Top North American Cabs of 2026



Cliff Lede Vineyards

1. CLIFF LEDE 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON STAGS LEAP DISTRICT "POETRY" $325.00 [214910]

When proprietor **Cliff Lede** purchased the S. Anderson property in the Stags Leap District, he knew that creating world-class wine required a team as obsessed with perfection as he was. Partnering with winemaker Michelle Edwards, consulting winemaker Michel Rolland and viticulturist Dave Abreu, his team has since produced the finest wines in the estate's history. Refined, spectacular and pure in its expression of Cliff's signature style, **this 100-point *Wine Advocate* stunner easily takes our spot as the #1 Cabernet Sauvignon of the year**!

Cliff Lede's journey to Napa began far from wine country. Growing up in Canada, he initially worked in construction while cultivating a private passion for collecting fine Bordeaux. A visit to Napa Valley in the 1990s inspired him to transform his obsession into reality, acquiring property in 2002 to found Cliff Lede Vineyards. Today, that venture has evolved into a multi-generational estate with his son, **Jason Lede**, currently General Manager and COO, actively guiding its future. After spending his teenage summers working vineyard harvests and building hands-on industry experience globally, Jason returned to help lead Cliff Lede, ensuring the family's dedication to craftsmanship carries forward.

Nestled in the heart of the Stags Leap District, the **estate's vineyards thrive in one of Napa Valley's most prized microclimates**. Positioned on well-draining alluvial fans and volcanic hillsides, the vines are exposed to full daily sun before being cooled by afternoon marine currents pulling in from the bay. This dramatic diurnal shift slows down the ripening process, giving the Cabernet Sauvignon



Cliff Lede

time to develop rich, complex layers of flavor, seamless structural tannins and brilliant natural acidity. It is a terroir known for producing wines of remarkable longevity, depth and refinement-- traits that define every bottle coming off the property.

Earning a perfect 100 points and displaying the absolute peak of what Stags Leap District Cabernet can achieve, this bottle was the undisputed choice for our **#1 Cabernet Sauvignon of the year** and a true masterpiece that belongs in every serious collector's cellar. "Composed of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

Continued on pages 4-7

Hi-Time Wine Cellars

Nov/Dec • 2026

949-650-8463

www.hitimewine.net

Instagram

Nov. Wine of the Month

ONE STONE PINOT NOIR SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY $12.95 [247540]



One Stone is a specialty Pinot Noir offering from the Ancient Peaks family made from grapes out of select coastal vineyards in California's San Luis Obispo County. The pronounced marine conditions produce a delectable Pinot Noir (something the region is famed for!), filled with fruit flavors and light spices, that is ideal for holiday tables and gatherings-- we thought it perfect for November!

Another aspect we like is that a portion of each bottle sold supports Dream Big Darling, a nonprofit that provides mentorship programs for the next generation of women leaders in the wine and spirits industry. Over the calendar year of 2025, One Stone generated a $50,000 donation to Dream Big Darling (more info at DreamBigDarling.org).

And One Stone really hit it out of the stratosphere with this one-- I guess if you are supporting big dreams, you might as well craft a wine that will match that goal-- and they suceeded

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HI-TIME STAFF

Diana Hirst - General Manager - x213
Chuck Hanson - Wine Buyer/Dept. Mgr. - x216
Keith Hanson - Liquor Manager - x227
Tracy Hanson - Chocolatier - x223
Josh Hoover - Operations Manager
Sean Kinney - IT Manager / Webmaster
Mike Hirst - Maintenance
Charles Hirst - Liquor Sales
Jordan Hanson - Liquor Buyer, Specialty Beverages
Blayne Hirst - Internet / Merchandising Specialist
Katie Kottelanne - Floor Manager
Craig Hood - Beer Manager
Mckenzie Johnston - Sales, Shipping
Jimmy Burger - Shipping Consultant - x258
Parker Joyce - Sales
Grace Romero - Sales, Baskets
Natalie Garcia - Internet
Michelle Murray - Miniature Buyer, Cigar Sales
Tyler Johnston - Spirits Specialist
Adrian Ruelaz - Spirits Specialist, Floor Manager
Lauren Hanson - Internet Sales
Jocelyn Alvarado - Beer
Alex Padilla - Liquor Sales
Emma Arrosagaray - Liquor Sales
Charlie Hanson - Liquor Sales

SMOKE SHACK
Tim McAlevey - x253
Michelle Murray - x225
Mikey Veyette

Tobin Sharp - Marketing & Stuff - x212

WINE STAFF
Jim Duane - Sales Coordinator, Champagne - x255
Patty Kinney - Buyer: Italy, Spain, S. Hemi - x231
Dan Williams - Buyer: North America - x230
Gary Faust - French Wine Buyer x216
Ann D. Stephens - Imports, America - x229
Todd Johnston - Champagne, Imports - x268
Veronica Castro - Buyer: Germany, Imports - x262
Gabe Barakat - Wine Bar, America, Imports - x246
Michael De France - Imports, America, Wine Club
Sean McReynolds - Imports, America
Tony Orlando - America, Imports
Zach Williams - N. America
Parker Horrocks - Wine Bar

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November Wine of the Month 2



CALERA 2023 PINOT NOIR CENTRAL COAST $21.99 [207970]

In 1975, legendary vintner and pioneer **Josh Jensen** founded **Calera** (Spanish for "lime kiln") high in the Gabilan Mountains of California's majestic Central Coast. In the five decades since, Calera has helped establish the Central Coast as one of **the New World's most exciting wine regions**, while earning acclaim as one of California's iconic wineries.

Crafted using grapes from a handful of the **finest vineyards** on the Central Coast, this alluring wine offers enticing aromatics, soft, velvety tannins and vibrant fruit. **Nuanced and complex**, this Pinot Noir showcases a long, elegant finish, solidifying its status as a regional benchmark.

Tasting Notes: The nose is rife with **red fruits** and added support-- **cherry cobbler, kriek lambic, black tea, mixed herbs, rose bush.** Tasting continues the fruit theme with more **cherry and berry notes** uplifted by silky tannins and appropriate body. This wine is simply gorgeous and highlights why the Central Coast of California is cheeered in Pinot Noir circles-- and why Calera is revered by fans of this grape. The finish sees a touch of spice and minerality as the fruit flavors slowly recede, but linger-- reminding you of the wonderful experience your palate just enjoyed.

Ideal for the Thanksgiving and holiday table, this wine will pair with rich fare throughout the year. And while Josh Jensen passed away in 2022, his influence and legacy will continue to cellar well for years and years to come.

JEB DUNNUCK 91 POINTS - "The 2023 Pinot Noir is seamless and supple in vanilla, dark cherry, and a twist of earthy forest, sourced from several vineyards in San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. Long lasting, fresh, and approachable, it has full-bodied weight and breadth supported by supple tannins and spiced oak and should be enjoyable for another 5-7 years.

ANTONIO GALLONI'S VINOUS MEDIA 90 POINTS - "The 2023 Pinot Noir (Central Coast) is plush, fresh and super approachable. Red berries, grilled herbs and orange peel flesh out nicely through the succulent finish."


Calera Sunset...

Nov. Wine of the Month

Continued from Page 1

in a big way!

The nose is filled with red fruits and berries, cherry and strawberry scents intermingling harmoniously with touches of light florals, rose petal, spice and garden loam. The palate reiterates the nose, with ripe cherries and berries (red and blue) in the foreground as secondary nuances of spice, wood and a touch of mineral add support. The body is up for the task-- the grippy tannins (for a Pinot!) and acidity keep the fruits aloft but not over the top-- this wine sings and is all about fruit, body and balance. Enjoy with the holiday table (turkey, salmon, seafood pasta) but also with richer fare (chops, red meat, burgers) as the body is up for the task and the flavors will soar.



Wine Bar Holiday Schedule!

Tastings & Events December

WINE BAR HOURS:
THURSDAYS 4:30 PM & 6:45 PM | FRIDAYS 4:30 PM & 6:45 PM | SATURDAYS 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1 TRY IT TUESDAY TASTING.. 5:00 to 7:00pm $20.00 VIEW DETAILS	2 PIPER RARE AND PETROSSIAN CAVIAR TASTING 6:00-8:00 PM $200.00 VIEW DETAILS	3 TOP BORDEAUX 4:30 and 6:45pm $65.00 VIEW DETAILS	4 TOP FRENCH REDS 4:30 and 6:45pm $75.00 VIEW DETAILS	5 TOP CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2:00, 4:30 and 6:45pm $60.00 VIEW DETAILS
6	7	8 TRY IT TUESDAY TASTING 5:00 to 7:00pm $20.00 VIEW DETAILS	9	10 TOP SAKE 4:30 and 6:45pm $45.00 VIEW DETAILS	11 TOP ITALIAN 4:30 and 6:45pm $60.00 VIEW DETAILS	12 12 CHAMPAGNES OF X-MAS POURING TOP 10 2:00, 4:30 and 6:45pm $150.00 VIEW DETAILS
13	14	15 TRY IT TUESDAY TASTING... 5:00 to 7:00pm $20.00 VIEW DETAILS	16 GEORGES DE LATOUR VERTICAL WITH CHRISTIE BRUNICK 6:00 to 8:00PM $65.00 VIEW DETAILS	17 TOP DOMESTIC REDS + WHITES 4:30 and 6:45pm $45.00 VIEW DETAILS	18 TOP SPANISH 4:30 and 6:45pm $50.00 VIEW DETAILS	19 TOP FRENCH WHITES 2:00, 4:30 and 6:45pm $75.00 VIEW DETAILS
20	21	22 TRY IT TUESDAY TASTING. 5:00 to 7:00pm $20.00 VIEW DETAILS	23	24 WINE BAR CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 and 6:45pm $0.00 VIEW DETAILS	25 WINE BAR CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS 4:30 and 6:45pm $0.00 VIEW DETAILS	26 TETE DE CUVEE + CULT CHAMPAGNE 2:00, 4:30 and 6:45pm $225.00 VIEW DETAILS
27	28	29	30	31 WINE BAR CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 4:30 and 6:45pm $0.00 VIEW DETAILS	1	2

See our Full Wine Bar Schedule Online
WINE BAR PAGE ON HITIMEWINE.NET

Tastings & Events November

WINE BAR HOURS:
THURSDAYS 4:30 PM & 6:45 PM | FRIDAYS 4:30 PM & 6:45 PM | SATURDAYS 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Tues 11/24 - Try It Tuesday • 5-7pm $20
Wed 11/25 - Pure Project, Brewery of the Month 4-7pm • Free!
Thurs 11/26 - Thanksgiving • Wine Bar Closed
Fri 11/27 Santa Barbara, Paso Roblwes & Napa Valley • 4:30pm & 6:45pm $50
Sat 11/28 Bordeaux the Great! • 2pm, 4:30pm & 6:45pm $65

Tues 12/1 Try it Tuesday • 5-7pm $20
Wed 12/2 Piper Rare & Petrossian Caviar • 6-8pm $200
Thurs 12/3 Top Bordeaux • 4:30pm & 6:45pm $65
Fri 12/4 Top French Reds • 4:30pm & 6:45pm $75.00
Sat 12/5 Top Cabernet Sauvignon • 2pm, 4:30pm & 6:45pm $60



DECEMBER 2026 WINE OF THE MONTH

CHÂTEAU JASLOUSIE BEAULIEU 2022
$9.95 [360527] BORDEAUX SUPERIEUR
Our Best Bordeaux Value of the Year!



This beautiful Bordeaux is a perfect partner for a multitude of situations this month, as we gear up for all the **holiday and family parties** and **gatherings**.

Our buyers look for a versatile and delicious wine which can be served during the holidays. **When we tasted this, we knew it was the one. When you factor in the impressive quality to price ratio, this Bordeaux is our top Bordeaux value of the year!**

Comprised of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, this one will fit in at any holiday gathering or meal-- it has the '**stuffing'** (aka BODY!) to make even the richest dish shine.

The nose starts with dark red and blue berries and fruits, **plum** and **wild blackberries**, as levels of **spice**, **earth, minerality** and **forest floor** further the olfactory delights. Upon tasting, the darker berries and dark red fruits are reiterated as **blackcurrant and cherry coulis** are kept aloft by **excellent tannins and balanced acidity**-- signaling this one will pair perfectly with richer foods-- hello, holidays!.

The winery has been family-owned for over 100 years and has multiple generations of experience and knowledge -- this **providence** has proven beneficial as evident in the **top-tier quality** of this wine for **such a great price**. While their start was in **1910**, they have kept up with the times and each generation benefits from what their predecessors learned.

The wine was aged 12 months in stainless steel vats, which really helps to preserve the ripe fruit flavors. It was then aged with French oak to balance out the resultant juice while adding extra flavor components. The balance between ripe fruit and savory elements make this wine stand out in a very good way-- and at under 10 bucks, it is a no-brainer of a deal-- **this wine rocks**!

JAMES SUCKLING 91 POINTS - "This shows notes of ripe red and dark fruit, dried flowers, licorice and hints of cedar on the nose. Medium- to full-bodied, velvety and succulent on the palate, with good concentration of fruit. Bright and focused. Drink or hold."

and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Poetry prances out of the glass with impressively flamboyant scents of blackberry compote, blueberry preserves, blackcurrant pastilles and candied violets, giving way to nuances of dried roses, menthol, powdered cinnamon and aniseed with a waft of cedar chest. Full-bodied, the palate is impactful yet maintains compelling restraint, featuring layers of crunchy black fruits, exotic spices and floral hints, framed by firm, exquisitely ripe tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length and depth. This is one of those beguiling 2018 Napa Cabernets that is simply going to blow you away!" – **Wine Advocate**



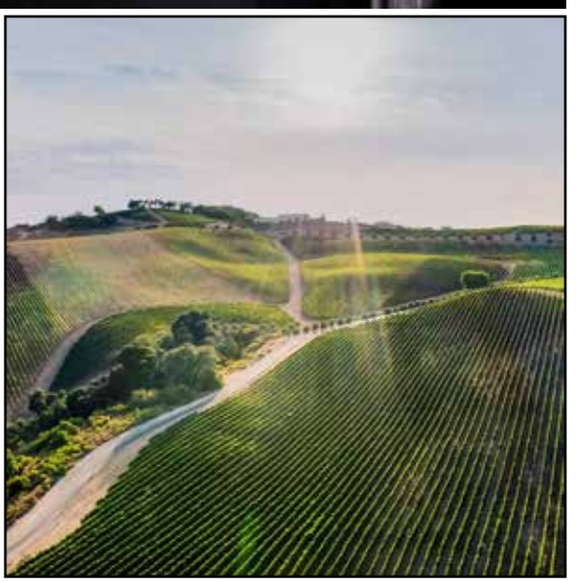
2. COVERT 2024 CABERNET SAUVIGNON COOMBSVILLE "PREMIERE NAPA VALLEY" $165.00 [223920]

Collectors around world have come to know the Premiere Napa Valley wines are about as rare as wine can be. They are the pinnacle of what a winery can achieve and, often, quantities as small as 60 bottles are produced for the world in any given vintage. Here before you is one of those rare wines! Hidden within the rolling hills of Coombsville, Covert Estate sits on a gentle, southeast-facing slope in the heart of Napa Valley. Mostly comprised of solid volcanic ash from Mt. George, the topsoil is barely existent and the sub-soil contains cobblestone-strewn layers of rich loam between the volcanic rocks. These particular layers drain easily and the sub-soils hold water, which the vines can access as the dry growing season progresses. Due to its proximity to San Pablo Bay, a cool layer of fog covers the vineyards. Daily temperatures can be as much as ten degrees cooler during the hot months compared to the north end of the valley, creating an ideal growing climate. All of this leads to incredible structure, complexity and balance of the wine. **They also farm their estate vineyard organically with the utmost care**, manually tending the tightly spaced rows and harvesting by hand in the coolness of early morning.

The wine is made by the noteworthy **Julien Fayard**; not only did he train while at Lafite Rothschild and alongside Philippe Melka in Napa, but has also been at the winemaking helm at Gemstone, Purlieu and Sire. **Only 60 bottles of this dazzling wine were produced, and we received them all**! The wine displays an inky, opaque purple color in the class and opens with explosive aromatics of ripe blackberries, blueberries, warm toffee, lavender and a high-toned floral lift. Full-bodied and immensely layered on the palate, a dark, brooding cascade of blackberries, black cherry, baked plum and crème de cassis is brightened by an energetic pop of fresh raspberry on the mid-palate. Coombsville's trademark volcanic soils come through via crushed graphite, before leading to a velvety finish accompanied by dark chocolate and cocoa powder. Amazing!



3. DAOU 2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON PASO ROBLES "SOUL OF A LION" $129.99 [215030]



The greatness of Daou Mountain was foretold many decades ago when renowned winemaking authority Andre Tchelistcheff hailed it as "a jewel of ecological elements." The calcareous clay soil here is comparable to Bordeaux's Right Bank, while the buffered Pacific microclimate is similar to Saint Helena-- a perfect confluence of elements. DAOU Mountain is blessed with extraordinary phenolic output, yielding some of the darkest, most deeply textured wines in the world. The Daou brothers are committed to multifaceted sustainable practices that have earned their vineyard **SIP (Sustainability in Practice) certification**.

Named for the father of Georges and Daniel Daou, Soul of a Lion is the crown jewel of DAOU, and an emblem of their quest to produce unsurpassed Cabernet Sauvignon from the terroir of this special Mountain. Each bottle of Soul of a Lion represents a nine-year journey of passionate curation. This journey begins with rare bois rosé French oak barrels whose staves are seasoned in the elements for five years prior to coopering. The wine is then aged for nearly two years in these proprietary Daou 5-year barrels, then held for extended bottle maturation prior to allocation-- ensuring that each vintage has achieved perfection upon release. "Based on 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, and 6% Petit Verdot from the Adelaida District and aged 22 months in 100% new French oak, the 2023 Soul Of A Lion has a beautiful nose of cassis and darker assorted fruits intermixed with leafy tobacco, spring flowers, and damp herbs. It's beautifully balanced and medium to full-bodied on the palate, with ripe, polished tannins and a layered, seamless, incredibly polished, satisfying style. There are 8,200 cases. I love it today, yet it's going to cruise for 20 years." -**Jeb Dunnuck 96 points**!

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4. NICKEL & NICKEL 2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE "JOHN C. SULLENGER" $94.98 [246670]

Founded in 1997 by the partners of Far Niente, Nickel & Nickel is a Napa Valley winery devoted exclusively to crafting 100% single-vineyard, single-varietal wines. Set on a meticulously restored 19th-century farmstead, the estate pairs historic charm with a state-of-the-art subterranean winemaking facility. By keeping winemaking techniques consistent across each bottling, the winery allows the distinct soils, microclimates and personality of Napa Valley's top appellations to shine through in every glass. In short, Nickel & Nickel captures the purest sense of place and time.

The home vineyard of Nickel & Nickel, Sullenger Vineyard is situated behind the winery in the heart of Oakville and is named for John C. Sullenger, who settled the farmstead in the 1880s. The vineyard's 30 acres of clay loam soil are planted exclusively to Cabernet Sauvignon, with 2 rootstocks and a few different clones which each add a unique element to the resulting wine. A testament to the exceedingly high quality of the 2023 vintage, **this wine garnered a 95-point score from Jeb Dunnuck**! "Another Oakville beauty, the 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon John C. Sullenger Vineyard sports an inky purple hue and gorgeous aromatics of cassis, currants, iron, leafy tobacco and violets. It's medium to full-bodied, tight and focused on the palate, with building tannins, the fresher, structured style of the vintage, and outstanding length. It's tight and reserved at the moment, so hide bottles for 3-4 years if you can. It's another brilliant wine I'd love to have in the cellar, and it will see its 20th birthday in fine form."

5. INGLENOOK 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RUTHERFORD $79.98 [247330]



Under the direction of John Daniel Jr., Inglenook produced some of the best Cabernets Napa Valley ever made (and if you think we're exaggerating, simply **ask** an industry veteran who has had the privilege of tasting those historic wines). The winery was sold in 1964 to United Vintners, but in 1975, Francis and Eleanor Coppola purchased a portion of what had been the Inglenook estate. The Coppolas soon discovered the treasure of what they now own and vowed to reunite all of the land and to restore Inglenook's esteemed reputation. With patient resolve and relentless negotiations over nearly four decades, the Coppolas fulfilled their vow, and reunited the property in 2011, acquiring Inglenook's name and trademark and additional vineyards.

Each vine planted and bottle produced at Inglenook is a chapter in the Coppola family narrative; a testament to their commitment to excellence and the art of winemaking. At Inglenook, the Coppolas don't just craft wines; *they cultivate a family legacy* that harmonizes with the land's natural grandeur. To ensure the best wines can be made on their property, they have partnered with **winemaker Philippe Bascuales, who led winemaking and estate operations at Chateau Margaux for more than 30 vintages at the First Growth Bordeaux estate**. Inglenook's Rutherford Cabernet is a classic expression of the famed Rutherford Bench, and celebrates the innovation the team strive for as they carry this tradition into the future. "The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the most potent wines I have tasted from Inglenook in a long time. Readers should be patient, as the 2019 is a mere infant. A rush of black cherry, mocha, licorice, spice and leather builds as this sumptuous, towering wine gradually opens with a bit of aeration."

