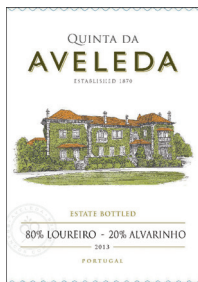




WINE ENTHUSIAST TOP 100 BEST BUYS 2014



1



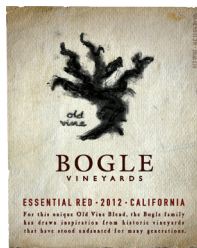
90 Aveleda 2013 Quinta da Aveleda Estate Bottled Loureiro-Alvarinho (Minho). This wine remains a benchmark for the Vinho Verde region, even though the producers have now recast it as a Minho wine. It is steely, tight and crisp, with a touch of creaminess that gives it a more rounded aftertaste. Drink now through 2015. Aveleda Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$8

2



91 Barnard Griffin 2012 Fumé Blanc Dry Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This tangy, all-stainless, lightly grassy, dry Sauvignon Blanc is a pure and definitive elaboration of the grape's varietal character. Penetrating and crisp, it would be hard to ask for more from a \$9 wine. —P.G.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$9

3



91 Bogle 2012 Essential Red (California). This dry red blend is as sophisticated, structured and balanced as many high-end Cabernets. Made from old-vine Zin, with Syrah, Cabernet and Petite Sirah as well, it has a deep, exotic aroma of dark fruit plus cedar and cardamom. The flavor is richly fruity, the mouthfeel is firmly textured and the finish lingers nicely. It's medium bodied and full-flavored. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

4



94 Herdade do Esporão 2011 Quinta dos Murças Assobio (Douro). Assobio is from a single vineyard in the Quinta dos Murças estate. A powerful, structured expression of Douro wine, it has black fruits, dark tannins, some subtle layers of wood aging and great concentration. Dark and richly fruity, it needs to mature before drinking. Wait until 2017. Esporão Wines & Olive Oils. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

5

90 Mano A Mano 2011 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). It's almost absurd how good this \$9 Tempranillo is. Full, clean, deep aromas of black fruits and licorice feed into an energetic yet generous palate with moderate richness. Flavors of black cherry, blackberry and pepper finish spicy but not pushy. What a deal! Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$9

6



91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2013 Dry Riesling (Columbia Valley). This beautifully aromatic take on a dry style of Riesling opens with detailed scents of citrus rind and pulp. It moves into a concentrated palate with a spectrum of tart fruits—lime and grapefruit, pineapple and more. The bracing acidity carries a refreshing minerality into the back of the mouth. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

7

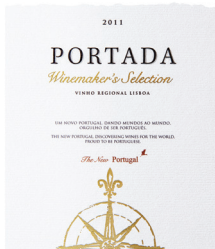
93 Château Vincens 2011 Prestige (Cahors). A rich, Port-like wine that is full and concentrated while also soft and fruity. It is powerfully structured, with a balance of great acidity to balance the dry tannins, imparting a fine texture. An impres-

How the Wines Break Down



sive wine that will need many years to age. Drink from 2017. European Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$13

8



90 DFJ Vinhos 2011 Portada Winemaker's Selection Tinto (Lisboa). A dark colored, dense wine that is rich and firmly structured. Aged in wood, it holds flavors of plum and berry fruits balanced with a fresh acidity. This is a wine for aging, its structure a powerful statement. Drink from 2014. Luiz's Grocery And Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$7

9

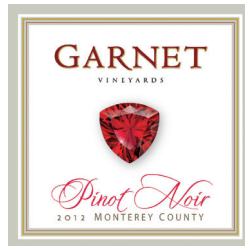
90 Hugl-Wimmer 2013 Wimmer Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Ripe Concord pear and an intriguing, phenolic mouthfeel combine in this highly drinkable light white. There is enough weight to support food and a pleasing hint of savoriness as well as depth. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14/1L

10



89 Blue Fish 2012 Sweet Riesling (Pfalz). Cute packaging belies the surprising depth to this Riesling. It's remarkably balanced, with an array of mineral, floral and fruit dimensions. Juicy, with preserved peach flavors and zippy lemon acidity, it's a thirst-quenching, solid pick from the Pfalz. Palm Bay International. —A.I.
abv: 11% Price: \$10

