accessible yet elegant wine. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Waters Crest 2010 Grand Vin Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Plush, forward black cherry and plum flavors get a firm bristle of tannins in this rich but structured red. Hints of coffee grounds and rubber lend an earthy complexity to the mid palate. The finish is brisk but clean. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Bouquet 2012 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Bright, cheery plum and cherries abound on this juicy, primary Cabernet Franc. Forward and fruity, it's plump and rich in texture

with a soft fringe of tannins. Hints of menthol and cherry blossom perfume add lift. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

SPIRITS

South America sippers: cachaça and pisco

Single estate. Single vintage. Barrel aged. No, we're not talking about wine—this is the language used to describe two exciting spirits from South America: cachaça and pisco.

Since pisco is a grape-based brandy, perhaps it should be unsurprising that it draws comparison to wine. After all, like wine or grappa, the character changes vastly depending on the grapes from which it is made. A particularly pleasant surprise in this month's reviews: two new Distiller's Reserve piscos from Campo de Encanto, each made with grapes harvested from a single vineyard. Compared side by side, the differences were striking: one fruity and vibrant, the other floral and delicate.

Meanwhile, rum-like cachaça, distilled from sugar cane, doesn't usually bring wine-making techniques to mind. But perhaps that's likely to change. For example, a 2014 vintage cachaça bottling was among this month's reviews, which the producer, Leblon, described as "like Brazilian Beaujolais."

Not literally, of course—but like Beaujolais,

will we start to see new cachaça vintages appear each year? It's exciting to see producers embrace the fact that their spirits are agricultural products, and showcasing how bottlings can vary year over year depending on the harvest.

The growing number of barrel-aged cachaças encourages another parallel with the wine world. Artisan brand Avua continues to be a leader in the space. When it launched a couple of years ago it laid claim to be the first single-sourced cachaça, and rolled out its luscious butterscotchy Amburana bottling, aged for two years in a Brazilian hardwood barrel.

Bartenders are featuring these spirits in new, creative ways on bar menus alongside more familiar pisco sours and cachaça-based mojitos. For example, at newly-opened Mace, cachaça meshes with earthy/nutty banana, cocoa nib and pecan orgeat syrup in the creamy "cocoa bean" cocktail, while pisco's natural fruitiness is played up with peach liqueur, egg white and cinnamon in a light, frothy "cinnamon" elixir.

—Kara Newman

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CACHAÇA

95 Avua Cachaça Oak (Brazil; Avua Imports, Miami, FL). Two years of rest in French oak casks yields a pale straw hue and mellow honey-banana aroma. The aged cachaça sips well, with lots of mouthwatering vanilla, brown sugar and crème brûlée winding into a lingering baking spice finish. New to the U.S. as of October 2014.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

93 Pitu Vitoriosa Cachaça (Brazil; Winebow, New York, NY). For full review see page 12.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$125

92 Sagatiba Pura Cachaça (Brazil; Campari America, San Francisco, CA). Clear in the glass, with a mild, sugary aroma, this cocktail-friendly spirit shows delicate vanilla and sugar, plus

fleeting floral notes, raspberry and banana. Finishes smooth.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

92 Soul Premium Cachaça (Brazil; Bibo International, Newport, RI). Clean, versatile and cocktail-friendly, this cachaça offers tropical fruit and fresh-cut grass, accented with ginger-nutmeg spice on the crisp finish. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

92 Yaguara Cachaça (Brazil; MHW, Manhasset, NY). Despite the wave-like dark blue bottle design, created by glass designer Bryan Clarke to resemble the art deco pattern on the Copacabana Promenade in Rio, the spirit itself pours nearly clear, with a faint golden tinge. Look for bold, pungent notes of banana, coconut and vanilla dusted with cocoa, finishing long and fruity.
abv: 41.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Sagatiba Velha Cachaça (Brazil; Campari America, San Francisco, CA). Two years of barrel aging yields a soft pale gold hue and a vanilla-brown sugar profile touched with banana and cinnamon (think bananas foster). Sip or mix.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

88 Maison Leblon Seleccion Verde (Brazil; Leblon USA, Manhasset, NY). Pungent, grassy and visceral, this unique single-vintage cachaça almost reads like rum agricole, showing lemongrass, banana and a fiery finish. It's a 2014 vintage made from "select sugar cane" and bottled at still strength. The producer likens it to "Brazilian Beaujolais"—not literally, of course, but here's hoping Leblon will follow the wine world's lead and release more single-vintage bottlings like this memorable one.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$25/375 ml

