



TOP 100 BEST BUYS of 2017



Your guide to the year's greatest values.

BY THE EDITORS OF *WINE ENTHUSIAST*

As the year winds down and we prepare for the joy of the holidays, the occasional stress of hosting gatherings and the seemingly endless parade of thirsty guests seems to creep in as well. On top of that are all the other parties and get-togethers to attend, and nothing's worse than arriving empty-handed.

Inevitably, this is the time of year to stop buying wine by the bottle—and start buying by the case. Thankfully, our list of the Top 100 Best Buys makes holiday wine shopping a bit easier to swallow, without compromising quality. These are the bottles to stock up on now, perfect for any need or occasion.

This list highlights some of the most exciting and affordable wines we reviewed in 2017. All of our Best Buys—and there are many—are priced at \$15 or less and must meet a high quality-to-price ratio. Culled from the more than 1,450 wines awarded the Best Buy designation this year, these are the 100 wines that rise above the rest.

As always, we've embraced diversity here. You'll find selections hailing from 17 countries, and more than 35 different grape varieties. Moldova makes its debut appearance, though other traditional, high-quality winemaking regions, like Jumilla and the Willamette Valley, are also present.

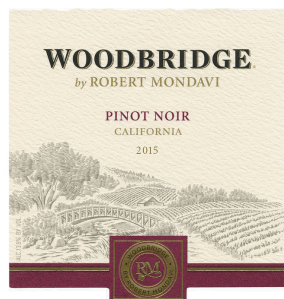
For our savviest shoppers, this is the list you've been thirsting for.

1



91 Columbia Crest 2015 Grand Estates Syrah (Columbia Valley). The aromas in this wine pop, with notes of dried herb, plum, vanilla and smoked meat. It brings a compelling sense of texture, coating the palate from end to end with exquisitely balanced fruit and savory flavors. It's a knockout at this price. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

2



89 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2015 Pinot Noir (California). The 2015 vintage is a strong one for Woodbridge. Ripe fruit tones, bright acidity and lightly mouth-puckering tannins underpin red cherry, clove and blackberry flavors, while the texture is mouthfilling. It's a treat to find an inexpensive wine with such good backbone. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

3

93 Domaine des Carteresses 2016 Rosé (Tavel). It's hard to believe it's possible to buy this quality rosé for so little money. Mouth-watering scents of raspberry, stone fruit and crushed stone emerge from the glass, followed by rich, ripe fruit flavors balanced by just-enough citrusy acidity. It's full-bodied and plush, yet vibrant and long on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

4



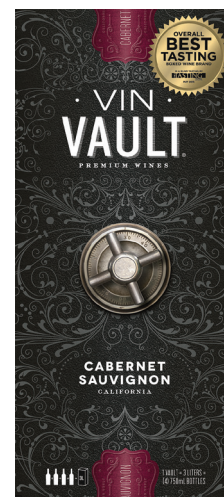
90 Casa Santos Lima 2014 Stones & Bones Red (Lisboa). This is a bold wine, full of spice and rich tannins. With blackberry flavors, it is concentrated, dense and certainly ripe. The finish shows a dry character under the full-bodied fruitiness. Drink this wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

5



92 A to Z 2016 Riesling (Oregon). A to Z has almost doubled production of this wine, without a hitch in quality. Floral and citrus components gather strength and roll into ripe tropical flavors: Juicy Fruit gum, papaya and melon. It's absolutely yummy and a can't miss value. —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

6



88 Vin Vault NV Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This may be the most serious California boxed wine on the market, showing great flavor concentration and an appetizing texture that's laced with fine-grained tannins. It has a deep red-black color, blackberry and dark chocolate aromas and a lip-smacking finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20/3L

7



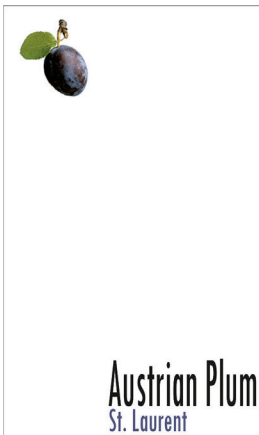
91 Marisco Vineyards 2016 The Ned Waihopai River Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc is slightly leafy in style, but balances that with lush citrus fruit. The crushed tomato stalk and grapefruit come together in a dry, harmonious finish that's mainstream delicious. Drink now. Marisco Vineyards USA. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

8



90 Paringa 2015 Shiraz (South Australia). This is the sort of stereotypical Aussie Shiraz the haters love to hate. It's full-bodied, warm and plush, oozing with blackberries and plums and loaded up with vanilla and mocha. Yet it's well done, inexpensive and just plain delicious. Drink now–2020. Quintessential Wines. —J.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$12