11



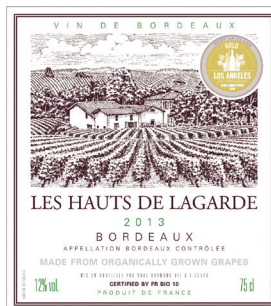
92 Garnet 2012 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Bacon fat and cream soda meet with a flash of patchouli on the nose of this stunning deal from winemaker/author/blogger Alison Crowe. Cherry cola flavors and luscious red fruits get lifted with smoke and plum-skin bitterness, all set against decent tannins and fresh acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$15

12



91 Hogue 2012 Gewürztraminer (Columbia Valley). The softly floral scents of rose petals and body powder introduce this excellent wine, followed by bright flavors of Meyer lemon and pink grapefruit. The 20 g/L residual sugar is complemented with zippy acids, keeping this well-crafted wine off dry but not sweet. —P.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$11

13



91 Les Hauts de Lagarde 2013 Made From Organically Grown Grapes (Bordeaux Blanc). Rich and full, this is a concentrated and well-balanced wine. It has a good mix of herbaceousness, fresh citrus and pineapple, all intense and fruity. It could age a few months, so wait until 2015. Natural Merchants LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

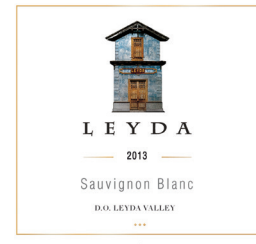
14

89 Coto de Hayas 2013 Garnacha-Syrah (Campo de Borja). Hints of smoke and rubber come with typical raspberry, plum and berry aromas. This feels ripe and balanced, with purity of fruit. Flavors of blackberry, plum and cassis are yummy, while the finish hints at complexity, offering spice and chocolate notes. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

15

89 La Cappuccina 2012 Fontego (Soave). It opens with a floral fragrance of Spanish broom, jasmine and chamomile. The juicy palate delivers citrus, pineapple and almond alongside crisp acidity that lends a clean, refreshing close. Panebianco. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

16

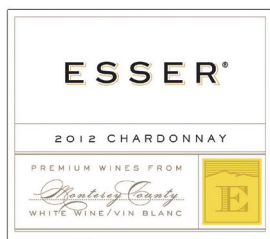


89 Leyda 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Tropical more than green and pungent, this fragrant wine offers powdery, sweet notes and stronger coastal ones. It's lean and angular in feel, with oceanic flavors of nettle, tangerine and lemon. A light green flavor and a chalky feel make up the finish. Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$11

17

90 Château Camelot la Chapelle 2011 Bordeaux. This is a wine with potential. It has weight and ripe berry fruits balanced with solid tannins and a dense texture. Behind the structure, the fruit and acidity promise good things. Drink from 2016. Bad Boy. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

18



91 Esser 2012 Chardonnay (Monterey County).

This fresh-smelling wine blends aromas of caramel apple and light grapefruit juice. The palate is racy in acidity, like a glass of fresh orange juice splashed with squeezes of lemon and grapefruit, and a vanilla warmth toward the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$13

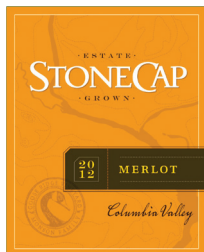
19

90 Caves Velhas 2012 Vinhas Altas (Tejo). Big, ripe and fruity, this is a warm and rounded wine made from old vines. Soft tannins are well integrated into the smoky wood flavors and blackberry fruits. By late 2014, it will be a full-bodied wine. Mid-Atlantic Sales Group. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$10

20



90 StoneCap 2012 Estate Grown Merlot (Columbia Valley). This seduces with flavors of juicy, ripe berries, spicy plums and black cherries. It delivers the complexity, density and mocha finish of a much more expensive Merlot. —P.G.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$10

21

90 Unger 2013 Stein Terrassen Riesling (Kremstal). This opens with a breezy fragrance of citrus zest and mandarin leaf, hinting at deeper, riper peach within. The palate is soft but defined; while slender, it still abounds with citrus-framed peach. Verity Wine Partners. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$10

22

90 Cookies & Cream 2010 Merlot (California).

One of a string of great values made at Teravant near Santa Barbara. Attractively oaky, it's full-bodied, full-flavored and just tannic enough to make it a good pairing for rich meat or cheese courses. It is deep in color, with a slightly tawny rim. It smells like wood smoke and grilled bread, tastes deep as blackberry and delivers cherry flavors that linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$10

