TAVERNA novo

Wine Spectator AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2019

VINI SPUMANTE~THE BUBBLES

100 BOTTER, Prosecco, Italy, Veneto, NV · 10/35
· this is a glorious example of the glera grape..very fresh and balanced, with fruity notes.

102 1701 FRANCIACORTA, Franciacorta Brut, Lombardia, NV · 15/48
· crafted from chardonnay and pinot nero..made in the traditional or champagne method, this is brisk and bubbly with notes of ripe apple..a touch of sour cherry, a lovely note of honey and a biscuity end.

108 BARONE PIZZINI, Franciacorta Brut Rosé, Italy, Lombardia, 2012 · 74
· certified organic..a lovely nose of strawberry, light almond and herb..offers a juicy, spicy palate profile..a finish that goes on and on, tinged with lively, brisk acidity..this bubble just brings your whole mouth to life and anything you pair with it. (90VM)

110 MURGO, Brut Rosé, Italy, Sicily, 2016 · 16/50
· 100% nerello mascalese..pale pink with a fine stream of bubbles and a frothy mousse..creamy, tangy, just a slight bit of tart..notes of lemon curd, nectarines, fresh summer strawberries and a touch of toasted brioche. (92VM)

114 SCHRAMSBERG VINEYARDS, "Mirabelle" Brut, CA., North Coast, NV · 60
· ripest apple and pear on the nose..rich notes of caramel and toasted brioche..long, fruity finish. (91WS/90WE/89WA)

BELLINI BAR

crafted with premium prosecco, organic fruit purées and authentic cordials.

Classic Bellini
· prosecco+white peach purée=the original ·

Sunset Over San Gimignano
· prosecco/white peach purée/splash campari ·

Bellissima
· premium prosecco+organic orangecello+oj ·

VINI ROSATI~THE PINKS

120 BERTANI, "Bertarose", Italy, Veneto, 2018 · 10/35
· "amarone in a pink dress!"..from one of the most renowned producers in the veneto..spicy and slightly spritzy wild strawberry with a little touch of cranberry compote. (91VM)

122 CRISTOM, Estate Rosé of Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 2018 · 15/52
· very bright ripe red strawberry fruit..ripest hand melon..fresh and juicy with a slightly heftier weight, making it equally at home with burrata salads, pasta options and even tagliata.

123 TIBERIO, Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo, (Montepulciano), Abruzzo, 2018 · 13/45
· the darling of sommeliers everywhere..luminous pink-red..almost fuschia in hue..red cherries, blood orange, hints of mediterranean herbs, and full of energy and verve..bright and juicy acidity joins the party with a long finish and excellent concentration..best with a slight chill. (92VM)

124 CASANOVA DELLA SPINETTA, Toscana Il Rosé di Casanova, Italy, 2018 · 10/35
· pale orange-pink in color with tangerine, white peach and wild strawberry notes..impressive clarity and cut on the palate..delicioso delivered.

125 HARTFORD COURT, Rosé of Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, 2018 · 60
· limited production and absolutely stunning..gently pressed to extract the perfect amount of color from the pinot noir skins..bright and lively with summer watermelon, raspberry seed and minerality..just delicious.

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ITALIAN WHITES

ALTO ADIGE

200 ST. MICHAEL EPPAN, Pinot Grigio "Anger", 2018 · 45
· white peach, ripe bosc pear notes with a saline quality that renders it a perfect partner for the plate...creamy finish rounded out by racy acidity...pure and intense...it is a stellar example and if you've never sipped a pinot grigio that actually has flavor and palate presence, try this one! (91JS)

202 ELENA WALCH, Sauvignon, "Castel Ringberg", 2017 · 54
· elena walch crafts some of the finest wines in the alto adige..light to medium in body, this bottle demonstrates the term linear precision..mouthwatering acidity and a laser beam of nectarine, white peach and tangy citrus..elegant and more fruity than pungently herbal on the finish..this bottle will be most at home with our penne with lemon and artichokes. (93VM/91WS)

204 ELENA WALCH, Grande Cuvée, "Beyond The Clouds", 2015 · 85
· a wine of richness and yet the acidity manages to keep this chardonnay based wine completely balanced..notes of honey, star fruit, papaya, pineapple, white peach.this wine almost defies description..creamy soft on the palate..this is a CULT white. (92WA/91WS/98LM)

FRIULI VENEZIA-GIULIA

205 TENUTA MARCO FELLUGA, Collio Bianco "Molamatta", 2018 · 10/35
· a wine that represents just what this area is all about..very cool and exciting indigenous white varietals..this is a blend of pinot bianco, friulano and ribolla gialla and is just an exciting wine to sip..an elegant nose of ripe and exotic fruits..full of apricot with a flinty and stony lift..named for the watermill that sits adjacent to the vineyards which flowed so strongly, the local farmers named it "molamatta" or crazy watermill..and this bottle is indeed crazy...crazy GOOD.