9



91 The Dot 2016 Austrian Plum St. Laurent (Niederösterreich). Wonderfully tart, fresh red cherry fruit expands on this wine's nose and palate. It's wonderfully poised and pitched just right between generosity and restraint. Its crunchy cherry fruit feels honest and elegant. The finish is lip-smackingly fresh. Esprit du Vin. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

10



89 Spier 2016 Chenin Blanc (Western Cape). This highly aromatic wine starts off with bright aromas of white flowers, fynbos, pink apples and white peaches. The lightweight palate offers clean flavors of peach and melon, with zippy acidity and a brisk finish. It's super tasty and easy to like, so enjoy now. Saranty Imports. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

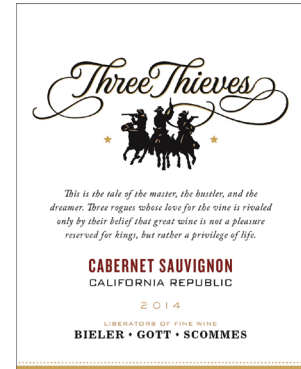
11

90 Château Vircoulon 2016 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a ripe and soft blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Well balanced, it has rich, spicy fruit lifted by lemon and apple flavors and by the final acidity. It's ready to drink now. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

12

90 Casa Castillo 2015 Monastrell (Jumilla). This Monastrell gets going with roasted plum and berry aromas, with side notes of crushed stones. A full palate with an iron grip shows flavors of black fruits and coffee. A fleshy finish is spicy and dark in flavor. Drink through 2019. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$12

13



89 Three Thieves 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a sturdy, well-made wine that is truly great for the price. It delivers the hearty texture and classic sage, black olive and black cherry flavors of the grape. Medium-bodied, it's not too rich, and has welcome fine-grained tannins that add a touch of astringency. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

14

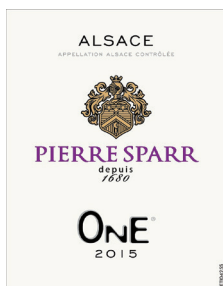
89 Fattoria Ambra 2015 Barco Reale di Carmignano. Fruity aromas of wild berry meld together with whiffs of violet, tilled earth and dark spice on this young juicy red. The round savory palate doles out ripe black cherry, black berry, white pepper and a hint of licorice alongside supple tannins. It's easygoing and made to be drunk young so enjoy soon. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

15



90 Villa Wolf 2015 Pinot Gris (Pfalz). Zesty lemon and grapefruit aromas awaken the senses in this sunny, dry-style Pinot Gris. Plump and pleasantly clingy on the palate, it's balanced with crisp, tangerine acidity and a bite of astringency on the finish. Drink now through 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

16

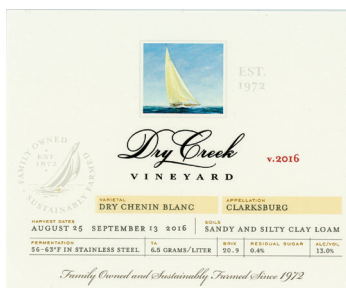


90 Pierre Sparr 2015 One (Alsace). The rosy floral overtones of Muscat are very evident on the fragrant nose. The palate, on the other hand, gives us the texture of Pinot Gris and the freshness of Riesling while floral nuances hover and swirl. This is a lovely blend of all that Alsace does well. Friendly and fresh with a dry finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

17

91 Wondrous 2013 Red I.Q. (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot dominant blend comes from some top quality vineyards that are seldom seen in a wine at this price, including Seven Hills, Canoe Ridge, Wallula, Tapteil and Champoux. Aromas of herb, berry, cherry and toasty spices give way to clearly high-quality fruit that has seen a lot of love and care. It's a big time winner at this price. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$14

18



91 Dry Creek Vineyard 2016 Dry Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). Orange-marmalade aromas set the stage for a rather full-bodied, dry and flavorful wine. Floral and fruity elements are counter-balanced by a tangy texture and subtle mineral accents. A classic of the type, it has a lot of personality, a great presence on the palate and a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

19



90 Casa da Passarella 2016 Branco (Dão). With creamy Encruzado and perfumed Malvasia in the blend, this is a deliciously full-bodied wine. There is a smoky character as well as a creamy texture. The wine is young and fruity but ready to drink, although it will be better from 2018. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

20

90 Meinklang 2015 Burgenlandrot (Burgenland). Ripe blackberry notes dominate this wine's nose and palate. Their ripe, tart juiciness makes for an appetizing, fruit-driven palate. Smooth but pervaded by freshness, it's a vibrant, juicy blend full of refreshing, ripe fruit. Uncomplicated but delicious. KWSelection.com. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

