

TOP 100 BEST BUYS 2017



As the year winds down and we prepare for the joy of the holidays, the occasional stress of hosting gatherings and the seemingly endless parade of thirsty guests seems to creep in as well. On top of that are all the other parties and get-togethers to attend, and nothing's worse than arriving empty-handed. Inevitably, this is the time of year to stop buying wine by the bottle—and start buying by the case. Thankfully, our list of the Top 100 Best Buys makes holiday wine shopping a bit easier to swallow, without compromising quality. These are the bottles to stock up on now, perfect for any need or occasion.

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

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

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

RANK	REVIEWS <i>(99-80 of 99)</i>
100	<p><u>Kono 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)</u> <u>A sizable 70,000 cases of this bargain were imported, so it should ...</u> 89 Points .New Zealand .\$14. Best Buy</p>
99	<p><u>Glenora 2015 Riesling (Finger Lakes)</u> <u>Equal parts fresh fruit and earthy complexity, this elegant off-dry wine offers ...</u> 89 Points .Finger Lakes .\$14. Best Buy</p>
98	<p><u>Teso La Monja 2014 Romanico (Toro)</u> <u>Despite showing reduced black plum and blackberry aromas, this displays grippy tannins ...</u> 89 Points .Northern Spain .\$14. Best Buy</p>
97	<p><u>Estancia 2015 Pinot Noir (Monterey County)</u> <u>Light pomegranate, red plum, cranberry and rose petals eventually show on the ...</u> 89 Points .Central Coast .\$14. Best Buy</p>
96	<p><u>Duck Pond 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley)</u> <u>Light tawny in color, this palate-pleasing effort boasts stone fruit, orange blossom ...</u> 89 Points .Willamette Valley .\$14. Best Buy</p>
95	<p><u>Le Casematte 2015 Nero d'Avola (Terre Siciliane)</u> <u>This Nero d'Avola opens with blue flower and black-skinned berry aromas. The ...</u> 89 Points .Sicily & Sardinia .\$14. Best Buy</p>
94	<p><u>Cono Sur 2015 Organically Grown Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenere-Syrah Red (Chile)</u> <u>Saucy black-fruit aromas are beefy, dense and spicy. In the mouth, this ...</u> 89 Points .Chile .\$14. Best Buy</p>

- 93 **Yalumba 2016 The Y Series Unwooded Chardonnay (South Australia)**
A solid effort at a bargain price makes this Chardonnay doubly appealing...
89 Points | .South Australia | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 92 **Pemartín NV Fino Palomino (Jerez)**
Mild aromas of butter, hay and sea water feed into a crisp ...
89 Points | .Andalucia | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 91 **Grayson 2016 Lot 11 Chardonnay (California)**
Exotic floral and lemon-zest aromas are backed up by nice ripe fruit ...
88 Points | .California Other | . \$11.
Best Buy
- 90 **Kirkland Signature 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence)**
Produced with advice from consultant Michel Rolland, this delicious, easygoing rosé is ...
88 Points | .Provence | . \$9.
Best Buy
- 89 **Santa Julia 2016 [+] Torrontés (Mendoza)**
Exotic citrus and orange blossom aromas are lively and a touch oily ...
88 Points | .Mendoza Province | . \$11.
Best Buy
- 88 **Bodegas Aragonesas 2015 Viña Temprana Old Vines Garnacha (Campo de Borja)**
Earthy black cherry and plum flavors are solid and steady, as is ...
87 Points | .Northern Spain | . \$8.
Best Buy
- 87 **Kendall-Jackson 2015 Vintner's Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (California)**
Nicely ripe fruit flavors and a full rounded texture give this affordably ...
89 Points | .California Other | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 86 **Milbrandt 2015 Traditions Chardonnay (Columbia Valley (WA))**
Aromas of crème brûlée, apple, vanilla and spice lead to broad-feeling fruit ...
89 Points | .Columbia Valley | . \$13.
Best Buy