206 RUSSIZ SUPERIORE, Collio Friulano, Collio Goriziano, 2017 · 64
· one of the area's oldest indigenous varietals and this is the best example i've tasted..ripe apricot and stone fruits..a zing of grapefruit skin..the slightest hint of toasted hazelnut..savory and medium-bodied on the palate, ending with a note of lemon zest..ahh..fabulous friulano.

PIEMONTE

210 PAOLO SARACCO. Moscato d'Asti, 2018 · 10/35
· piemonte is home to the very finest expressions of this varietal, in my humble opinion..and this is one of our favorites..orange blossoms, ruby grapefruit, vanilla, hints of wild herbs..layer after layer of fruit in harmony with juicy acidity and a hint of spice. (94VM)

211 ELVIO COGNO, Langhe "Anas-Cetta", Nascetta di Novello, 2016 · 58
· a rare piemontese white of distinction and personality plus..indigenous to the commune of novello, it is a wine very rarely seen in our country, this white is an herb garden in your glass..hints of mint, layers of almost unripe peach..fresh and citrus driven with a salinity that reminds me very much of vermentino..and indeed, the pure refreshment of this bottle cannot be exaggerated..it is sheer piemontese pleasure. (92JS/91WA/90VM)

213 VILLA SPARINA, Gavi del Comune di Gavi, 2018 · 45
· from their pristinely maintained cellars, dating from the 18th century, comes this beautiful expression of the cortese grape..villa sparina is surrounded by the rolling hills of the gavi comune and is renowned for their interpretations of these special native grapes..this is an opulent and ebullient gavi with notes of apricot and peach flesh and a little herbaceous lift. (91JS)

214 VIETTI, Roero Arneis, 2018 · 48
· one of our all time favorite wines...pale, straw yellow with notes of freshly cut flowers, lemon zest and hand melon...unoaked, dry and pretty as a picture..an excellent aperitif wine and pairs quite beautifully with vegetarian options, shrimp and octopus. (90WA)

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TOSCANA

215 CANTINA LASELVA, Sangiovese Bianco, Toscana, 2018 · 12/42
· a WHITE sangiovese you say? YES!!! this is a very rare white vinification of the sangiovese grape, the most famous grape of chianti..clean and bright with notes of citrus and mineral..mouthwatering acidity makes it a great food match..sip with seafood pastas, cioppino, or polpo grigliato..i discovered this bottle on the seacoast of maine..where they know just a little bit about seafood and the wines that bring out their briny best..it's a patio pounder.

216 TENUTA LE CALCINAIE, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, 2018 · 38
· this white stands out in a sea of reds for its fresh character and taste of the soil, owed to the fossil-filled soils of the area..dry and minerally..a great aperitif wine and delicious with lighter pastas, starters and lighter pizzas like jersey boys. (90WS/89WA/2017 vintage)

SARDEGNA

217 SANTA MARIA LA PALMA, Vermentino di Sardegna "Aragosta", 2017 · 35
· vermentino is the quintessential italian grape when it comes to seafood sippers..mouthwatering and filled with the flavors of the sea..minerals and bright, zesty citrus..the lobster on the label begs you to sip with seafood..if you like sauvignon blanc? TRY THIS! (88WS)

PUGLIA

219 MASSERIA LI VELI, Verdeca, Valle d'Itria Askos, 2018 · 52
· allow me to introduce you to a wine that is the essence of refreshment..the grape is called verdeca and it is an ancient varietal from the puglia region..it is everything you want to sip on a warm and sunny day..or to remind you of warm and sunny days!..ripe pineapple, blood orange zest and citrus curd notes are joined by salinity and a finish as fresh as the sea air..absolutely delicious. (89WS)

CAMPANIA

220 LA CAPRANERA, Falanghina, 2017 · 35
· don't be intimidated by this grape that may be new to you..it has always been one of my favorites..delicioso with fresh mozzarella cheese and a sensational partner to all of our burrata salads. (89WS)

221 MASTROBERARDINO, Fiano di Avellino "RADICI", 2017 · 48
· 2017 was a rather warm vintage, yet this wine retains a crisp, clean and tangy personality..offering juicy nectarine, crunchy green apple and a touch of fresh pear..light to medium bodied with a clean and bracing finish..one of the most important whites of campania..delicious pairing with burrata alla pistacchio and other salad and lighter offerings. (93JS/92W&S/90WS)

222 SAN SALVATORE, Calpazio "Paestum" Greco di Tufo, 2016 · 45
· intriguing aromas that just remind me of the sea in maine..lemon pith and a hint of pineapple follow over to the racy palate along with yellow apple..a tangy saline note and a mouthwatering savory finish. (92WE)

"DOVE REGNA IL VINO NON REGNA IL SILENZIO"~ITALIAN PROVERB
WHERE WINE REIGNS, SILENCE DOES NOT!

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UNITED STATES WHITES

OREGON

303 CRISTOM, Pinot Gris Estate, Willamette Valley, Eola-Amity Hills, 2017 · 50
· i recently sampled this beauty at a trade tasting and loved it..i've always been a fan of this winery and they continue to craft some of the most impressive and varietally correct wines in willamette..this pinot gris is vibrant and mouth filling with notes of ripe pear, peach and quince..finishes on a clean and mineral driven note with a touch of ginger spice.