21

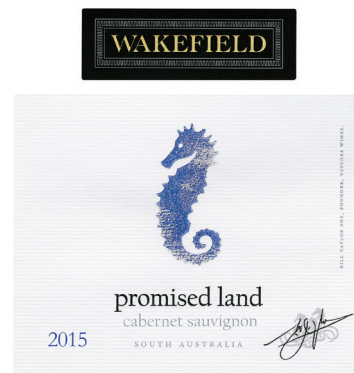
90 Giocato 2015 Sauvignon Blanc (Primorska). Aromas of freshly mowed grass, lemon pith, and lemon grass open for mineral-driven flavors of Bartlett pear, lemon juice and green apple in the midpalate. August Wine Group. —J.J.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

22



88 StemMari 2016 Estate Grown Grillo (Sicilia). Heady aromas suggesting tropical fruit, honeysuckle and citrus zest lead the nose. Bright and refreshing, the lively palate offers mature white stone fruit, tangerine peel and a pleasantly bitter-almond note. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

23



90 Wakefield Estate 2015 Promised Land Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). For the price, this is an impressively detailed and complex wine. Floral notes reminiscent of lavender or rosemary mark the nose and impart interest to the palate, which deftly marries herbs, baking spices and dark fruit. Crisp acids combine with soft tannins on the silky finish. Drink now—2022. Seaview Imports. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

24

91 Lujon 2015 Riesling (Willamette Valley). This contends for the best \$10 Riesling in the country. It's off dry, with 30g/L of residual sugar, but not too sweet for some Asian noodle entrées. The mouthfeel is thick and borders on syrupy, with penetrating flavors of mango, papaya and peaches. It could also be served after dinner with fruit and soft cheeses. —P.G.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$10

25

90 Wines & Winemakers 2015 Lua Cheia em Vinhas Velhas Red (Douro). This perfumed old-vine field blend is rich and stylish. It has weight without power, a fine combination of lively red fruit and firm tannins, and will age well for years. Drink from 2019. Iberia Wine & Spirits LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

26

91 Château Bois Malot 2016 Bordeaux Blanc. This Meynard family wine is ripe and soft with a smooth, creamy texture and a perfumed backdrop. It is ready to drink, full of good acidity and with a tangy, zesty texture. The aftertaste keeps that attractive perfumed character. Kappy's Importing and Distributing Co. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

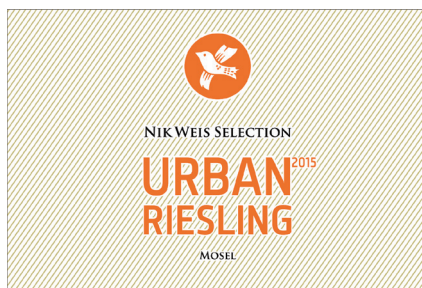
27

91 Four Vines 2014 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This beautiful wine has aromas as ripe as dried figs, flavors as deep as blackberries falling off the vine, and a welcoming, broad texture that begs for another sip. While full bodied, it's easy to relax into. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

28

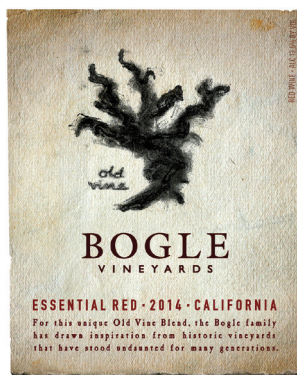
90 L'Ostal Cazes 2016 Rosé (Pays d'Oc). A blend of 50% Syrah and 50% Grenache, this is an attractive and enticing rosé, with delicate aromas of pressed pink flowers, white raspberry, melon rind and underripe guava. The light-plus body lends a slight opulence to the mouthfeel, with flavors of red raspberry and tangerine that end slightly pithy. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

29



90 St. Urbans-Hof 2015 Nik Weis Selection Urban Riesling (Mosel). Smoky veins of struck flint and slate lend a savory mineral tone to this refreshingly tonic Riesling. Sweet-tart tangerine and grapefruit flavors are juxtaposed by bracing lime acidity, a racy mélange that lingers for a long but invigorating finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$12

30



90 Bogle 2014 Essential Red (California). A sleek texture and delicious, focused fruit flavors like cranberry and black cherry make this full-bodied wine mouthfilling and compelling. It offers density and richness, too, which helps extend the lightly sweet finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