23

91 Cheval Quancard 2013 Réserve (Bordeaux Blanc). Toasty aromas give a strongly spicy character. They also bring out a ripe side to the wine, rounded and rich, full of wood and warm fruit flavors. It needs time to develop its full potential, so wait until 2016. Cheval Quancard. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$14

24

88 Los Dos 2013 Grenache-Syrah (Campo de Borja). Pure berry aromas define the nose on this highly drinkable Garnacha-Syrah blend. In the mouth, it's clean, juicy, a bit round and easy to process. Typical Aragónese flavors of plum and berry finish tasty and unbroken. Winebow. —M.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$8

25



90 Fire Road 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Winemaker Alana McGettigan is an associate of Matt Thomson (Saint Clair, Delta), so it's no surprise this Sauvignon Blanc overdelivers. Hints of tomato leaf garnish passion fruit and citrus flavors in this wine, which reveals a certain amount of austerity and restraint on the palate, a silky texture and a long, grapefruit-driven finish. Winesellers Ltd. —J.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

26

89 Excelsior 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Robertson). A fragrance of crushed violet adds interest to the jammy blackberry, plum and cherry fruit core of this wine. Hints of licorice root, bramble and peppery spice unfold on the creamy palate, with ripe yet gripping tannins that remain on the finish. Cape Classics. —L.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$10

27



89 Castle Rock 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County). A flavor spectrum emphasizing grapefruit and kiwi makes this lively and original. Assertive aromas of grapefruit and new-mown grass leap out of the glass, then the flavors are vivid, tangy and lingering. A crisp texture and just enough richness in the body complete the package. —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$10

28

91 Chateau Haut Rian 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Complex and rich, this is an impressive, concentrated wine. It has great acidity that balances flavors of ripe white fruits and apple skins, and lends a tight, taut texture. The wine should be aged for at least six months before drinking. VOS Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

29



granate. Grapes & Barley, LLC. —J.J.

abv: 14%

Price: \$10

89 Bulgariana 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley).

This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is garnet colored with a violet rim. It has aromas of pomegranate, dried black cherry and freshly ground black pepper. It's well structured, with fine tannins and flavors of ripe cherry, tart cranberry and juicy pome-

30

89 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2012 Riesling (Mosel). Subtle spice notes lend exotic flair throughout this dry yet light-bodied wine. Bright apple and Meyer lemon flavors build in intensity on the palate, accented by hints of savory herbs and minerals. Excellent value for a such a quaffable yet nuanced wine. Saranty Imports. —A.I.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$10

31



90 Dancing Bull 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Tangy green-apple aromas and flavors make this medium-bodied wine refreshing, crisp and palate-cleansing. The texture is vibrant and the finish lively. —J.G.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$12

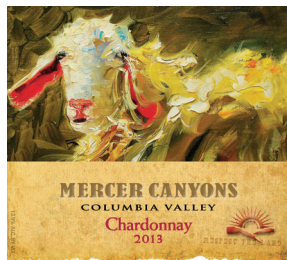
32

90 Otazu 2010 Premium Cuvée Señorío de Otazu (Navarra). Boysenberry and a touch of herbal mint are the lead aromas on this blend of Tempranillo, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. There's power and mild heat to the palate, along with warm berry flavors that finish with a lot of intensity and push. This is generous and expressive. Drink through 2016. Grape Expectations (CA). —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

33

91 Anselmo Mendes 2012 Muros Antigos Escolha (Vinho Verde). Fruity and intense, this is a very fine Vinho Verde from the northern vineyards of the region. It is full, packed with pear, lemon meringue and grapefruit flavors, feeling rich as well as crisp. A wine like this can age, so drink until 2017. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

34



91 Mercer Canyons 2013 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Half barrel-fermented and half done in stainless steel, this classy effort seems to overdeliver. It starts with good fruit, but the feeling is that winemaker Jessica Munnell did everything right, and maxed out the complexity. It's a sensuous mix of grape and barrel, steel and butterscotch, with a lively, lingering finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$13

35

91 Golan Heights Winery 2012 Mount Hermon (Galilee). A nose of cherry, violet and flint cedes to juicy flavors of pomegranate, cherry, salted popcorn, lavender and sage. Evenly weighted tannins and acidity make for good mouthfeel and a graceful finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc.—M.D.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$13