304 BERGSTRÖM, Chardonnay, "Old Stones", Willamette Valley, 2016 · 80
· one of the precious few american chardonnays that truly resembles a cru burgundy white..crushed rocks, citrus peel, orchard fruit characteristics..medium-bodied, incredibly vibrant..outstanding effort from oregon. (91WA/92WE/92VM/90WS)

WASHINGTON STATE

306 POET'S LEAP, Riesling, Columbia Valley, 2017 · 14/48
· the closest thing to a superb riesling from alsace or even the mosel region..offers gorgeous aromas of flint, lime blossom and lemon pith..racy, superbly mouthwatering, intense, pure..ending on a spicy, gingery note..it's everything a great riesling can and should be. (92JD/91WE Editor's Choice/89WS)

307 L'ECOLE NO. 41, Chenin Blanc, Old Vines, Columbia Valley, 2017 · 42
· if you're a fan of vouvray from the loire valley, you will want to give this a sip..asian pear and a texture like honey..orange blossom and a crisp and minerally finish..this will be a beautiful choice with rabbit preparations and is also a very cool option with risotto. (90VM)

CALIFORNIA

308 VOSS VINEYARDS, Sauvignon Blanc, California, Napa Valley, 2018 · 48
· absolute sauvignon blanc specialists, voss sources their fruit from a 100% certified organic vineyard in yountville and produces wine with minimal fuss, to allow the pure expression of the grape to take center stage..lemon, grapefruit, tropical fruits galore..this wine is pure refreshment..VOSS is BOSS! (88WS)

310 MERRY EDWARDS, Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River Valley, 2017 · 65
· bright and quite aromatic with lemon lime zip and notes of tangerine, nectarine and ripe honeydew melon..vibrant tongue tingling finish..this is my favorite russian river sauvignon blanc. (91WS/90WE/90WS)

311 MATTHIASSON, White, "Loyo from Yolo", 2017 · 10/35
· matthiasson is one of my very favorite wineries..this is italy by way of the napa valley..a lip smacking blend of cortese and vermentino..delicious (and organic!)..sip with gnocchi alla genovese!

312 ASHES & DIAMONDS, Proprietary White, "BLANC No. 1", Napa Valley, 2015 · 68
· rockstar winemaker, steve matthiasson, was the consulting winemaker on this limited project..this is fully ripe and textured, yet bright, zesty and full of verve..a blend of sauvignon blanc and sémillon from three meticulously selected vineyards in napa's oak knoll district and yountville. (92WE)

313 DONATI FAMILY, Unoaked Chardonnay, "Sisters Forever", Central Coast, 2017 · 42
· crisp and clean, this unoaked chardonnay allows the purity of the chardonnay fruit to shine through..ripe apple and pear fruits coupled with a clean finish..for my chardonnay sisters!

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315 RAEBURN, Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, 2018 · 13/45
· tasted blind, this took the prize at this price point..juicy orchard fruits..essence of poached pears and a bit of crème brulée..a beautiful texture with a toasty, vanilla-tinged finish. (90JS/88WS)

316 STONESTREET, Chardonnay Estate, Alexander Valley, 2016 · 70
· stonestreet does a lot of things exceptionally well..this chard is the perfect example..medium to full bodied..compelling notes of ripest orchard apple and peach blossom..a nose full of baking spices..with a long and luxurious "photo" finish.. (93VM/92WA/92WS)

317 ROMBAUER, Chardonnay, California, Carneros, 2017 · 72
· we dream of cream..that's what this chardonnay is all about..notes of baked pastry and poached pear..peach..notes of baking spices on the long finish..pair with our risotto for an embarrassment of riches..for fans of the style (and there are plenty!) (90WA/90WS)

319 HARTFORD COURT, Chardonnay, "Far Coast Vineyard", Sonoma Coast, 2016 · 90
· my favorite chard from their stellar lineup and drinks like a grand cru burgundy..bright and fresh citrus notes with notes of tangerine and tropical fruit..remarkable precision and purity..very full bodied and a finish that seemingly lasts forever. (96WA/94VM)

320 SHAFER Vineyards, Chardonnay, Red Shoulder Ranch, Napa Valley, 2015 · 100
· aromas of baked apple, hand melon and ripe pear..long and luscious finish, with notes of creme brûlée and pear compote..this bottle is like a ballerina, combining power and grace and beauty..a stunning chardonnay and long counted a favorite. (93WS/94WE)

322 RAMEY, Chardonnay, "Ritchie Vineyard", Russian River Valley, 2014 · 110
· simply stated, david ramey crafts some of my favorite chards on the planet..this bottle is proof positive of his deft hand with the grape..redolent with white peach, lemon curd, brioche and butter..it's like peach cobbler in a beautiful bottle..honestly, if you are a chardonnay sipper and have never tried ramey, you owe it to yourself to sample this one..it is proof positive of the noble nature of the chardonnay grape. (95WA/95WE/95VM)

326 MARCASSIN, Chardonnay, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma, 2013 · 300
· is this chardonnay perfect? perfect score aside, it does hit every note on every level..grilled citrus..toasted hazelnut..candied orange peel..apricot jam..vibrant, toe tapping acidity..this wine is like that beautiful rainbow after a summer shower..with a vinous pot of golden liquid at its end. EXTREMELY LIMITED AVAILABILITY (100WA)

DID YOU KNOW?
YOU CAN TAKE WHAT'S LEFT IN THAT BOTTLE...TO GO!
OUR WINE DOGGY BAGS ARE COMPLETELY COMPLIANT AND ELIMINATE WASTE.
IT'S A WIN-WINE!