31

90 Gruber Röschitz 2016 Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). A subdued nose gives mere hints of ripe, yellow Mirabelle plums. The palate conveys a little more of this lovely fruit on the slender, easy and almost juicy palate. A zesty core and some spritz add to the freshness and verve of this zippy, dry and sprightly wine. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

32

90 Glazebrook 2016 0410S 1740E Regional Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). These entry-level Sauvignons rarely improve with age, so drink this one up before the end of 2017 for its exuberant notes of passion fruit and gooseberry. It's medium in weight, with perhaps a tickle of residual sugar, but finishes crisp and long, with mouthwatering acids. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

33

88 Hogue 2014 Red (Columbia Valley). Light aromas of ash, herb, berry, vanilla and cherry lead to sweet plush cranberry and cherry flavors that linger along with baking spice notes on the finish. It brings a lot of enjoyment for the price. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

34

88 Casa Agricola Santos Jorge 2014 Morgado da Canita Tinto (Alentejano). Soft, rich and fruity, this is the epitome of an accessible Alentejo. With ripe fruits and a sense of warmth, it is made to drink young. Red-stone fruits and acidity are in fine harmony. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$8

35

91 Foris 2016 Dry Gewürztraminer (Rogue Valley). This outstanding wine should earn the somewhat difficult grape many new fans. It opens up beautifully with ample aeration and is true to variety without giving the impression of cheap perfume, emphasizing spice over powdery scents and showing plenty of ripe fruit, from Asian pear, to pineapple to jicama. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

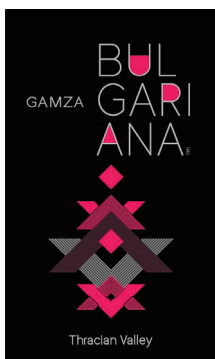
36

91 Polkura 2013 Lote D Syrah (Marchigue). Welcome to one of the few South American Syrahs that combine excellence with an everyday price tag. Jammy blackberry aromas are suggestive of prune. On the palate, this is lush but a touch amorphous. Blackberry, baking spice and peppery flavors finish plush, rich and chocolaty. Enjoy this through 2018. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

37

90 Alpamanta 2013 Estate Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Initial aromas of stewy prune and raisin freshen up with airing. This has a full, grabby, muscular build and flavors of brown sugar and savory berry fruits. A rich finish deals molasses notes and chewy tannins. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$13

38



89 Bulgariana 2015 Gamza (Danube River Plains). This garnet-red-colored wine has aromas of red summer fruits, especially red raspberry, and flavors of cherry and blackberry. The tannins are soft and fine and there's a bit of an astringent finish. G&B Importers. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

39



90 DFJ Vinhos 2016 Grand'Arte Alvarinho (Lisboa). This is a southern and warmer take on Alvarinho than is found in northern Portugal. It brings out the ripe perfumed character of the grape. Apricot and golden plums show both the fruit and the generous texture. Drink this wine starting from late 2017. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

40

90 Château le Payral 2015 Bergerac. This ripe wine from a very fine vintage in Bergerac, is fully structured while also having a fine black-currant fruitiness. Half-and-half Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it has a perfumed edge along with rich juicy acidity and fruits. Drink this fine wine from late 2017. Savio Soares Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

41



89 Castle Rock 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County). Vivid grapefruit and crisp apple notes give a big personality to this medium-bodied wine. A light sweetness takes off the acidic edge, while oaky and earthy accents linger on the finish. It's a terrific value and not hard to find. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

42

90 Finca Constancia 2011 Red (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of rubber, coffee, lemon peel and cherry are good but lack some cohesion. This Cabernet Franc-Syrah-Garnacha blend feels lively and fresh, but also choppy and tannic. Dark blackened flavors of cassis and black cherry finish toasty and peppery with a gamy accent. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

43

90 Domaine de la Gaverie 2015 Sec (Vouvray). Thirty-year-old vines and short wood aging have produced a well-balanced, rich wine that is both dry and fruity. Honey and baked-apple flavors are laced with acidity and softened with wood aging. The wine can be drunk now, although it will be much better from 2019. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

44

89 P.J. Valckenberg 2015 Undone Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). Fresh, primary red cherry and raspberry flavors are punchy and bright on this easygoing Pinot Noir for everyday enjoyment. It's not a complex wine but pristinely fruity, balanced neatly by a crush of cranberry acidity. The finish lingers elegantly marked by fine, feathery tannins. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

45

89 La Bracesca 2015 Sabazio (Rosso di Montepulciano). Leather, truffle and ripe black-skinned fruit and herb aromas lead the nose of this enjoyable red. The zesty palate offers black cherry, orange rind and brown spice flavors, with a fine-grained tannic structure. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