-**Antonio Galloni 94 points**!



6. STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS 2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY "ARTEMIS" $67.99 [265170]

The "Judgement of Paris Tasting" in 1976 is truly the stuff of legends. Six California Cabernets were pitted against four of Bordeaux's first growths, and in the end, it was Stag's Leap Wine Cellars that came out on top! At that point, the Napa Valley was ushered into a new era, one in which it gathered favor with collectors, restaurants and consumers. That was 50 years ago, yet Stag's Leap still remains a **benchmark** and is fashioning **noteworthy wines!**

Their Artemis bottling is named after the Greek goddess of the hunt, and is a wine that truly reflects its name. It's the culmination of the winery's hunt for the finest grapes from Napa Valley, which, when united with estate-grown fruit, combine to create a Cabernet Sauvignon that expresses the regional character of Napa Valley with the signature style of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. This approach results in a wine of lush fruit flavors balanced by extraordinary structure and elegance. ARTEMIS demonstrates how astute grape selection and skillful blending can create a wine that represents *the sum of Napa Valley's best parts*. The 2023 earned **from Antonio Galloni**, and displays expressive aromas of ripe currants and Bing cherries, complemented by subtle hints of cedar, fresh tobacco leaf and blackberry compote. On the palate, it is rich and flavorful, featuring a lively, well-balanced mouthfeel. Polished tannins coat the palate, delivering persistent flavors of dark chocolate and black currant. The finish is long and savory, characterized by depth and lingering complexity that encourages another sip.



7. VINEYARD 29 2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RUTHERFORD "CRU" $54.95 [271105]

Lightning has struck twice! During last year's holiday season, we featured a tremendous deal on one of Vineyard 29's coveted Cabernets-- and you came in *droves* to clear us out of all our inventory in short order. Well, another deal had landed from Vineyard 29, and **not only is this 40% off their regular price, but this bottling is rarely offered outside their direct mailing list**! Proprietors Chuck and Anne McMinn

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have turned Vineyard 29 into one of Napa Valley's brightest stars. Located just north of St. Helena, the vines are at an enviable spot in the valley, where the sloping base of the Mayacamas Mountains provide some of the best spots to grow Cabernet Sauvignon. Here at Vineyard 29, attention to detail is paramount and their impressive team of winemaker Keith Emerson and viticulturalist Dave Abreu ensure that only the best grapes make their way into the winery.

In addition to their three estate bottlings of Cabernet, they have also made another series of wines (still bottled under the Vineyard 29 name), and have called them "**Cru**." The CRU Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from two unique sites on the east side of the Rutherford appellation. One site sits just off of Zinfandel Lane and the other on Conn Creek Road. Both of these mature vineyards yield Cabernets with that signature red Rutherford dust fruit profile. Each vineyard plays a role in this uniquely focused CRU bottling, contributing to the juicy approachability and great structure that the CRU Cabernet Sauvignons are known for. **Earning a 93-point score from Antonio Galloni**, the nose opens with the hallmark "Rutherford dust" character—an earthy minerality interwoven with blackberry, Bing cherry and ripe plum. Aromatic accents of dried lavender, cocoa and warm clove add depth and intrigue. On the palate, the wine is bold yet finely balanced, showcasing layers of red currant, cherry and mocha framed by supple, velvety tannins. Hints of graphite, espresso and sweet tobacco emerge through the mid-palate, while bright acidity lifts the fruit. The finish is long, refined and complex, echoing with cassis, spice and dusty cocoa. A *true reflection of Rutherford terroir*-- structured, textural, red fruit-driven and built for graceful aging.



Silverado - Mt George

8. SILVERADO 2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ESTATE $47.98 [260930]

A gem in the heart of Stags Leap District, Silverado Vineyards is now in its fourth decade of crafting estate-grown, -produced and -bottled luxury wines. Silverado Vineyard was one of the **first four wineries** in the Stags Leap District to **plant Cabernet in the 1960s**. Today, under the ownership of Bill and Carol Foley and leadership of Courtney Foley, Silverado Vineyards continues to honor the founders' legacy and vision to create the best wines possible from the beautiful Silverado Vineyards. Continuing the Silverado heritage is winemaker Alison Rodriguez, who joined in August 2022 and is only the third winemaker in Silverado's history. After roles in the cellars and sustainable/organic vineyards of Quivira Vineyards in Sonoma and Manincor in Alto Adige, Alison decided to put down roots in Northern California. She then worked alongside Paul Hobbs, Mark Beringer, and Celia Welch!

Silverado's Estate Cabernet Sauvignon brings together historic Napa Valley vineyard sites, including the 19th-century Mt. George Vineyard, their own Silverado Vineyard, and Oakville Station vineyard. It is the *quintessential* Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon; a wine whose synergy pulls from multiple vineyards harmonizing together. Aged for 19 months in 40% new French oak, bright red and black cherry aromas are framed by blue fruits, vanilla and hints of cedar and cola. It is full-bodied, with a full, round entry and concentrated mid-palate. Graceful layers of mocha, graphite and dark plums are supported by fine-grained tannins. This wine is firm and balanced from start to finish and received **92 points from Wine Spectator**!

9. PINE RIDGE 2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY $39.95 [211621]



Cabernet Sauvignon is synonymous with Napa Valley and has always been at the core of the winemaking program at Pine Ridge Vineyards. The winery lies in the Stags Leap District, tucked beneath a ridge of pines, with a full view of the rugged palisades that speak to the dramatic geologic origins of their property and its world-famous Cabernet Sauvignon soils. In addition, Pine Ridge is **Certified Sustainable** in the vineyards, as well as their cellar practices. Josh Widaman is the current winemaker for this venerable property, and **Josh was the winemaker for the Napa Cabernet that was named Wine Spectator's "Wine of the Year" in 2016**! "The 2022 Pine Ridge Napa Cabernet is comprised of estate fruit from Stags Leap, Howell Mountain, Oakville, Rutherford and Carneros. This wine opens with seductive aromas of Hungarian baking spice, blueberry bramble and maraschino cherry. Cocoa nib threads through a plush palate of blackberry, mandarin and slate. Bright acidity lifts the flavors, while Marionberry and polished tannins stretch the finish. Juicy and layered, it's built to evolve over a decade. Enjoy with pork loin and cherry chipotle sauce."

-**Wine Spectator 92 points**!



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10. MAXVILLE 2023
CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY
"THE HIGH VALLEY" $26.95 [240050]

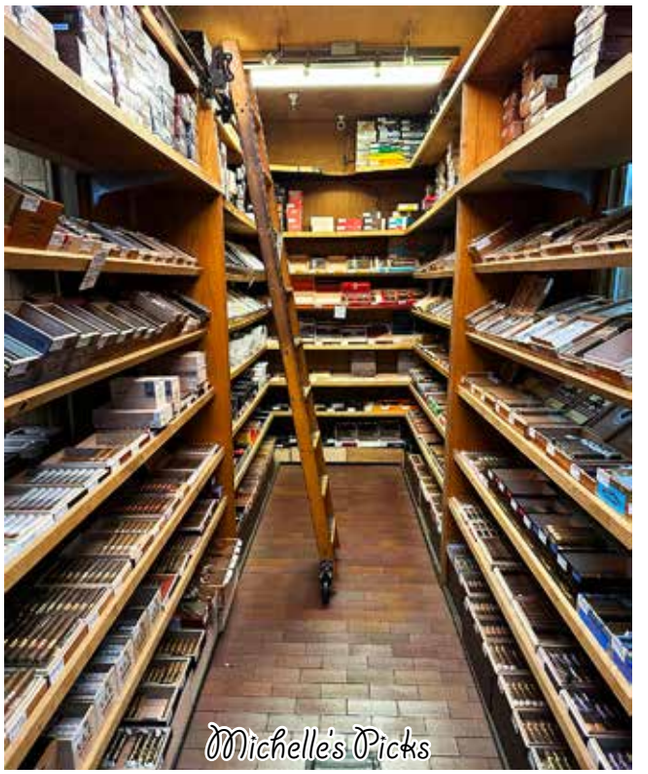


This is the wine we relentlessly pursue, the one that embodies our commitment to bringing you extraordinary quality without the extravagant price tag. Sourcing a fantastic, cellar-worthy wine at $100 is straightforward, **but finding a Cabernet Sauvignon that truly delivers character, nuance, depth, and body at the $20 to $25 mark**-- **that's the true challenge**. Yet, we live for this quest. We have always been dedicated to the task and this year, we believe we have unearthed one of our most impressive finds yet! In 1841, Joseph Chiles traveled north from Monterey, crossed the Napa River at Rutherford and climbed the Vaca mountains to the northeast side of what is now the Napa Valley AVA. There he discovered an isolated area at 800 ft elevation, a hidden gem that he named "The High Valley." Maxville Estate Winery encompasses over 1,000 acres in "The High Valley," and following their vision to honor the heritage of this sacred land, 600 acres have been placed in the Land Trust of Napa County to be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Maxville's complex soils are well-drained, as they are formed of material derived from weathered sandstone and shale on the west-facing slopes and alluvial fans along the base of their hills. The climate is cooler in the winter compared to most of the Napa Valley, and come summer they experience very warm weather with large diurnal shifts. Their microclimate results in a longer growing season, giving their grapes an opportunity to mature with subtle flavors, full body, and overall complexity that rival those grown in the best sites on the main valley floor.

Aged in 50% new French oak (often reserved for wines twice this price), the nose presents expansive aromas of cassis, black fruits, blueberry, violets and anise. The palate reveals layers of black cherry, blackberry and blueberry, beautifully integrated with toasted oak, hints of vanillin and savory crushed stones. Full-bodied and concentrated, it finishes long with vibrant lift and purity of fruit.

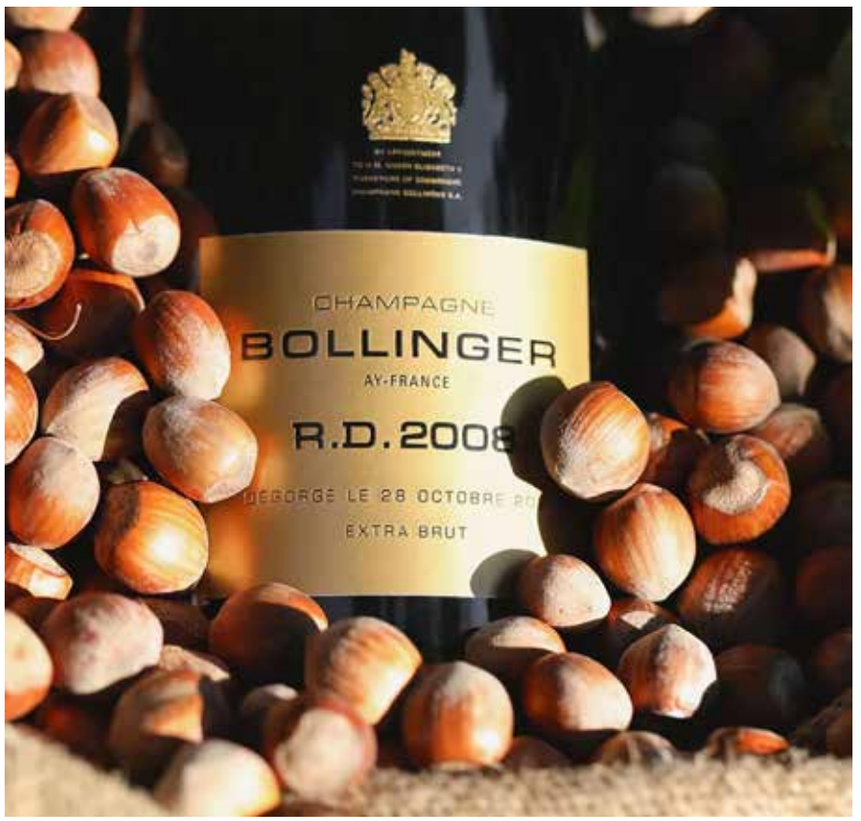
The Smoke Shack • Top Cigars of 2026!



102012	MY FATHER LA LEALTAD ROBUSTO	$10.49
107448	AF DON CARLOS EYE OF THE SHARK	$24.99
128509	ALADINO ANIVERSARIO 85 RESERVE TORO	$16.99
119601	ARTURO FUENTE RARE PINK SHORT STORY	$13.99
117501	E.P. CARILLO PLEDGE ROCKET 250TH 2026	$49.99
106415	DAVIDOFF WINSTON CHURCHEL PETIT CORONA	$13.99
106826	DON PEPIN GARCIA INVICTOS	$9.49
125761	LEGENDS FUENTE Y PADRON	$199.99
127857	PADRON 60TH ANNIVERSARY NATURAL	$89.99
128791	TRINIDAD ESPIRITU NO. 3 TORO	$13.49
191000	ROCKY PATEL SAPHIRE ROBUSTO	$13.99
113318	DAVIDOFF ZINO PLATNUM CROWN ESPECIAL CHUBBY	$53.99
111835	TATUAJE COJONU 2006	$14.99
128835	MY FATHER BLUE TORO	$11.99
102453	OLIVA MELANIO NO. 4	$9.99
117126	SAN CRISTOBAL GOLDEN HOUR BONITO	$11.99
111383	DIAMOND CROWN MAXIMUS DBL CORONA NO. 1	$19.99
101474	LA AROMA DE CUBA MI AMOR DUQUE	$16.99
127803	ROCKY PATEL BP EMERALD ROBUSTO	$10.99
122899	TABERNACLE HAV CT LANCERO	$15.49
120255	PLASENCIA ALMA FUERTE ROBUSTO	$25.99
128679	ALADINO CAMEROON RESERVA TORO	$21.99
117346	SAN CRISTOBAL ELEGANCIA ROBUSTO	$10.49
103145	E.P. CARILLO ASCEND SADDLE	$12.99



Please note: Many of our top cigars are very limited and may be sold out. Please check with Michelle, Tim or Mikey for availability.



BOLLINGER 2008 EXTRA BRUT R.D. $379.95 [321552]

Bollinger is justly famed for its unsurpassed breadth of quality across its lineup. In this year's "best of" roster we are proud to have garnered a workable allocation of the firm's fabled "R.D." cuvée from what is **arguably the finest Champagne vintage of the 21st Century**.

WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

"Disgorged in October 2024 with a dosage of three grams per liter, the 2008 Extra-Brut R.D. is superb, offering a bouquet of Granny Smith apple, pomelo and almond paste, mingled with white sandwich bread and oystershell. The medium- to full-bodied palate reveals a deep, vibrant core of fruit, underpinned by racy acidity and framed by high levels of structuring dry extract that assert themselves on the sapid, precise finish. This is a brilliant wine, built to age gracefully on its acidity, and it stands as one of the greatest achievements of the vintage. Its lower dosage, to my palate, also gives it the edge over La Grande Année in terms of energy and aromatic definition."

VILLMART 2013 EXTRA BRUT "LES BLANCHES VOIES" $339.98 [374873]

Vilmart is situated in the village of Rilly-la-Montagne which is planted with 80% to Pinot Noir on slopes that generally face to the north. However, Vilmart's vineyards are something of an anomaly, as they sit on a chalky, south-facing hillside on the other side of the village. This site is called "Blanches Voies," and is planted with 65-year-old ungrafted Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines. This 2013 is a not-to-be-missed "Blanche Voies" edition that dazzles the palate with its high-powered energy, depth and simmering salinity.

VINOUS WINE MEDIA 97 POINTS

"The 2013 Extra-Brut Blanc de Blancs Les Blanches Voies is every bit as captivating as it was last year. It remains very young, intensely saline and



Champagne Vilmart "Les Blanches Voies"

full of promise. I would not dream of touching a bottle anytime soon. Dried lemon peel, marzipan, white flowers and chalk stain the palate with notable intensity. What a wine! Dosage is 4 grams per liter. Disgorged: April 2021."

DIEBOLT-VALLOIS 2015 EXTRA BRUT "FLEUR DE PASSION" BLANC DE BLANCS GRAND CRU $159.98 [325897]

This highly allocated, under-the-radar *tête de cuvée* has been a "back room" sales favorite of ours for decades. However, because of its tiny (5000 bottle) production, we have never had enough to feature it, that is, until now. "Fleur de Passion" is made from an array of old-vine (45 to 90-plus years) Chardonnay parcels in "Les Buzons," a steep hill in the Grand Cru hamlet of Cramant. It was entirely fermented and aged (six months) in small oak barrels with no malolactic fermentation or filtration. It was disgorged in February 2025 after nearly nine years aging on yeast in the cellar. The vine's naturally low yields enhance the supple fruit texture of the Cramant Chardonnay which is nicely melded with the subtle spice inflections of barrel fermentation. The old-vines also provide a resolute structure and drive an enduring palate parade of white peaches, citrus, nectarines and brioche that finishes with a haunting stoniness. Fleur de Passion is one of the age-worthy benchmarks from 2015.

ANTONIO GALLONI 93 POINTS





LOUIS ROEDERER
2016 BRUT
$87.98 [312842]

Roederer is best known as the glitzy Masion that makes **Cristal**, but to our mind, this family-owned firm is best viewed as **Champagne's largest grower-producer**. Roederer farms some 600 acres of well-situated vines (more half of which are certified organic) spread across 16 villages. Like all of the Roederer's vintage Champagnes, this highly focused and composed 2016 Brut is fashioned exclusively from the family's estate vineyards.

JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS

"Complex nose of restrained strawberries and lemon zest, with macerated flowers and shortbread. Full body and plenty of concentration, with pinprick mousse, long and chewy, integrated acidity and amazing length. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay."

JEB DUNNUCK 95 POINTS

"The 2016 Champagne Vintage Brut is the new release and is composed of 70% Pinot Noir from Verzy and the rest Chardonnay from Chouilly. A slightly richer golden straw hue, it has a floral bouquet on the nose and is a very pretty vintage of this wine aromatically. It's sappy with lemon confit and is salty throughout the palate, revealing the weight of the Pinot Noir but retaining wonderful freshness. This lovely wine is going to take some time to open aromatically, but it's going to be worth the wait. Drink it over the coming 15 years. It's a going to be a stunning wine for pairings. 7 gram per liter dosage in this wine and in the collection."



DOYARD 2018 EXTRA BRUT
"CLOS DE L'ABBAYE" $144.95 [322807]

We were so awestruck by this 2018's tightly coiled crystalline demeanor at a trade tasting two years ago that we couldn't help but believe that if we stashed some cases away, we would eventually have something **very special** on our hands. Well, that is exactly what we did, and are were now able to offer you this treasure of Champagne that is now flirting with perfection.

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS

"Offering up aromas of crisp stone fruits, pear, buttered toast, musky peach and smoke, the 2018 Extra-Brut Premier Cru Clos de l'Abbaye was disgorged this year with two grams per liter dosage. Medium to full-bodied, pillowy and precise, with a nicely concentrated core of fruit, racy acids and a long, chalky finish, the 2018 is quite a fine-boned, elegant rendition of this bottling. As readers will remember, this cuvée derives from a walled, [one acre] plot of 60-year-old cordon-pruned vines (including some "muscaté" selections of Chardonnay) just behind the winery in Vertus, and only the first and second "serres" of the press are used.


Champagne Gimonnet-Gonet



GIMONNET-GONET BRUT ROSÉ
"L'ECLAT" $59.95 [388157]

This beauty made our "best of" cut simply because i**t offers all the finesses and charm of the best Grande Marque brut rosés at half the price**. A blend of 93% Chardonnay and 7% Pinot Noir. Gimonnet-Gonet likes their rosé with a high percentage of Chardonnay; for them, it keeps the wine **zesty, pure and racy**. All the grapes are hand-harvested and fermented in stainless steel tanks; the wines undergo full malolactic, and are aged for 6 months in tank before bottling. The wine was then aged for twenty months *sur latte* before being finished with a dosage of 7 g/l. In the glass this rosé shows a pale pink-salmon color with elegant bubbles that release aromas of raspberries, peach, cherry, quince, almond and rose petals. On the palate, one encounters the silken texture of Chardonnay and the delicate fruitiness of Pinot Noir complexed with fresh minerality. Flavors of salted citrus, muddled raspberry and red currants wash across the bright palate which culminates in a long, refined finish.



GEOFFROY 2017 EXTRA BRUT "VOLUPTÉ" BLANC DE BLANCS 1ER CRU $84.95 [321878]

Volupté is always a great showcase for the Cumières Premier Cru as it displays effusive Chardonnay ripeness and texture while still being well toned with a deep-seated minerality. It is made from two southeast-facing Chardonnay *lieux-dits*: "La Montagne" and "Les Tourne-Midi" which were planted in 1989. Here the soil is thin and very chalky, with a deep Campanian chalk outcropping at an altitude of 120 meters.