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ITALIAN REDS

listed by region of origin

VENETO

402 TOMMASI, Valpolicella Classico Superiore "Ripasso", 2015 · 48
· considered a standard bearer for wines from this region..brightest ruby red..medium in body..full of amarena cherry, toasted baking spices and notes of pepper on the silky and supple finish. (90WS)

403 CESARI, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, 2014 · 85
· big red..and, in fact this bottle may remind you of just that..loaded with cinnamon spice, super ripe dark forest fruits..in fact, it evokes sensory images of a stroll in a deep, dark forest..medium to full bodied with all that sumptuous fruit that is amarone's calling card. (90WE/90DC)

405 TOMMASI, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, 2015 · 92
· rich and luscious..notes of dried figs and plums..blackberries and cocoa..a little hint of espresso bean..medium to full bodied..if ever there was a wine that one could describe as opulent, this would be it..one of the preeminent producers in the veneto. (92JS)

406 ZENATO, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, 2015 · 125
· this was the winner from many amarones that i sampled..rich and textured, with layers upon layers of chocolate, dark berries..it reminds me of a chocolate covered cherry with all that luscious fruit and spice character..this is a voluptuous redhead. (94JS/93WS/92+VM/90WS)

PIEMONTE

410 AZELIA, Langhe Nebbiolo, 2017 · 48
· this nebbiolo displays such purity and brightness on the nose and palate..wild roses, so typical of the varietal, are there in spades and the finish is luminous..zesty acidity and fully ripe tannins on display. (91WA)

412 G.D. VAJRA, Langhe Nebbiolo, Claré JC, 2018 · 54
· one of the most fascinating expressions of nebbiolo that i have ever tasted..the name, claré jc, pays homage to thomas jefferson – who visited piemonte in 1787 and described nebbiolo as "dry as a claret, sweet and lingering as madeira, brisk as champagne"..and this forgotten style of nebbiolo has a beautiful, unctuous texture and a very subtle touch of sweetness..serve with a slight chill..it is crafted in a style that is a cross between a red and a rosé and is positively delicious..a nebbiolo meant for consumption in its youth. (92VM)

413 DAMILANO, Barbera d'Asti, 2017 · 45
· a delicious barbera..filled with characteristic fruit and acidity which always make this grape a fabulous food wine..it's big, beautiful and berrylicious with crunchy acidity and a full and flavorful finish..just gorgeous. (91JS/88WS)

414 SOTTIMANO, Barbera d'Alba, "Pairolero", 2017 · 56
· 2017 was a fairly warm vintage and this wine displays the ripeness inherent with warm years..it offers robust fruit flavors with blackberry and blueberry compote, a touch of fig and oodles of spice with a whiff of bittersweet cocoa on the close. (92WA/2016 vintage)

415 GIORDANO LOMBARDO, Piemonte Barbera, "Sasso Alto", 2016 · 9/35
· ORGANIC & CERTIFIED BIODYNAMIC! filled with bright cherry, wild blueberry and kirsch flavors..fresh and focused and food friendly..the barbera grape often takes a back seat to nebbiolo, but is, in fact, more widely planted in piemonte..it offers juicy acidity which makes it a very versatile food wine..sip with salmon or bucatini amatriciana.

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422 LA SPINETTA, Barbaresco Vigneti Bordini, 2015 · 88
· we are huge fans of la spinetta..proprietor giorgio rivetti and winemaker stephano mazzetta consistently produce wines that truly express the unique terroir of la spinetta's vineyard holdings..this is the most approachable of their offerings and beguiles with aromas of wild rose, kirsch, raspberry seed, tar, tobacco and herb..elegant, with a very firm structure, but accessible now and meant to be enjoyed with truffle offerings and ragu. (94WS/91VM/92JS/91WA)

424 GIOVANNI VIBERTI, Barolo, "BUON PADRE", 2014 · 85
· this bottle is a standout for me in terms of quality for the price..black cherries, violets, a touch of tobacco and tar with that signature whiff of rose potpourri that screams.."I Am Barolo...Hear Me ROAR" ..round and juicy and approachable now. (93JS)

426 VIETTI, Barolo, "Castiglione", 2014 · 95
· always a winner, the 2014 vintage of this wine is a touch more nuanced and almost graceful in the glass..medium in body with notes of dried rose petals, so typical of nebbiolo, along with dried cherries, a hint of orange zest and an abundance of red licorice notes..bright and balanced and at home with a wide array of our menu offerings. (93WA/92JS/93VM/91WS)