46

89 Boutari 2015 Kretikos Vilana (Crete). Bright lemon and apple aromas lead into a wave of rich pear and citrus flavors here. A slightly bitter lemon rind finish gives it pep. A pretty wine with an exotic edge. Terlato Wines International. —S.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

47

91 Mas des Bressades 2015 Cuvée Tradition (Costières de Nîmes). This wine is a perennial overachiever, but the 2015 is even more so than usual. The aromas are bold and ripe, offering notes of cherries, ample *garrigue* and hints of tar. The wine is rich and velvety on the palate, folding in notes of chocolate, baking spices, plum and dried herbs. Drink now–2025. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

48

90 Now Presenting... 2014 Red (Paso Robles). This is quite a dynamic and layered wine, especially for the bargain price, with deep and hearty blackberry, caramel, rust, lavender and potpourri on the nose. The berry-led palate is rustic and unrefined, with feral flavors, peppery spice and decent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$12

49

89 San Pedro 2016 Castillo de Molina Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Elqui Valley).

Pungent, pure aromas of citrus and tarragon are appealing. This feels upright and tangy, with bright, driving acidity. Grapefruit, lime and jalapeño flavors finish juicy, with leftover citrus notes and a dash of white pepper. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$11

50



89 Pacific Rim 2016 Sweet Riesling (Columbia Valley).

This wine leaves no doubt about the variety, with its freshly peeled orange and jasmine notes. The palate is sweet yet not cloying, with impeccable balance. For those looking for a well-priced sweet wine, look no further. —S.S.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$11

51

88 Finca El Origen 2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).

Raspberry and plum aromas include notes of brown sugar and warm pavement. A dense, chewy palate is packed with fruit and tannins. Flavors of minty oak and berry fruits dissolve into a heap of tannin and oak on the finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$10

52

90 Schloss Gobelsburg 2016 Cistercién Rosé (Niederösterreich).

Loads of fruit show on the nose of this wine: green and red apple, strawberry and ample, zesty citrus. The palate is taut, fresh, dry and precise, shot through with appetizing fruity flavors. A wonderful, flavorsome rosé, with or without food. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$14

53

90 Producteurs Plaimont 2014 Beret Noir (Saint-Mont).

This is a bold ripe wine that is dominated by firm while juicy Tannat. Named after the characteristic black berets worn by the menfolk of Gascony, the wine is powerful and dense with black fruits and balanced acidity. Drink this already enjoyable wine now, or better from 2018. Jerome Selection. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$14

54

90 J. Portugal Ramos 2015 Ramos Reserva Red (Alentejano).

This is a rich wine, full of dark fruits and generous tannins. It has swathes of spice as well as the firm black-plum-skin and blackberry flavors. The dense texture and the acidity suggest a few more months aging, so drink from early 2018. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$12

55



87 Santa Rita 2016 120 Reserva Especial Chardonnay (Central Valley).

No, this is not a misprint. This \$6 Chardonnay is a quaffer's dream. Aromas of apple and pear are clean and pleasant. On the palate, this feels round and balanced. Slightly salty apple flavors are steady on the finish. Palm Bay International. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$6

56



90 Valmiñor 2016 Edición Especial 10 Años Albariño (Rías Baixas).

Dry aromas of pithy citrus fruits come with a hint of fresh-cut grass. This feels steely and pure, with flavors of citrus fruits, nectarine and green apple. A racy finish offers tropical fruit flavors and a spot of bitterness. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

57



89 Gnarly Head 2015 Old Vine Zin Zinfandel (Lodi).

Intensely ripe, jammy and toasty aromas and equally effusive fruit flavors make this full-bodied wine easy to enjoy. It seems to overflow with boysenberry and blackberry, and has a touch of wood smoke from oak. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$12

58

89 St. Christopher 2016 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).

Pristine peach, tangerine and blossom notes form the core of this fragrant fruity Riesling. Balanced in sweetness and reverberating with acidity, it's an exceptional value for such a juicy satisfying sip. Capture its youthful exuberance now through 2020. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.I.

abv: 8%

Price: \$12

59

90 Adegas Vila Real 2013 Reserva Red (Douro). New wood and vanilla show strongly over the red-berry fruits. This wine has attractive tannins and acidity, balanced to give a fruity while structured character. Produced by the cooperative of Vila Real, the wine will be ready from late 2017. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

60

89 Wagner 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Saline and sea breeze lend refreshing, nautical appeal to this elegant unoaked Chardonnay. It's plush and plump in mouthfeel but anchored by bracing lemon, tangerine and grapefruit flavors. Drink now through 2020. —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$12