36

90 Acrobat 2013 Pinot Gris (Oregon). A double bonus here—a price drop and what is certainly the best vintage yet for this widely available Pinot Gris. Outstanding depth of flavor focuses on apple, pear and melon fruits. There's an appealing streak of vanilla custard, with a lush mouthfeel and plenty of detail right on through the generous finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

37



87 Bota Box 2012 Shiraz (California). Delicious and easy to drink, the wine carries rich, ripe flavors of raspberries, strawberries, cherries, brown

sugar, vanilla and toast. At the equivalent of \$5.75 for a regular bottle, it's a great value. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23/3 L

38

92 Quinta do Porrais 2010 Parcelas (Douro). The wine has power, structure and density. Hard initial tannins show that it needs to age, but the black fruits come through richly as it opens up. The strong mineral character gives a firm texture to the wine. Drink from 2017. Value Vines LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

39

91 Château de Nages 2011 Vieilles Vignes (Costières de Nîmes). Proprietor Michel Gassier is turning out excellent values at all levels. This supple red blends 72% Grenache with 24% Syrah and 4% Mourvèdre. Raspberry and rhubarb notes on the nose give way to flavors of ripe cherries, baking spices and dried herbs. The finish is long and velvety. Drink now–2020. Total Wine & More. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

40

91 Erik Banti 2011 Morellino di Scansano. Intense underbrush aromas, black berries and violet lead the nose on this delicious blend of 85% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot and 5% Cilieggiolo. The juicy palate offers a core of ripe black cherry accented with notes of tobacco, black pepper and orange peel; minerality and a hint of coffee bean add depth. It's an incredible value. Summa Vitis, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

41



89 Fox Run 2013 Doyle Family Vineyard Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). The addition of 9% Traminette lends a blossomy flair to fresh apple and tangerine notes in this bright, unoaked Chardonnay. Brisk and revitalizing, with a zesty lime-toned acidity, it's a satisfying late-summer quaffer at a bargain price. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

42

89 Tierras Guindas 2011 Roble (Ribera del Duero). A dark tint and ripe aromas of blackberry, black plum and leather are appealing and inviting. This is weighty and full-bodied, with blackberry, boysenberry and cassia flavors. There's not a lot of nuance or complexity, but overall this is clean, tasty and generous. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

43



88 Balduzzi 2012 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maule Valley). Ripe blackberry aromas carry notes of prune and raisin. For a ripe, dark wine, this is juicy and well balanced. Oaky, toasty flavors lean toward dark fruits and blackberry, and the finish keeps the dark-fruit theme going while folding in bitter coffee notes. Vintage Wines Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

44

90 Sonoma Cuvée 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This Chardonnay takes flavors of Meyer lemon, lime, papaya and buttered toast, and carries them over the finish line with a drive of acidity, minerality and complexity. Finishing dry and crisp, it's a wonderful wine with an everyday price that makes it a stunning value. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

45

90 Château Lamothe-Vincent 2011 Intense (Bordeaux). While the wood aging is prominent, it doesn't take away from the complex, ripe fruits and acidity. In a word, this is balanced. It has good potential, as the toasty wood integrates over the next two years. Drink from 2015. Screwcap. Laville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

46

90 Eola Hills 2012 Chardonnay (Oregon). This is solidly made, with forward and ripe fruit flavors of peach, pear and apple. A gentle touch with spices—cinnamon and baking spices—adds extra interest to the wine as it plays across the palate. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$13

47

88 Lenz Moser 2013 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). An almost tropical hint of passion fruit and mango enters the lemony pepper realms of Grüner: an intriguing variation on this soft, pleasing white. Niche Import Company. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10/1 L

48

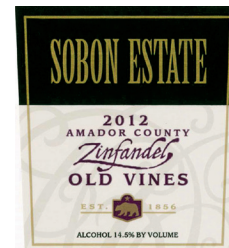


90 Charles & Charles 2013 Rosé (Columbia Valley). The wines from this collaboration between Charles Smith and Charles Bieler continue to impress. The rosé is mostly Syrah, with small amounts of Cinsault, Grenache, Cunoise and Mourvèdre. It's a complex, fashionably stylish take on rosé. Light fruit flavors of berry and melon are detailed and refreshing, with exceptional length on the palate. —P.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$12