VINOUS WINE MEDIA 93 POINTS

"The 2017 Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Volupté is ample and layered yet also light on its feet. Dried pear, crushed flowers, mint, dried herbs and lemon confit give this delicate, understated Champagne a good deal of complexity. This is a fine effort in a very challenging year. Dosage is 2 grams per liter. Disgorged: September 2024"

BILLECART 2018 EXTRA BRUT 250TH ANNIVERSARY $119.98 [387192]



The 2018 Billecart-Salmon 250th Anniversary Cuvée was such a sales hit last spring, we bought all we could get in order to have it on hand for the Holidays. As many of you know, this is a one-time, micro production cuvée created to celebrate two of major anniversaries: the 250th year of American independence and the 200th year of the Billecart-Salmon estate. The blend is sourced entirely from Grand Cru and Premier Cru vineyards, combining 65% Pinot Noir from the Montagne de Reims with 35% Chardonnay from the Côte des Blancs. Only 3% of the wine was fermented in oak, while the rest was raised in stainless steel, followed by 63 months on the lees before being finished with an extra brut 4.9 g/L dosage. Put simply, this is not just a commemorative release, but a **Champagne with real substance from an exceptional vintage, sourced from elite vineyards, and polished with extended lees aging**. We should point out that this 2018 compares nicely to the firm's fabulous top-end Nicolas-François Brut showing a tad less gravitas but offering bit more energy and lift in the finish all for a fraction of the latter cuvée's tariff.

ANDRÉ CLOUET BRUT RESERVE GRAND CRU $49.98 [376772]

Jean-François Clouet is deeply rooted in the heritage of **Bouzy** (one of Champagne's most historically important villages) and the important role that his family played in its history. In fact, he still possesses his family's deed for a vineyard purchased in **1689**. While best known for his flashy and effusively fruity Clouet Brut Rosé, the André Clouet Brut Reserve is a **long-time staff favorite** that represents one of very best Champagne values on the market. Creamy and packed with Pinot Noir aromas and flavors, this vinous bubbly is just the thing for rich Holiday fare. This 100% Pinot Noir cuvée is a blend of 70% vintage wine (having three years of yeast aging) with 30% reserve wine (two to five years old) stored in tank. Dosage averages 5 grams per liter.

JAMES SUCKLING 93 POINTS

"The effusive nose of candied citrus, ripe pear and brioche pulls you into this fresh and creamy champagne that hits all the pleasure buttons for a non-vintage Brut. Then the chalky freshness at the finish pulls you back for another sip. Excellent balance! 100% pinot noir. Drink now."



H. BILLIOT 2019 BRUT GRAND CRU $79.99 [312213]



Laetitia Billiot is the fourth generation of her family to make estate bottle Champagnes in the Grand Cru Village of **Ambonnay**. Laetitia farms in 25 acres of vines (all in Ambonnay) split into 18 parcels-- all but one of them are situated mid slope. We feel that her 2019 Brut is the best ever from the estate. It is a swanky and highly burnished Champagne that outpaces some *tête de cuvées* we could mention and is a great example why there is so much buzz about the 2019 vintage.

JEB DUNNUCK 94 POINTS

"[This] Millésime Brut presents a fantastic, layered, and focused nose upon opening, revealing notes of crushed oyster shells, orange blossoms, and fresh orchard fruit. The palate is crisp and refreshing, with a supple silkiness of citrus oils that float to round out the flavor, and its savory and salty on the finish. A blend of 70% Pinot Noir and the rest Chardonnay, it was raised without oak in stainless steel and was aged for 48 months sur latte with 5 grams per liter dosage. Although it was just recently disgorged in May 2025, it's showing tremendous potential. It requires a bit of patience, but this is a fantastic vintage from H. Billiot to enjoy over the next two decades."

MARC HÉBRART BRUT "MES FAVORITES" VIEILLES VIGNES $67.99 [379425]

Champagne authority **Peter Liem** says, "[Jean-Paul Hébrart's] Champagnes are intellectually engaging enough to satisfy you; on the other hand, if you're just looking to drink, they're simply delicious." We couldn't agree more, and that is why any Marc Hébrart offering is a sure-fire bet for Christmas gifting and entertaining. "Mes Favorites" is crafted from Jean-Paul's favorite old-vine parcels in **Mareuil-sur-Ay** and is intended as tribute to his crus' unique *terroir*. This brilliant example of the blender's art is a combination of 80% Pinot Noir and 20% Chardonnay, *massale selction.* It is based 65% on the 2022 vintage and blended with a mix of reserve stocks going back to 2019. It was disgorged in September 2025 with a dosage of 5 grams per liter.

ANTONIO GALLONI 93 POINTS

"… Mes Favorites … impresses with its resonance and overall body. There are tons of gravitas here. Pear, green apple, mint, slate, chalk, dried herbs, jasmine and lime race across the palate before brisk acids and strong saline inflections take over through the mid-palate and finish. Striking."

GASTON CHIQUET 2016 BRUT "SPECIAL CLUB" $99.98 [387047]



Our **12 Champagnes of Christmas** list would be incomplete without at least one Special Club bottling. For the uninitiated, **Special Club Champagne** is the highest quality classification for grower Champagnes, awarded only to the top vintages of a select group of artisan producers in the Club Trésors de Champagne, with rigorous selection and production standards. Comparable to famous brand tête de cuvées in quality, Special Club Champagnes are also packaged in custom Special Club bottles. This 2016 Gaston Chiquet effort stood out to us for its beguiling aromatics, luxuriant texture and its enduring procession of flavors. It's a harmonious blend of 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir from a rigorous selection of Nicolas Chiquet's finest parcels. It was fermented in stainless steel with full malolactic fermentation, bottled, and then cellar aged for minimum of 90 months on the yeast. It was then finished with a dosage of 6g/L.

ANTONIO GALLONI 94 POINTS

"The 2016 Special Club is a delight. Lemon oil, chalk, mint, white flowers, slate and dried herbs are all beautifully lifted. This energetic, vibrant Champagne has so much to offer. I find its complex, dynamic personality utterly beguiling. The 2016 growing season presented more than its fair share of challenges, all of which Chiquet handled with aplomb."



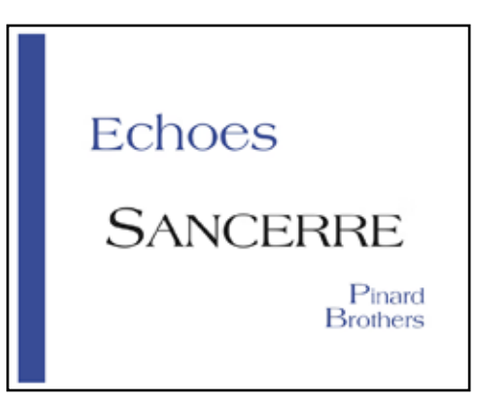


TRIMBACH 2021 RIESLING
$17.99 [334123]
JAMES SUCKLING 92 POINTS
"An archetypal Alsace dry riesling with a wide spectrum of aromas ranging from lemon and crisp pear to fresh pineapple and candied orange. Very crisp and focused palate with a wonderful freshness that's hard to resist. Long, ample finish that's very clean. From organically grown grapes. Drink from release."

JEAN PAUL & BENOIT DROIN 2023 CHABLIS
$34.99 [354801]
DECANTER 93 POINTS
"This charming village-level Chablis is a faithful (and delicious) reflection of the 2023 growing season in Chablis, featuring ripe aromas of white peach and nectarine, a hint of hawthorn flowers, and a suggestion of spice. The wine is a true cuvée ronde, reflecting the entire appellation, since Benoît Droin blended it from 40 parcels that total 9.33ha. The grapes are fermented on native yeasts and aged in stainless-tanks to preserve the purity of the fruit. This wine will drink well on release."



PINARD BROTHERS 2025 SANCERRE ECHOES $34.99 [360532]
VINOUS 90 POINTS - "From the Pinard's negociant arm, the 2025 Sancerre Echoes is organic and biodynamic with fruit sourced from a friend in their home village of Bue. This is generous, rich and tender. It's a charming and elegant expression with gentle acidity, making for a great early drinking. While smooth, it leaves a fine chalky texture."



FAMILLE PAQUET 2023 SAINT VÉRAN LES 99 COUPÉES
$39.99 [358804]
JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS
"A suave and sophisticated wine for this appellation, with excellent concentration and a wonderful silkiness on the medium-bodied palate. Intense anise and fennel flavors at the very long, crisp and stony finish. From vines planted in 1956 and 2009 in 10 parcels on stony limestone soil. From organically grown grapes. Fermented and matured for a year in oak casks, then for another seven months in stainless steel. Drink or hold."

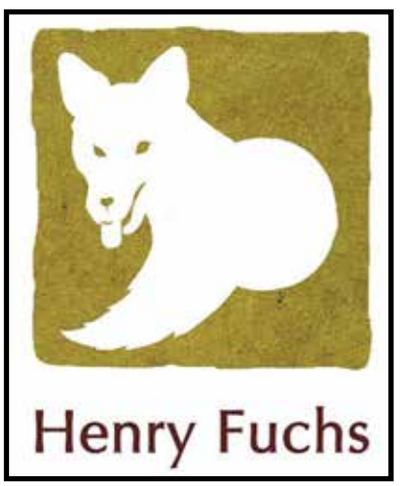




HUET 2025 VOUVRAY LE HAUT LIEU DEMI SEC
$42.95 [350076]
JOHN GILMAN 95 POINTS
"Quince, apple, white lilies and chalk, barely off-dry. Gilman: "The backend lift and grip here are absolutely stunning!" Bieler: "Salty, tangy acidity makes this an excellent white for food."



BARRAUD 2023 POUILLY-FUISSÉ 1ER CRU LA MARECHAUDE CLOS LA VERCHERE
$49.99 [360535]
BURGHOUND 92 POINTS OUTSTANDING!
"There is a phenolic character suffusing the nose of primarily floral, white orchard fruit and a lemon-lime hint. The finer if not quite as rich or powerful medium weight flavors offer very fine length on the moderately austere finale where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. Despite the warmth, this is really quite good and possesses much better than average development potential. This too is worth considering provided you intend to cellar it for at least a few years first. *Burghound Outstanding!*"



HENRY FUCHS 2022 RIESLING KIRCHBERG DE RIBEAUVILLE GRAND CRU $49.99 [350834]
VINOUS 93 POINTS - "The 2022 Riesling Kirchberg de Ribeauvillé Grand Cru is still shy on the nose; only gentle lemon peeks through. A wonderfully smooth palate sports a streak of passion fruit that adds allure to fruit and acidity. The body is concentrated, slightly drying with a subtle phenolic veil, yet bright and fresh. The finish is not as extended as usual but Bone-Dry."

WILLIAM FEVRE 2023 CHABLIS VAILLONS
$59.95 [356379]
JOHN GILMAN 93 POINTS
"The 2023 Chablis "Vaillons" from Domaine William Fèvre is another absolutely classic expression of this fine premier cru vineyard. The bouquet is bright and complex, wafting from the glass in a lovely mix of lemon, pink grapefruit, anise, citrus peel, chalky minerality, white flowers and a gentle topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is vibrant, full-bodied and focused, with a great core of fruit, lovely bounce and grip, seamless balance and a long, mineral-driven and complex finish. First class Vaillons!"



VINCENT PINARD 2023 SANCERRE CHENE MARCHAND$64.99 [354530]

VINOUS 93 POINTS - "The 2023 Chene Marchand offers clarity and a sense of focus. There are no hard edges to this despite its vibrant acidity providing a racy line through the core. This is very complete, offering a bit of reassuring flesh with a firm spine running through it. The 2023 is young and will gain breath and richness with more time in the bottle. Its primary, citrusy character will also provide more interest with age."



LORENZON 2023 MERCUREY BLANC LES CHAMPS MARTIN $99.99 [359388]

WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS - "The 2023 Mercurey 1er Cru Les Champs Martin is lovely, revealing aromas of crisp Anjou pear, clear honey, wet stones and white flowers. Medium- to full-bodied, satiny and layered, it's dense and concentrated, with a cool core of fruit and a long, saline finish."



WILLIAM FEVRE 2023 CHABLIS LES PREUSES $129.99 [355047]

JOHN GILMAN 95+ POINTS - "The 2023 Chablis "les Preuses" from the domaine is simply superb on both the nose and palate. The utterly complex bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, fresh lime, anise, citrus zest, a touch of paraffin and a stunning foundation of chalky minerality. On the palate the wine is pure, precise, full-bodied and utterly defined by its underlying minerality, with a great core of fruit, a fine spine of acidity, laser-like focus and a long, complex and beautifully balanced finish. A great example of les Preuses."



CHAVY-CHOUET 2023 MEURSAULT CLOS DES CORVÉES DE CITEAU $109.99 [345684]

JAMES SUCKLING 95 POINTS - "Lovely density and delicate aromas of minerals, fresh lemons, butter cookies, wet stones and chalk. The palate is tightly wound, with underlying tension and freshness that will develop with time in bottle. This is a delicate and refined wine Excellent. Drink or hold."



GUIGAL 2023 LA DORIANE CONDRIEU $109.99 [357400]

JEB DUNNUCK 98 POINTS - "The killer 2023 Condrieu La Doriane boasts gorgeous orange blossom, honeyed flowers, toasted spice, and grilled peach aromatics that build incrementally with time in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, focused, and pure, this brilliant effort spent 9 months in 100% new French oak and represents the crème de la crème of the vintage. I'd recommend drinking bottles over the coming 7-8 years, although it will keep longer."



DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER 2016 BLANC PESSAC LEOGNAN $129.99 [358887]

JEB DUNNUCK 99 POINTS "The white of the vintage is the 2016 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, which comes from a high-density planting of 30-year-old vines located west and south of the town of Léognan. A blend of 75% Sauvignon and 25% Sémillon raised in 35% new barrels, it offers a massive bouquet of crushed citrus, salty minerality, white flowers, and grapefruit. Racy, full-bodied, concentrated and beautifully textured, it's a brilliant wine that has more flesh and texture than the 2015 and will keep for two decades or more. Hats off to the team at Domaine de Chevalier for this brilliant, brilliant white!"





LOUIS LATOUR 2023 CORTON CHARLEMAGNE $229.99 [345601]

JAMES SUCKLING 98 POINTS - "Such a classic Corton Charlemagne! Stunningly concentrated and powerful, but also so graceful. Very racy at the long finish, which has so much mineral freshness. Takes your breath away! Drink or hold."


Croix de Charlemagne

DOMAINE DE LATHEVALLE 2022 MORGON LES CHARMES
$20.99 [360531]

JAMES SUCKLING 95 POINTS



"What a wonderful fragrance this Morgon has! Violets and candied strawberries. Then, on the very concentrated and focused palate, there's great harmony of beautifully ripe fruit, very fine tannins and mineral acidity. A very long finish that reminds me of a top Chambolle-Musigny! Only just beginning a very long life. Drink or hold."



CHÂTEAU BELLE-VUE 2019 CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNEL
$23.99 [359391]

DECANTER 93 POINTS

"Deep purple colour, medium to full intensity, and a feeling of confident tannic hold from the off. Such an impressive run of vintages at this Haut-Médoc property that has just been named Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel. The spice that Petit Verdot adds is clear, alongside well-brushed tannins, striking aromatics of brambly fruits. Not as luxuriously textured as in 2018 but in its place is a more serious outlook, and this is extremely sleek, elegant and well made."

JEB DUNNUCK 92 POINTS

"Rock star stuff readers should snatch up, the deep ruby/purple-hued 2019 Château Belle-Vue gives up a gorgeous bouquet of ripe currants, black cherries, tobacco, and cedar pencil. This carries to a medium to full-bodied, round, supple, elegant Haut-Médoc with velvety tannins, remarkable balance, and a great finish. It's a gorgeous bottle of wine that will keep for over a decade."

MICHEL SARRAZIN 2023 GIVRY SOUS LA ROCHE
$29.99 [360463]



This Pinot Noir from Michel Sarrazin is a stunning wine which illustrates the brilliance of the 2022 vintage in France. A combination of old vines carefully tended to by a skilled winemaker from a fantastic vintage has resulted in an aromatic and flavorful overachiever. Sarrazin's Givry Vieilles Vignes unfolds gracefully on the palate with great intensity, purity of fruit and silky smooth texture.

Bright ruby in color. On the nose, expressive aromas of fresh cut flowers, perfectly ripened cherries, red berries and baking spices leap from the glass. On the palate, the wine is dry, medium-bodied and polished with wonderful texture and silky tannins. With air, the wine gains complexity as darker fruits emerge with notions of boysenberry and Marionberry mingling with cherry, raspberry and cinnamon spice. The finish is long lasting and very satisfying.



MICHEL SARRAZIN 2023 GIVRY PREMIER CRU VV
$39.99 [357158]

Concentrated red and dark fruits (black cherry), earthy minerality, and fine-grained, soft tannins glide across the palate. The Sarrazin brothers are known for making spectacular high-altitude Côte Chalonnaise Burgundy from the village of Jambles, a tiny hamlet just outside of Givry that is 300 meters above sea level. The brothers have gained a reputation over the last decade for being meticulous stewards of their high-altitude vineyards around Givry, Mercurey and Maranges.

They craft traditional wines that show a clarity of terroir not common in the region, with all of the fruit de-stemmed and extraction kept to a minimum. All of the wines are aged in barrique exclusively from the famed tonnelier Francois Frères and are bottled unfined and unfiltered. These are pure and mineral driven wines that deliver, textured and balanced Pinot Noir.

BEAURENARD 2022 RASTEAU
$29.99 [360314]

JEB DUNNUCK 92 POINTS



"The 2022 Rasteau offers a raspberry and blackberry core of fruit as well as complex notes of sappy garrigue, mint, and even a hint of basil. Based on 80% Grenache, 17% Syrah, and 3% Mourvèdre, brought up in foudre, drink this medium to full-bodied, seamless Rasteau any time over the coming 5-7 years."



BLASON D'ISSAN 2019 MARGAUX
$34.99 [357566]

JAMES SUCKLING 93-94 POINTS

"This is a really beautiful, seductive wine with chocolate, walnuts, currants and some tobacco. Full-bodied, with a supple tannin texture and a flavorful finish. Succulent.



CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2018 SAINT-ÉMILION
$39.99 [352418]

JEB DUNNUCK 95 POINTS

"A gorgeous wine that shines on all accounts, the 2018 Château Fombrauge sports a dense purple hue to go with loads of blackcurrant and black cherry fruits as well as tobacco leaf, damp earth, chocolate, and cedary herbs. With full-bodied richness, a deep, layered mid-palate, silky tannins, and outstanding length, this rock star Saint-Emilion can be enjoyed any time over the coming 20-25 years

or more. It's hands down the finest vintage I've tasted from this estate."

JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS

"Ripe-plum, black-cherry, milk-chocolate, walnut and vanilla aromas and flavors. It's full-bodied with plush, velvety tannins. Creamy and polished. Very tight now. From organically grown grapes. Try from 2023, when it will begin to open up."

CLAU DE NELL 2022 VIOLETTE $44.99 [300049]

JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS



"A textural blend of 65% cabernet sauvignon and 35% cabernet franc. On the nose it is flinty, tarry and minerally, with fresh berry fruit and touches of peppercorn funk, juniper botanicals and damp earth. It's medium-bodied and linear, with fine, fresh tannins and a pristine, juicy finish. Authentic with a savory touch. Vivid and succulent, with a bright character throughout. From biodynamically grown grapes with Demeter certification. So delicious now, but can hold."



CLOS SAINT JEAN 2023 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE $44.99 [321088]

WINE SPECTATOR 93 POINTS

"A round, distinctive style, with flickers of mocha atop a round, rich core of ripe cherry and warm stone. Lush and streaming in feel, with soft tannins that pick up steam. The ripeness is beautifully held in place by an iron spine. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsaut, Vaccarèse and Muscardin. Drink now through 2040."

GUIGAL 2019 CÔTE-RÔTIE BRUNE ET BLONDE $64.95 [300085]

VINOUS 95 POINTS

"Inky ruby. Vibrant, spice-accented cherry and boysenberry scents are complicated by hints of black pepper, candied flowers and licorice. Supple and broad in the mouth, offering juicy red and blue fruit preserves, spicecake, olive paste and violet pastille flavors that tighten up steadily with air. The floral note repeats strongly on the clinging finish, which shows excellent clarity and velvety, slowly building tannins. There are almost a quarter-million bottles of this wine made in a typical vintage, by the way. 50% new oak."



JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS

"A terrific range of spice and fragrance that really defines great Côte-Rôtie. The fruit is in the fresh red-plum and dark-berry zone and there's dark chocolate here, too. The palate has a very supple, smooth delivery of sturdy yet fine tannins and a powerful, focused finish. Drink over the next decade or more."



CHATEAU D'ISSAN 2019 MARGAUX $64.99 [353587]

JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS

"Fresh currants and raspberries pop out of the glass, together with oranges and cedar. Such purity of fruit in the nose. Full-bodied, yet so refined and vertical. It goes deep and long with tight, compressed tannins that are pure and exciting. Really tight and focused. Precise."