61

88 Hacormim 2014 Adi 13 Shiraz (Israel). Aromas of black cherry and dark chocolate prime the palate for flavors of black cherry, black plum, mocha, smoked meat and a hint of bell pepper. It is vibrant on entry, with a sense of brightness that stands out above firm but subtle tannins. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. —M.D.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$10

62

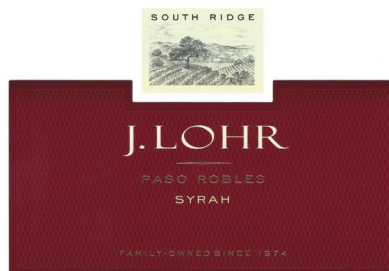


88 Barton & Guestier 2016 Passepport Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon by Laurent Prada (Bordeaux Blanc). Lightly perfumed, this soft, ripe wine has attractive acidity that is balanced by ripe yellow- and white-stone fruits. The acidity at the end is just right. Drink now. Barton & Guestier USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

63

90 Franklin Tate 2015 Tate Cabernet Merlot (Margaret River). This is classic Margaret River Cabernet-Merlot. Cassis, mint, cedar and vanilla all have a voice on the nose and palate, delivered with verve and style. There's ample body and a velvety yet tart finish, without any excessive weight. Drink it over the next few years. Indigo Wine Group. —J.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$15

64

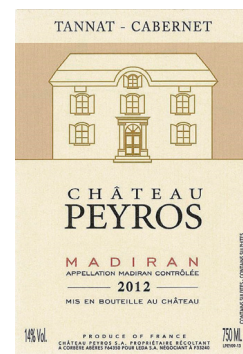


91 J. Lohr 2014 Estates South Ridge Syrah (Paso Robles). This bottling offers ginger-bread cake, baked blueberry and smoked pork on the nose. It's soft on the palate, with finely polished tannins imparting a plush texture. Black plum, strawberry and a touch of mint mark the palate. The structure shows itself just enough on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

65

90 Jezebel 2015 White (Oregon). Roughly equal percentages of Gewürztraminer, Pinot Blanc, Riesling and Pinot Gris (with a splash of Muscat) create a wine that transcends the mutt wine moniker and belongs in a category all its own. Just slightly off dry, it's like taking a bite out of a just-picked pear-apple (if such a thing existed). This crunchy luscious white wine is juicy and alive with flavor. Don't wait—drink it now for a big burst of summer no matter how cold it may be outside. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

66



90 Château Peyros 2012 Tannat-Cabernet (Madiran). This is a fine combination of ripe berry fruits and powerful tannins. It is dark and structured, with powerful concentration and fine acidity. The wine is just about ready to drink, still firm with a rich fruity aftertaste. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

67

90 Tre Monti 2015 SoNo Sangiovese (Romagna). Made with organically grown Sangiovese grapes and without added sulfites, this offers aromas of blackberry, black tea and thyme. The juicy savory palate tastes of blackberry jam, raspberry and clove framed in smooth, supple tannins and fresh acidity. Drink soon to enjoy the succulent fruit flavors. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

68

88 Zacharias 2015 Ambelos Phos Reditis-Moschofilero (Peloponnese). This blend of Moschofilero and another indigenous variety, Reditis, marries aromatic and floral notes with a crisp, lively character. Apple and citrus aromas and flavors abound, with a mineral-driven finish adding pep. Future vintages of this wine will bear the name Omikron instead of Ambelos Phos. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. —S.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$11

69

90 Buitenverwachting 2016 Bayten Sauvignon Blanc (Constantia). Solid aromas of white peach, gooseberry, sweet grass and lime leaf lead the bouquet of this charming wine. The medium-weight palate is cut by ample acidity, leading with ripe fruit flavors that

transition to notes of pear skin and subtle gingery spice on the close. It's well balanced and offers good evolution through the sip. Drink now—2019. Cape Classics. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

70



90 Kiona 2014 Estate Bottled Lemberger (Red Mountain). This wine has become a signature variety for this winery, and this vintage shows why. It brings aromas of cranberry and cherry that lead to ripe polished dark-fruit flavors. It's near irresistible and an exceptional value. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

71

90 Huguet de Can Feixes 2016 Blanc Selecció (Penedès). Apple, melon and apricot aromas are pure and come with zero interference from natural funk or oak. A blend of mostly Parellada with Macabeo and other white grapes, it hails from the highest vineyards in the Penedès. Flavors of melon, lime and wet stones reflect gravelly soils, and it's steady on a long finish. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