PISCO

92 Campo de Encanto Grand & Noble Pisco (Peru; Gemini Spirits & Wine, Chicago, IL). This acholado-style pisco has a distinctly fruity fragrance, evoking blueberries, tart plum and banana. The palate skews more floral, with just a hint of fruit and honey, tapering to a crisp, elegant finish.
abv: 40.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Campo de Encanto Pisco Distiller's Reserve Quebranta (Peru; Gemini Spirits & Wine, Chicago, IL). This single vineyard pisco made with grapes from Atalaya Vineyard delivers a mix of light berry, cantaloupe and floral notes, plus a sweet bubblegum-like pop of flavor midpalate. Sips well, finishing moderately long with a melony fade.
abv: 40.5% **Price:** \$46

90 Pisco Porton (Peru; Pisco Porton, Houston, TX). Ideal for tropical drinks and pisco punches, this approachable, earthy-fruity pisco pops with lots of perky banana, pineapple and lychee, sliding into a spiced finish that suggests cinnamon- and cocoa-dusted pineapple slices.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$40

89 Campo de Encanto Pisco Distiller's Reserve Moscatel (Peru; Gemini Spirits & Wine, Chicago, IL). This single vineyard pisco is made with grapes from famed Pampa de Villacuri Vineyard. It opens with delicate rosewater and white flower aromatics. The floral notes echo boldly on the palate, easing into a brush of tropical fruit and finishing with a floral exhale.
abv: 40.5% **Price:** \$46

89 La Caravedo Pisco Puro Quebranta (Peru; Pisco Porton, Houston, TX). From the makers of Porton, this pisco has an earthy scent that hints at coconut and orange peel. On the palate, coconut dominates the flavor profile, which is rounded out with vanilla, fleeting fruit juiciness at the back of the palate, and a prickle of clove and cinnamon heat on the finish. Try it in a pisco sour. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

87 Don Alvaro Pisco Acholado (Peru; Kero California, San Francisco, CA).

The aroma is particularly herbaceous, with notes of dill and mild pickle brine. The palate reads as floral, suggesting violet candy and a savory hint of dill, finishing with warm cassia bark and a drying feel.

abv: 42%

Price: \$40

86 La Diablada Pisco (Peru; Macchu Pisco, New York, NY).

Named for an Andean spiritual dance enacting a fight between angels and demons, this acholado-style pisco mixes sweet and spicy. The aroma is fruity and grape-like. However, the palate leads with violet, showing dusty, spicy nutmeg and black pepper before exiting with a floral, slightly soapy note. Producer recommends mixing into pisco punch.

abv: 40%

Price: \$40

CIDER

Dry American grower-ciders

As emerging as the category of cider is in the beverage world, there still manages to be an astounding number of styles—sparkling, still, dry and sweet hardly scratch the surface. With American traditions hailing back to the colonial era, and European roots even further, it's no surprise that each region has its own way of doing things using its own regional apples, resulting in distinctly different offerings.

This month's focus is a rather broad category in the cider world: dry unoaked American selections. Even within these constraints, there is still an array of styles—ranging from earthy French-influenced pours to vibrant, pristine, fruit-driven ciders.

The common thread that holds this lot together is the type of apples used. These are not

your typical grocery store finds—they are heirloom varieties that pack a wallopp of tannin and acid which is necessary for creating structured, well-balanced cider.

With pronounced tannin, acid and a range of flavors, these ciders take on wine-like complexities, similar to skin-contact orange wines.

With pronounced tannin, acid and a range of flavors—from fruity to earthy—these ciders take on wine-like complexities, similar to skin-contact orange wines when still. Throw in some bubbles and you have a great alternative to French *crémant* or *pétillant naturel*.

The inherent structure of these sippers make them easy

pairings for a wide range of food. Higher tannin ciders pair well with poultry or pork, while the lighter, fruitier verisons work well with creamy, tangy cheese. Seek out these versatile pours and explore what the cider world has to offer!

—Alexander Peartree

SPARKLING

92 Eve's Cider 2014 Autumn's Gold (Van Etten, NY). Richly golden in the glass, this naturally sparkling, bottle-conditioned cider is inviting on the nose—a mix of cinnamon and clove meet ripe Anjou pear and quince aromas. Fine, small bubbles mark the entrance of the dry palate, with apple skin and orchard blossom flavors showing nice concentration. Finely-grained tannins and balanced acidity offer support and lead the way to a lingering yellow pear-skin finish. This is a solid, well-balanced showing from this Finger Lakes producer which predominantly uses high-tannin and high-sugar Bittersweet apples for this bottling. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Foggy Ridge Lot 2013 First Fruit (Dugspur, VA). This is a deftly blended cider made from early season heirloom apples, with a few late season varieties to add complexity. The enticing nose draws you in to a silky, round palate of tart pineapple, mango and peach. A talc-dusted river of lime juice keeps everything streamlined and snappy on the finish. Enjoy this dry, sparkling cider with a variety of food—from creamy, washed-rind cheese to grilled pork. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 7.8% **Price:** \$16