425 PAOLO SCAVINO, Barolo, Bricco Ambrogio, 2015 · 100
· this is a lesser known cru from barolo, enrico scavino's experience and vast knowledge of the area prompted him to purchase the cru for the scavino holdings..this example is an absolute stunner..some flamed orange zest on the nose brings a freshness not often associated with barolo..wild strawberry fruits dance in harmony with spices and hints of potpourri..muscular and powerful on the finish..one of my very favorites. (97JS)

428 ELVIO COGNO, Barolo, "Ravera", 2013 · 150
· the heavyweight champion of italian reds..barolo is king! garnet-red with that signature tinge of orange..spice, espresso, licorice, leather, truffle, wet earth..this is a sublime expression of this powerful grape with a finish that literally lasts 10 minutes. (95WA/97JS/94WS/97WE)

EMILIA-ROMAGNA

430 DONELLI, Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro Amabile, NV · 9/32
· wouldn't be an authentic italian joint without a little lambrusco on the list! tart red cherries play happily in the sandbox with sweet and savory spices..fresh, spritzy and a great pizza wine.

TOSCANA

431 CASTELLARE DI CASTELLINA, Chianti Classico, Toscana, 2017 · 15/50
· a standout! purity of fruit and freshness on the palate...a laser beam of fresh sour cherry and forest fruit..a finish that lasts for minutes..this vintage of castellina is a knockout. (94WS)

435 FERRERO, Rosso di Montalcino, 2017 · 48
· think of this as a baby brunello..ripe fruits of the forest..think wild blackberries that you stumbled upon and couldn't resist picking..hints of cocoa nib and touches of forest brush..medium bodied with spicy accents on the juicy and full finish..great effort from this small production, sustainable winery. (91WS '16 vintage)

436 LUCE DELLE VITE, "Lucente", Super Tuscan, 2017 · 17/52
· this wine has always held a very special place in my heart..full-bodied with generous notes of morello cherry and black currant..finishes with a whiff of herb and underbrush. (93JS)

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438 PIAGGIA, Carmignano Super Tuscan, "Il Sasso", 2016 · 68
· rich, ample and voluptuous.. black cherry, plum, lavender, spice, tobacco and dried herbs, but full of fruity intensity..excellent balance and one of our favorite bottles.(93JS/93WA/92VM)

442 RUFFINO, Chianti Classico Riserva "ORO" , 2014 · 89
· one of the "gold" standards in chianti production, ruffino needs no introduction to those who enjoy a beautiful bottle of chianti..an unmistakably tuscan nose of pressed violets, dark cherries and plums with a long and lingering finish..pairs well with pappardelle alla bolognese. (91WS/90JS)

443 CASTELLO VOLPAIA, Chianti Classico Riserva, "COLTASSALA", 2013 · 120
· remarkable purity and precision..black cherries, cranberries and notes of toasty spice..medium to full body and a finish full of verve and vibrancy..certified organic grapes. (95VM/94JS/91WA)

444 CASTELLO VOLPAIA, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione, "IL PURO", 2013 · 180
· this bottle is...in a word...exotic..filled with savory spices, mint, smoky oak, licorice, fennel seed, and crushed berries..vibrant, tongue-tingling acidity..fine grained tannins..bellissima..crafted from certified organic grapes..gran selezione is an even more prestigious and strict level of quality than classico riserva. (92WA/95JS/94VM)

450 ANTINORI, Tenuta Guado Al Tasso Bolgheri, "Il Bruciato", 2016 · 65
· about 100 kilometers southwest of florence, lies the idyllic coastal region known as the maremma, within the small, but very prestigious bolgheri d.o.c...ripe, red berry fruits and sweet spices are the hallmarks of this tremendous value bottling..there is a lightness and freshness to this wine not often associated with tuscan reds..this is a graceful wine. (94JS/93WA/90WS)

448 ALTESINO, Brunello di Montalcino, "Montosoli", 2013 · 200
· very limited availability..you will be hard-pressed to find a more sensational example of sangiovese..intense, powerful, spicy..this brunello has it all in spades..a solid core of dark fruits with a rich and spice-laden close..this is BIG BOY brunello and an absolute pleasure to sip. (95WA/97JS)

451 TERRALSOLE, Brunello di Montalcino, 2010 · 110
· an absolute beauty of a brunello..rich, rich fruits such as grilled plums with notes of spicy and savory grilled meat and the umami of wild mushrooms and forest floor. (96JS/94WS/93+WA)

452 TENUTA DELL'ORNELLAIA, "le Serre Nuove", Super Tuscan, 2015 · 125
· this bottle is always such a joy to sip and this vintage is no exception..very plush with blackberry pie, black cherry and roasted plums..this is a luscious and slightly more modern interpretation, and it's a stunner..merlot, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and petit verdot. (94VM/93WA/92WS/94JS)