CHARLES AUDOIN 2022 MARSANNAY LES LONGEROIES $74.95 [356344]

JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS



"Wonderfully open and enticing with great sour-cherry fruit, this exudes generosity and succulence that's hard to resist. Ample, fine tannins are already perfectly integrated on the medium- to full-bodied palate. Very long, generous yet precise finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold."



CHÂTEAU PAPE CLÉMENT 2020 PESSAC-LÉOGNAN $79.95 [351434]

VINOUS 98 POINTS

"The 2020 Pape Clément is outrageously beautiful. Dark, virile and imposing, the 2020 is a rare vintage of Pape Clément that is vertical and statuesque in feel. Dark fruit, chocolate, new leather, licorice and cloves infuse the palate with tremendous depth. In a word: magnificent."

-Antonio Galloni

CHÂTEAU PONTET-CANET 2020 PAUILLAC $98.99 [345099]

JAMES SUCKLING 98-99 POINTS



"This is integrated, with superb density and beauty, offering blackcurrant, mineral and some bark. Full-bodied, yet so polished and refined. Crushed stone. Lots of expression and texture to this wine. Creamy. Pure and precise. Elegant, yet layered. Slightly plusher than the 2019. Dense, yet agile. Fresh as always. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 32% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and

4% petit verdot. 50% new oak 15% old oak and 35% concrete amphorae."

CHÂTEAU BEAUCASTEL 2022
CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE
$99.99 [353953]
JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS



"A textured, layered, precise red, showcasing aromas of cherries, raspberries, warm herbs, bay leaves and baking spices. It's medium- to full-bodied with silty, beautifully melted tannins. So integrated. Lively and focused, with plenty of energy and verve complementing the ripe red fruit and dried herbs. Intense stream of spices in the long, flavorful finish. From organically grown grapes."

CLOS DES PAPES 2020
CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE
$129.99 [356341]
WINE ADVOCATE
100 POINTS



"Tasted recently and as remarkable as ever, the 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape from Clos des Papes, derived from a Mediterranean summer without excess or hydric stress, wafts from the glass with superb aromas of dark berries, violet, lilac, dark cherries and crushed flowers. Full-bodied, seamless and layered, it has a fleshy, enveloping core of fruit framed by velvety, filigreed tannins, concluding with a long, ethereal finish. A deeply identity-driven Clos des Papes of remarkable overall precision, it stands as one of the summits of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation in this vintage."



CELLIER AUX MOINES 2020
GIVRY LES DESSUS $139.99 [356641]
JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS

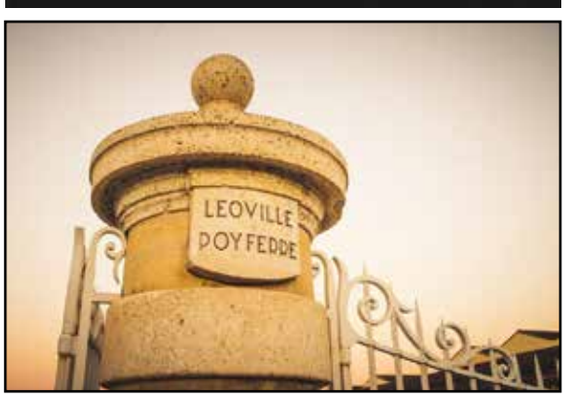
"I recommend this amazing Givry to anyone who thinks the Cotes Chalonnaise is a second-class citizen in the world of Burgundian wines. Enormous concentration, but every bit as much finesse, everything fitting together into a seamless whole that glides over your palate and off into the far distance. And the amarena cherry character is so deep and so refined. Limited production. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold."



LEOVILLE POYFERRE 2009
SAINT-JULIEN $249.99 [311344]
ROBERT PARKER 100 POINTS

"One of the more flamboyant and sumptuous wines of the vintage, this inky/purple-colored St.-Julien reveals thrilling levels of opulence, richness and aromatic pleasures. A soaring bouquet of creme de cassis, charcoal, graphite and spring flowers is followed by a super-concentrated wine with silky tannins, stunning amounts of glycerin, a voluptuous, multilayered mouthfeel and nearly 14% natural alcohol. Displaying fabulous definition for such a big, plump, massive, concentrated effort, I suspect the tannin levels are high even though they are largely concealed by lavish amounts of fruit, glycerin and extract. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2040."





1. FINGERS CROSSED 2022 SYRAH CALIFORNIA "LIFE AND DEATH"
$160.00 [222010]



If we had to name the one producer making the biggest waves in California Syrah while having the wine world "take note--" this undoubtedly takes the top step! Owners and winemakers Nikolas and Julia Krankl are hyper-focused on quality over quantity, producing a minuscule 1,900 cases annually among several bottlings. Julia spent every summer working at her family's art gallery and Nik grew up eating grilled cheese and chocolate chip cookies at his aunt Nancy Silverton's **La Brea Bakery** and **Campanile**. After getting the itch to learn winemaking in 2012, Nickolas trained with Jim Binns of Andremily and Manfred Krankl of Sine Qua Non, and in 2017, launched his own label alongside Julia, a Harvard and UCLA-trained doctor, author and TEDx speaker.

The Fingers Crossed style is unabashedly Californian; sun-kissed wines that are decadent, perfumed, opulent and regal, yet remain light on their feet, and the couple sources pristine grapes from a who's who of Santa Barbara County's grand cru vineyards. This wine rightfully **earned a perfect 100 points from Jeb Dunnuck**! "Another singular, as well as absolutely perfect, wine from this remarkable family team, the 2022 Syrah Life And Death is 100% Syrah from Bien Nacido and Stolpman vineyards, aged 21 months in 61% new oak. It has a deep ruby/purple hue as well as a classic Bien Nacido nose of blackberries, pepper, iodine and iron notes, with perfectly integrated background spicy oak. Deep, pure, elegant and beautifully balanced on the palate, it has full-bodied richness, integrated acidity and a seamless profile. This is stunning stuff that will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and can be enjoyed over the following two decades."



PAUL LATO 2023 PINOT NOIR STA. RITA HILLS "STAND BY ME"
$89.95 [247905]

The man, the myth, the legend… **Paul Lato** has always made wines that put smiles on our faces. While our domestic buyer was visiting him earlier this year, Paul poured this Pinot Noir into their glasses and our buyer instantly asked Paul for every case he could buy! Paul is the overnight success that was decades in the making. While working as a Sommelier in Toronto, he decided to change gears and work in winemaking. After working with **Jim Clendenen** at Au Bon Climat, Paul started making his first wines. Before he even had a name, esteemed critic Robert Parker tasted the wines and suggested that Paul hurry up and come up with a label, because Paul had true talent. He only works with vineyard that our industry deems as *truly* being the very best.

This property belongs to the very well-known Dierberg winery. Paul was attracted to this site, located in the heart of the Sta. Rita Hills, because of its potential for producing a very high-end, concentrated and structured wine. His parcel is located in the western section on the steepest slope, graced by a beautiful southern exposure. It is planted with Swan and Calera vines originally "imported" from Burgundy by passionate wine guys in their suitcases. **This wine earned a nearly-perfect 99 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, and he writes: "From the Drum Canyon Vineyard and brought up 18 months in 70% new French oak, the 2023 Pinot Noir Stand By Me offers black raspberries, graphite, spring flowers, and minty, sappy underbrush nuances on the nose. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, concentrated, and focused, with beautifully integrated oak (it brings to mind Roumier), it has a tight, focused mouthfeel, beautiful overall balance, and a great finish. Give it a year or two to integrate its oak and drink through 2035. It's another sensational Pinot Noir from the genius of Paul Lato."

3. SEA SMOKE 2023 PINOT NOIR STA. RITA HILLS "TEN"
$109.95 [276080]



Sea Smoke has risen to the status of superstar in the world of California Pinot Noir. In fact, it may be the most in-demand name in the game, as we get requests all year long yet typically sell out in a matter of weeks. However, we managed to get in on the ground floor, and we've been rewarded with a plentiful allocation this year! **The organically-farmed Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard** is comprised of 172 acres that range in elevation from 218-720 feet above sea level, oriented with a Southern exposure that ensures plenty of sunshine. The combination of semi-siliceous shale and calcareous strata with thin topsoils are pivotal for reducing vigor and creating smaller clusters of grapes that yield concentration and complexity. The cooling influence of fog or "*sea smoke*" that flows through the Santa Ynez River canyon from the Pacific Ocean allows flavors and tannins to fully mature, while still maintaining the natural acidity that is an essential element of their Pinot Noirs. Their "Ten" is named for the ten clones of Pinot Noir planted on their property, and this wine is completely destemmed.

"The 2023 Pinot Noir Ten is a very successful wine in this vintage, showing enough richness to the dark berry fruit to soak up the considerable new French oak imprint. Brambly raspberry, dark cherry skin, lavender, orange pith and bright rhubarb acidity join together to lift the palate effortlessly. Everything is in solid balance here. This style clearly works better with the freshness of a cool vintage like 2023."

-**Vinous Media 94 points**!



4. CAPIAUX 2024 PINOT NOIR SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS "PISONI" $64.95 [218445]



Sean Capiaux is a name that is recognized around the store and if you aren't already familiar with his work, let us be the first to tell you: **the man absolutely crushes it!** From the cool climate of Monterey County to the high tops of the Vaca Mountain range in Napa Valley, Sean expresses his passion and pursuit of making incredible wine. Not only does he serve as the winemaker for **O'Shaughnessy** in Napa Valley's acclaimed Howell Mountain appellation, but his distinguished career also boasts elite stints at prominent houses like **Jordan**, **Pine Ridg**e, and **Peter Michael**—in fact, it was while working as the assistant winemaker at Peter Michael that he produced his very first barrels for the "Capiaux" label.

The **Pisoni Vineyard** is a historical site that helped the Santa Lucia Highlands to be established as an AVA (American Viticulture Area) back in 1992 thanks to **Gary Pisoni**. Starting out as a dry and cattle driven area with no water to be found, with time, dedication and a little luck, the landscape was turned into one of the most prolific grape growing areas in Monterey County. With the budwood coming from Burgundy, France, Sean knew that the grapes from this vineyard would be absolutely stellar and decided to use these grapes to make Pinot Noir that people would adore. This vineyard is the source for some of the most prolific producers in the state, including Peter Michael, Paul Lato, Lucia, Roar, and Patz & Hall. This year his wine even earned **an incredible 96 points from Jeb Dunnuck**! "Firm tannins coat the medium- to full-bodied palate of the always impressive 2024 Pinot Noir Pisoni Vineyard, which has a lovely floral rose component on the nose. With 20% whole-cluster fermentation, the wine is dark and brooding in black and blue fruit, with ample depth and concentration, aged 11 months in 30% new oak. This is an impressive wine already, set for fall 2026 release, that should hold well over time."

5. AARON WINES 2023 PROPRIETARY RED PASO ROBLES "MAUKA" $49.95 [201445]



Aaron Jackson is a Central Coast native with Hawaiian roots and is a hardcore surfer. So, you can imagine how dedicated to winemaking Aaron must be when he has to leave those firing point breaks to head for the vineyards! At a young age, he found himself working in coastal Pinot Noir vineyards near his hometown of Cayucos and working in cellars producing wines from Paso Robles' westside, most uniquely Petite Sirah. While studying wine at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, he pooled together the pennies from his weekend jobs and launched his eponymous label with the first vintage of Aaron Petite Sirah in 2002.

Mauka, meaning "towards the mountains" in Hawaiian, is a blend that was a long time coming. Aaron has always been fascinated with Bordeaux varietals, but struggled to find the vineyards that gave him a more classical Cabernet profile, which is what he's been looking for. However, he began working with some wonderful, cooler sites in the Willow Creek and Adelaida districts that finally gave him what he desired! This gem earned **95 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, and he writes: "Made from 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Petite Sirah, and 3% Petit Verdot, the 2023 Mauka delivers cassis and assorted blueberry-like fruits intermixed with sweet oak, tobacco, and chocolate. Full-bodied on the palate, it has a concentrated, layered mouthfeel, lots of fruit, and a great finish, and I love its balance, purity, and length. Aged 22 months in 70% new French oak, it hit 14.9% alcohol with a pH of 3.72. **It will best many a Napa Cabernet at a quarter or less the price**."

6. ELK COVE 2024 PINOT NOIR YAMHILL-CARLTON DISTRICT "MT. RICHMOND" $49.95 [218925]



Throughout Oregon's Willamette Valley, 2024 is considered an outstanding vintage. It was a year free of smoke in the northern Willamette (where the better Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays are grown), and is shaping up to be the best in recent memory. In fact, several producers refer to 2024 as a "benchmark" vintage… now that's saying something! In the winter of 1974, a herd of 40 Roosevelt elk bedded down in the clearing by the Campbell family's trailer. Their presence, along with the protective bowl shape of the property, inspired Pat and Joe Campbell to name their property Elk Cove Vineyards. They are *true* stewards of the land and farm with respect, which in turn helps winemaker Adam Campbell to produce fantastic wines. **Their vineyards are certified Salmon Safe, utilize cover crops instead of synthetic fertilizers, and they dry farm**.

Mount Richmond Vineyard sits on marine sediment soil (Willakenzie) in the foothills of the Coast Range Mountains. The vines were planted in a high-density format using cuttings of Pommard clone Pinot Noir taken directly from their esteemed Roosevelt block. An elevation of just 300 feet allows for earlier ripening, and also lengthens the harvest season, bringing out different flavor components compared to their other estate vineyards. Always one of our favorite producers, Elk Cove is showing us why 2024 is a year that should be on your radar! "Cherry cordial, sweet herbs, violet, hints of blue fruit, and lovely purity emerge from the 2024 Pinot Noir Mount Richmond. Medium to full-bodied, it has a silky texture, underlying richness, outstanding clarity, precision and impressive length. It should only improve with another few years in bottle. Drink 2026-2040." -**95 points by Audrey Frick (JebDunnuck.com)**

7. HOURGLASS 2023 PROPRIETARY RED NAPA VALLEY "HG III" $44.95 [230070]



At the heart of Napa Valley's Vaca Mountain range estate sits Hourglass—a winery built on the seamless intersection of dramatic natural terroir and modern winemaking precision. Known for crafting wines with intense focus, structural elegance, and an undeniable sense of place, the estate has continuously pushed the boundaries of modern Napa winemaking. Hourglass takes its name from the shape of Napa Valley itself-- its founding vineyard sits right in the middle where the valley pinches inward like an hourglass. In 1992, founder Jeff Smith returned to his family's St. Helena property with a vision to unlock the potential of its unique, wind-funneled microclimate. That vision took a major leap forward in 2012 when Jeff joined forces with acclaimed **winemaker Tony Biagi, celebrated for his transformative work at PlumpJack and Cade**. Combining Jeff's deep connection to the land with Tony's master-level precision and modern blending prowess, the duo formed a formidable team dedicated to crafting world-class Napa Valley wines.

Together, they created the HGIII Proprietary Red: a bottling designed to push past traditional Napa conventions and weaves the best of their estate history into a single, vibrant glass. Critics have taken notice, **awarding the vintage 94 Points (Wine Spectator) and 92 Points (Jeb Dunnuck)** for its vibrant fruit and seamless balance. Biagi's blend weaves silky Merlot with dark, brooding Petite Sirah and structural Cabernet Sauvignon, creating a wine filled with bright blackberry, savory herbs and supple, velvety texture. It's an approachable masterpiece that overdelivers on every front-- a true standout bottle whether you're opening it tonight or saving it for your next gathering.

8. HARTFORD 2023 PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST "LAND'S EDGE" $39.99 [228890]



The Hartford Family's success is quite enviable in Sonoma County. Not only are they one of the most cherished families in this world-class wine growing region, but **their Pinot Noirs get the same scores often reserved for wines that charge 2-3 times** what the Hartfords ask. Hartford Family Winery was founded in 1994 as a result of Don and Jennifer Hartford's appreciation for the wines, the people and the unique vineyards near their Russian River Valley home. Located in the Sonoma County town of Forestville, the winery is about 15 miles from the cool Pacific Coast.

Land's Edge Pinot Noir is sourced from vineyards located at the "land's edge" of the Sonoma Coast AVA. The vineyards are driven by a maritime influence producing a small but concentrated crop of Pinot Noir that is harvested in late September through mid-October. The foggy coastal climate preserves natural acidity in the grapes and helps delineate the purity of fruit flavors and expression of the unique coastal terroir in this wine. Balanced acidity, layers of complexity and firm tannins will allow for long and graceful aging of Land's Edge Vineyards Pinot Noir. **Rated at 96 points by Audrey Frick of JebDunnuck.com**, her notes say "The 2023 Pinot Noir Land's Edge Vineyards is a youthful ruby color and is spicy and bright with **notes of wild raspberries, fresh wildflowers, salty earth, hints of anise, and dark stones**. The palate is focused, balanced, and even, with a stony texture and fresh acidity, its more savory and smoky incense notes lasting on the finish."



9. ROSEROCK 2024 PINOT NOIR EOLA-AMITY HILLS $34.98 [253160]

The Pinot Noirs from Oregon's Willamette Valley have received some serious praise in recent years. They have been named on **Wine Spectator's "Top 100" list**, garnered near-perfect scores from **Wine Advocate**, and have sommeliers salivating over recent vintages. It seems that families whose names are well-established in other wine regions have been flocking to Oregon's Willamette Valley lately. However, it was the Drouhins who were the first Burgundy family to stake a major claim into this now world-renowned wine region back in 1987. After tasting a wine from pioneer David Lett, Robert Drouhin was intrigued by the region, and selected it for his next Pinot Noir venture.

In 2013, the Drouhin family purchased the Roserock property; an extraordinary vineyard at the southern tip of the Eola-Amity Hills, in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Ancient volcanic soils and an ideal elevation range produce classic, cool-climate Pinot Noirs that evoke a true sense of place. During the warm growing season, ocean breezes funnel through Oregon's Coast Range and blow along the Van Duzer Corridor every evening, chilling this part of the Eola-Amity Hills more than ten degrees cooler than northern Willamette Valley sub-appellations. "The 2024 Pinot Noir Roserock is a bright ruby red color and is lifted and vibrant, with cranberries, cinnamon, wild raspberries, bright spice, and delicate incense. Medium-bodied, it has refreshing acidity, even tannins, and terrific youthful tension. Drink 2026-2040." -**95 Points by Jeb Dunnuck**

10. RAVENSWOOD 2024 ZINFANDEL DRY CREEK VALLEY $21.95 [285600]



At one point, the Zinfandels from Ravenswood Winery were the stuff of legends. Never giving into the White Zin craze, Ravenswood kept its focus on premium quality red wine and it earned a dedicated following. The current owners are bringing back that prestige to the brand and judging by their latest release, they are on the right track! Ravenswood is one of California's iconic Zinfandel producers; founded by Joel Peterson in 1976, the brand played a pivotal role in revitalizing the variety by crafting site-specific Zinfandels from Sonoma County. In doing so, Ravenswood garnered critical acclaim and a cult-like following, with Peterson being hailed as The Godfather of Zinfandel. In fact, **Joel's hand-made punch-down tool and other Ravenswood artifacts were acquired by the Smithsonian** to be displayed in their "Food: Transforming to the American Table" exhibition.

Just two miles wide and 16 miles long, Dry Creek Valley is one of California's most recognized and acclaimed regions for Zinfandel. A region perfectly matched to a variety, Dry Creek Valley is a small but magical place, offering winemakers a dynamic range of elevations, microclimates and soil types to craft distinctive and soulful Zinfandel. An homage to the place where Ravenswood was born almost half a century ago, this Zinfandel was sourced from select blocks on the eastern benchlands of Dry Creek Valley, capturing the region's hallmark fruit intensity and appealing spice characteristics. This wine earned an enormous score of **94 points from Wine Spectator**! "An engaging red, with sleekly layered cherry and raspberry flavors highlighted by roasted sage, fresh violet and pepper flavors that end with refined tannins. Drink now through 2035."

1. AUBERT 2024 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY "EASTSIDE" $119.95 [200700]



In the world of California Chardonnay, the unequivocal list of top producers include names such as Kongsgaard, Peter Michael, Marcassin and Kistler. And in recent years, listening to the critics' rave reviews and the inquiries from collectors and consumers, the Aubert wines are now solidly on that list! Mark Aubert's single-vineyard Chardonnays have experienced a meteoric rise in popularity. His winemaking journey began in 1989 at Peter Michael, where he trained under the legendary Helen Turley. This formidable foundation paved the way for prestigious roles at Colgin, Sloan, Futo and Bryant Family, and culminated in the 1999 launch of Aubert Wines alongside his wife, Teresa. Engineered to showcase the unique essence of singular terroirs with effortless grace, Mark's wines are crafted specifically for a discerning community of wine lovers who demand nothing short of perfection.