49

89 Casa de Vilacetinho 2012 Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde). For a Vinho Verde, this is rich and full-bodied, showing delicious acidity, crisp apples and a touch of tropical fruit. There's the typical prickle on the tongue that brings out freshness, but in fact this wine could age for a year. Santa Maria Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

50



90 Sobon Estate 2012 Old Vines Zinfandel (Amador County). A solid, middleweight Zinfandel, this emphasizes sophisticated, toasty, spicy oak aromas. The oak doesn't overwhelm, however, but enhances the ripe boysenberry flavors, juicy acidity and lingering finish. Enjoyably tannic, this will pair well with grilled lamb, steak and chicken. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

51



88 Paso a Paso 2012 Estate Bottled Tempranillo (La Mancha). Robust black-fruit aromas suggest plum and blackberry. This everyday red is concentrated, generous and packed with power. Flavors of dark berry fruits, chocolate and espresso finish with verve and clarity. Jorge Ordoñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

52

90 Wither Hills 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Wairau Valley). For the price, this is remarkably concentrated, with ample weight and intense flavors. It's more subdued on the nose, offering just hints of stuck flint and grapefruit, but the citrusy flavors surge forward, culminating in a long, grapefruit finish. Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

53

89 Château Cabezac 2011 La Tradition (Minervois). This value-priced blend of Carignan, Syrah and Grenache offers heady upfront aromas of muddled blackberry and boysenberry that are infused with notes of raspberry sauce and mocha. Black fruit flavors continue to shine on the medium-weight palate, which boasts a supple texture, approachable tannins and a peppery spice on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

54

89 Veglio 2012 Nebbiolo d'Alba. A potpourri of violets, sweet baking spices and woodland berries take center stage. The savory palate offers up wild cherry, black raspberry and cinnamon alongside supple tannins and fresh acidity. Drink soon. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

55

88 Máscara de Feugo 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Dark berry aromas are dense and a touch rubbery. This is a full, chunky, bold Cabernet with wild berry, cassis and woody flavors that meld together well. Finishing flavors of mint, licorice and oak are generous. Evaton, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

56

87 Cramele Recas 2013 Dreambird Merlot (Recas). This has aromas of vanilla, plum and black raspberry. In the mouth, there are ripe fruit flavors followed by a wave of tart cherry flavor. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.J.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$7

57

90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2013 Dry Rosé Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Ripe cherry and luscious watermelon aromas waft from this summery, fresh wine. It's dry on the palate but concentrated, with bright cherry and berry flavors. Round and lush yet briskly balanced, it's a great summer quaffer at a fantastic price. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

58



89 Finca El Origen 2012 Reserva Malbec (Uco Valley). Toasty, smoky black-fruit aromas come with a fair amount of density and char. This is plush but balanced, with blackberry, blueberry and toasty oak flavors. A solid but quick finish isn't complex but it does confirm the wine's quality. The wine is 85% Malbec with the remainder Bonarda, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

59



89 Villa Wolf 2012 Pinot Gris (Pfalz). Fragrant white lilies and stone fruit perfume this bold, big-bodied wine. Dry in style, with lush white peach and pear flavors, it's slightly heady and warm with alcohol. Steely, mineral tones and crisp lime acidity add elegance to the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

60

90 Maryhill 2013 Rosé of Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). Full, crisp and well-defined, this offers mouth-filling strawberry and apple fruit flavors that hold your attention through sip after sip. The palate weight is especially impressive, ending clean and refreshing. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

61

89 Fattoria Laila 2012 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi. Here's a Verdicchio that shows off the grape's quintessential aromas of yellow spring flowers and whiffs of stone fruit. It offers creamy peach and lemon flavors alongside hints of sea salt and almond. Crisp, refreshing acidity leaves the palate feeling cleansed. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

62

90 Mas Carlot 2012 Cuvée Tradition (Costières de Nîmes). This supple blend of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre delivers raspberry and blackberry fruit, hints of rosemary and a touch of roasted meat on the nose. That roasted character becomes a slightly sweet-tasting, caramelized flavor on the palate, but the wine never seems over the top, ending on a softly dusty note. Ready to drink. Robert Kacher Selections. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

63

88 Trapiche 2012 Oak Cask Syrah (Mendoza). Char, sawdust and black cherry aromas confirm the wine's "oak cask" labeling. Full bodied and ripe, it conveys meaty thickness and bold flavors of berry and spiced plum. A toasty, charred finish is lifted by bright acidity and fresh black-fruit flavors. This will go well with just about anything off the grill. The Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

