WINE ENTHUSIAST

TOP 100 2016 BEST BUYS

Our favorite wines for $15 or less.

BY THE EDITORS OF *WINE ENTHUSIAST*

Though the wine world has lost much of its perceived pretension, there is still plenty of pomp and circumstance surrounding certain selections. Incredible opportunities to taste the most exclusive and expensive wines in the world exist, but still, the number one question all wine lovers obsess over remains, "What the heck do I drink on a Tuesday night?"

To those thirsty readers, we say welcome to *Wine Enthusiast*'s Top 100 Best Buys of 2016. We've selected our favorite budget-friendly gems from 17 countries and more than 30 grape varieties to create the most diverse, exciting and accessible shopping list around. For those new to wine or simply looking to step out of their comfort zone, this list can provide guidance for exploring different wine styles, varieties or regions without breaking the bank.

For a wine to qualify, it must be priced at $15 or less and meet a certain quality-to-price ratio. Of the more than 21,000 wines reviewed this past year, fewer than 1,400 were awarded the Best Buy designation. From there, we narrowed it down to an elite list of the top 100, including the most enticing, buzzworthy, obtainable and, most important, affordable wines available today.

For wine lovers who refuse to compromise on quality, no matter the occasion, this list is for you.

1

91 Acrobat 2015 Pinot Gris (Oregon). Flat-out delicious, this brings compelling fruit flavors of melon, papaya and pineapple, coupled with juicy, mouth-cleansing acidity. The depth and complexity are phenomenal for an Oregon Pinot Gris produced in large quantities. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $13

How the Wines Break Down

ARGENTINA	2
AUSTRALIA	4
AUSTRIA	4
BULGARIA	2
CHILE	4
FRANCE	13
GERMANY	4
GREECE	3
INDIA	1
ISRAEL	2
ITALY	6
NEW ZEALAND	4
PORTUGAL	9
SLOVENIA	1
SOUTH AFRICA	2
SPAIN	8
UNITED STATES	31

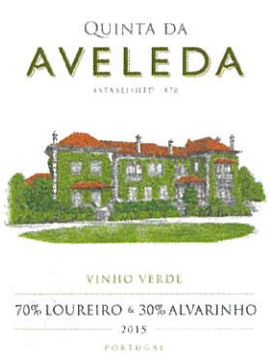
California (15), Washington (7), Oregon (5), New York (3), Michigan (1)

1374 Eligible Best Buys | **Average Score** 89.58 | **Average Price** $12.40

2

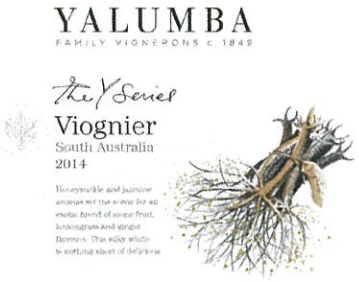
87 Bota Box 2013 Nighthawk Black (California). Very deep color, potent aromas and a dense, but velvety texture paint a bold picture for this full-bodied wine. It has the drama and flavor recalling an expensive red, without overpowering tannins or a high price. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $23/3 L

3



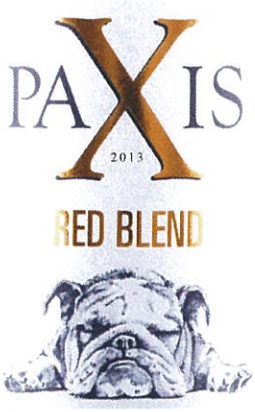
90 Aveleda 2015 Quinta da Aveleda (Vinho Verde). This blend of the two classic grapes of Vinho Verde, Loureiro and Alvarinho, is packed with fruit. Apples, lemons and a touch of ripe pear just fill the palate. It is a dry wine, refreshing and crisp with a mineral aftertaste. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** $9

4



90 Yalumba 2014 The Y Series Viognier (South Australia). A terrific deal, this is as varietally correct and rich a Viognier as you'll find for the price. Honeysuckle and apricot notes are carried by a slightly oily texture, yet the wine finishes long and elegantly. Vegan. Drink now. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** $12

5



90 DFJ Vinhos 2013 Paxis Red Blend (Lisboa). This dark, structured wine, with its balanced blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz, is firm with tannins and dense berry fruits. Full in the mouth, it is a concentrated wine that brings out a strongly chalky texture. The wine is still moving towards a rich future. Drink from 2017. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $10

6

89 Stemmari 2015 Grillo (Sicilia). Alluring aromas of citrus, white flower and a whiff of tropical fruit come together on this. The racy palate offers lemon zest, mango, sage, saline and an almond note alongside vibrant acidity. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** $10

7

90 Columbia Crest 2013 Grand Estates Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Cocoa, plum and vanilla aromas are followed by creamy-feeling blue-fruit flavors that display a mixture of fruit and barrel. The barrel influence is heavy, but it's delicious all the same. —S.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $12

8

90 The Dot 2015 Austrian Pepper Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Very ripe, juicy pear notes emanate from the glass, but there is also a friendly tinge of yeast. The palate does both notions complete justice, delivering a refreshing but supple, peppery mouthful with a lovely, moreish and lip-smacking finish. Palm Bay International. —A.K.