453 CASTELLO VOLPAIA, Balifico Toscana, Super Tuscan, 2013 · 135
· beautiful, ripe style of supertuscan..dark berry fruits with a hint of roasted almond..an elegant and clean finish with a freshness that begs for bolognese or veal milanese..a real beauty from one of the most prestigious producers in tuscany..sangiovese and cabernet sauvignon. (92JS)

454 BIBI GRAETZ, "Testamatta", Super Tuscan, 2015 · 140
· don't hate me because i'm beautiful..this vintage represents an uber rich style of sangiovese..not for the faint of heart, it boasts layer upon layer of dark red fruits, leather, forest floor, toasted savory and warm spices..mind blowing stuff. (#5 TOP 100/99JS/92WS)

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458 MARCHESI ANTINORI, "Tignanello" Super Tuscan, 2016 · 190
· this wine was one to put the super tuscan category on the worldwide vinous map..sangiovese with cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc..ripe red fruits and licorice..cassis from the cabernet contribution..smooth and endlessly fascinating...we love our TIG around here and this vintage is one of the best ever. (97WA/97WS/97JS)

459 TENUTA DELL'ORNELLAIA, "Ornellaia", Super Tuscan, 2015 · 325
· to fans of the super tuscan category, this wine needs NO introduction..this is probably the best vintage of the venerable ornellaia that i have tasted in my lifetime..just impeccably balanced with blackberry, raspberry jam, mint and floral notes..astonishing and an absolute reference point for the category..let us decant it for you. (98VM/97WS/98JS/93WA)

SARDEGNA

460 TENUTE SELLA & MOSCA, Cannonau di Sardegna Riserva, 2016 · 42
· maritime pine trees, eucalyptus and breezy palms..this is the island of sardinia..the beauty of this land is reflected in its wines..notes of violets, wild strawberries and plums..warm and spicy finish..cannonau is the same grape as grenache or garnacha and is touted for its high levels of antioxidants..cin cin! (89WS)

MARCHE

461 LUCCHETTI, Lacrima di Morro d'Alba, 2018 · 42
· an indigenous varietal from the marche that i have always been a little in love with..it is a beguiling bottle, filled with wild blueberry compote, darkest forest fruits, herbs and underbrush..give it a swirl..you may just discover a new favorite.

ABRUZZO

462 UMANI RONCHI, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, "JORIO", 2016 · 44
· super ripe and fruity aromas of cherry compote, raspberry and sweet, warm spices..luscious flavors of cherry pie and red licorice..fresh, with youthful tannins..long and fleshy finish..it's the "full monty" so to speak.perfection with pappardelle. (93JS/88WS)

CAMPANIA

466 FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO, Aglianico "Rubrato", 2016 · 45
· an absolute gem of an aglianico at a great price..delivers real character with medium body, notes of big, dark fruits..hints of earth and a definite note of warm spices..an approachable style and one to try if you've never tasted this gorgeous grape. (94JS/89WA/88WS)

468 MONTEVETRANO, Aglianico, "CORE", 2015 · 57
· dynamic notes of black cherries..hints of baking spices and a flourish of red berry fruit and red licorice..pronounced CORE-AY, which is a local dialect meaning HEART..and we do heart this wine..very much..if you're in the mood for a big, expressive bottle, give this one a swirl. (94JS)

PUGLIA

470 CANTINE DI SAN MARZANO, Primitivo di Manduria, Anniversario 62, 2014 · 65
· the wine that they serve all over in the wine bars of puglia..this wine is soft, rich and downright voluptuous with its velvet texture..ripe and bold with cinnamon scented cherries and luscious notes of cocoa nib on the close. (91WA/2013 vintage/99LM)

471 VILLA SCHINOSA, "Laghiglione", Puglia Rosso, 2018 · 34
· a wine that is the embodiment of what southern italy FEELS like...warm, spicy, and easy to love..primitivo and syrah join forces in this beautiful bottle from puglia..ripe fruits, spicy notes, hints of espresso, cocoa bean and dark amarena cherry..a delightful new find.

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SICILIA

472 TENUTA REGALEALI, Nero d'Avola, "LAMURI", 2016 · 42
· juicy and absolutely delicious...lipsmacking fresh morello cherry and blackberry flavors..a sprinkling of warm baking spices..easygoing and incredibly palate friendly..wild berry fruits with supple tannins..nero d'avola is sicily's signature red..and it pairs beautifully with cioppino. (92JS/92DC)

473 VALLE DELL'ACATE, Vittoria Il Frappato, 2017 · 15/48
· certified organic..oh, this wine is just pure JOY to sip..pale red and luminous in hue..very perfumed with rose petals, fresh strawberries, a touch of herbs, and a beautiful bit of salinity on the finish..fresh and fun and fabulous..best served with the slightest of chills. (93JS/93VM)

474 TENUTA DELLE TERRE NERE, Calderara Sottana Etna Rosso, 2014 · 72
· polished and precise, the wines from this legendary producer in sicily always deliver..fresh berry notes on the nose..notes of figs and plump morello cherries..a touch of smoke and orange peel on the palate..those volcanic soils really deliver loads of personality into the wines located at the base of mount etna..wild aromas and a creamy mouthfeel..this is a captivating bottle. (95WA/92WS)