- 85 **Quinta de Soalheiro 2016 Allo Loureiro-Alvarinho White (Minho)**
The blend of Vinho Verde's two top grapes brings out great swathes ...
90 Points | .Portugal | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 84 **Bodega Belgrano NV Malbec (Argentina)**
Basic dark-fruit aromas are clean and a touch peppery. This feels solid ...
87 Points | .Other | . \$8.
Best Buy
- 83 **12 Linajes 2015 Verdejo (Rueda)**
This Verdejo hits the sweet spot, with a crisp nose focused on ...
89 Points | .Northern Spain | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 82 **Cline 2016 Viognier (North Coast)**
A light-straw color and aromas like magnolia and white roses lead into ...
88 Points | .North Coast | . \$11.
Best Buy
- 81 **Cantina di Sorbara NV Omaggio a Gino Friedmann (Lambrusco di Sorbara)**
Violet, red berry and crushed herb aromas lead the nose while the ...
89 Points | .Central Italy | . \$14.
Best Buy
- 80 **Vinaria din Vale 2015 Alb Chardonnay (Moldova)**
This Chardonnay has aromas of grapefruit pith and buttery pastry crust that ...
88 Points | .Moldova | . \$10.
Best Buy
- 79 **Fetzer 2015 Eagle Peak Merlot (California)**
Pure and fruity, this medium-bodied wine is supersmooth in texture, quietly flavorful ...
88 Points | .California Other | . \$10.
Best Buy
- 78 **Teaum 2016 Favugne Rosato Montepulciano (San Severo)**
Aromas of wild red berry and Mediterranean brush take center stage while ...
88 Points | .Southern Italy | . \$10.
Best Buy

- 77** **Maison de la Villette 2015 Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre Red (Vin de France)**
There's a warm character to this wine, with ripe black-plum and blackberry...
88 Points | .France Other | . \$10.
Best Buy
- 76** **Pittacum 2015 Petit Pittacum Mencía (Bierzo)**
Slightly rustic, meaty aromas of berry fruits are savory and include notes ...
89 Points | .Northern Spain | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 75** **Sogrape 2015 Silk & Spice Red (Portuguese Table Wine)**
This blend of wines from Dão, Bairrada and Lisboa is ripe, full ...
90 Points | .Portugal | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 74** **Dr. Konstantin Frank 2015 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes)**
Bright mango and pineapple tones are cut by laser-sharp edges of lime ...
90 Points | .Finger Lakes | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 73** **Sokol Blosser NV Evolution Fifth Edition Winemaker's Big Time Red (America)**
Like the Evolution White, this nonvintage blend is labeled by edition, this ...
90 Points | .US | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 72** **The Crusher 2013 Grower's Selection Petite Sirah (Clarksburg)**
In a field of sometimes tough wines, this one is remarkably approachable, ...
90 Points | .Central Valley | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 71** **Huguet de Can Feixes 2016 Blanc Selecció White (Penedès)**
Apple, melon and apricot aromas are pure and come with zero interference ...
90 Points | .Catalonia | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 70** **Kiona 2014 Estate Bottled Lemberger (Red Mountain)**
This wine has become a signature variety for this winery, and this ...
90 Points | .Columbia Valley | . \$15.
Best Buy

- 69 **Buitenverwachting 2016 Bayten Sauvignon Blanc (Constantia)**
Solid aromas of white peach, gooseberry, sweet grass and lime leaf lead ...
90 Points | .South Africa | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 68 **Zacharias 2015 Ambelos Phos Roditis-Moschofilero (Peloponnese)**
This blend of Moschofilero and another indigenous variety, Roditis, marries aromatic and ...
88 Points | .Greece | . \$11.
Best Buy
- 67 **Tre Monti 2015 SoNo Sangiovese (Romagna)**
Made with organically grown Sangiovese grapes and without added sulfites, this offers ...
90 Points | .Central Italy | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 66 **Château Peyros 2012 Tannat-Cabernet (Madiran)**
This is a fine combination of ripe berry fruits and powerful tannins. ...
90 Points | .Southwest France | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 65 **Jezebel 2015 White (Oregon)**
Roughly equal percentages of Gewürztraminer, Pinot Blanc, Riesling and Pinot Gris (with ...
90 Points | .Oregon Other | . \$14.
Best Buy
- 64 **J. Lohr 2014 Estates South Ridge Syrah (Paso Robles)**
This bottling offers gingerbread cake, baked blueberry and smoked pork on the ...
91 Points | .Central Coast | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 63 **Franklin Tate 2015 Tate Cabernet Merlot (Margaret River)**
This is classic Margaret River Cabernet-Merlot. Cassis, mint, cedar and vanilla all ...
90 Points | .Western Australia | . \$15.
Best Buy
- 62 **Barton & Guestier 2016 Passeport Bordeaux Blanc by Laurent Prada (Bordeaux Blanc)**
Lightly perfumed, this soft, ripe wine has attractive acidity that is balanced ...
88 Points | .Bordeaux | . \$10.
Best Buy