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

9

90 Viña Cumbrero 2010 Crianza (Rioja). Raspberry, plum and cherry aromas are light, pure and fully inviting, with nothing off-putting. This tastes bright and balanced, with cherry and berry flavors that are impossible not to like. A dash of oaky cocoa blends with leftover red fruit flavors on a nice finish. Marketing Global Brands Corp. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

10

90 Villa Wolf 2014 Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). Crushed stones and citrus blossoms perfume this fresh, primary Pinot Blanc. It's a bit puckery on the palate, but balanced nicely by sweet-tart peach and apple flavors. Ready to drink now, it's a value wine with a refreshing, widely appealing style. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

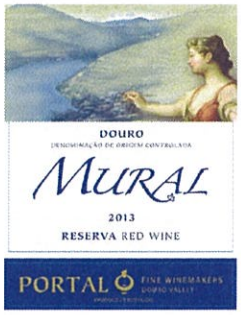
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $12

11

91 Bogle 2013 Petite Sirah (California). A tower of tannin shapes this deep-colored and ripely fruity wine into an awesome drink. Layers of fine tannins pile up to make a firm, thick texture that supports lots of deep berry flavors and cleans the palate as you sip. It will make a good match with grilled and roasted beef, lamb or game. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $11

12



92 Quinta do Portal 2013 Mural Reserva Red Wine (Douro). Made from a blend of grapes, this is a serious and structured red wine that will need some aging. The tannins are solid, firm and show nice concentration on the palate. At the moment, the ripe fruit that is there is buried under this tannic edifice. This fine wine needs time—enjoy from 2018. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.

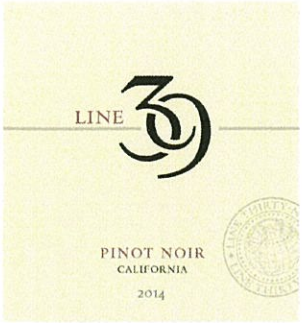
abv: 13% **Price:** $13

13

91 Semeli 2015 Feast Moschofilero (Peloponnese). This stylish and distinctive wine starts with aromas of lemon blossom and slate, followed by flavors of exotic white fruits and citrus. A crisp mineral backbone gives the wine focus and flair. A delicious white at an affordable price. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

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

14



90 Line 39 2014 Pinot Noir (California). A tasty vein of cranberry and raspberry runs from the nose to the palate, and lingers on the finish, giving this value-priced wine focus and vibrance. It has plenty of fresh acidity, fine tannins and good depth of flavor. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $11

15

91 Markowitsch 2015 Grüner Veltliner (Carnuntum). Green pear peel, some yeasty spice and a bit of lemon zest make for an invigorating nose. The palate comes with apt concentration and provides proper midpalate interest with zest and herbal notes. Lovely grippiness calls for food, but this slips down easily enough by itself. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $13

16

90 Domaine Boyar 2013 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). This garnet-colored Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon has aromas of black cherry and wet river rock. In the mouth, there are flavors of black plum, black cherry and a touch of graphite before the smooth tannic finish. Bulgarian Master Vintners. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** $11

17

92 A to Z 2015 Riesling (Oregon). A delightful wine that more than lives up to the promise of its lovely floral bottle. Here are bright fruit flavors of mixed citrus, a whiff of bath soap, a touch of spice and a medium-sweet finish that tastes of lemon tea, all gracefully combined. Serve this slightly chilled. —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** $15

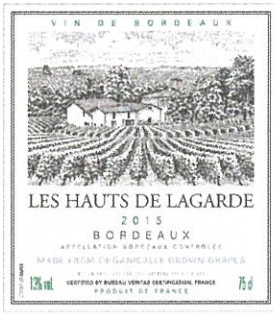
18

90 Ironstone 2014 Petite Sirah (Lodi). Intense and concentrated blackberry flavors rise above thick tannins in this full-bodied wine. Aromas suggest boysenberry, smoke and clove, while the flavors taste more like blackberry jam. Although the texture is dense and tannic, it stays velvety rather than drying. This will be great now with ribs or roast venison, but will easily age through 2020. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $12

19

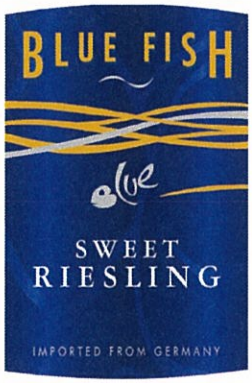
88 J. Portugal Ramos 2015 Loureiro (Vinho Verde). After Verdelho, Loureiro is the other fine Vinho Verde grape. Here it gives crisp lemon acidity that goes with a bright fruitiness and a tight, mineral texture that comes from the granite soil. Drink this fresh wine now. MundoVino–The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $8

20



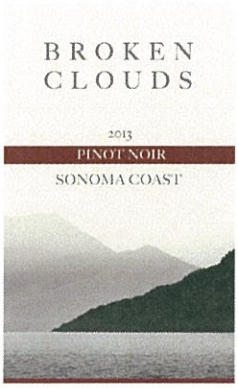
90 Les Hauts de Lagarde 2015 Made From Organically Grown Grapes (Bordeaux Blanc). This is a delicious, ripe wine that is packed with apricot, apple and pear fruits. It is tangy and freshly fruity. The bright, rich fruit continues right through this wine that is ready to drink now. Natural Merchants LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $13