476 FEUDO MONTONI, Nero D'Avola, "Vrucara", 2013 · 75
· the vrucara plot, where these grapes are sourced, rises to 1,640 feet above sea level in the west central portion of sicily..as such, the grapes are blessed with beautiful breezes and great diurnal temperature variance to retain their acidity and freshness..notes of plums, fennel, eucalyptus and spice cake are at the core of this sicilian stunner..layers upon layer of fleshy fruit and a long finish..sicilian wines have come a long way from their humble roots and this bottle is one of the best examples of nero d'avola that i have ever tasted! (93JS/93VM)

"ANNI E BICCHIERI DI VINO NON SI CONTANA MAI"~ITALIAN PROVERB
AGE AND GLASSES OF WINE SHOULD NEVER BE COUNTED...

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UNITED STATES REDS

OREGON

501 ♀ ROUTESTOCK, Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 2016 · 15/48
· supple and smooth with notes of sandalwood, fresh cranberry and black cherry..subtle notes of warm spices add to palate interest..medium bodied and extremely versatile at the table.

502 PENNER-ASH, Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 2016 · 72
· pretty is as pretty does and this bottle delivers on all fronts..expressive and graceful, with notes of pure raspberry and field flowers..elegant finish that is kissed with a touch of spice. (93+WA/92WS)

WASHINGTON STATE

503 DUNHAM CELLARS, Three Legged Red, Walla Walla, 2017 · 48
· named for dunham's founding winemaker's dog, "PORT", so named because he rescued him from being attacked by another dog, while just a young pup..unfortunately, he lost a leg, but keeps 2 on the port side..and, hence..PORT found a home, a best friend, and a great wine, named in his honor..a great everyday wine that combines cabernet sauvignon, syrah and merlot (90WS)

504 MARK RYAN, Board Track Racer, "THE CHIEF" Columbia Valley, 2017 · 55
· a blend of cabernet sauvignon, malbec and merlot..a very complex wine with cabernet's signature whiff of cedar and cassis..notes of violet, blackberry, silky vanilla and notes of cocoa on the finish..HAIL TO THE CHIEF. (91WS)

505 LONG SHADOWS, Merlot, "Pedestal", Columbia Valley, 2014 · 89
· a deeply concentrated and an incredibly fleshy and sexy style of this often maligned grape..black currants, toasted spice, dark cherries, roasted coffee bean..the liquid equivalent to a velvet smoking jacket..aptly named, this wine deserves to perch on a pedestal..it's a knockout.(95WA/92VM)

CALIFORNIA

PINOT NOIR

510 JUGGERNAUT, Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, 2016 · 45
· this is a luscious and rich style of pinot hailing from the famed russian river valley..the price point simply cannot be beat for a wine from this prestigious appellation..ripest cherry and wild strawberries abound with a whiff of vanilla and baking spices.

512 FOUR VINES, Pinot Noir, "The Maverick", Edna Valley, 2017 · 48
· this wine has a savory component that is so delicious with your dinner..notes of sour cherry and scorched earth..bright aromas and flavors of cranberry and tart cherry..the tiniest splash of petite sirah adds a bit of weight..a very cool wine from a very cool winery.

515 FESS PARKER, Pinot Noir, "Ashley's", Santa Rita Hills, 2016 · 85
· a new addition to our list, but hardly new to the lovers of pinot noir..the 2016 ashley's manages to be powerful and graceful at the same time..bright red berries, earth and smoke..medium to full bodied..what it would smell like if you roasted red berries over a campfire..loved it. (93WA/94JD/92WS/91VM)

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516 AU BON CLIMAT, Pinot Noir, "Isabelle", Santa Barbara, 2015 · 88
· always my favorite offering from "ABC", this bottle is a fleshy and ripe style of my favorite grape..a selection of the very best barrels from the cellar, "IZZY" is filled with bright berry and cherry aromas and flavors..hints of warm spice and a walk through the forest on a fall afternoon..she's a beauty. (95JD/94VM)

520 TALLEY VINEYARDS, Pinot Noir "Rosemary's Vineyard", Arroyo Grande, 2015 · 96
· SIP-certified..medium-bodied with expressive layers of black cherries, black raspberries and warm baking spices..subtle floral notes of lilac and lavender..talley wines are a total treat from one of the nicest guys in the biz.. i have introduced many to talley wines and they continue to thank me.(95VM/93WA)

522 SEA SMOKE, Pinot Noir, "TEN", Santa Rita Hills, 2014 · 145
· extremely limited availability..finely textured with notes of wild raspberry, red currant and morello cherry..savory spice notes on the palate and a long and elegant finish.(93WE/92WS)

523 WILLIAMS-SELYEM, Pinot Noir, Ferrington Vineyard, Anderson Valley, 2017 · 180
· williams-selyem crafts my favorite range of pinot noir, period..each unique offering expresses its terroir beautifully and the ferrington vineyard is no exception..it is at once racy and refined, silky and succulent, fresh and finessed..sweet red berries, touches of exotic tea, notes of wildflowers and finishes with a flourish of bright acidity marked by spice and burnt orange rind..this pinot is curvy and the essence of silky..one sip and you'll be a convert to the fan club. (94VM/92WA/92WS)