- 61 **Hacormim 2014 Adi 13 Shiraz (Israel)**
Aromas of black cherry and dark chocolate prime the palate for flavors ...
88 Points | .Israel | . \$10.
Best Buy
- 60 **Wagner 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes)**
Saline and sea breeze lend refreshing, nautical appeal to this elegant unoaked ...
89 Points | .Finger Lakes | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 59 **Adega Vila Real 2013 Reserva Red (Douro)**
New wood and vanilla show strongly over the red-berry fruits. This wine ...
90 Points | .Portugal | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 58 **St. Christopher 2016 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel)**
Pristine peach, tangerine and blossom notes form the core of this fragrant ...
89 Points | .Germany | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 57 **Gnarly Head 2015 Old Vine Zin Zinfandel (Lodi)**
Intensely ripe, jammy and toasty aromas and equally effusive fruit flavors make ...
89 Points | .Central Valley | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 55 **Santa Rita 2016 120 Reserva Especial Chardonnay (Central Valley)**
No, this is not a misprint. This \$6 Chardonnay is a quaffer's ...
87 Points | .Chile | . \$6.
Best Buy
- 54 **J. Portugal Ramos 2015 Ramos Reserva Red (Alentejano)**
This is a rich wine, full of dark fruits and generous tannins. ...
90 Points | .Portugal | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 53 **Producteurs Plaimont 2014 Beret Noir (Saint-Mont)**
This is a bold ripe wine that is dominated by firm while ...
90 Points | .Southwest France | . \$14.
Best Buy

- 52 **Schloss Gobelsburg 2016 Cistercien Rosé (Niederösterreich)**
Loads of fruit show on the nose of this wine: green and ...
90 Points | .Austria | .\$.14.
Best Buy
- 51 **Finca El Origen 2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza)**
Raspberry and plum aromas include notes of brown sugar and warm pavement. ...
88 Points | .Mendoza Province | .\$.10.
Best Buy
- 50 **Pacific Rim 2016 Sweet Riesling (Columbia Valley (WA))**
This wine leaves no doubt about the variety, with its freshly peeled ...
89 Points | .Columbia Valley | .\$.11.
Best Buy
- 49 **San Pedro 2016 Castillo de Molina Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Elqui Valley)**
Pungent, pure aromas of citrus and tarragon are appealing. This feels upright ...
89 Points | .Chile | .\$.11.
Best Buy
- 48 **Now Presenting... 2014 Red (Paso Robles)**
This is quite a dynamic and layered wine, especially for the bargain ...
90 Points | .Central Coast | .\$.12.
Best Buy
- 47 **Mas des Bressades 2015 Cuvée Tradition Syrah-Grenache (Costières de Nîmes)**
This wine is a perennial overachiever, but the 2015 is even more ...
91 Points | .Rhône Valley | .\$.14.
Best Buy
- 46 **Boutari 2015 Kretikos Vilana (Crete)**
Bright lemon and apple aromas lead into a wave of rich pear ...
89 Points | .Greece | .\$.14.
Best Buy