21



89 Blue Fish 2015 Sweet Riesling (Pfalz). Balanced sweetness and pure fruity freshness personify this surprisingly elegant bargain buy. The palate bursts of fresh pear, grapefruit and tangerine flavors accented by a glaze of waxy lemon peels. Bristling acidity leads a long, revitalizing finish. Palm Bay International. —A.I.
abv: 10% **Price:** $10

22



91 Broken Clouds 2013 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine drinks qualitatively above and behind its low price, delivering light, clear color and tangy wisps of cranberry and citrus-tinged minerality. With a depth of character that builds on the midpalate, it finishes lean and crisp, a wonderfully elegant expression of the variety. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $14

23

90 Charles Smith 2013 Velvet Devil Merlot (Columbia Valley). The aromas of herbs, pencil lead and blue and red fruit are forward, fresh and appealing. The flavors follow similarly, showing depth and balance uncommon for a wine this price. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $12

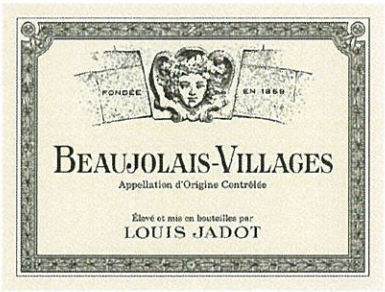
24

87 4R4U 2015 Verdejo (Rueda). Minerally white-fruit aromas are clean but generic. In every way, this is a modest but solid Verdejo with proper acidity and overall balance. Briny citrus is the key flavor, while the finish holds form and tastes citrusy and a touch salty. D&D Italian Wines. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $6

25

90 Caves Velhas 2013 Catedral (Dão). This red wine is ripe and structured. It is has a finely textured mineral character that's typical of the Dão region. Rich berry and spicy fruits are dominant with attractive acidity. Behind this fruit, the tannins give a fine shape to a wine that is ready to drink now. Prestige Beverage Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $12

26



90 Louis Jadot 2014 Beaujolais-Villages. This Jadot is a combo of long-term contract vineyards and its Regné Cru, demonstrating that knowing the terroir makes a difference. The blend shows well in this rich, full wine. It reveals ripeness—round and full of strawberry flavors from the 100% Gamay, with a tight layer of mineral acidity at the end. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $13

27

90 Loukatos NV Muscat (Patras). Orange peel, spice and lemon aromas start this Muscat out with spirit. On the palate, vanilla, toasted nut and lemon/orange flavors create a very pretty and balanced white. The wine finishes clean and crisp. An elegant choice that reflects the refined minerality for which Greece is known. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. —S.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** $13

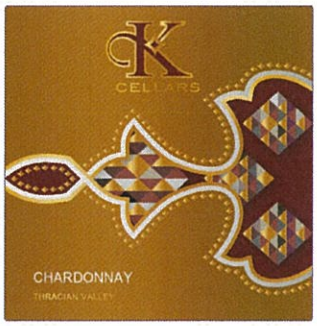
28

89 Cupcake 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). A screaming deal, this wine shows a nice blend of pencil lead, strawberries, peppercorn, oregano and chaparral scrub on the nose. The palate offers plenty of mocha and herbs including oregano and thyme, alongside elderberry and boysenberry fruit. It has enough tannic structure to notice but not enough to get in the way. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $11

29

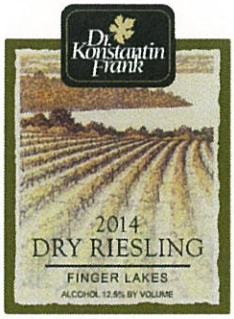
91 Marchiori 2013 Fondamentale Zulle (Colli Trevigiani). This traditionally crafted, unfiltered sparkler opens with heady aromas of white spring flowers, wisteria, hawthorn and white tree fruit. The bright palate offers green apple, pear and lemon-lime while a mineral note backs up the finish. Bracing acidity provides support while a refined mousse adds softness. David Vincent Selection. —K.O.
abv: 11% **Price:** $15

30



90 K Cellars 2015 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). This Bulgarian Chardonnay has aromas of lemon curd, custard apple, mango and lemon blossom. It is soft and round in the mouth with pleasant acidity and has flavors of guava, green apple, mango and white peach. G&B Importers. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** $12

31



91 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2014 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). With a palate-drenching fountain of peach nectar, grapefruit and orange blossom notes, this Finger Lakes standard packs a surprising punch in the 2014 vintage. Dry, yet intensely ripe, it boasts long, lingering streaks of honey and fruit offset by zigzagging daggers of lime zest and lemon. It's penetrating and deliciously persistent. —A.I.

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

32

89 Parras Vinhos 2014 Castelo do Sulco Reserva (Lisboa). The red wine is rich, dense and packed with fruit and tannins. It comes from the heart of the Lisboa region, giving plenty of structure from the cool-climate vineyards. There are fine red-fruit flavors shot through by juicy acidity. The wine has a drier, still developing tannic aftertaste. Drink from 2017. MS Walker. —R.V.