72

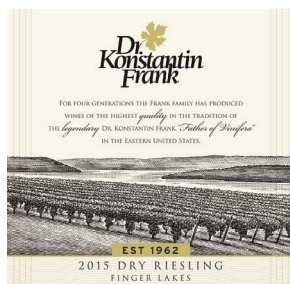
90 The Crusher 2013 Grower's Selection Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). In a field of sometimes tough wines, this one is remarkably approachable, smooth and delicious, not to mention a great value. Fermented by native yeast, it has wonderful spicy, plummy aromas, a generous and melting texture, and deep but mellow plum, prune and milk-chocolate flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

73

90 Sokol Blosser NV Evolution Fifth Edition Winemaker's Big Time Red (America). Like the Evolution White, this nonvintage blend is labeled by edition, this being the fifth. The blend includes Syrah, Sangiovese, Montepul-

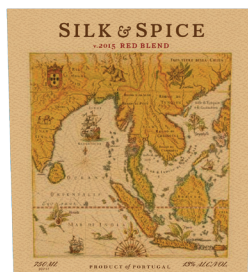
ciano and a splash of Evolution white. It's built for quaffing, and would be just as comfortable in a camp-friendly bota bag as on your dinner table. Cranberry fruit underlined with a strong streak of slate keeps it fresh and lively. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

74



90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2015 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Bright mango and pineapple tones are cut by laser-sharp edges of lime in this delicately structured dry Riesling. Invigorating white grapefruit and a steely sensation gild a lingering finish. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

75



90 Sogrape 2015 Silk & Spice Red Blend (Portuguese Table Wine). This blend of wines from Dão, Bairrada and Lisboa is ripe, full of black fruits and with subtle signs of the wood aging. Named to celebrate the Portuguese mariners who sailed to the spice islands of the East Indies, it is warm with its own spiciness as well as a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

76

89 Pittacum 2015 Petit Pittacum (Bierzo). Slightly rustic, meaty aromas of berry fruits are savory and include notes of iodine and dried blood. This feels a bit hard, raw and rubbery, but leathery dark-fruit flavors are quite good. On the finish, rubbery tannins return. Drink through 2019. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

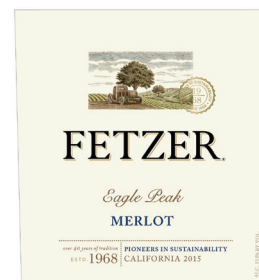
77

88 Maison de la Villette 2015 Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre (Vin de France). There's a warm character to this wine, with ripe black-plum and blackberry fruit. It has a spiciness that enhances the acidity. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

78

88 Teanum 2016 Favugne Rosato (San Severo). Aromas of wild red berry and Mediterranean brush take center stage while the savory palate offers juicy red cherry, strawberry and a hint of white pepper. Lively acidity gives it a bright tangy finish. Justin Brass Exceptional Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

79



88 Fetzer 2015 Eagle Peak Merlot (California). Pure and fruity, this medium-bodied wine is supersmooth in texture, quietly flavorful and well balanced. The light acidity and mild tannins are well integrated and support delicious black-cherry and blueberry flavors perfectly. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

80

88 Vinaria din Vale 2015 Alb Chardonnay (Moldova). This Chardonnay has aromas of grapefruit pith and buttery pastry crust that are followed by flavors of lemon zest and candied orange peel. The finish is long and creamy. Sarego Imports LLC. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

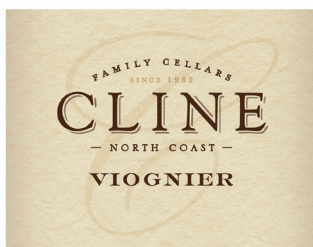
81



89 Cantina di Sorbara NV Omaggio a Gino Friedmann (Lambrusco di Sorbara).

Violet, red berry and crushed herb aromas lead the nose while the juicy, fruity palate doles out wild cherry, crushed strawberry and white pepper notes. Crisp acidity lends a clean finish. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

82



88 Cline 2016 Viognier (North Coast).

A light-straw color and aromas like magnolia and white roses lead into tastes of oranges and honeysuckle with a sour-orange note in the flavors. Full bodied and certainly aromatic, it tastes dry but leaves a slightly sweet impression on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

83

89 12 Linajes 2015 Verdejo (Rueda).