- 45 **La Braccasca 2015 Sabazio (Rosso di Montepulciano)**
Leather, truffle and ripe black-skinned fruit and herb aromas lead the nose ...
89 Points | .Tuscany | .\$14.
Best Buy
- 44 **P.J. Valckenberg 2015 Undone Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen)**
Fresh, primary red cherry and raspberry flavors are punchy and bright on ...
89 Points | .Germany | .\$11.
Best Buy
- 43 **Domaine de la Gaverie 2015 Sec (Vouvray)**
Thirty-year-old vines and short wood aging have produced a well-balanced, rich wine ...
90 Points | .Loire Valley | .\$13.
Best Buy
- 42 **Finca Constancia 2011 Red (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla)**
Aromas of rubber, coffee, lemon peel and cherry are good but lack ...
90 Points | .Central Spain | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 41 **Castle Rock 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County)**
Vivid grapefruit and crisp apple notes give a big personality to this ...
89 Points | .Mendocino County | .\$10.
Best Buy
- 40 **Château le Payral 2015 Red (Bergerac)**
This ripe wine from a very fine vintage in Bergerac, is fully ...
90 Points | .Southwest France | .\$13.
Best Buy
- 39 **DFJ Vinhos 2016 Grand'Arte Alvarinho (Lisboa)**
This is a southern and warmer take on Alvarinho than is found ...
90 Points | .Portugal | .\$13.
Best Buy
- 38 **Bulgariana 2015 Gamza (Danube River Plains)**
This garnet-red-colored wine has aromas of red summer fruits, especially red raspberry, ...
89 Points | .Bulgaria | .\$11.
Best Buy

- 37 **Alpamanta 2013 Estate Cabernet Franc (Mendoza)**
Initial aromas of stewy prune and raisin freshen up with airing. This ...
90 Points | .Mendoza Province | .\$13.
Best Buy
- 36 **Polkura 2013 Lote D Syrah (Marchigue)**
Welcome to one of the few South American Syrahs that combine excellence ...
91 Points | .Chile | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 35 **Foris 2016 Dry Gewürztraminer (Rogue Valley)**
This outstanding wine should earn the somewhat difficult grape many new fans. ...
91 Points | .Southern Oregon | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 34 **Casa Agricola Santos Jorge 2014 Morgado da Canita Tinto Red (Alentejano)**
Soft, rich and fruity, this is the epitome of an accessible Alentejo. ...
88 Points | .Portugal | .\$8.
Best Buy
- 33 **Hogue 2014 Red (Columbia Valley, WA)**
Light aromas of ash, herb, berry, vanilla and cherry lead to sweet ...
88 Points | .Columbia Valley | .\$8.
Best Buy
- 32 **Glazebrook 2016 0410S 1740E Regional Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**
These entry-level Sauvignons rarely improve with age, so drink this one up ...
90 Points | .New Zealand | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 31 **Gruber Röschitz 2016 Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel)**
A subdued nose gives mere hints of ripe, yellow Mirabelle plums. The ...
90 Points | .Austria | .\$13.
Best Buy
- 30 **Bogle 2014 Essential Red (California)**
A sleek texture and delicious, focused fruit flavors like cranberry and black ...
90 Points | .California Other | .\$12.
Best Buy

- 29 **St. Urbans-Hof 2015 Nik Weis Selection Urban Riesling (Mosel)**
Smoky veins of struck flint and slate lend a savory mineral tone ...
90 Points | .Germany | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 28 **L'Ostal Cazes 2016 Rosé (Pays d'Oc)**
A blend of 50% Syrah and 50% Grenache, this is an attractive ...
90 Points | .Languedoc-Roussillon | . \$12.
Best Buy
- 27 **Four Vines 2014 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi)**
This beautiful wine has aromas as ripe as dried figs, flavors as ...
91 Points | .Central Valley | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 26 **Château Bois Malot 2016 Bordeaux Blanc**
This Meynard family wine is ripe and soft with a smooth, creamy ...
91 Points | .Bordeaux | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 25 **Wines & Winemakers 2015 Lua Cheia em Vinhas Velhas Red (Douro)**
This perfumed old-vine field blend is rich and stylish. It has weight ...
90 Points | .Portugal | . \$14.
Best Buy
- 24 **Lujon 2015 Riesling (Willamette Valley)**
This contends for the best \$10 Riesling in the country. It's off ...
91 Points | .Willamette Valley | . \$10.
Best Buy
- 23 **Wakefield 2015 Promised Land Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia)**
For the price, this is an impressively detailed and complex wine. Floral ...
90 Points | .South Australia | . \$13.
Best Buy
- 22 **Stemmari 2016 Estate Grown Grillo (Sicilia)**
Heady aromas suggesting tropical fruit, honeysuckle and citrus zest lead the nose. ...
88 Points | .Sicily & Sardinia | . \$10.
Best Buy