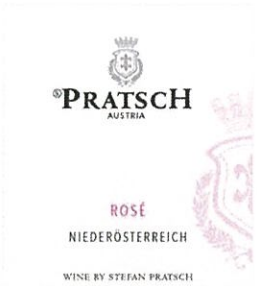
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

33

90 Parducci 2014 Small Lot Blend Chardonnay (Mendocino County). Nicely balanced, full of tasty fruit flavors, and accented by light vanilla and nutmeg, this is a seamless wine that has lots of appeal. At this reasonable price, it will make a great go-to choice—the kind to stock by the case. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $13

34



90 Pratsch 2015 Rosé (Niederösterreich). Raspberry notes flit from the glass, then the palate follows with zesty, appetizing lemon flavors and creates a perfect picture of summer-berried freshness and easy, enjoyable lightness. There is a backbone of fresh acidity that makes this a classy winner with and without food. The finish is clean and hints of ripe cherry. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.K.

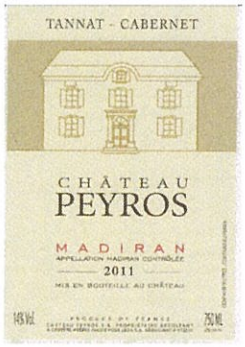
abv: 12% **Price:** $13

35

88 Henkell NV Brut (Germany). Hints of creamy yogurt meld into bright tropical swirls of mango, melon and tangerine in this fun, fizzy sparkling blend. It's delicately effervescent with bristling lemonade acidity. Monsieur Henri Wine Co. —A.I.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** $9

36



90 Château Peyros 2011 Tannat-Cabernet (Madiran). This ripe wine with open fruits has 40% Cabernet Franc in the blend, which lends an attractive perfumed character and gives the wine rich character and fruitiness. It will age for a few more years and be ready to drink from 2017. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

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

37

90 Sula 2015 Estate Bottled Shiraz (Nashik). Dark violet-red in color, this wine has a bouquet of blueberry, brambles and flint. It is soft on entry, with a web of tannins that spreads across the palate. Flavors of cherry preserves, bacon and juniper berry are at play in the mouth, and bright fruit notes and tactile tannins come in waves through the lingering finish. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $13

38

90 Tangent 2014 Paragon Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). Classic and yet distinctive in aromatics, this bottling from the Niven family's cool-climate vineyard shows cut grass, wet cement and a touch of struck match on the narrowly focused nose. The palate intrigues, with fresh-cut thyme and oregano lifted by a white pepper element. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $13

39

91 Thorn Clarke 2013 Terra Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa). A terrific value if you can find it (alas, only 150 cases were imported), this is full bodied and richly textured, marrying hints of peppery spice with grilled lavender and rosemary that perfectly season the beach cherry and mocha flavors. It's stout, tannic and mouth coating on the finish, ideal for matching with roasts or steaks. Drink 2018–2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** $15

40

91 Domaine du Petit Clocher 2014 Anjou. This is a beautiful nut and orange-flavored white wine. It has a mineral texture that is developing well into rich pear flavors that are lightly touched by honey. The wine from this estate in the Layon Valley is likely to age well. It can be drunk now, but it will be better from 2018. Vineyard Research. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** $15

41

90 Voyatzis 2015 Kyklos Moschofilero (Peloponnese). Lemon and pineapple aromas start this full-bodied but friendly pour from the Peloponnese. Citrus, sea salt and a mineral finish give the wine elegance and a versatile food character. Nestor Imports. —S.K.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** $12

42

89 Caves da Montanha 2014 Conde de Serpa Colheita (Alentejano). Named after an advisor to the 19th-century Portuguese kings, this red wine is rich and full of dark fruits, with juicy acidity. It has a fine, ripe character, with generous tannins integrated into the full-bodied character. The acidity at the end gives a final crisper aftertaste. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

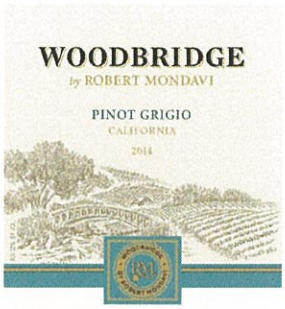
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $8

43

89 Whispering Tree 2013 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Cocoa and spice notes mix with red currant and plum. The palate is elegant in style and brings a fine sense of balance and appeal to the mouth. —S.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

44



88 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2014 Pinot Grigio (California). Refreshing and charming, this light-bodied wine has aromas like apple skin and lemongrass, with a sweet-tart flavor and good acidity. It's all clean and crisp. —J.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** $8

45

91 Domaine des Terrisses 2014 Grande Tradition (Gaillac). This intensely fresh red wine is a blend of Duras, Braucol and Syrah in a textured, stalky style that is tight and layered with tannins. It's certainly young, still bursting with fruit and needing to fill out as its tannins soften and its black currant fruit calms down. Then it will be a fascinating, complex wine, elegant and poised. Drink from 2018. Wine Traditions. —R.V.