64

88 Concha y Toro 2012 Casillero del Diablo Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Herbal, saucy aromas of tomato and spice accent dark-berry fruit, while the palate carries a tight, fresh, crisp feel. This brings herbal, spicy notes along with berry and cassis flavors, while the finish rolls out in loamy yet short fashion. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

65

89 Edi Simcic 2012 Giocato Pinot Grigio (Primorska). A straw yellow color, with pink tinges, this bright wine is zesty and juicy at the same time. It has a round body and full mouthfeel, with flavors of green apple, Bartlett pear and citrus blossoms.

There's bracing lime-juice acidity on the finish. August Wine Group. —J.J.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

66

90 Herdade de São Miguel 2012 Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). Rich and full-bodied, it's packed with spice and dark fruits and comes with a dense texture. Intense acidity cuts into the ripe fruits and gives a lift at the end. This solid wine is ready to drink now—2020. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

67

90 Francis Ford Coppola 2012 Votre Santé Pinot Noir (California). The personality of Pinot Noir comes through in this charming, medium-bodied, lighter-colored and aromatic offering. Nuances are reminiscent of cherry, herb and walking through a pine forest, along with a tangy texture and fresh finish that lingers. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

68

88 Vicente Gandia 2013 Nebla Verdejo (Rueda). Stony, mineral aromas are a touch dusty and suggest melon and peach. The palate is round and juicy, while flavors of lime, green melon and gooseberry finish mellow and easy, with a touch of residual citric acid. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

69

90 Gotham 2010 Regional Vineyard Series Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Mint notes accent blueberry and plum fruit, while hints of tar and black olive add a savory edge. This medium- to full-bodied Shiraz is creamy on the midpalate, but firms up enough on the finish to pair well with burgers or steaks. Drink now—2020. USA Wine West. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

70

90 Domaine Houchart 2011 Red (Côtes de Provence). With really ripe fruit and juicy black flavors, this is a rounded, warm wine. It tastes of sun, although there is also something more seriously structured about it. Acidity gives freshness, while the tannic structure suggests further aging.

Drink now, but better in 2015. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

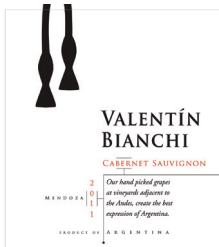
71

90 A to Z 2013 Riesling (Oregon). Just a hint of sweetness—mostly from ripe fruit rather than residual sugar—liven up this fresh and fruity Riesling. It's a mouthful of lemon, lime and peach fruit flavors, supple and fleshy. A streak of English breakfast tea adds interest through the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

72

90 Tabor 2012 Mt. Tabor Chardonnay (Galilee). The nose of this wine recalls chilled fruit salad, with aromas of melon, pineapple and Delicious apple. Engaging flavors of pineapple, passion fruit, vanilla and clove fill the softly textured mouth and persist into the cooling finish. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

73



90 Valentin Bianchi 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is a superb value Cabernet. Black-fruit aromas come with touches of licorice, herbs and marzipan. The palate has an elegance to it, while flavors of berry fruits, cassis, chocolate and fig finish smooth and long. Bianchi has always made good Cabernet, but this one is better than usual. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

74

91 Pacific Rim 2013 Twin Vineyards Gewürztraminer (Yakima Valley). Gewürztraminer doesn't get any more floral and spicy than this. Exuberantly aromatic, it conveys a sensuous perfume of baby powder, rose petals and lavender. The floral characteristics continue in the mouth, yielding a long, intense, detailed and unique wine. Sip

it chilled and have fun experimenting with food matches! —P.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$15

75

90 Kopke 2011 Douro. A solid, tannic wine that has both great rich fruits and a dry core that needs to soften with age. It tastes powerful without sacrificing a perfumed and floral elegance. This is a serious wine, with a dense texture and potential. Drink from 2016. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

76

90 Hermann Moser 2013 Per Due Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Very fresh green pear notes are joined by riper notions of passion fruit. These linger on the palate where peppery phenolics add structure and depth. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

77



90 Quady 2012 Electra Moscato (California). A heady mix of jasmine and orange rind, Quady's Electra packs a lot of flavor into a light amount of alcohol, with residual sugar listed at 172.4 g/L. Slightly effervescent, it's subtle and light, ready to serve as a happy mixer in a range of cocktails, much the way an elderflower liqueur might work. —V.B.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$14