Eastside stands as Aubert's sole Chardonnay from the Russian River AVA. Perched on a hillside overlooking the vast Russian River Valley, the vines thrive in incredibly rocky soil—the defining feature of this unique terroir. By pairing a rare Chardonnay clonal selection with this low-vigor site, Aubert crafts a wine that balances remarkable power with delicate elegance. This extraordinary wine comes with a noteworthy review, **a score of 98 points from Audrey Frick (of JebDunnuck.com)**! "The 2024 Chardonnay Eastside Vineyard comes from a site planted by Ulises Valdez in 2008. Green apple, lime candy, white flowers, and refined stony earth define this focused and elegant wine. Though among the warmer sites in the portfolio, it possesses a distinctly Burgundian sensibility, emphasizing purity, energy, and mineral precision over sheer power. Medium to full-bodied, it delivers impressive refinement and persistence."

2. SENTIUM (BY CONTINUUM) 2024 SAUVIGNON BLANC MENDOCINO COUNTY $74.95 [213005]



The Mondavi name is legendary across the wine world. Ever since patriarchs Cesare and Rosa Mondavi laid the family's winemaking roots in 1919—followed by Robert Mondavi revolutionizing California whites with his iconic Fumé Blanc—the family has been revered for shaping American wine history. Today, while they remain world-renowned for monumental reds that regularly score 95–100 points, their Sauvignon Blanc is remarkable in its own right, fully deserving of our **#2 Top White spot**! First introduced in 2021 by winemaker Chiara Mondavi and the fourth generation of the family, this vibrant, mineral-driven bottling—dubbed Sentium—comes fruit from historic vines to carry that century-long legacy forward.

Sourced from organically farmed old vineyards in Mendocino County's Redwood Valley, **it has rightfully captured critical acclaim—garnering 94 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, who noted that "...it comes closest in style to a lively Graves Blanc." Beyond its refreshing finish, this blend of 92% Sauvignon Blanc and 8% Sémillon core reveals crisp citrus, white flowers, stone fruit and an alluring hit of lemon that tantalizes the palate. The deliberate inclusion of Sémillon lends an unexpected richness and textural weight to the mid-palate, beautifully balancing the intense, laser-focused acidity characteristic of northern California's cooler microclimates. Fermented and aged with minimal intervention to let the terroir shine through, every sip delivers an exquisite tension between flinty minerality and vibrant fruit purity. It stands as a brilliant masterclass in precision and heritage, proving that the Mondavi family's next chapter is just as visionary as their celebrated past.



3. ROCHIOLI 2024 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY ESTATE $63.98 [255075]

Very few sites in California truly merit 'Grand Cru' status, but if American vineyards were ever officially classified, Rochioli would undoubtedly sit at the top. The family's passion for world-class viticulture dates back to 1968, when Joe Rochioli Jr. first planted Pinot Noir in soils shaped by cool coastal winds-- the quintessential Russian River Valley terroir. While they supply select fruit to legendary producers like Williams Selyem and Gary Farrell, the family keeps the absolute best for their own estate bottlings.

The Rochioli family farms some of the oldest Chardonnay vines in Sonoma County. While these low-production old vines yield only a fraction of the fruit they once did, the depth and concentration of those grapes are unrivaled. This bottling brings together three legendary parcels that form the backbone of the estate: Riverblock, Mid-40 and Little Hill. Given their cult status, Rochioli wines almost never make it to retail shelves, but we managed to secure a tiny allocation of this exceptional gem. **Earning a tremendous 98 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, the wine was aged in 30% new French oak, yet the wood never dominates; rather, it dovetails beautifully with the wine's vibrant fruit profile. On the nose, nuanced aromas of Meyer lemon, pineapple rind, and vanilla shortbread lift effortlessly from the glass. The palate echoes that elegance with a rich display of banana crème, ripe tropical fruit, and pound cake, while a lively, well-placed acidity brings a wonderfully crisp and refreshing finish.

4. SPOTTSWOODE 2025 SAUVIGNON BLANC SONOMA/NAPA COUNTIES $49.95 [262630]



In addition to their Estate grown Cabernet Sauvignons that have garnered 100-point scores, Spottswoode always produces one of our favorite Sauvignon Blancs out of California! In addition to their estate grapes, Spottswoode gets fruit from other noteworthy vineyards, such as Hyde, Bedrock and Tofanelli, and also utilizes the Musque clone of Sauvignon Blanc. Spottswoode's method of fermentation (using a combination of small stainless barrels, French oak and concrete eggs) means that they manage up to 200 individual fermentations each year. This technique results in a complex, rich and vibrant wine that stands well on its own, pairs beautifully with food and is further enhanced with a bit of cellaring. The wine is mouth-coating and viscous, with a balancing acid tension and great mouth-watering juiciness. The beauty is there aromatically, with an initial impression of lime zest, lemon pith and citrus blossom. It then opens to white peach, nectarine, mandarin, cream, with hints of vanilla and lime curd, both on the nose and on the palate. Rich and texturally enticing, with great balance and length. **93 points from Wine Spectator**!



5. FREEMARK ABBEY 2024 CHARDONNAY NAPA VALLEY $31.95 [223710]

Freemark Abbey is one of Napa's hallmark producers with a rich history dating back to pre-prohibition days. They were also one of the 12 domestic wineries featured in "The 1976 Judgment of Paris" tasting where California won every single category, which catapulted Napa Valley onto the world stage as a premier wine-producing region. With the appointment of Kristy Melton in 2020, she becomes the first female winemaker for Freemark Abbey since their founding by Josephine Tychson. With nearly two decades of winemaking experience, Kristy has built a reputation for crafting wines of structure, finesse and age-worthiness.

Earning 94 points from Jeb Dunnuck, he writes: "Coming mostly from Coombsville and Carneros and aged eight months in 43% new French oak, the 2024 Chardonnay Napa Valley is a beautiful, classy, rich, yet fresh and vibrant expression of Chardonnay. Stone and orchard fruits, honeyed white flowers, spice, and a kiss of classy wood all shine on the nose, and it's medium-bodied on the palate, with a pure, focused, vibrant mouthfeel, integrated acidity, and a great finish."

6. DESPARADA 2024 SAUVIGNON BLANC CENTRAL COAST "FRAGMENT" $29.95 [214370]

Desparada is a boundary-pushing California winery based in the Tin City district of Paso Robles, celebrated for its rule-breaking, terroir-driven white and red blends. Founded by owner and winemaker Vailia From, the label reflects her adventurous, nomadic spirit and an intuitive approach to vinification. Free from rigid New World dogmas, Valia balances Old World inspiration with bold cellar choices, crafting wines that result in an array of aromas and flavors. With the help of her all-female winemaking crew, her critically acclaimed portfolio elegantly captures the raw vitality of the Central Coast.

Desparada aims to source from organic, biodynamic and sustainably-focused vineyards whenever possible, and use low intervention methods in their winemaking; this Sauv Blanc is even fermented with native yeasts! "All Sauvignon Blanc and aged four months in a mix of neutral barrel, amphora, new acacia and new French oak, the 2024 Fragment is medium to light gold-hued and delivers vibrant, forward aromatics of citrus, minty herbs, and a kiss of chalky minerality on the nose. It's clean, balanced, and medium-bodied on the palate, with nicely integrated acidity and a great finish. There are 1,463 cases. It's another impeccably made white from Desparada."

-**Jeb Dunnuck 92 points**!



1. ALTESINO 2021 MONTOSOLI BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO
$119.98 [306546]



Altesino has been key in making Brunello di Montalcino one of Italy's biggest successes in the wine world. At their best, Brunellos are **boldly structured**, **savory wines** that finely weave **power**, **energy** and **complexity**. Altesino's Montosoli bottling manages that feat with ease thanks to a wonderful confluence of **special site**, **exceptional vintage** and a house style that's **delicious and expressive** early on!



To make a truly special wine, you need special sites. **Montosoli**, an unassuming, isolated hill just north of Montalcino is recognized as one of the greatest. Altesino shows off the magic in their bottling, which combines the **fresher, floral-tinged fruit** of northern Montalcino with a **distinctively powerful**, firm structure and **crushed mineral sensations**. To top it off, the exceptional **2021** growing season made for a Montosoli with **beautiful balance and clarity.** The fact that it pulls this off after spending **4 years in large oak barrels**, and more in bottle, is testament to the high quality here. This one has a wide drinking window, attractive in the near-term and a jewel for the cellar. *Organic farming practices.*

JAMES SUCKLING 98 POINTS
WINE ADVOCATE 97 POINTS

"… if you're after Montosoli, this is one of the best expressions around… flaunts an especially sharp profile with **enhanced minerality and focus**. There is *wild cherry* and *dried currant*, but ultimately more impactful are the **elegant aromas** of *crushed stone*. These give the wine **brightness and vertical lift**. The mouthfeel is medium- to full-bodied in texture with **fine**, **powdery tannins** that are well integrated..."

2. MASSOLINO 2021 PARUSSI BAROLO
$114.98 [306115]



Another of Italy's greatest success stories, Barolos are famous for their **invigorating contrast** between **sleek, fragrant fruit** and **bracing structure** that both grips and guides it on the palate. Massolino is one of the standout producers today, but it's been **family-run since 1896**. In the years and generations that have followed, they've accumulated some top vineyard plots while gradually perfecting their art. Since **Nebbiolo** variety reflects site differences so vividly, **single-vineyard bottlings** are a great way to really explore Barolo. On top of that, they usually involve a prime selection of fruit for a more impressive experience!

This incredible bottling is for collectors of the greats. The *Parussi* vineyard stands apart from Massolino's Serralunga home since it lies across a valley, in the opposing hills of Castiglione Falletto. It's a site known for its **fuller-structured, suave**, and **darkly-toned** Barolos, but Massolino's version also shows off the **elegance and refinement** that it can deliver, especially in a stellar vintage like 2021. **A broad beam** of *juicy berries*, *violet* & *rose*, *cool herbs*, *dark spice* and *earthy minerality* is supported by a **stony** but **polished grain, structure**. It's a **powerful** but **expressive** and **well-balanced** Barolo that stands tall in the crowd! Give it several hours in the decanter to really show what it's got and pop bottles over the next 20 years! *Sustainably farmed*.

WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

"… At this young stage, it delivers tight *wild berry* and you also get a pretty signature of *crushed limestone*. That elegant mineral note ties in nicely with the silky tannins. The Parussi excels in a balanced vintage such as this."

– Monica Larner



3. LE PUPILLE 2022 'SAFFREDI' TOSCANA ROSSO $99.98 [306525]



While winemaking goes back over 2,000 years on Tuscany's southern coast, the Scansano area has only been recognized officially since the 1970s. Fattoria Le Pupille, guided by **Elisabetta Geppetti**, was the estate that put it on the map. Today her winemaker son, Ettore, is bringing more **finesse and freshness** to their wines, and their 2022 Saffredi bottling is a perfect example.

A Bordeaux blend driven by Cabernet Sauvignon, Saffredi's shining distinction in the "Super Tuscan" category comes from its ebullient **freshness**, **clarity** of aromas and **fine balance** between its **firm structure** and **delicious**, **full-bodied** fruit character. To top it off, it does that at a fraction of the price of most well-known names in the region. This will continue to impress as bottles are opened over the years! *Aged 18 months in mostly new French oak barrels*. *Organic farming practices*.

JAMES SUCKLING 99 POINTS
WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

"This is one of only a handful of wines made on the Tuscan Coast that has managed to interpret the vintage in such an excellent manner. The Fattoria le Pupille 2022 Saffredi (a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot) deftly plays upon the elegance and fruity brightness of the growing season, while also harnessing its **freshness** and its **slightly more streamlined appeal**. The wine is **nuanced** and **layered** with fine details that recall *wild berry*, *spice*, *blue flower* and *blood orange*. To my mind, the 2022 stands apart from almost every other past vintage of Saffredi. This is a new direction for the wine that we can all happily embrace."

4. CANTINA DEL PINO 2021 OVELLO BARBARESCO $69.98 [304862]



Another special place for the noble Nebbiolo variety, Barbaresco is one of Italy's most iconic wine regions. Thanks to a wonderful year and top-notch winemaking, this 2021 Barbaresco has the **harmonious interplay** of **streamlined** fruit profile, **ethereal** perfume, **vinous** power, and **bracing** mouthfeel that are hallmarks of the best here. With 2 years in traditional oak casks, this has developed *wild* & *savory* accents, along with *woodsy dark spice*, sweetly resinous *balsam*, and subtle *coffee*/*cocoa* notes to its core of *violet*-drenched, *minty*, *ripe forest berries*. While still very youthful and best with time in the decanter (try an hour or so), Barbarescos are more welcoming in youth than their typically broader-shouldered Barolo neighbors.

Cantina del Pino's **Ovello hill** bottling comes from a site and family that are entwined with the origins of this place. One of the original members of the original Barbaresco cooperative, Giuseppe Vacca purchased these plots in the 1920s from the wine region's *de facto* founder, Domizio Cavazza. It wasn't until the late 90s that the Vacca family left the modern-day Produttori del Barbaresco cooperative to launch their own winery, naming it after the lone pine atop Ovello that Domizio had planted. Pair with flavorful meat dishes like ossobuco, savory wine sauces, white truffle and aged cheeses like gouda and parmigiano. *Aged 2 years in large casks*. *Organic farming practices*.

WINE SPECTATOR 97 POINTS - "*Earthy*, *meaty* aromas and flavors lead off, with **submerged notes** of *cherry* and *berry* fruit. A **dense matrix of tannins** leaves a drying feel as this winds down on the *white pepper*–infused aftertaste. Still raw and unevolved, this is nonetheless long."

5. CANTINA GUNGUI 2022 'BERTERU' CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA $56.98 [306515]



The Cannonau grape is a type of Garnacha that's been on Sardinia for at least 600 years, but it's had recent recognition as a **"blue-zone" wine** grape thanks to thick skins that are rich in beneficial antioxidants and flavonoids. But Cannonaus are also just plain delicious Mediterranean reds! This one is a **particularly wild and powerful expression** from a tiny producer, **Luca Gungui (pictured above!)**. He named it 'Berteru,' regional dialect for 'sincere,' because his **lower-intervention winemaking** allows for raw expressions of his unique home in Sardinia's central hill country. On land his grandfather once farmed, the vines grow like bushes in sandy, granitic soils **nearly 2,000 feet above the sea**!

A delicious swirl of **earthy** and **fruity**, **herbal** and **floral**, the juicy-velvet fruit texture of this Cannonau is cut through by a **beaming inner brightness** and infused with a **soft flow of mineral sensations**. Its high quality shows in the **deliciously extended finish** and **soft embrace** of lightly chewy, clay-like tannins. Richly flavored, it shows both a *fresh-* and *dried-fruit* character, with concentrated *wild strawberry* and *black raspberry cordial* mingling with aromas like *violet*, *blood orange zest*, *herbal French lavender*, *lightly roasted coffee*/*cocoa*, and a hint of *sun-warmed hay*. It gets better with time in the glass, so take your time and enjoy! Try this with herb-encrusted roasted pork knuckle or lamb, wild boar stew, or pappardelle with a thick, saucy ragú. *No oak, no filtering*. *Organically farmed*.


The Sea of Maremma, Tuscany

6. FANTI 2021 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO $49.98 [302665]

The **Fanti family** has owned their vineyards and olive groves in southeastern Montalcino **since the 1800s**, and started making their own wine in the 1970s to take part in the burgeoning Brunello scene. They don't over-manipulate their vines or wines, making traditional representations of their land.



Their style is **brooding**, **complex** and **savory**, full-bodied and well-structured with a lively inner brightness and **crisp**, **rustic tannins**. Facing the warm Orcia Valley gives their Brunello a **darkly toned** character, like *sun-kissed red fruits*, *lightly roasted* accents (like *coffee* and *nougat*), and the oak aging amps up the *spice* (like *cinnamon bark*, *clove* and *nutmeg*). Once again, the **2021 season** made for **extra intensity** and it's best after an hour in the decanter and partnered with rich, flavorful dishes like Florentine steak, braised oxtail, rich ragús and well-aged cheeses (2+ years). *Aged 3 years in oak from large to small in size. Organic farming practices*.

WINE SPECTATOR INSIDER 95 POINTS

"Packed with *cherry* and *raspberry* fruit, this red also exhibits *rose*, *mineral* and *Mediterranean scrub* aromas and flavors. Coiled tightly, picking up *eucalyptus* and gripping tannins on the finish."



7. G.D. VAJRA 2021 'ALBE' BAROLO $44.98 [304049]

The G.D. Vajra (*VIE-rah*) estate is one of the icons of the Barolo modernization movement going back to the 1960s-70s. Founder Aldo Vaira helped turn the notoriously tannic and unyielding wines into the more youthfully expressive and elegant Barolos you can find today.

Their 'Albe' bottling is a perfect example, with a **suave**, **mid-weight style** and **fantastic price** that make it a great choice even for casual situations! With the **2021 edition**, you get a taste of a vintage that Barolo lovers have been stocking up on! It delivers an extra-compelling combination of **vivid aromas**, a **broad saturation** of **lively fruit** on the palate, and an **elegantly embracing** structure. Try this with wild mushroom risotto, buttery *tajarin* or *tagliatelle* pasta with sage & fresh nutmeg, filet mignon or prime rib, and roast duck. *Aged 2 years in large casks. Organically farmed*.

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS - "Do you have a favorite pair of jeans or a favorite dress that you keep in your closet for all occasions? That's the equivalent of this wine. The G.D. Vajra 2021 Barolo Albe is an enormously versatile expression of Nebbiolo, with an affordable price, that offers more value for your money than most Barolos out there. The bouquet focuses on *dark berry*, *pressed flower* and *crushed stone*. It offers **good sharpness** over broad lines. The mouthfeel is **medium-plus in texture** and it closes with **silky**, **accessible** tannins."


Tenuta di Bibbiano

8. BIBBIANO 2021 "VIGNA DEL CAPANNINO" CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE $39.98 [305065]

Owned by the Marzi family since 1865, Bibbiano is one of the great estates of the Chianti hills. It lies in the warm, lower hills of Castellina, making for **fuller-bodied** Chiantis with **darker fruit tones**. A Hi-Time staple over the years has been their Gran Selezione (the highest tier of Chianti Classico) from the sunny *Capannino* vineyard. On top of the warmth this vineyard experiences, it has the distinction of being planted with the thick-skinned **Sangiovese Grosso**, the variety used in making Brunellos.

Full-bodied and well-structured with **earthy**, **grippy** tannins, it wins palates over with its **vibrant and complex aromas** driven by *savory herbs*, *floral*-tinged *dark-red fruits*, a core minerality, and accents of *sandalwood* and *brown spices* from the partial oak-aging for 2 years. What makes this edition extra special is once again vintage! The


G.D. Vajra

2021 growing season was ideal in Tuscany, making this edition of Capannino both hard to resist now ~~*and* worthy of aging for a decade or more! Pair this like you would with a Brunello: braised meats and~~ tagliatelle with a rich, tomatoey ragú. *Organically farmed*.

WINE SPECTATOR 95 POINTS - "*Black cherry*, *blackberry* and *violet* notes permeate this **fresh**, **detailed** red. **Solidly structured**, with **fine harmony**, **expression** and **length**. Just beginning to reveal *woodsy*, *mushroom* and *underbrush* elements, this red is approachable now but will be better in a year or two. **Fine length**..."



9. PRUNOTTO 2023 "PIAN ROMUALDO" BARBERA D'ALBA $34.98 [304519]

Barberas are among Italy's most popular everyday reds thanks to a **juicy**, **soft fruit character** infused with **easygoing**, **fine-grained tannins** and **a brightness that propels it all**. It's a versatile red for the table, too!

Prunotto's *Pian Romualdo* bottling, from the Monforte area in the Barolo zone, is especially easy to like thanks to the winery's **streamlined textural style** and **clean, clear flavors.** It's driven by restrained notes and flavors of *floral-* and *spice*-drenched berries (*cherry*, *blackberry*, *redcurrant preserves*). A *piney* hint and tangy, lightly pithy *bitter orange* make for an appetizing contrast. **Warming**, **mouthwatering** and **clean** on the finish, it has just enough of a smattering of tannins to firm up the finish. This is perfect with things like pizzas, stuffed pastas, or simply charcuterie and fresher cheeses! *Aged around a year in large Slavonian casks. Sustainable farming*.

10. TIBERIO MONTEPULCIANO $24.98 [303952]

In the warm, breezy hills between the Adriatic Sea and the dramatic central mountains of Abruzzo, Tiberio makes one of the most distinctive expressions of Montepulciano. The brother and sister team behind the small-production estate are all about purist wines of place, from their regenerative farming practices to their minimalist winemaking. This bottling is a prime example: made only in **stainless steel**, spontaneously fermented and bottled with the free-run wine (not pressed) that settled naturally, without filtering or fining. The results are clear: **bright** and **youthfully fresh**, it has a **firm**, **saturating layer** of *fruit*, *spice* and *mineral* that is unlike other Montepulcianos! Serve this one a bit cool and enjoy with cured meats and semi-soft cheese, roasted veggies and grilled sausages. *Practices organic farming*.