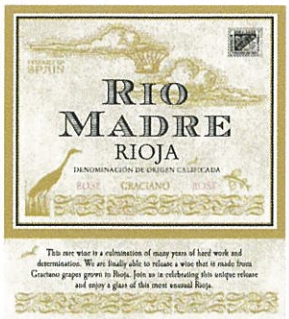
abv: 13% **Price:** $15

46

90 Red Newt Cellars 2014 Circle Riesling (Finger Lakes). Grapefruit, peach and melon notes cannonball from nose to palate of this bright, intensely fruity wine. Zesty lemon-lime acidity keeps it vivacious and spry, but the finish is long, marked by gentle touches of honey and hibiscus nectar. —A.I.

abv: 10.1% **Price:** $13

47



88 Rio Madre 2015 Graciano Rosé (Rioja). This fluorescent pink rosé is fairly full on the nose, with a grape-skins character. Lively, balanced and lightly oily in feel, this delivers plum and citrus flavors prior to a finish that's pithy and tastes like ripe pink grapefruit. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

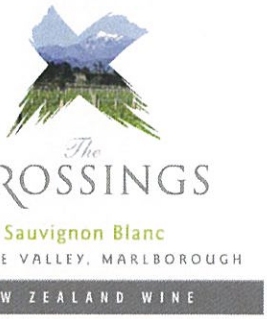
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

48

90 Boeckel 2015 Riesling (Alsace). A reticent nose on this wine tells only of earth and faint citrus at this point. The uncompromisingly dry palate however, is perfumed with conifer and citrus zest around a fluid, concentrated center. The tart, super-clean lemon finish tingles enticingly. WineWise. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** $13

49



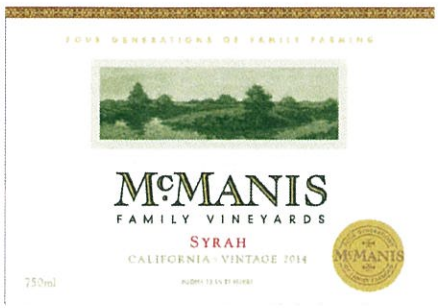
90 The Crossings 2015 Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley). Grassy, herbal notes accent pink grapefruit on the nose. There's ample weight without it ever seeming heavy, and a silky feel to the wine that lingers on the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.C.

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

50

88 Hacormim 2014 Adi 13 Cabernet Sauvignon (Israel). Aromas of cherry, orange zest and vanilla custard set the stage for flavors of blackberry, blueberry, mocha, anise and flame-broiled meat. It is bright on entry, with soft but ever-present tannins. The finish features a burst of brightness and a note of aniseed. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. —M.D.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** $9

51



89 McManis 2014 Syrah (California). With aromas like blackberry jam on toast, the flavors are ripe but dry and a firm texture with moderate tannins. This is a fresh and well-made wine at a terrific price. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $11

52

90 Chateau Grand Traverse 2013 Dry Riesling (Old Mission Peninsula). Established in the early 70s by Ed O'Keefe Jr., this Michigan winery remains in the family to this day and maintains the founding father's focus on producing wines from 100% vinifera grapes in a region where hybrids might be the easier option. Perseverance pays off in this delightfully balanced dry Riesling that seamlessly blends juicy peach, pineapple rind and a vein of talc-dusted citrus. Texturally round and soft, with a peach-fuzz feel, this is a veritable steal for the price. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** $13

53

90 Magnum Vinhos 2013 Flor de Maio Tinto (Alentejano). This is a rich wine with smooth tannins that are integrated into the ripe black fruits. It's packed with juicy fruitiness. It also has a dry core and acidity, both of which will allow the wine to age. Concentrated, it is ready to drink now, although it will be better from 2017. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $12

54

87 Le Pépin 2015 Pinot Noir (Vin de France). This is a direct but tasty and well-balanced Pinot, with vibrant aromas and flavors of juicy cherry, blueberry and wild strawberry, all graced by hints of purple flowers and sweet spice. The mouthfeel is soft yet structured, with delicate tannins and a slight lushness that lingers on the finish. Plume Ridge. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $7

55

87 Avia 2014 Hand Harvested Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Primorska). This Slovenian Chardonnay has aromas of orange, vanilla, toasted almonds and citrus blossom. The mouth delivers flavors of honeydew melon, pear and apple before a crisp acidic finish. Laureate Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** $7

56

90 Carmen 2014 Gran Reserva Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). Composed berry, spice, herb and oak aromas are complete and inviting. In the mouth, this is ripe and dense, with chewy tannins. Blackberry, mixed herb and dark chocolate flavors are integrated, while this settles nicely on the finish. Trinchero Family Estates. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $15

57

87 Grandes Vinos y Viñedos 2015 El Circo Acróbato Garnacha (Cariñena). Floral plum and black cherry aromas are nice and fruity. A bright, juicy, simple palate holds flavors of plum, blackberry and chocolate. While nothing sticks out on the finish, this Garnacha ends nicely and overdelivers. Seaview Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $8