78

90 Gracciano della Seta 2013 Rosso di Montepulciano. Floral and fragrant, this opens with aromas of rose, blue flower, forest floor and woodland berries. The palate offers crushed black cherry, wild raspberry, orange zest and clove alongside firm tannins and bright acidity. It's savory and tannic; enjoy through 2017. Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

79

Z E A L

MARLBOROUGH
SAUVIGNON BLANC



88 Zeal 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a bit more punchy and pungent than Zeal's Reserve bottling, but it still offers considerable value. There's ample weight and just enough citrusy fruit to support the sweaty, nettle-y aromatics and herbal flavors. Try it with fresh herb-laden dishes like ceviches or steamed mussels. Prestige Wine Group. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

80

VIÑA REQUINGUA
SAUVIGNON BLANC
SEMILLON
2012



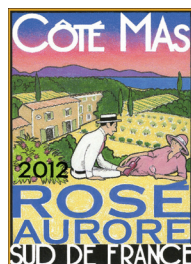
TORO
DE PIEDRA
LATE HARVEST
CURICÓ VALLEY
CHILE
GRAND RESERVE
14 GL 375 cc

88 Viña Requingua 2012 Toro de Piedra Late Harvest Grand Reserve Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Curicó Valley). Honeyed, botrytis aromas come with notes of peach, nectarine and cinnamon. This is lifted but a touch sticky on the palate, with flavors of honey, spice and white pepper. All these flavors carry onto the finish, which quickly loses its steam. Puerto Viejo Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

81

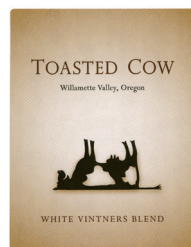
89 Dry Creek Vineyard 2012 Dry Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). This insanely sippable wine is ready for spring oyster gatherings or gulping down on its own. Low in alcohol with just 6 g/L residual sugar, it's crisp, deliciously light and yet mouth-filling in tropical fruit and peach. Another masterful Chenin from Dry Creek Vineyard. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

82



89 Côté Mas 2012 Rosé Aurore (Pays d'Oc). Made from 50% Grenache, 30% Cinsault and 20% Syrah, this is a vibrant, floral rosé, offering upfront aromas of iris, lavender and laurel that complement the raspberry and strawberry-hull core. The fruity palate is bright and refreshing, with ample acidity and just a hint of orange blossom on the finish. Esprit du Vin. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12/1L

83

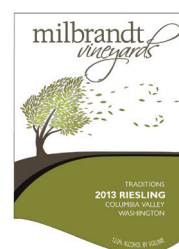


88 Oak Knoll NV Toasted Cow White Vintners Blend (Willamette Valley). This delightful, off-dry white is a blend of Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer, Müller Thurgau, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling, perfectly matched to deliver crisp, fruity aromatics and flavors of apples, oranges and pears. It's a terrific anytime quaffer. —P.G.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$10

84

88 Kouros 2011 Agiorgitiko (Nemea). Cherry, blackberry and exotic spice aromas start this fresh, mineral-driven red. Plum, cherry and fennel flavors are balanced and unique. Pair this with lamb or sausage. Nestor Imports. —S.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

85



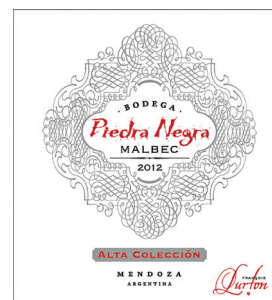
90 Milbrandt 2013 Traditions Riesling (Columbia Valley). Sourced from an outstanding vineyard, this juicy, spicy, zesty Riesling shows terrific balance and lively acidity. A mix of peach, green apple and Key lime fruit anchors a thoroughly refreshing wine, with just a touch of residual sugar. —P.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

86



89 D'Arenberg 2011 The Stump Jump Grenache-Shiraz-Mourvèdre (McLaren Vale). A terrific value for current consumption, the 2011 Stump Jump GSM blends 46% Grenache, 39% Shiraz and 15% Mourvèdre into a plump yet firm wine that combines black cherry fruit with savory notes of chocolate, herbs and roasted meat. There's even a touch of mocha on the long finish. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$13