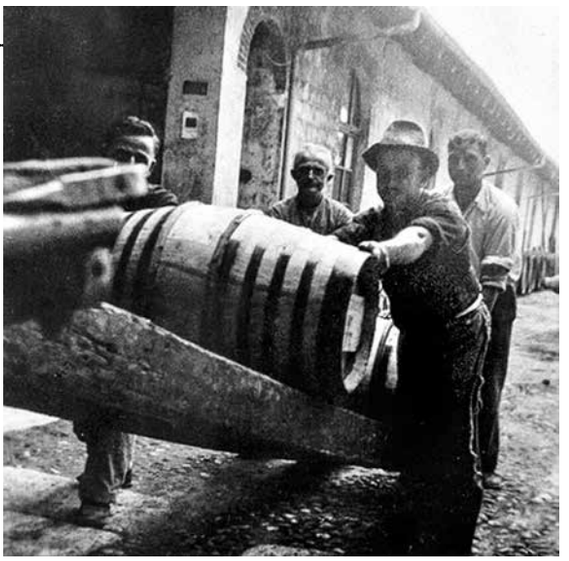


VINOUS 93 POINTS

"Purple-hued and deeply complex, the 2023 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo has an inviting bouquet of *black raspberries*, *cloves*, *dried sage* and *licorice*. **Juicy acidity** lends **a jovial character** to *sour cherries*, *wild berries* and a **tactile mineral core**. It finishes long and pleasantly staining with a *sour berry* inflection and edgy tannins. **There's a tenacity to the 2023** that keeps me coming back for more, but I'm also excited to see what cellaring will reveal." – Eric Guido



In 2008, Riccardo Tiberio handed over the reins of the winery to his highly competent children, daughter **Cristiana** and son **Antonio**.




Prunotto




Clos Mogador

1. CLOS MOGADOR 2023 "GRATALLOPS" PRIORAT $124.98 [350153]



Generously textured, **freshly toned** and **elegantly structured**, this flagship red from Priorat is hard to beat for its enthralling drinkability! Founders Rene Barbier and Isabelle Meyer made a leap of faith in 1979 when they bought their first vineyard in the Montsant Mountains, a tucked away corner of the Mediterranean region of Catalonia. Today, their son continues to make their original wine, Clos Mogador, and it continues to shine. It's a masterful approach to the region's **richly-fruited Carignan-Grenache** blends, tapping into the **lifted fragrance** and **energizing**, **savory minerality** that comes so naturally from the best sites here.

The 2023 Mogador is a **sleek** expression, **full-bodied** but with a **compact mouthfeel** that has a **seamless flow** across the palate. You can find subtly fragrant accents of fragrant *garden flowers*, *Mediterranean herb* (like *rosemary*), subtle *star anise*, *black tea* and *cedarwood,* and a core of *ripe fruits (like black raspberry & pomegranate cordial)*. It's all awash in a **dark, crushed rock minerality** that invigorates its suave, finessed fruit texture and gives it its savory edge. This is why Priorat is famous! *45% Garnacha, 40% Cariñena, 8% Syrah, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon*. *Organically farmed*.

WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

"When I first put my nose in the glass of the 2023 Clos Mogador, I felt the **freshness** of *spring flowers* and lots of *herbs*… I'm always excited when facing a new vintage of Clos Mogador, a wine that has been very important for Priorat and for my understanding of the Mediterranean. This year, the wine feels **very balanced** and has **more elegance**… **very fine tannins**. It's **focused**, **clean**…This is **more energetic**, and there's no concern about the body; it's **powerful** and has **abundant tannins**, a wine for the long run… subtle and elegant despite the notable ripeness. It fermented with 100% uncrushed grapes… This is a very serious Mogador."



2. LA RIOJA ALTA 2016 '904' RIOJA GRAN RESERVA $114.98 [380850]



If you're looking for a **well-aged** red with **textural contrasts** and **layers of flavors**, it's hard to be disappointed with this! La Rioja Alta is a historic winery for the region, having bottled their own wine since 1890. Created to commemorate the merger with the Ardanza estate in 1904, the "904" Gran Reserva bottling stands out as one of the absolute best choices for a **luxurious and complex** Spanish red!

This bottling is driven by Rioja's lithe, soft-red-fruited **Tempranillo** (*red plum*, *strawberry*), complemented by **Graciano**, a more fragrant grape that shows itself as a touch of extra richness at the core, and a flavor boost of *ripe dark fruits* (*mulberry and black plum*) and *spices*. Because the wine can take it, La Rioja Alta does an extra-long, **4-year aging** in American oak barrels (which are made in-house). That takes the naturally soft textures to another level, adding a **creaminess** to the edges, and marries aromas into a swirl of **savory, spicy** and **gourmand** notes: *forest floor* (*mushrooms*, *fragrant earth*), *cured tobacco, rosemary, allspice, resinous balsam, cedarwood, caramelized fruit, coffee and cocoa,* and *creamy vanilla*. The wine is generous and suave in feel without losing its old-world sensibilities: a **seamless marriage** of **velvet fruit texture**, **energetic core** and background of **gently drying**, **fine-grained** tannins. This makes it a fantastic wine simply with aged cheeses and fig preserves, or decadent meat dishes like rack of lamb, prime rib with a coffee rub, and rich, hearty stews!

VINOUS 97 POINTS

"…This has a *slightly sun-kissed* profile, opening with pronounced *oaky* aromas followed by classic tertiary notes of *clove*, *licorice*, *vanilla* and *caramel*, alongside hints of *tobacco leaf* and *bay*. This is **complex in its maturity**, offering **good volume**, **creamy texture** and a **seamless flow** across the palate. A touch of *camphor* appears at the finish, adding energy to the approachable character. The extended aging in oak defines the long, composed finale." - Joaquin Hidalgo



3. VEGA SICILIA 2021 'PINTIA' TORO $109.98 [379657]



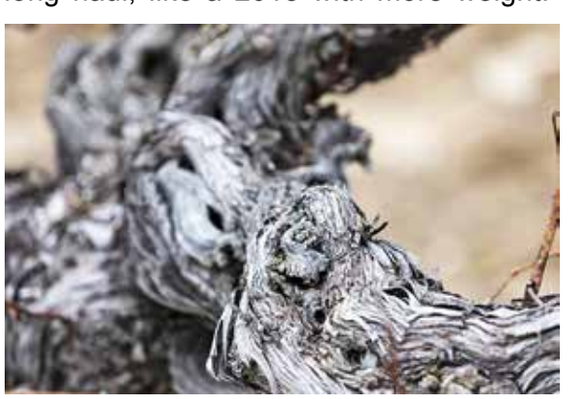
Vega Sicilia is one of the most famous Spanish wineries on the world stage thanks to the potent Tempranillos it makes in the Ribera del Duero region. But following the success of the lesser-known **Toro region** to their west, they introduced Pintia in 2001. It's actually an ancient winemaking land, and even hotter and drier than its famous neighbor. The local thick-skinned Tempranillo (Tinto de Toro) can really make monster wines packed with dark fruit and roasted accents.

In the 2021 Pintia, the *dried plum*, *fig*, *drying flowers*, and a *dark minerality* create a clear picture of Toro's torrid climate, while *fresher fruit* notes of *plum* and *blackberry* mark a welcome change in philosophy: pick for slightly "crunchier" fruit. Aging with mostly new oak barrels provides *toasty*, *sweet spice* notes and enhances the lightly roasted character with an accent like *coffee*.

The 2021 growing season was fantastic for Toro, and Vega Sicilia clearly took full advantage of that in making this Pintia. **Packed layers of texture and flavor** excite the palate, and while it **pushes toward opulence**, it maintains a **compact, contained mouthfeel** that makes it flow more easily!

WINE ADVOCATE 95+ POINTS

"The current release is the 2021 Pintia, for them an exceptional vintage in Toro, one of their finest to date. It was cropped from a cooler year when the wine has more freshness despite the 15% alcohol... The wine is always more powerful than the wines from Ribera or Rioja, with more **oomph**, **density** and **abundant tannins** but with **very good balance** and **freshness**. It's a Pintia for the long haul, like a 2018 with more weight."



4. TELMO RODRIGUEZ 2022 'MATALLANA' RIBERA DEL DUERO $69.98 [378917]



Once again, this **small-production** red from the Ribero del Duero region captivates with its **naturally dramatic character**. The vines in this sunny, dry region in the heart of northern Spain are grown like bushes on high plateaus anchored by the Duero River. Appropriate for this semi-arid, high-altitude place, the local **Tempranillo** (aka Tinto Fino) is a heartier version of Rioja's grapes, with thicker skins that are saturated in color. The interplay of place and grape makes for **bold, well-structured** reds, capable of a distinctive **intensity**, while retaining a **textural elegance** and **balancing**, **mineral freshness** that other regions can struggle to find. Telmo's style focuses on a **purity of the fruit's character** and a textural quality that Luis Gutierrez of Wine Advocate describes as "**elegant rusticity**."

After some breathing time in the glass, the Matallana **exudes deep aromas** of *blackberry* and *plum skin*, along with *stony earth*, *cocoa, pepper,* and *cedarwood*. On the palate, an enticing *saline minerality* greets you, quickly followed by those intense flavors from the skins. **Velvet-textured fruit** and a **coating of very fine, chalky tannins** fill the middle of the wine, and gradually taper into a **grounded, gently chewy** finish. Just give it time to open in your glass and it'll shine with hearty dishes, like a well-seasoned mixed grill of mushrooms, peppers and meats, a ribeye steak, and moderately-aged cheeses like Manchego or Gouda. *Aged 14 months in French oak of various sizes.* *Organically farmed*.

WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS - "… a serious and traditional Ribera, with power, the **concentration** from the year and the **elegant rusticity** from the zone. But it doesn't feel like a wine from a warm vintage, and IT WAS warm, extremely warm... It's serious, **harmonious** and **very balanced**, with **fine-grained tannins**..."



5. DESCENDIENTES DE J. PALACIOS 2023 'VILLA DE CORULLON' BIERZO TINTO $59.98 [376881]

This small-production red is one of Spain's most elegant, mid-bodied reds, but it comes from one of its least-familiar regions and varieties. **Alvaro Palacios** is one of the undisputed greats of modern Spanish winemaking, excelling with vineyards and places that have unrealized potential. In 1999, he and his talented nephew, Riccardo Perez, turned their focus on **Bierzo**, a transitional region between the greener part of Spain and its drier interior.

You might be familiar with the duo's everyday 'Petalos' bottling, one of our best sellers. For their more serious Villa de Corullon bottling, they select from **naturally-farmed vineyards** amongst the steep, sunny hills around the town of **Corullon.** Though these sites feature Bierzo's starring red variety, **Mencia**, the old plots are interspersed with other local varieties, included for centuries for the **added freshness and complexity** they bring to the wines.

The charming 2023 Villa de Corullon has *sun-kissed* accents, but it remains finessed and medium-bodied, with a firmness and subtle intensity not unlike the great Cabernet Francs from the Loire Valley. You can find a distnctive *stony*/*slatey* quality to the aromas and flavors, with restrained notes of *blackberry*, *bright cherry* and *hibiscus,* shaded by *fresh herbs*, *spice* (like *star anise* and *pepper*), and subtle hints of a *struck-flint smokiness* and *cedarwood*. **Super-fine**, **silty tannins** and a **firm acidity** are a well-matched support for its **gossamer body**. Try this with leaner roasted meats, like pork chops or chicken, Spanish chorizo, grilled mushrooms and smoked Gouda. *Organically & biodynamically farmed*.

WINE ADVOCATE 97 POINTS

"... It drove me crazy when I tasted it unbottled last year, and it has delivered what it promised… It has a stony, quite Moncerbal-ish (according to Ricardo), serious, austere and a little reductive character…This is **super elegant** and **fine-boned**, one of the finest vintages to date. It's not very fruit-driven and is a little spicy, **with weight but ethereal**..."

DOMAINES LUPIER

6. DOMAINES LUPIER 2023 'LA DAMA' GARNACHA - NAVARAA $54.98 [387584]

With Spain's vine-growing going back millennia, you can find tucked-away plots of thick, old, scraggly bush-vines that are capable of making truly exceptional wines. This is exactly what humble superstar winemaker and proprietor of Domaine Lupier, **Raul Perez**, seeks out for his passion projects. His tiny-production 'La Dama' is a natural expression of Garnacha from a vineyard **planted in 1903** near *San Martin de Unx*, a small village in the high hills of the **Navarra** region (just east of Rioja).

This Mediterranean scrubland lies high enough up for warm - not scorching – summers, and cool nights. That helps make Lupier's Garnacha **more aromatic and refreshing**, with an abv of just **13.5%**. You can find subtle notes of woodsy spice (like *white peppercorn*), a swirl of florals (*violet*), Mediterranean herb (like *sage*), a core of *raspberry* and *cherry*, *orange zest*, and subtle sweet spice (like *star anise* & *clove*). The fruit texture is **juicy & rounded**, but infused with **a wash of mineral sensations**, finishing with a fine coating of **crunchy tannin**. Generous, but light on its feet, there's more finesse and energy here than in most Spanish Garnachas! *Aged ~14 months in 500L French oak barrels. Organically and biodynamically farmed.*

WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

"… **fragrant** and **subtle**, with a sense of fragility and delicacy like no vintage before… vinified with 100% full clusters and a long maceration... It's **precise**, **clean** and **focused** and has **purity** of aromas and flavors, a **delicate texture**, **super fine tannins**, **balance** and **lots of energy**... *It's really stunning, bravo*! 2,500 bottles produced." - Luis Gutierrez



7. VENUS LA UNIVERSAL 2021 'VENUS' MONTSANT $49.98 [382035]



Surrounding the renowned hills of Priorat, the mountainous Mediterranean region of Montsant is itself a fountain of tasty wines that juxtapose liveliness with generously ripe flavors. Owned and operated by wife & husband team Sara Perez and René Barbier Jr. (*pictured above*), the small-production Venus "La Universal" winery makes some of the finest examples. It's in their blood, as they're children of the Priorat greats who founded Mas Martinet and Clos Mogador (our #1 this year).

Their 2021 Venus is a **captivatingly pure**, **elegant,** and **subtly intense expression** of the region's traditional partners, **Carignan** and **Grenache**. They practice natural, organic and regenerative farming, and their winemaking shows an appreciation for tradition, especially in this flagship bottling: whole grape cluster fermentation, 9 long weeks of extended skin contact before pressing, and 42 months in concrete and neutral oak vats before bottling! *Forest floor* aromas and *bright*, *juicy red fruits* are accented by *fragrant Mediterranean herbs*. Its **sleek**, **svelte** mouthfeel, and **long, tapered**, **citrusy** finish distinguishes it from the average! *60% Cariñena, 40% Garnacha*. *Organically farmed*.

WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS

"The red 2021 Venus la Universal has a bright ruby color and a **floral**, **perfumed** and **elegant** nose full of *wild herbs*… The long [aging] seems to have given it great harmony and made it very stable and subtle, the result of a slow cooking, leaving the wine **nuanced**, **complex** and **terribly elegant**. It has a **medium-bodied palate**, with **very fine, chalky tannins** and an elegance, inner energy and light like I have not seen before…"



8. DO FERREIRO 2024 ALBARIÑO $34.98 [376575]



Albariños are Spain's most popular whites for good reason. The best among them capture the feel of their Atlantic coastal home with a **splash of acidity** followed by **sleek, saline-infused fruit**, and a **mineral finish** that leaves the mouth watering for more!

Do Ferreiro is one of *the* flagship wineries in Albarino's heartland of Rias Baixas. Founded in 1973, they helped establish the official appellation and have some of the oldest vineyards in the highly regarded Salnés Valley. For their calling card bottling, 20- to 120-year-old vines grow on slopes covered with sandy granite soils, and aging takes place in **stainless steel**, making for particularly citrusy, mineral and subtly floral Albariños that are **more elegant and well-balanced than the average**! The 2024 edition stands even taller thanks to an ideal growing season. **Medium-light in body**, it **energetically splashes across the palate** while doling out aromas reminiscent of *lemon oil*, *blossoms*, *white-fleshed stone fruits*, *green apple* and *crushed stones* or *oyster shells*. Do yourself a favor and open this with fresh seafood dishes and creamy lemon-caper sauces! *Practices organic farming*.

WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS

"... it was in the palate where I could see the **harmony and balance of the year**, a year with **purity** and **elegance**, with a perfect balance between alcohol and ripeness and freshness and acidity, with textbook parameters for good development of **aromatics and flavors** while keeping the **spark from the granite soils**. It's very Salnés..."



9. LOS FRAILES 2023 DOLOMITAS MONASTRELL VIÑAS VIEJAS $29.98 [388599]



This is a **deliciously fresh take** on Monastrell, a variety best known for the many thick, high-octane versions with a heavy dried & baked fruit character. Instead, Casa Los Frailes makes their **elegantly rustic** wines from their **high-altitude valley southwest of Valencia**. Here, the Mediterranean air is a bit drier, and cooler at night, and Aleppo pines surround vineyards and groves of olive and almond trees. Religious orders have been making wine here since at least the 1200s, and it's been under one family's care for the past 250 years! Along with some large, seasoned oak barrels, the family still makes use of the original concrete vats used by the friars in order to allow the natural flavors of their fruit to be expressed.

The Dolomitas bottling comes from a vineyard with stony soils formed from the crumbling, magnesium-rich Dolomitic mountains at the edge of the estate. They integrate a small amount of Carignan, which takes the heat of Summer while keeping its bright acidity. The Dolomitas bottling is a more finessed and earthy style of Monastrell: it's warming, with light **savory and dark-spice accents** to its **ripe purple fruit** tone, **medium-full body**, with **velvet tannins** and a **chalky-creamy fruit texture**, making for a naturally suave and delicious experience. Subtle *cooling herb* and *allspice*-like notes contribute a **fragrant lift**. Underneath it all are **subtle mineral sensations** and **just enough balancing acidity** to support the weight of the wine with some refreshing energy. A must-try with jamon, Spanish chorizo, Manchego, roast duck and barbequed meats (or used smoked paprika)! *Organically/biodynamically farmed*.





10. LANZAGA 2023 'LZ' RIOJA $24.98 [388424]



Most Riojas on the market today are regional wines, coming from different zones at a range of altitudes, and carry forward flavors from new oak barrels. But that model came about in the mid-1800s as the French wine industry took hits from vine diseases, and Rioja looked to fill the gaps. Telmo Rodriguez (see our #4 wine) and Pablo Eguzkiza set out in the 1990s to show that Spain has a lot to offer with its own winemaking traditions and distinctive terrains.

This bottling is a perfect example: why not make a "village" wine that more accurately represents a specific part of Rioja where local growers live and make their wines? The LZ comes from **Lanziego de Alava, at high altitudes of 1,600-2,200 feet** that counter the growing heat spikes in the region. Heavy oak flavors can be tasty, but they can cover the character of the grapes here and aren't part of traditions in villages like Lanziego. The LZ is made entirely in concrete. The result is **a serious, but easy to enjoy, Tempranillo-driven red** that shows **rich, dark tones** of the warm and dry season and the **savory mineral undercurrent** found at these heights. This is perfect for a mixed grill of meats and veggies, roasted lamb, Manchego & Gouda, or beef stew. *Organically farmed*.

JEB DUNNUCK 94 POINTS -

"From relatively young bush vines of *Tempranillo*, *Graciano*, and *Garnacha*… the **medium-bodied** 2023 LZ exhibits a richness of **brooding** *black fruit*, nearly a dried fruit character to it. **Floral** in *violet*, it's also **savory** and **dark**, with **ample body weight** and **breadth** across the palate, with no oak, aged only in concrete. It's **complex yet fresh and direct**, ready to enjoy in its youth and over the next 15-20 years." - Virginia Boone



Germany: Vintage 2025

FAST AND FURIOUS!

German wine lovers—rejoice! Vintage 2025 is cause for celebration. It was a small vintage but produced huge wines. Winemakers are saying this was one of the best years they have seen in years. The growing season got off to a flying start. A relatively warm summer followed by a well-timed rain pushed the grapes to ripen fast-- and they came in remarkably healthy. Then came a race to the finish at Porsche-like acceleration. Some growers started picking in late August, earlier than ever recorded, and the harvest was done in just a few weeks. Hand-picking and strict sorting kept everything on track, with September rains.

In the Mosel, after frost devastated the 2024 crop, the region came **roaring** back with healthy fruit, beautiful ripeness and the kind of bright, precise acidity that makes Riesling *sing*. Growers are already comparing it to the **legendary 2015**. In the Nahe, Riesling icon Helmut Dönnhoff said he could "barely remember such beautiful fruit… His son, Cornelius Dönnhoff, said that while this was not their earliest start to the harvest, it was certainly the estate's earliest finish. "The wines are simply beautiful, luminous and so expressive of their sites, with real personality, beautiful Nahe backbone and such charming, generous fruit. What a stellar collection." as **Vinous**' Anne Krebiehl, MW reports.

There's less wine this year, but what made it to the cellar is spectacular: concentrated, aromatic grapes with bright, mouthwatering acidity. **Steffen Christmann**, the President of the VDP (*Verband Deutscher Prädikatsweingüter:* an elite, invitation-only association of around 200 German wine estates), coined it as "little, but wonderful." Winemakers in several regions say 2025 could be one of the best vintages of the past decade, with plenty of aging potential. Grab these wines while you can, because there won't be many to go around.