- 21 **Giocato 2015 Sauvignon Blanc (Primorska)**
Aromas of freshly mowed grass, lemon pith, and lemon grass open for ...
90 Points | .Slovenia | .\$12.
Best Buy
- 20 **Meinklang 2015 Burgenlandrot Red (Burgenland)**
Ripe blackberry notes dominate this wine's nose and palate. Their ripe, tart ...
90 Points | .Austria | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 19 **Casa da Passarella 2016 Branco White (Dão)**
With creamy Encruzado and perfumed Malvasia in the blend, this is a ...
90 Points | .Portugal | .\$14.
Best Buy
- 18 **Dry Creek Vineyard 2016 Dry Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg)**
Orange-marmalade aromas set the stage for a rather full-bodied, dry and flavorful ...
91 Points | .Central Valley | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 17 **Wondrous 2013 Red I.Q. Red (Columbia Valley (WA))**
This Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot dominant blend comes from some top quality ...
91 Points | .Columbia Valley | .\$14.
Best Buy
- 16 **Pierre Sparr 2015 One White (Alsace)**
The rosy floral overtones of Muscat are very evident on the fragrant ...
90 Points | .Alsace | .\$15.
Best Buy
- 15 **Villa Wolf 2015 Pinot Gris (Pfalz)**
Zesty lemon and grapefruit aromas awaken the senses in this sunny, dry-style ...
90 Points | .Germany | .\$12.
Best Buy
- 14 **Fattoria Ambra 2015 Barco Reale di Carmignano**
Fruity aromas of wild berry meld together with whiffs of violet, tilled ...
89 Points | .Tuscany | .\$12.
Best Buy

- 13 **Three Thieves 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (California)**
This is a sturdy, well-made wine that is truly great for the ...
89 Points | .California Other | .\$.8.
Best Buy
- 12 **Casa Castillo 2015 Monastrell (Jumilla)**
This Monastrell gets going with roasted plum and berry aromas, with side ...
90 Points | .Levante | .\$.12.
Best Buy
- 11 **Château Vircoulon 2016 Bordeaux Blanc**
This is a ripe and soft blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. ...
90 Points | .Bordeaux | .\$.10.
Best Buy
- 10 **Spier 2016 Chenin Blanc (Western Cape)**
This highly aromatic wine starts off with bright aromas of white flowers, ...
89 Points | .South Africa | .\$.10.
Best Buy
- 9 **The Dot 2016 Austrian Plum St. Laurent (Niederösterreich)**
Wonderfully tart, fresh red cherry fruit expands on this wine's nose and ...
91 Points | .Austria | .\$.14.
Best Buy
- 8 **Paringa 2015 Shiraz (South Australia)**
This is the sort of stereotypical Aussie Shiraz the haters love to ...
90 Points | .South Australia | .\$.12.
Best Buy
- 7 **Marisco Vineyards 2016 The Ned Waihopai River Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**
This medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc is slightly leafy in style, but balances that ...
91 Points | .New Zealand | .\$.13.
Best Buy
- 6 **Vin Vault NV Cabernet Sauvignon (California)**
This may be the most serious California boxed wine on the market, ...
88 Points | .California Other | .\$.20.
Best Buy

5

A to Z 2016 Riesling (Oregon)

A to Z has almost doubled production of this wine, without a ...

92 Points | .Oregon Other | . \$15.

Best Buy

4

Casa Santos Lima 2014 Stones & Bones Red (Lisboa)

This is a bold wine, full of spice and rich tannins. With ...

90 Points | .Portugal | . \$9.

Best Buy

3

Domaine des Carteresses 2016 Tavel

It's hard to believe it's possible to buy this quality rosé for ...

93 Points | .Rhône Valley | . \$15.

Best Buy

2

Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2015 Pinot Noir (California)

The 2015 vintage is a strong one for Woodbridge. Ripe fruit tones, ...

89 Points | .California Other | . \$8.

Best Buy

1

Columbia Crest 2015 Grand Estates Syrah (Columbia Valley (WA))

The aromas in this wine pop, with notes of dried herb, plum, ...

91 Points | .Columbia Valley | . \$12.

Best Buy