58

90 Dry Creek Vineyard 2015 Fumé Blanc (Sonoma County). The wine that started it all for this producer, first bottled in 1972, it is 100% stainless-steel fermented and drips in fruity citrus. Lemon pith continues the theme, accented by notes of pineapple salsa and crisp green apple, remaining vibrant and fresh throughout. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $14

59

90 Famille Laplace 2014 Aydie l'Origine (Madiran). This red wine is already finely balanced, full of a combination of black fruits and acidity. Behind this fruitiness there are solid tannins, a dry core and a concentrated aftertaste where the Tannat shows well. Drink this ripe, full-bodied wine now. Tru Wines LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $14

60

90 Forstreiter 2015 Kremser Kogl Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). A touch of reduction still clings to the citrus and pear notes of this clean-cut wine. The palate fill out with notes of citrus and green, freshly cut Conference pear—it has juicy concentration and provides a lip-smacking finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $12

61

90 Kings Ridge 2014 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Lightly tawny in color, with a fresh and enlivening mouthfeel, this is a good Pinot Gris for salmon, halibut or even swordfish. Pear flesh and skin, white peach and a hint of spice are all in play. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** $14

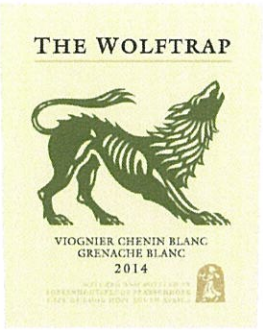
62

90 Segal's 2013 Fusion Merlot-Cabernet Franc-Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). A bouquet of blueberry, pomegranate and juniper berry braces the palate for flavors of blueberry, raspberry, anise, juniper berry and eucalyptus that sit in a plexus of comforting tannins. Fruity and cool flavors battle it out for dominance, with fruit remaining victorious on the bright and juicy finish. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $14

63

89 Provam 2015 Varanda do Conde (Vinho Verde). This is the entry-level wine from this Alvarinho specialist. A blend with Trajadura, it is crisp, light and bright. Tangy orange and lemon zest flavors give the wine its tight, lively acidity and refreshing aftertaste. Drink now. Luiz's Grocery and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $10

64



89 Boekenhoutskloof 2014 The Wolftrap Viognier-Chenin Blanc-Grenache Blanc (Western Cape). A blend of 48% Viognier, 41% Chenin Blanc and 11% Grenache Blanc, this medium-weight wine offers ripe fruit aromas and flavors of Anjou pear, peach and orange rind that are complemented by notes of fennel, mentholated fynbos and ginger. Medium acidity cuts through the rich mouthfeel, with a lasting kiss of toasted spice on the close. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $12

65

90 Boeger 2014 Hangtown Zinfandel (El Dorado). Delicious and bold, this dry wine is easy to enjoy and appreciate. It has aromas like crushed fresh raspberries and blackberries, flavors that are ripe and rich without overdoing it, and a smooth texture punctuated with some fine-grained tannins. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** $12

66

89 Waterbrook 2015 Reserve Riesling (Columbia Valley). Jasmine, apricot and floral aromas are followed by medium-sweet stone-fruit flavors. Floral and jasmine flavors persist on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $12

67

90 St Hallett 2013 Black Clay Shiraz (Barossa). An excellent value, this is a fairly full-bodied, slightly creamy-textured Shiraz that should provide ample pleasure through 2020. Smoky, plummy fruit finishes warm and plush. Distinguished Vineyards. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $15

68

88 Vallobera 2013 Pago Malarina (Rioja). Dark plum and berry aromas are fairly full and concentrated, with a boost from spicy oak. A medium-bodied palate offers up tannic rub, while cherry, black plum and oak-based spice flavors finish creamy, dry and spicy, with a hint of tobacco along with mild heat. Axial Wines USA. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

69

90 Drusian NV Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore. Delicate aromas of white flowers, stone fruit and pear lead the way. On the palate, a core of green apple and citrus is carried by vibrant, fresh acidity. Small, lively bubbles lend finesse. Panebianco. —K.O.
abv: 11% **Price:** $15

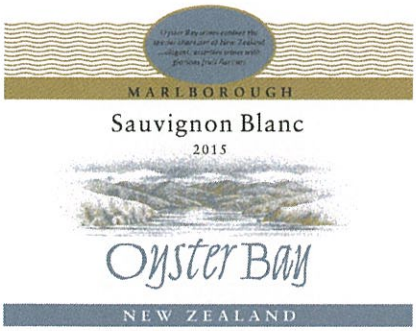
70

87 Archer Roose NV Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). Don't fear the box! Aromas of red berry, briar patch, olive and rooty spice are varietally correct. This feels right, with a bolstering shot of acidity. Leafy, baked-plum flavors finish herbal and peppery. Archer Roose LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $30/3 L

71

90 Lamadrid 2014 Single Vineyard Malbec (Agrelo). Hard-packed, concentrated black-fruit aromas are a signal of this rugged Malbec's character. It's blasting with toasty blackberry and pepper flavors, which are backed by spice, heat and a general sense of full but proper ripeness and high quality. Drink through 2019. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** $15