87



89 François Lurton 2012 Piedra Negra Alta Colección Malbec (Mendoza). Spicy, briary berry and leather aromas are full and firm. On the palate, this feels fresh, with good body and depth. Flavors of black plum, blackberry and black currant are spicy but not pushy, while the finish is not overly oaky or heavy. Atlas Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88

90 Wagner 2012 Semi Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Dusty mineral and smoke tones add complexity to fresh lemon and lime aromas on this concentrated, powerful off-dry Riesling. It's lush and silky on the palate, with ripe pineapple and yellow peach flavors. Lime juice acidity jolts the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

89

90 Clos la Coutale 2012 Cahors. There is a smooth, polished feel to this balanced wine. Wood and blackberry flavors come together with mint and thyme to make a ready-to-drink wine. The tannins, while firm, are well integrated. Drink now and until 2020. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90

90 La Staffa 2012 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico. Here's a quintessential Verdicchio from one of the denomination's rising stars that opens with a fragrance of spring flowers, hay and flint. The palate delivers fleshy white peach, pear and almond flavors, along with mineral notes and bright acidity that results in a refreshing finish. Fun to drink now or hold 2–3 years for additional complexity. Tabaccaia USA. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

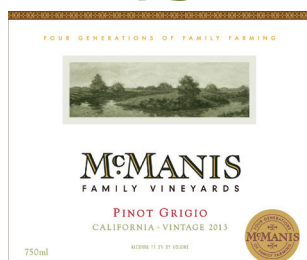
91

88 Gorrebusto 2012 Tempranillo (Rioja). Solid, attractive berry aromas come with notes of rubber and latex. Earthy, lightly baked red-fruit flavors finish modestly, with a touch of tangy, juicy acidity providing lift and length. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

92

90 Mills Reef 2013 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Hawke's Bay). Despite originating from Hawke's Bay on New Zealand's North Island, this could pass for Marlborough. It's not overly big or ripe, but well-rounded without losing any sense of varietal character. Hints of tomato leaf and white grapefruit linger elegantly on the finish. San Francisco Wine Exchange. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

93



88 McManis 2013 Pinot Grigio (California). Lots of fresh apple and tangy white peach flavor make this light-bodied wine attractive and appetizing. The flavors have great focus, the balance is bright and the alcohol is low. —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

94

87 Tsantali 2010 Limnio-Merlot (Halkidiki). Red cherry, vanilla, spicebox and a touch of flowers leads the nose on this poised Merlot/Limnio blend. On the palate, the wine is elegant and laced with clove, mushroom and bright berry flavors. A unique wine at an unbeatable price. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

95

89 Stone Wolf 2012 Barrel Select Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a toasty, tasty, forward and easy-drinking Pinot Noir. Flavors of black cherry soda, cola and light toast are front and center, and the finish comes on clean and refreshing. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

96

88 La Playa 2011 Block Selection Reserve Claret (Colchagua Valley). Plum and berry aromas are solid albeit a touch clipped and abrupt. This 4-grape blend is deep in feel and offers a good overall palate feel. Flavors of loamy dark berry fruits, chocolate and toast finish intense, with espresso-like bitterness. Cabernet Corporation. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

97



87 Stemmari 2012 Pinot Nero (Terre Siciliane). This informal but pretty Pinot Nero opens with fragrances of red berry and spice. The bright palate offers fresh acidity and flavors of crushed cherry, strawberry and cinnamon spice. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

98



88 Quara 2013 Estate Bottled Torrontés (Cafayate). Quara makes good, true Cafayate Torrontés. Aromas of lychee, citrus, tropical fruits and bath oils are vital. This remains solid and clean, with upright acidity. Lime, mango, lychee and banana flavors finish round, with just enough acidity to maintain the wine's character. Drink immediately. Pampa Beverages LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

99

88 Jacob's Creek 2010 Reserve Shiraz (Barossa). Pretty impressive for the price, offering mint and cedar aromas followed by flavors of black cherry. There's also a sturdy core of savory elements, like roasted meat and coffee. The wine is full bodied and velvety in texture, with a long, mouthwatering finish. Drink now and over the next few years. Pernod Ricard. —J.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$13

100

87 Barton & Guestier 2013 Passeport (Beaujolais-Villages). This wine is structured and firm, with tannins that need to soften. It has power and weight now, and although the red fruit flavors are there, they are still waiting to shine. Hold until 2015. Barton & Guestier USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10