Without further ado, here is a smattering of the bounty we captured from this vintage:

DÖNNHOFF 2025 RIESLING
NIEDERHÄUSER
HERMANNSHÖHLE
GROSSES GEWÄCHS "GG" (DRY)
$97.98 [328021]

STUART PIGOTT - 100 POINTS

Welcome to the Riesling Deep End, but I'm not talking about a well or even a fjord, rather the Marianus Trench. And this extraordinary depth is enveloped in an embarrassment of stone fruit riches. Breathtaking brilliance and perfect balance at the totally aristocratic finish. Cask sample. 13% ABV

ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS - 97-99 POINTS The 2025 Riesling Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Grosses Gewächs is from vines that share a birth year with Helmut Dönnhoff, i.e. 1949. They are rooted in shale. Only very slight flint accompanies the luminous lemon that becomes even more concentrated and clean-cut on the stony palate. This is utter zestiness, like a well of freshness, a source of light, a measure of purity and clarity. It is ultra-crystalline, ultra-straight, ultra-steely, ultra-delicious. (Bone-dry)

DÖNNHOFF 2025 RIESLING
NIEDERHAUSER HERMANNSHOHLE
SPÄTLESE, MOSEL $59.98 [311009]

STUART PIGOTT - 99 POINTS

The Maximum Finesse of the future too! Great concentration and a range of fruit aromas so wide it defies easy description. The interplay of fruit sweetness and slatey acidity at the endless finish is a wonder to behold! 9% ABV.

ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS
96 POINTS

The 2025 Riesling Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Spätlese sends a bright lemon note ahead, as a kind of messenger of its slate nobility. The palate confirms this with strait-laced zestiness, linearity and poise, making the mouth water with ripe Meyer lemon zest, framing every atom of the wine with freshness. What elegance, lasting purity and length. (Medium)

DONNHOFF 2025 RIESLING ESTATE TROCKEN (DRY), NAHE $19.99 [321206]

STUART PIGOTT - 92 POINTS This is so zesty and refreshing on the sleek that you could easily miss the fresh herbal and citrusy complexity! Also notes of white peach and pineapple core. Already delicious! (11.5% ABV)

FALSTAFF GUIDE (GERMANY) - 92 POINTS On the nose: lime zest, slate, herbs, orange blossom. On the palate, characterized by mineral extract; dense, gripping, with a taut structure and good length. Inviting to drink, very fresh, perfectly on point.

MAX. FERDINAND RICHTER 2025 RIESLING KABINETT BRAUNEBERG JUFFER, MOSEL$26.98 [333371] STUART PIGOTT - 95 POINTS

Some Mosel Kabinett wines are just playful, but when they are simultaneously playful and serious, then they are most compelling. This is exact such a wine with an almost ideal ripeness level for this light wine category, but also cool depths that create a terrific mineral tension, dramatically focusing the finish. Still very young! (8% ABV).

DR. LOOSEN 2025 RIESLING RED SLATE (ROTSCHIEFER) DRY, MOSEL $14.98 [322603] JAMES SUCKLING - 92 POINTS

A scintillating, puckering austere riesling with lightning bolt acidity that brings high voltage tension and nerve. The palate is flinty and smoky with taut, salivating acidity full of zesty tension and energy. Vibrant and refreshing. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

DR. LOOSEN 2025 RIESLING KABINETT WEHLENER SONNENUHR, MOSEL $24.98 [322612] ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS 94 POINTS

The 2025 Riesling Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett sends a beautiful slate savor ahead. The second sniff intensifies this even more; the palate plunges into lemony purity, delves deep into stone and shows the salty brightness. Everything says finesse, depth, slate and lemon, uniting utter depth with an almost blithe deliciousness. (Off-dry)



Along the Mosel (Dr. Loosen)

WILLI SCHAEFER 2025 RIESLING GRAACHER HIMMELREICH SPÄTLESE $64.98 [328008] STUART PIGOTT - 98 POINTS

(7.5% ABV) Say yes to life, because the soul of slate is delicately seductive and emphatically cool. Yes, it's a succulent Mosel Spätlese, but it's also a tiny feather floating in the air, flicking in the sunlight. Intensely mineral, this is at totally filigreed finish.

JAMES SUCKLING - 97 POINTS Spicy and herbal, with aromas of white and yellow stone fruit and a balanced, delicate nature waiting to explode with time in the cellar. The palate is tense and salty, with the trademark phenolic extract drying out the sweetness. A salty, minerally finish. Playful and tantalizing, with the minerality drawing out the length and complexity. Drink or hold. --Ryan Montgomery, Staff Writer & Critic



Graacher Himmelreich

WILLI SCHAEFER 2025 RIESLING GRAACHER HIMMELREICH KABINETT $46.98 [324098]

JAMES SUCKLING - 96 POINTS

Flint, salty citrus, fresh herbs, pepper, fleshy white stone fruit and profound mineral drive on the nose. The palate is so juicy and attractive, with mouthwatering mineral tension and some extract disguising the residual sweetness, bringing lovely structure and drying out the palate for a long finish. Youthful, but with high ageability. Drink or hold. --Ryan Montgomery, Staff Writer & Critic

FRITZ HAAG 2025 RIESLING BRAUNEBERGER JUFFER KABINETT, MOSEL $26.98 [333321]

JAMES SUCKLING - 94 POINTS

Gun smoke, salt, citrus peel and wet slate on the nose. The palate is tense and nervy, with racy acidity cutting through the residual sugar, carrying lovely energy and minerals. Highly strung and refreshing, with plenty of zesty fruit. Drink or hold. Screw cap. --Ryan Montgomery, Staff Writer & Critiic

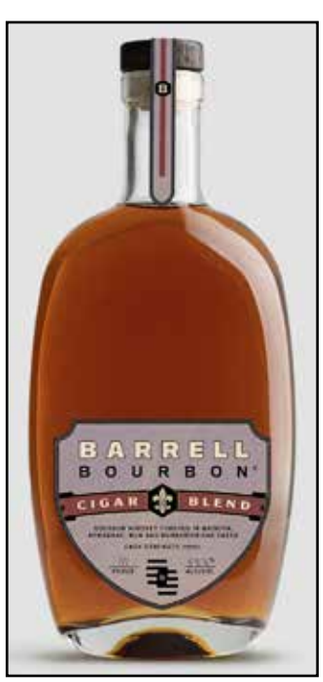
TOP DOMESTIC WHISKIES

FOUR ROSES 2025 LIMITED EDITION KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY $229.99 [129471]



Four Roses' annual Limited Edition is a testament of how much blending matters. The 2025 release brings together four hand-selected batches of bourbon aged between **13 and 19 years**, drawing on the distillery's different recipes to build both richness and finesse. This Limited Edition is bottled at **109 proof without chill filtration**, giving those mature whiskeys plenty of head room to show their character.

Apricot, vanilla and caramel lead into older oak with a measured dose of rye spice. There's depth here and the long finish turns soft and gently spicy. We recommend **pouring this neat while giving it time to breathe and evolve.** A thoughtful bottle for anyone who follows Four Roses beyond their core lineup.



BARRELL CIGAR BLEND BOURBON $79.99 [130127]

Wine Enthusiast 98 Points

Barrell Craft Spirits' Cigar Blend gives bourbon fans a lot to dig into. It combines **bourbons aged 7½ to 18 years** from Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana. It is then finished in **Madeira, Armagnac, rum and Hungarian oak casks**. With an ambitious assortment of barrels, the different influences come together into a symphony of rich, full-bodied bourbon. It's bottled at **111 proof**, with plenty of concentration and a generous, mouth-coating texture.

Dark fruit, toffee and vanilla pastry lead into notes of cedar, tobacco and warm cola spice. Dried cherry and dates reveal themselves on the palate, followed by cocoa and clove on the long finish. This bourbon is perfect after dinner and it does ask you to take your time with it**.** A few drops of water bring out more of the rum casks' molasses character, giving you another layer to enjoy as the whiskey opens.

NEW RIFF BOTTLED-IN-BOND KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY $39.99 [127702]



New Riff puts a generous helping of rye into its Kentucky bourbons and you can taste it. The mash bill is **65% corn, 30% rye and 5% malted barley**. This gives the whiskey a savory, spicy streak alongside its familiar bourbon sweetness. It spends at least **four years in new oak** and is bottled in bond at **100 proof, without chill filtration**.

Butterscotch, vanilla and fresh oak open up on the nose. The palate is broad and rounded, with cinnamon, clove and mint with dark berry notes gathering around before a long, peppery finish. **It has the body to enjoy neat and with a enough spice to make an excellent Old Fashioned.** If you like bourbon with a little extra bite and freshness, this is an easy bottle to put to work.

WILLETT POT STILL RESERVE CASK STRENGTH $60.99 [131044]

Legendary Kentucky distillery Willett is known for their pot-still bourbon bottled into a decanter in the shape of their pot still**. They recently released a delicious still strength version of this decanter.** This Bourbon uses **65% corn, 20% wheat and 15% barley** and goes into the bottle at natural cask strength.

Caramel, vanilla and toasted oak come through with brown sugar, a little fresh mint and warm baking spice. The palate is full and creamy, with honeyed sweetness and a lingering oak finish. **Start with a small pour neat, then add water a few drops at a time.** There's plenty of flavor to explore here,



and the decanter certainly earns its place on the bar.



AUGUSTA BUCKNER'S 13 YEAR HI-TIME SINGLE BARREL $209.99 [130555]



Our Single Barrel spends **13 years in new, charred American oak barrels**, developing mature character while maintaining exceptional balance. Commemorating Augusta Distillery's inaugural bottling, it reflects the producer's commitment to Kentucky bourbon traditions and the community it calls home.

An inviting amber color with mahogany highlights leads into **aromas of antique wood, damp earth and dry corn**, with honeyed vanilla playing peek-a-boo. **Caramel and warm spice** carry through the finish and is complemented by **buttery cream and** cured tea leaves. It's a bourbon to take your time with, whether you're enjoying a quiet pour near the fireplace or sharing a bottle with friends and family

TOP IMPORTED WHISKIES/WHISKYS

ICHIRO'S MALT CHICHIBU 2025 U.S. EDITION $189.99 [129358]



Beer casks make this Japanese single malt particularly unique. Chichibu's **2025 U.S. Edition** brings together **only 16 barrels**, with whiskies aged **five to nine years** in bourbon, IPA and imperial stout casks. Made at Ichiro Akuto's distillery in Saitama, it's lightly peated and bottled at **52.5% ABV without chill filtration or added coloring**.

Candied orange, dried pineapple and vanilla pastry cream show Chichibu's generous fruit character, while the beer casks contribute some "hoppiness" and deeper coffee notes. Those savory edges give you something to follow as the whisky opens. This is a particularly fun bottle for anyone whose interests happen to include both single malt and well-made beer.

DINGLE SINGLE MALT IRISH WHISKEY $49.99 [159897]



Dingle's single malt has plenty to offer anyone who enjoys the richer side of Irish whiskey. Made in County Kerry on Ireland's Atlantic coast, it begins with malted barley and fermentation in wooden washbacks. Maturation in **bourbon and sherry casks** gives the whiskey a combination of fresh fruit, vanilla and deeper, dried-fruit richness. The Dingle Single Malt skips chill filtration in order to preserve the texture of the whiskey.

Lime zest and mint bring lift to aromas of vanilla and caramel. The palate turns toward caramelized apple, raspberry and fruit cake, with honey and soft spice lingering afterward**.** It's an inviting introduction to Irish whiskey, with lots going on to reward another visit to the glass.

ISLE OF HARRIS "THE HEARACH" SINGLE MALT $74.99 [124376]



The Isle of Harris may be familiar for its gin, but its single malt deserves a place in your bar. The Hearach is the island's first single malt, made in Tarbert and matured near the coastal village of Ardhasaig. The recipe combines **bourbon and Oloroso sherry casks** and is married for at least **12 weeks** before being bottled at **46% ABV, without chill filtration or artificial coloring**.

Gentle peat smoke runs through toasted malt, apple sauce and delicate wildflowers. **Candied ginger, vanilla and honeycomb add sweetness**, while a creamy note and a touch of leather linger on the finish. The smoke leaves plenty of room for the fruit and malt, making this a lovely bottle to settle into after dinner.



1994 GLENDRONACH 27 YEAR HI-TIME PICK $574.99 [124897]

Nearly three decades of aging give this Hi-Time private barrel plenty to get excited about. Our staff selected it from a small group of **Oloroso sherry casks** chosen for their exceptional character by Master Blender **Dr. Rachel Barrie**. It captures The Glendronach's rich, full-bodied style, with all of its natural color drawn from the wood. **Each bottle is individually numbered by hand**, marking a rare opportunity to enjoy such a mature expression from the distillery.

Dark manuka honey, roasted almond and walnut lead the nose, followed by baked plum, ginger, raisins and freshly ground coffee. The palate is intense and full-bodied, with a velvety texture carrying **dark fruit, black cherry and espresso**. Leather adds a savory layer beneath the sherry richness, while **chocolate, licorice and walnut linger through the long finish**. This is a pour to settle in with and savor slowly.

BRUICHLADDICH MICRO PROVENANCE HI-TIME & EXEC'S WHISKEY CLUB SYRAH CASK $179.99 [130473]



Fourteen years in a single Syrah wine cask is what caught our attention with this Bruichladdich. Distilled in **2011**, the Islay single malt was bottled for Hi-Time and Exec's Whiskey Club as part of Bruichladdich's **Micro Provenance** series, which shows how individual casks shape whisky. **Cask #0314 yielded just only a few hundred bottles at 63.3% ABV**, and it's one we'd pull out for friends who are as curious about wine as they are about whisky.

Rich fruit comes through first on the nose, with a little pepper and a faint hint of peat. **Raspberry is the clearest fruit note on the palate**, with a light saline edge that carries into a clean finish with soft smoke. At this strength, we'd take a sip neat, then add a few drops of water and see how the fruit and smoke shift in the glass.

TOP AGAVE SPIRITS

ULTRAMUNDO LAMPARILLO MEZCAL $124.99 [125402]



Ultramundo gives us a good reason to look beyond Oaxaca for distinctive agave spirits. Its wild **Lamparillo agave** comes from Rancho Pelayo in the desert landscape of Mapimí, Durango. It's said that UFOs and other paranormal phenomena are experienced in this landscape—maybe that adds some *magic* to the terroir. The agave is roasted in earth ovens lined with volcanic stone, using mesquite and oak, then fermented naturally in underground wooden tanks known as **tumbas**. Traditional production gives this unusual agave plenty of opportunity to express itself.

Fresh prickly pear and a hint of vanilla lead into green and yellow pepper, with a dry, slightly lactic texture and **pronounced minerality**. It's a savory, vegetal profile that should appeal to anyone who enjoys exploring the differences between agave varieties.

CAZCANES NO. 9 HI-TIME SINGLE BARREL REPOSADO $84.99 [131134]



Cazcanes makes its reposado with **organic Blue Weber agave and volcanic spring water from Navichi Springs**. The agave cooks under low pressure for 24 hours. After fermentation and double distillation, the tequila rests in used American oak barrels that have been reworked and charred again. Our **Hi-Time No. 9 Single Barrel Reposado** comes from batch **R92522-SB27** and is bottled at **100 proof (50% ABV)**.

Rich agave and vanilla spice come through on the nose. The oak is more pronounced on the palate, where **cinnamon and clove** take the lead and a touch of sweetness rounds out the spice. This is the one we'd reach for when we want a reposado with a good dose of oak. Try it neat first, or over a large cube if you prefer it chilled.

SUERTE HI-TIME SINGLE BARREL REPOSADO $34.99 [129481]



Suerte takes its time with the agave. At its distillery in Jalisco, Suerte slow roasts **100% Blue Weber agave for 56 hours**, then crushes it for another 24 hours with a tahona, a heavy stone wheel. No industrial shortcuts here! The juice is fermented and distilled twice. For our Hi-Time Single Barrel Reposado, we selected **barrel B-M35/47F**, bottled at **44% ABV (88 proof)**. We like how clearly the ripe agave comes through after its time in oak.

Ripe agave and toasted caramel lead the nose, with warm baking spice right behind them. The first sip brings a gentle touch of oak spice, then opens up to **butterscotch and more ripe agave**. There's just a hint of natural sweetness. We'd pour it neat first, but if you're making a **tequila Old Fashione**d, go easy on the sweetener and let those caramel notes do some of the work.



ARRIESGADO BLANCO TEQUILA $59.99 [130880]

Arriesgado Blanco comes from fourth-generation tequilero Roberto Real in Amatitán, Jalisco, and there is a lot of hands-on work going on behind it. Seven-year-old **Blue Weber agave** is cooked in wood-fired ovens, then **crushed by hand with wooden mallets in traditional canoa troughs**. After fermentation and double distillation in copper stills, the blanco rests for **30 days in French oak vats** before bottling.

Cooked agave, grapefruit and fresh mint lead the aromas, with black pepper, olive and a light smoky note adding a savory edge. The palate is dense and flavorful, bringing roasted agave sweetness alongside herbs and peppery spice. A long, lightly drying finish leaves a lingering mineral impression. **This is the type of blanco we like to drink neat!**

EL VIEJITO AÑEJO $49.99 [130873]



El Viejito's Añejo comes from a family that has been making tequila in Atotonilco el Alto, Jalisco, since 1937! Made from **100% Blue Weber agave**, it begins with cooking in masonry ovens and double distillation, followed by **at least one year in American oak barrels**. Bottled at **80 proof**, it brings barrel-aged richness to the distillery's traditional agave character.

Toasted agave, vanilla and marshmallow open the nose, followed by banana and cinnamon. The palate is full and rounded, with **butterscotch, caramelized banana and warm oak**, finishing with lingering almond and gentle spice.



TIERRA COBRIZA TAHONA BLANCO $64.99 [131274]

After slow cooking in masonry ovens, Tierra Cobriza crushes the agave with a **volcanic-stone tahona**. Fermentation takes place in **pinewood vats**, followed by double distillation in copper pot stills. Bottled at **88 proof**, it offers more concentration than the standard 80-proof blanco.

Cooked agave, olive and pepper give it a savory opening, with mineral notes and hints of fresh agave underneath. The palate brings together sweet and salty impressions, finishing warm with a firm, lightly drying

grip. As with all well-crafted tequila, **we'd begin with a neat pour to appreciate the texture**, then consider it for a Margarita with fresh lime!

CLARIDAD TOBALÁ CAPÓN
$129.99 [131053]



Patience starts in the agave field with Claridad's Tobalá Capón. Maestro mezcalero **Onofre Ortíz Ortíz** works in Bramaderos, Miahuatlán, using Tobalá harvested after **12 to 16 years**. The capón technique involves cutting the flower stalk and allowing the plant to remain in the ground before harvest. The agave is then roasted in a stone oven, fermented with ambient yeast and double-distilled in copper.

Bottled at **48% ABV**, this is a gorgeously textured mezcal with tropical fruit, ripe pear and delicate floral aromas. Strawberry, guava, passion fruit and fresh herbs meet a pronounced mineral and saline character on the palate. This mezcal has a tropical vibe going on and we are obsessed with it! **It's a compelling bottle to sip neat**, especially if you're curious about the fruitier side of Tobalá. Take your time with it, there's a lot more going on than what the first sip suggests!

TOP RUMS



PROBITAS DARK RUM "GREEN LABEL"
$29.99 [130488]
WINE ENTHUSIAST 98 POINTS

Probitas Dark brings together two names that should get rum fans' attention: Foursquare and Hampden Estate. This collaboration combines rum from **Barbados and Jamaica**, with a greater share of aged rum and a more aromatic Hampden component than the original white Probitas. The Green Label is bottled at **57% ABV**, with color from natural caramel made at Foursquare from the sugar around their estate. It should also go without saying that this rum has **zero added sugar or sweetener!**

Fig, caramel, brown butter and vanilla meet pineapple, overripe banana, orange peel and a little grassy freshness. There's plenty of richness and it is backed by the lively Hampden character that makes the blend so useful in cocktails. **We'd make a Mai Tai with this as the only rum**, then try it neat. This is the type of "mixing rum" that drinks well on its own and is a testament to the craft put into the rums of Hampden and Foursquare.

MAINLAND 8 YEAR CALIFORNIA RUM CURIOUS CLUB SUMMIT PICK $72.99 [129947]



Hawaiian molasses meets Northern California distilling in this 8 year aged Mainland rum. Distilled in **2017 on a copper Hoga still**, this "Rum Curious Club Pick" spent **eight years in a 53-gallon former bourbon cask** before being bottled at **122.2 proof**. The barrel yielded just **240 bottles**, making this a small release with plenty of age and concentration behind it.

Dark oak, soft vanilla and hints of cherry give it a rich, inviting character, with a delicate sweetness reminiscent of toasted grains. It's bold and structured, yet composed enough to let those subtler flavors come through. **We'd start with a small pour neat, then add a few drops of water** to explore how the balance of oak, fruit and sweetness changes in the glass.