72



90 Oyster Bay 2015 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Even big brands like Oyster Bay benefitted from the excellent vintage conditions in 2015, so consumers shouldn't be shy about trying some of them. This medium-bodied wine has a pleasant, silky texture, understated graphite and citrus aromas and flavors, and a long, mouthwatering finish. Delegat USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** $15

73

90 Sokol Blosser NV Evolution Big Time Red (America). This nonvintage blend is labeled by edition, this being the fourth. The mélange includes Syrah, Sangiovese, Montepulciano and a splash of Evolution white for a wine that's totally unique, and totally cool. Ripe raspberry and cherry-candy flavors also carry a note of fresh mushroom. The wine rolls into a darker, black-cherry component as it comes through the back palate. It delivers big flavors at a budget price. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $15

74

88 Schmitt Söhne 2014 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). A cool, alpine streak runs through this easygoing but refreshing Riesling, revealed through greenish glimmers of pine frond and fresh herb. Off dry in style, it calibrates sweet-tart green plum and apple notes against streaks of lime and lemon. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** $10

75

90 Guilbaud Frères 2015 Clos de Beauregard Vieilles Vignes Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). This is an attractive, fruity, concentrated wine. It has a salty, mineral character that adds a tang to the ripe apple and lime fruits. With its lift of acidity, it is crisp and refreshing at the end. The House of Burgundy. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $13

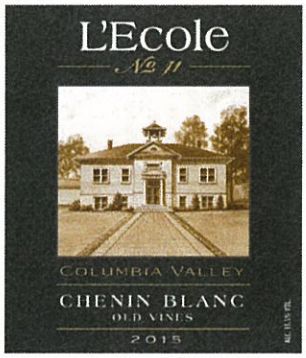
76

90 Osprey's Dominion 2015 Rosé (North Fork of Long Island). Luscious raspberry and red-cherry flavors are concentrated in this bright, fruity rosé. Made predominantly from Cabernet Sauvignon, it's marked by bristles of bramble and herb that lend complexity to the palate. The finish is brisk and refreshingly saline. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** $15

77

90 Murphy-Goode 2013 Merlot (California). Good concentration and a velvety texture make this deeply colored dry wine substantial enough for a special occasion. It smells like spicy oak and tastes like ripe black cherries and blackberries, with a smooth mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $15

78



90 L'Ecole No. 41 2015 Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley). This wine comes from vineyards planted in the late 1970s. It shows pleasing aromas of Bosc pear, melon and flowers. The palate drinks a hair off dry, with a full, appealing feel to the apple and passion fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $15

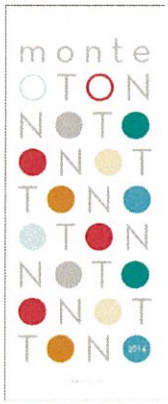
79

90 Ravoire et Fils 2015 Domaine la Rabiotte Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). The 123-acre estate has been in the Rabarin family for 150 years, yielding both wine and market-garden produce. This is a delicious, crisp wine full of red-currant freshness with a tight, mineral character. It is concentrated with pepper overtones and a nervy, bright aftertaste. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $15

80

88 Viña el Aromo 2012 Private Reserve Malbec (Maule Valley). Earthy cherry and cassis aromas are backed by bacon and generic gritty scents. This Maule Malbec feels chunky, while salty plum and oaky flavors finish with notes of hickory, savory meat and controlled heat. Wein Bauer Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $11

81



87 Borsao 2014 Monte Oton Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Cherry and raspberry aromas are spunky and simple in front of a crisp edgy palate. Medicinal, lightly rubbery flavors of cherry and plum finish with a raw rub, juicy acidity, a lean body and mild heat. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $8

82

90 Ronco Blanchis 2013 Sauvignon (Collio). Fresh and elegant, this opens with lovely scents of elderberry flower, hay, tomato vine and citrus. The subtle, refined palate shows grapefruit, sage and lemon drop framed in crisp acidity. Energizing mineral backs up the finish. Lemma Wine Co Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** $15

83

90 Killibinbin 2013 Sneaky Shiraz (Langhorne Creek). This is a supple, creamy-textured Shiraz to enjoy through 2020. Red-fruit notes of strawberry and raspberry marry easily with dark hints of plum and mocha, then linger gently on the finish. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $15

84

90 Innocent Bystander 2015 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This Australian (Yarra Valley-based) brand has bottled an excellent Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. It's plump and ample in the mouth, while the aromas are laced with hints of struck flint, snow pea, celery leaf and gooseberry, all woven into fine balance and possessing a long, mouthwatering finish. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $15

85

90 Hahn 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A slightly herbal, minty character gives personality to this full-bodied, generous and richly textured wine. It is attractively dry, nicely tannic, layered with black cherry, wild berry and rosemary notes. Great to drink now through 2020 with rich meats or mushrooms. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $15

86

90 Firesteed 2014 Pinot Gris (Oregon). Fresh cut pear fruit flavors carry this wine. It's crisp and clean, with fresh fruit balanced against natural acidity. Drink it now while the freshness is paramount. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** $15

87

91 Chateau Les Amoureuses 2012 Terres des Amoureuses Passionnée (Ardèche). Syrah-based, this is the Amoureuses cuvée most likely to be found on store shelves. It's full bodied and supple, with ample black cherry fruit and a savory side of cola and coffee. Long and smoothly textured on the finish, it's ready to drink now–2023. T. Elenteny Imports. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** $15