This Verdejo hits the sweet spot, with a crisp nose focused on green-apple aromas. The palate has a free-flowing feel and well-presented flavors of apple, peach and melon. An easy-fading finish ends this well. USA Wine West. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

84

87 Bodega Belgrano NV Malbec (Argentina).

Basic dark-fruit aromas are clean and a touch peppery. This feels solid and fresh, with good body. Generic black-fruit flavors are touched up by peppercorn and chocolate notes, while a brown-sugar sweetness makes the finish friendly. The Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

85

90 Quinta de Soalheiro 2016 Allo Loureiro-Alvarinho (Minho).

The blend of Vinho Verde's two top grapes brings out great swathes of crisp acidity as well as vibrant citrus flavors. The wine is delicious while also tense with minerality. That will soften over the next few months, so drink the wine starting from late 2017. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

86

89 Milbrandt 2015 Traditions Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).

Aromas of crème brûlée, apple, vanilla and spice lead to broad-feeling fruit flavors speckled with barrel accents. It's a very pleasing, well-priced offering of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87



89 Kendall-Jackson 2015 Vintner's Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (California).

Nicely ripe fruit flavors and a full rounded texture give this affordably priced wine more presence than most. The aroma is honeydew melon and the flavors are ripe apple and Anjou pear, while the acidity is on the soft side. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88

87 Bodegas Aragonesas 2015 Viña Temprana Old Vines Garnacha (Campo de Borja).

Earthy black cherry and plum flavors are solid and steady, as is the palate on this honest yet basic Garnacha. Flavors of black plum, blackberry and dry spices finish well. Overall, this value wine gets it right without forcing anything. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

89



88 Santa Julia 2016 [+] Torrontés (Mendoza).

Exotic citrus and orange blossom aromas are lively and a touch oily. This is racy and fresh, with substance to the mouthfeel. Peachy stone-fruit flavors hint at orange and lychee, while this is lasting and intense on the finish. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

90



88 Kirkland Signature 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

Produced with advice from consultant Michel Rolland, this delicious, easygoing rosé is ripe and full in the mouth. It has plenty of acidity coming from its red currant fruitiness. The wine finishes softly, ready for a summer's day. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

91

88 Grayson 2016 Lot 11 Chardonnay (California). Exotic floral and lemon-zest aromas are backed up by nice ripe fruit flavors and a touch of mint in this medium-bodied and generous wine. It's also supported by lively acidity for good balance. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

92

89 Pemartín NV Fino (Jerez). Mild aromas of butter, hay and sea water feed into a crisp fresh palate that's punchy and solid. Lightly salted, briny white-fruit flavors are classic for a fino, while this offers hints of vanilla and white pepper on the back end. Halby Marketing. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$13

93

89 Yalumba 2016 The Y Series Unwooded Chardonnay (South Australia). A solid effort at a bargain price makes this Chardonnay doubly appealing. It's medium bodied, delivering oodles of pineapple-tinged fruit and finishing clean and refreshing. Negotiants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

94



89 Cono Sur 2015 Organically Grown Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenere-Syrah (Chile). Saucy black-fruit aromas are beefy, dense and spicy. In the mouth, this blend of Cabernet, Carmenère and Syrah is chunky, with hard tannins. Herbal, spicy black-fruit flavors include tea and coffee notes, while the finish tastes herbal and peppery, with a leafy aftertaste attributable to the Carmenère. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

95

89 Le Casematte 2015 Nero d'Avola (Terre Siciliane). This Nero d'Avola opens with blue flower and black-skinned berry aromas. The juicy palate doles out ripe black cherry, blackberry jam and nutmeg flavors framed by smooth, polished tannins. Enjoy soon to catch the succulent fruit. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

96

89 Duck Pond 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Light tawny in color, this palate-pleasing effort boasts stone fruit, orange blossom and fresh herb flavors. It's elegant and food-friendly in style, with the sort of detail that usually comes with a higher price tag. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$14

97



89 Estancia 2015 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Light pomegranate, red plum, cranberry and rose petals eventually show on the nose of this wine, which is somewhat simple at first. The palate delivers a solid sip, however, with snappy raspberry and graphite flavors, framed by grippy tannins and energetic acidity. Holds its own against much more expensive wines. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

98



89 Teso La Monja 2014 Romanico (Toro). Despite showing reduced black plum and blackberry aromas, this displays grippy tannins and tension on the palate. Its blackberry and boysenberry flavors are lush, and the oak is mild and integrated on the finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

99

89 Glenora 2015 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Equal parts fresh fruit and earthy complexity, this elegant off-dry wine offers loads of plush yellow peach, mango and yellow cherry flavors off set by undertones of crushed stone and soil. It's delectably juicy and vibrantly fresh through a moderately long finish. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

100



89 Kono 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A sizable 70,000 cases of this bargain were imported, so it should be reasonably available. The citrus fruit does have a greenish tinge to it, boasting hints of passion fruit, snap pea and green onion, but they're within the bounds of regional typicity, and bring a crisp, tart edge to the finish. Drink now. Total Beverage Solution. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14