92 E.Z. Orchards Hawk Haus (Salem, OR). A blend of Jonathan, Yarlington Mill and Manchurian Crab apples—American heirloom varieties—this méthode ancestrale cider brings a touch of elegance to an inherently rustic style. Overtly floral on the nose, the whole garden comes to mind—sweet lily, briar rose and lilac aromas mix with freshly turned earth. The lightly sparkling palate is linear and focused, with pineapple rind and almond oil riding over additional earth-driven tones while peach-fuzz tannins carry to a dry finish. This is a promising new endeavor for cidemaker Kevin Zielinski. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 6.6% **Price:** \$9/500ml

91 Foggy Ridge Lot 2013 Handmade (Dugspur, VA). This blend of American heirloom apples—most of which would never show up in a grocery store—yields an elegant cider showing clean citrus, pineapple rind and lilac aromas on the nose. The palate is soft in texture, supported by delicate bubbles, yet shows vibrant tart topical-fruit flavors. A fresh squeeze of lime shines on the dry finish.
abv: 7.7% **Price:** \$11/500ml

90 E.Z. Orchards 2012 Dry Cidre (Salem, OR). A blend of French bittersweet apple varieties, this wild flower-honey colored cider is warm and

satiating on the nose. Cinnamon, nutmeg and dried ginger are dusted over ripe pear compote. The palate brings a bit of earth tones into play, with barnyard funk and bruised apple notes, yet the warm spice characters of the nose still appear. Grainy, pear-skin tannins give this medium-bodied cider ample texture and grip. For an interesting pairing, try this pétillant pour with duck or quail.

abv: 6.1%

Price: \$18

90 Foggy Ridge Lot 2014 Handmade (Dugspur, VA). Made from a blend of Gold Rush, Arkansas Black and Newtown Pippin apples, this is a lifted and fruity cider showing ample stone fruit, mango and crushed mineral tones on the nose. The initial sweet-tart character on the palate broadens out to fleshy pineapple flavors bolstered by a vein of lemon-lime acidity. Dry on the finish, this lightly sparkling, fruit-forward cider is an easy crowd-pleaser.
abv: 7.8% **Price:** \$11/500ml

90 Foggy Ridge Lot 2014 Serious Cider (Dugspur, VA). High-tannin heirloom apples find balance with the fruitier varieties of Grimes Golden, Rhode Island Greening and Newtown Pippin in this dry, sparkling cider hailing from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Estery aromas of apple, pineapple and orchard blossom carry to a medium-bodied, smooth palate that adds white currant, peach skin and green gooseberry to the mix. White-tea tannins round out the finish of this well-crafted cider.
abv: 7.8% **Price:** \$18

89 Foggy Ridge Lot 2013 Serious Cider (Dugspur, VA). A mix of high-tannin apples—Dabinett, Tremlett's Bitter and Yarlington Mill—with additions of aromatic, fruity varieties, this cider shows interesting cherry pie and ginger-dusted peach notes on the nose. The palate is focused and linear, with racing lime acidity that washes over tart peach and Rainier cherry flavors. A light dusting of tannins on the finish offers a bit of grip for this dry, sparkling cider.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$18

STILL

93 Eve's Cider 2014 Albee Hill Still & Dry Cider (Van Etten, NY). The nose of this cider is vibrant, fresh and clean—underripe peach and apricot notes ride over pulverized white stone, apple blossom and dried hay. The round and generous palate brings ample peach, racy pineapple and textured apple skin notes to the mix, with balanced acidity and finely-grained tannins offering support. A black-tea-tannin texture lingers on the yellow-plum skin finish. Utterly enjoyable by itself, try pairing this with a range of food—from nutty cheese to grilled pork and gamy fowl. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Slyboro Kingston Black Cider (Granville, NY). Made entirely from the Kingston Black

apple, a traditional cider-making variety hailing from the UK, this cider speaks to the singularity of its composition. Pineapple rind aromas are focused on the nose, with savory and earthy elements of cheese rind, tilled earth and geranium hiding in the background. Weighty and round on the still palate, streamlined spiced apple and additional cheese rind notes meet mild tannins and acidity.

abv: 8%

Price: \$15

86 **Whetstone Ciderworks Batch Trio Whetstone Reserve (Malboro, VT).** Muddled citron and pineapple rind aromas eventually show after a good swirl in the glass. The palate is still, dry and streamlined, with tart tree-fruit flavors that race along a river of driving acids.

abv: 8%

Price: \$20