88

90 Bodegas Eidosela 2015 Ethereo Albariño (Rías Baixas). Lime and grapefruit aromas are a touch pithy and feline but don't go overboard. Citrusy and minerally on the palate, this tastes of lime, green melon and green banana. A pure, tangy finish holds firm. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $15

89

90 Finca Adelma 2012 El Capitan Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Depth and complexity are key parts of this ripe Malbec that opens with hints of mushroom and stewed berry fruits along with cedary oak and tobacco. Mature and dense on the palate, this mixes blackberry fruit with raisin and prune, then follows with tea, spice and chocolate flavors on the back palate and finish. Drink now. Justin Brass Exceptional Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** $15

90

89 Milbrandt 2014 Traditions Riesling (Columbia Valley). Aromas of peach and lime are followed by a sleek, crisp, off-dry palate with a long, lemony finish. A light spritz perks it up nicely. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** $13

91

89 Château Peychaud 2012 Côtes de Bourg. Dark in color, this is a bold, spicy wine. It has firm tannins that contrast well with the dense black fruits and acidity. The combination makes for a wine that promises to age well—rich and with a fine smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $14

92

89 Belisario 2015 Vigneti del Cerro (Verdicchio di Matelica). Fresh and savory, this offers aromas and flavors of fresh apple, green Anjou pear and almond. Bright acidity gives it a crisp, clean finish while a hint of saline signals the close. Artisan Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** $14

93

89 Echeverria 2013 Gran Reserva Syrah (Colchagua Costa). Bright cherry and berry aromas get support from grainy, lightly lactic oak. This Syrah is balanced and fresh, with a mild sensation of tartaric acid on the palate. Flavors of loamy berry fruits are mildly spicy but lack serious complexity. Ararat Import/Export Co. LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $14

94

89 Brancott 2015 Pinot Grigio (Marlborough). Made in a frankly commercial, off-dry style, this is dangerously quaffable. Pronounced apple, pear and melon flavors are balanced by moderate acidity and a hint of ginger on the finish. Drink now. Pernod Ricard. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $14

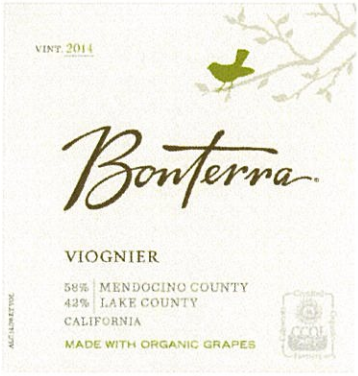
95

89 Three Rivers 2014 River's Red Wine (Columbia Valley). This wine is composed of five varieties, with none making up more than 21% of the blend. Fresh aromas of berry, cranberry, red currant and herbs are followed by fruit-forward cherry and berry flavors that bring appeal. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** $14

96

89 Pepi Lignana 2014 Cerida Sangiovese (Maremma Toscana). Here's an easygoing red that opens with aromas of rose water, wild berry and aromatic herb. Made entirely with Sangiovese, the palate offers ripe dark cherry, raspberry and savory herb, while live acidity and polished tannins provide support. Grantham Distributing. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $14

97



89 Bonterra 2014 Made with Organic Grapes Viognier (Mendocino-Lake). Lively aromas, an appetizing balance and just-rich-enough fruit flavors make a good combo in this medium- to full-bodied wine. It has subtle herb and kiwi aromas, crisp apple flavors, and a texture poised between supple and tangy. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** $14

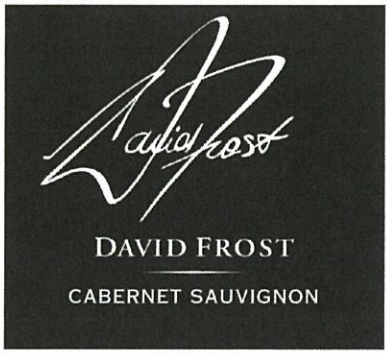
98

90 Mustiguillo 2013 Mestizaje (Spain). Lightly medicinal scents of plum and raspberry come with aromatic complexities like lemon peel and a dusting of cinnamon. This is crisp, focused and friendly on the palate, with ripe plum, blackberry, chocolate and oak-spice flavors. A long, steady, toasty finish makes this Bobal-led blend from a single designated property called El Terrerazo an outright winner. Drink through 2017. Valkyrie Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $15

99

90 Château Rousset-Caillau 2012 Bordeaux Supérieur. A smooth, ripe wine that has rich fruit and balanced wood and fruit tannins. With mint flavors and a generous blackberry flavor, the wine is firm, with fine aging potential. It is a full-bodied wine that will be ready to drink from 2019. Soilair Selection. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $15

100



88 David Frost 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape). This is a solid, jammy red that offers forward notes of black plum, cherry and berry. The medium-weight mouthfeel is direct and attractive, as the juicy black-fruit flavors are complemented by moderate tannins and balanced alcohol. A well-done and immediately accessible selection to enjoy now. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** $12