Mainland Rum Founder **Seth Benhaim**

HAMILTON FORBIDDEN ISLAND
$34.99 [131517] 1L



Hamilton Forbidden Island Rum brings three Caribbean rum traditions together in one bottle. For more than 20 years, Forbidden Island has been making bold, complex tiki cocktails, with Hamilton rums playing an important part behind the bar. This blend combines **bold, barrel-aged Guyanese rum, flavorful Jamaican rum and a subtler Trinidadian component**, created with the bar's longtime favorites and original recipes in mind.

This is a rum we'd put to work in cocktails. Ripe banana, brown sugar and dark chocolate lead the nose, followed by toasted caramel, molasses and toasty oak. The palate is **rich and full**, with a generous, mouth-filling texture. A little funk comes through on the finish, adding character to the darker, sweeter notes. We recommend using this rum in a **Test Pilot or Queen's Park Swizzle!**

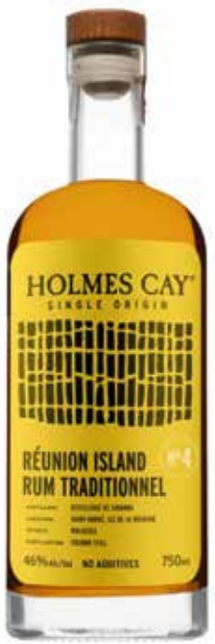
SIHHENGE PINEAPPLE RUM $34.99 [129669]



Sihhenge starts with serious rum and a very simple idea: add good pineapple. Made at **Mhoba in Malalane, South Africa**, it begins with rum distilled from fresh, estate-grown sugarcane juice. The rum is infused for **two weeks with fresh Queen Natal pineapple**, a fragrant local variety. There's **no added sugar**, and the whole process takes place at Mhoba.

The fruit brings pineapple upside down cake, grilled pineapple and honeyed aromas, while grassy cane notes and savory spice keep the rum's character central. Nutmeg and brown-sugar impressions round out the finish. **This is perfect in a Daiquiri with fresh lime**, or **in a grog**. **It's an especially interesting bottle for anyone who wants a pineapple rum without unnecessary sweetness.**

HOLMES CAY RÉUNION ISLAND NO. 4 RUM TRADITIONNEL $46.99 [128809]



Holmes Cay's Réunion Island Rum Traditionnel is a bottle worth knowing if you enjoy making classic tropical cocktails. Produced at **Distillerie de Savanna** on the French island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean, it's a **molasses-based rum aged for three years in former Cognac casks**.

Cola aromas lead into vanilla, citrus and warm cinnamon and nutmeg, with a light, crisp finish. There's an appealing combination of barrel richness and freshness here. **Try it in a classic Mai Tai**, or a **one rum Planter's Punch…** wherever a recipe calls for a flavorful aged rum. We'd also pour a little neat first. Getting to know the rum makes it that much easier to decide where you want to use it.



THE FUNK JAMAICAN RUM $20.99 [130796]

The FUNK earns its name with a generous helping of Jamaican pot-still character! Distilled from molasses at **Worthy Park Estate in St. Catherine Parish**, this unaged rum is selected and bottled by **Proof and Wood** clocking in at **100 proof**. Its high ester style gives you the bold fruit and savory aromas that make Jamaican rum so **distinctive and fun**!

Pineapple skin, banana and overripe mango meet olive brine, earthy notes and a touch of salinity. That combination makes it a particularly useful bottle for adding another dimension to a cocktail. **Great in a daiquiri, The FUNK is outstanding in a Doctor Funk—perhaps we can call it The Doctor FUNK**.

TOP MODIFIERS

VESO SOLSTICE $35.99 [130128]



When we tried this, we immediately fell in love! Even members of our wine staff fell in love! Veso Solstice puts whole strawberries including their green tops to very good use. Made in San Francisco, this wine-based aperitif combines **Sonoma Semillon and grape spirits** with strawberries, citrus peels and other botanicals. The fruit supplies its vivid color, while bitter orange helps keep the sweetness balanced. At **18% ABV**, it's an easy bottle to reach for when you want something refreshing before dinner. This is perhaps the most dangerously delicious aperitif we've had.

Bright strawberry and tart citrus take the lead, with a lightly bitter finish that invites another sip. **Pour it over ice with an orange slice**, or you can try it in a solstice spritz: two parts Solstice, two parts sparkling wine, and one part sparkling water with a grapefruit peel garnish. Keep the opened bottle in the refrigerator so that fresh fruit character stays at its best.



HAMILTON CAFÉ CARIB $24.99 [130115]

We're massive fans of Ed Hamilton, the sailor and importer behind Hamilton Rums and Martinique's Neisson and La Favorite rhum agricoles. When bartenders asked for a balanced coffee liqueur with more character and proof, he delivered **Hamilton Café Carib**, made with **just three ingredients: cold-brewed coffee, Worthy Park Jamaican rum and Demerara sugar**. The single-origin Nicaraguan coffee comes from **Thrive Farmers** and is roasted and cold-brewed at high concentration by **Northshore Specialty Coffee**, with no industrial flavorings, colorings or modifiers.



At **144 g/L of sugar**, compared with 300+ g/L in many other coffee liqueurs, Café Carib lets the coffee and rum share the spotlight. It's **bold and robust, with Worthy Park's Jamaican rum character immediately recognizable**. Enjoy it over ice after dinner, shake it into an Espresso Martini, or try it in Hi-Time's Carajillo riff:

Time for a Coffee Rum!
(*Carajillo Riff | A Hi-Time Original*)

1 oz Hamilton Café Carib
2 oz Hamilton Jamaican Pot Still Black Rum
½ oz Hamilton Pimento Dram
¼ oz Clement Creole Shrubb Orange Liqueur
¼ oz Tempus Fugit Banana Liqueur
Garnish with Fresh Grated Cinnamon

CONTRATTO APERITIF $24.99 [115745]



We love a good spritz, and Contratto Aperitif is a terrific bottle to build one around. Contratto's recipes date to the **1890s**, and under **La Spinetta's Giorgio Rivetti**, the house has revived its historic aperitivo lineup. Made in Piedmont with **28 botanicals**, this aperitif undergoes a 35-day cold extraction before sweetening, filtration and another 40 days of rest in stainless steel. Its vibrant color comes from **carrot and beetroot extracts (no Red Number 40 here!)**, and it's bottled at **13.5% ABV**.

Orange peel, orange blossom and rhubarb lead the aromas, with a light herbal note underneath. The palate is juicy and citrus-driven, bringing sweet orange, lemon and white stone fruit, with a touch of marzipan adding richness. Ginger and gentian introduce a pleasantly bitter edge that

stays balanced against the sweetness. **Fresh citrus and gentle herbal spice linger on the finish just what we're looking for in a spritz!**

ST. GEORGE SPICED PEAR LIQUEUR
$31.99 [104297]



St. George's Spiced Pear tastes like someone put a particularly good pear dessert in a bottle. It begins with the Alameda distillery's pear brandy, made from **Bartlett pears**, then adds **Saigon cinnamon, clove and pear juice**. Cane sugar and malic acid bring the sweetness and acidity into balance, and the finished liqueur is bottled at **20% ABV**.

Fresh pear aromas lead into pear butter and warm baking spice, with a rich texture and a long, gently sweet finish. **We'd try a splash in an Old Fashioned**, or pour a little alongside a cheese plate after dinner. If you don't feel like making a cocktail simply pour it over some ice cream-- **trust us!** It's one of those bottles that earns its keep in the cocktail cabinet but can also make an appearance in the kitchen.



BRUCATO ORO Y FIERRO KUMQUAT LIQUEUR
$34.99 [128745]

Brucato's Oro y Fierro gives citrus cocktails a distinctly Californian accent. It's made with **California grown Nagami kumquats**, used whole and dried to concentrate their tart, aromatic character. Dried local orange peel adds a pleasantly bitter edge, while a base of **grape brandy** brings warmth and texture.

It's bright and fragrant, with concentrated citrus and a lingering orange-peel finish. **This liqueur makes a fascinating Sidecar**, where the kumquat has brandy and fresh lemon for company. It also makes an interesting substitute for orange liqueur in a Margarita. If you enjoy trying small changes to classic cocktails, this bottle gives you a good excuse to get the shaker out.

TENTOURA CASTRO LIQUEUR OF PATRAS
$34.99 [129196]



Patras has its own answer to the after-dinner liqueur, and it's well worth getting acquainted with. Tentoura Castro is built around **natural fruit and spice extracts**, led by cinnamon and clove, with nutmeg, citrus and Chios mastic (an aromatic resin) adding depth. The style has a long history in this Greek port city, where its fragrant character has made it a familiar finish to a meal.

With plenty of aromatic character, this is great for sipping neat or over ice. **This makes a great digestif** and we would also mix it with brandy in a cocktail for a different approach to familiar warm-spice flavors. And here's a hack: mix this in hot drinks… it makes a particularly handy bottle for cooler evenings.

XILA EXTRA SPICY $32.99 [130762]



Xila Extra Spicy gives you a good shortcut to a fruit-filled cocktail with some real chile character. Made in Mexico by the women behind **Flor de Luna**, it combines an **Espadín agave base** with **seven Mexican chiles**, including ancho, guajillo, árbol and morita. Ataulfo mango, tamarind, orange peel and piloncillo round out the recipe.

The result brings ripe tropical fruit, tangy tamarind and citrus together with a layered, lingering heat. **Start with a small measure in a Margarita**, then adjust to find the level of spice you enjoy. It's bottled at **20% abv**, so it can also add flavor to a lighter drink with ice and soda. A useful bottle when you want to make something spicy without preparing another infusion or syrup.

OTHER SPIRITS WE LOVE!

ST. GEORGE VALLEY GIN
$29.99 [126960]



This gin brings us to that magical time when local oranges blossom in California. It is quite the experience. Inspired by California's Central Valley citrus groves, the Alameda distillery uses **25 botanicals**, including bergamot, Seville and Valencia orange, juniper, fresh herbs and warm spices. Separate infusions and distillations let the team work with each ingredient before blending the gin and bottling.

The orange blossom perfume is immediately appealing, with citrus peel, herbs and juniper adding depth beneath the flowers. It's aromatic enough to make a familiar drink feel a little different. **Try it in a Martini (we'd skip the olives and garnish with an orange twist) or a simple gin and tonic**, where the botanicals have room to show. A Ramos Gin Fizz is great with this gin, offering a particularly tempting match for the gin's floral character.

KÁSTRA ELIÓN VODKA
$42.99 [118025]



While the previous gin is perfect for clean martinis, Kasta Elion is perfect for dirty martinis! This family owned producer combines **hand picked olives from the Nafpaktos region in Greece with selected grains**, distilling in a handmade copper still. Mineral-rich spring water from **Mount Taygetus** brings the vodka to bottling strength, followed by **30 days of resting** before it goes into the bottle.

At **80 Proof**, it's full bodied and softly textured, with subtle ripe olive notes, peppery undertones and a buttery finish. There's a savory quality

that makes it especially appealing in a simple, well-chilled drink. **As mentioned, this is perfect in a dirty martini!** It's also worth tasting chilled on its own to appreciate the texture before mixing.

SAB'S LE MARC DE BOURGOGNE TRÈS VIEUX $49.99 [130861] 500ML

It goes without saying that we love Burgundy at Hi-Time Wine Cellars! We also love when the universes of wine and spirits collide! **Sab's Le Marc offers a different way to enjoy Burgundy's Pinot Noir.** Based in Beaune, master distiller **Mathieu Sabbagh** preserves the tradition of mobile distilling, turning the grape skins and seeds left after winemaking into an expressive spirit. This **Marc de Bourgogne AOC** is made from Pinot Noir pomace and aged for **eight years in French oak barrels previously used for Cognac**.



Bottled at **46% ABV**, it shows sous-bois, dried red fruit, raisin, licorice and warm oak, with a hint of vanilla on the long finish. The texture is rich, but there's brightness and grip to keep it engaging. **Pour a little after dinner and give it time in the glass.** This bottle is perfect for an oenophile who needs a little kick!



500ml

SAB'S LE GIN $39.99 [130860]

Dear gin, meet Burgundy! Crafted in Beaune by **Mathieu Sabbagh**, it combines eau de vie from **Burgundian Pinot Noir and Chardonnay** with neutral grain spirit and **15 botanicals**. Juniper is joined by ginger, lemongrass, orange and lemon peel, rose petals and an assortment of roots and spices.

Fresh juniper, citrus and ginger lead the aromas, with the grape spirit adding a vinous touch and a rich, smooth texture. **This gin gives off the same vibes as Vosne-Romanee**—it's silky and elegant, yet it's got some power to stand up in any cocktail. **We'd try a small pour neat before making a gin and tonic.** We recommend using a stalk of lemongrass for a garnish in this gin and tonic, everything marries perfectly!

WATERLOO PRICKLY PEAR & ROSE GIN $31.99 [129918]

Waterloo gives the gin and tonic a little Texas Hill Country color. Its Prickly Pear & Rose Gin builds on the distillery's signature botanical recipe with **prickly pear, rose petals and hibiscus**. Juniper, lavender, grapefruit and pecan are part of the supporting cast, and limestone-filtered Texas spring water brings the gin to 94 proof.



Rose and lavender give it an aromatic opening, followed by prickly-pear fruit, tart hibiscus and bright grapefruit. A subtle pecan note adds depth, while juniper keeps the profile grounded in gin. **We'd pour it with tonic and plenty of ice**, or **add a splash to a French 75**! It's a good choice when you want your next gin cocktail to bring a little more fruit and fragrance to the glass.



DUDOGNON VIEILLE RÉSERVE COGNAC $84.99 [162937]

VINOUS 95 POINTS

Dudognon is a good name to know if you enjoy Cognac with a clear sense of where it comes from. The family has grown grapes in **Lignières-Sonneville, in Grande Champagne, since 1776**. Traditional distillation sur lie and patient aging remain central to the work and the Cognacs receive **no additives apart from water**. Vieille Réserve is aged **20 years**, giving it time to develop the mature character that makes this part of Cognac so admired.

Flowers, honey and citrus give way to apricot, apple and plum, with leather, savory spice and the beginnings of nutty rancio adding complexity. The oak is well integrated, and the finish is long and gently warming. **We'd serve it neat after dinner**, letting the aromas build gradually. There's a lot of pleasure here for anyone who appreciates the quieter details of a well-aged brandy and wants to explore family owned Cognac distilleries! This Cognac punches way above its price point.



JACOPO POLI GRAPPA DI SASSICAIA $89.99 [163132]

The grapes used in Tenuta San Guido's Sassicaia has a second life worth paying attention to. Made by **Poli Distillerie** from the pomace of Tenuta San Guido's **Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc**, this grappa carries the pedigree of one of **Italy's most celebrated wines that we also happen to carry**. The collaboration began in **1994**, when Marchese Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta invited **Jacopo Poli** to take over production.



The fresh pomace is steam distilled, with the heart of the spirit retained, then aged for **four years in French oak barriques**. Cabernet's fruit and herbal aromas meet toast and vanilla, with the oak mellowing the spirit's intensity. This grappa is far from being a bottle of fire water, rather it is an elegant spirit that combines the craftmanship between two Italian icons. **Serve a little neat and allow it to open in the glass**, particularly if you're curious about how the character of a wine grape carries into grappa.

Holiday Spirits!

ST. GEORGE GREEN CHILE VODKA
$26.99 [106369]



St. George's Green Chile Vodka has far more going on than either "that's spicy" or just vodka. The Alameda distillery works with **jalapeño, serrano, habanero, red bell and yellow bell peppers**, building layers of fresh pepper flavor. Lime and cilantro add brightness, while separate infusions and distillation help bring the ingredients together.

The nose is earthy and aromatic, followed by juicy, vegetal pepper flavors, subtle sweetness and a fresh herbal edge. Lime peel adds lift, and the heat arrives gently on the finish. **This is an obvious candidate for a Bloody Mary**, though this shines in a Moscow Mule!



CHOPIN FAMILY RESERVE VODKA
$93.99 [115329]

Chopin Family Reserve spends two years resting before it ever reaches the bottle. Made from a special variety of **young potatoes grown on the family's estate in Poland**, it begins with a summer harvest. During this time the potato skins are still tender. Careful distillation preserves their gentle sweetness and earthy character, then the spirit rests in **50-year-old Polish oak barrels** to mellow before being bottled by hand at **80 proof**. There's quite a bit of patience behind this vodka!

Clove, licorice and hints of roasted apple lead into a silky palate with delicate earthy sweetness. The texture is particularly appealing, carrying the subtle spice into a warming finish. **This is the vodka we recommend drinking neat or on a big ice cube.**

Port: 2024

It's official: 2024 is a declared vintage! For the first time since 2017, every major Port house has agreed the year was good enough to bottle as Vintage Port. That kind of agreement is rare. The last time we waited this long was during a dry spell that ran from 1934 to 1945. Symington Family Estates -- the company that owns Graham's Port—notes that "**2024 is our first classic Vintage Port declaration in seven years - made not out of expectation, but because the wines truly demanded it."** This is an "old school" vintage-- as opposed to the intensity and richness of recent hot years. The houses only declare when a year truly earns it, so the bottles are scarce, special and well worth grabbing while you can.

QUINTA DO NOVAL 2024 VINTAGE PORT 750ML $98.98 [376418]



JAMES SUCKLING - 98 POINTS Concentrated and intense, with notable purity and energy. With vivid aromatics of fresh blackberries, violets and a stony touch. Full-bodied yet approachable and harmonious, very composed, with a clear sense of direction. Tension and depth are carried by focused, yet marked, integrated tannins that bring definition and detail. 40% Touriga Nacional, 17% Touriga Francesa, 10% Sousão, 3% Tinta Roriz, and 30% Field Blend. Jacobo García Andrade Senior Editor

ANTONIO GALLONI – VINOUS – 95 POINTS The 2024 Vintage Port represents just 7.64% of the production this year. Picked from ten parcels between September 4 and October 11, with two spells of showers in between, it is foot-trodden and vinified in granite lagares and matured for 18 months in oak cask at the Quinta. This is definitely more intense than the Passadour '24, with upfront scents of plum jam, pressed violets, almost giving it a souped-up Margaux-like allure, clove and dark chocolate. Wonderful delineation. The palate is sweet, playful on the entry. There is just the right density to this Noval, just a little granular in texture, an underlying sour cherry element that imparts tension. Finely chiselled tannins, this Vintage Port had beguiling symmetry, with a sustained finish featuring black pepper and clove. What a gorgeous Noval this is going to be.

GRAHAM'S 2024 VINTAGE PORT 750ML $119.98 [376627]



WINE ADVOCATE – 96-97 POINTS The 2024 Vintage Port was produced with a blend of 55% Touriga Nacional, 30% Touriga Franca, mostly from their Malvedos vineyards (but not exclusively), a 9% field blend of old vines and 6% Sousão from Quinta do Tua, another property separated from Malvedos by the Tua River. It fermented in stainless steel lagar with foot-treading robots and matured in large oak vessels for 18 months. The wine comes from very low yields, and the nose is phenomenal, very high on Touriga Nacional, with floral notes—orange blossom—a touch of resin, a typical Graham's eucalyptus/minty thing, really morish. This is a really delicious Graham's; it's a sweeter, very generous wine that tends to be velvety with good tannins and length, more powerful and concentrated. The tannins are more assertive than the Warre's, for example, and it has the grip from the Sousao. This is certainly going to be long lived. It's relatively dry at 107 grams of sugar. 71,220 bottles produced. This was last produced in 2020.

SMITH WOODHOUSE 2024 VINTAGE PORT 750ML $79.98 [362800]

WINE ADVOCATE - 92 -94 POINTS The 2024 Vintage Port is also the first declaration of Smith Woodhouse since 2016. It's a selection from the Quinta da Madalena vineyards in the Rio Torto Valley and is a blend of 40% Touriga Franca and 30% each Touriga Nacional and an old vines field blend. The grapes are 100% handpicked. Fermentation takes place with natural (wild) yeast between 26 degrees Celsius and 31 degrees Celsius. Once the must reaches the desired degree of sweetness (usually within 48 hours), fortification takes place with the addition of grape spirit at 77% alcohol by volume. It comes in at 20% alcohol, with a pH of 3.65 and 101 grams of acidity. This is probably one of the most accessible of the 2024s; it's floral and herbal, sweeter than the Dow's, charming and lovely. Softer, easier and approachable, you can drink it earlier. It matured in large oak vessels for 18 months and then was bottled. It's more affordable too. 15,240 bottles produced.



Patron Margarita Gift Basket
$124.99 [810040]



Angeline Cabernet Gift Basket
$49.99 [802623]

More at Hitimewine.net!



GREY GOOSE BASKET
$94.99 [802555]

Hoppy Holidays!



Gift Baskets!



SILVER OAK GIFT BASKET
$149.99 [802040]

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Curated by Michael De France

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PLEASE NOTE: Prices listed in current newsletter are for that month (or listed months) only.