524 MARCASSIN, Pinot Noir, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast, 2012 · 300
· one of the toughest "gets" in winedom..perhaps a touch indulgent on my part, but this bottle is life-altering stuff and that is no exaggeration..it is no secret that pinot noir is my spirit grape and if you are of similar persuasion, treat yourself to this truly legendary bottle. (97WA)

INTRIGUING REDS-LUSCIOUS AND LUXURIOUS

525 JEFF COHN CELLARS, "Dealmaker" Red, Sonoma, Amador, 2016 · 14/45
· zinfandel and petite sirah, this is a wine for fans of a ripe and fruit forward style of zin..oodles of black cherry, ripest raspberry, red licorice whip and a little touch of cracked pepper and spice..this is an upfront, unapologetic style of zin that screams "drink me now".

527 FERRARI-CARANO, Red Blend, "Siena", Sonoma County, 2016 · 16/50
· a wine created to pay homage to the italian heritage of the family..a blend of sangiovese, cabernet sauvignon and malbec that is truly tuscany by way of sonoma..blackberry, dark cocoa nib leads to a ripe mouth full of black cherry and wild forest fruits..pairs perfectly with pappardelle and pizza.

528 THE WITHERS, Rhone Blend, "In Hand", Sierra Foothills, El Dorado, 2017 · 54
· loads of spice and earth, this will remind you of a cotes du rhone both in body and flavor..medium bodied and a pretty rocking match with rabbit or wild boar.

529 CLENDENEN FAMILY, Nebbiolo, Bricco "Buon Natale", Santa Maria Valley, 2014 · 78
· this is the best example of nebbiolo that i have tasted grown outside of its piemonte home..it is elegant and precise..tasted blind, you may very well mistake it for a barolo..cherry preserves, hints of mint and other herbs, the signature whiff of dried rose petals..medium-bodied and a very exciting new discovery for me. (94VM)

530 MURRIETA'S WELL, "The Spur", Livermore Valley, 2016 · 15/48
· cabernet sauvignon with a splash of petite sirah..ripe blueberry and blackberry..dried cherry..allspice and vanilla..rich and luscious mouthfeel. (93JS)

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532 THE PRISONER WINE COMPANY, "Unshackled Red", 2017 · 58
· a new offering from the prisoner fame..round and super creamy..loads of upfront spicy red and black fruits..spicy red cherries and hints of vanilla and warm spices on the finish..an outrageously delicious blend of zinfandel, malbec, petite sirah, syrah and grenache..just lip smackingly tasty..this wine will be most at home with hearty menu offerings, such as tagliata and bolognese..for pizzas, try it with the happy bastard or 3 little pigs.

534 RIDGE VINEYARDS, Lytton Springs Red, Dry Creek Valley, 2017 · 80
· ridge consistently crafts some of the best zinfandels and zin based blends in california..the lytton springs is 74% zinfandel with petite sirah, carignane and mataro comprising the remainder of the blend..the focus here is on the fruit with brambly and ripe black fruits, roasted baking spices and grilled herbs..creamy on the palate, balanced and fresh with a rich and long finish..the lytton springs is always a favorite each vintage. (94VM/94JS)

541 SHAFER, "Relentless", Napa Valley, 2015 · 175
· now, this is a big mouth full of delicious..syrah and petite sirah grapes are the hallmark of this very limited release from shafer..ripe boysenberries, mulberries, black cherry jam with notes of asian and indian spices..if you've never tried this stellar wine, you owe it to yourself to do so. (95+WA/93WS/94WE/93VM)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON AND BORDEAUX STYLE BLENDS

531 VINA ROBLES, Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles, 2016 · 50
· this cali cab is crazy good! displays a richness in texture and flavor with luscious black cherry compote, cocoa, a touch of anise and rich, toasted spices..a real beauty at a great price point. (92WE/Editor's Choice)

535 TRENTADUE, Cabernet Sauvignon, "La Storia", Alexander Valley, 2016 · 65
· i loved this bottle when tasted blind..dense ruby-purple hue with aromas and flavors of wild blueberries, blackberries..hints of licorice whip and a whiff of underbrush..finishes with a fairly rich mouthfeel, backed by juicy acidity and ripe tannins..delicious. (91WE/Editor's Choice)

536 STEWART CELLARS, Bordeaux Blend, "Tartan", Napa Valley, 2015 · 85
· elegant with richness..aromas and flavors of forest berries, red currant and and ripe cherry..notes of warm spices round out the creamy finish..we're just mad for this plaid. (92WS)

537 O'SHAUGHNESSY, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2014 · 140
· positively textbook...dark cherries, mocha, spice, leather, cigar box..winemaker, sean capiaux is a master..full-bodied and full of muscle, yet approachable now..firm tannins on the finish. (93WA)

538 ROUND POND, Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford, 2015 · 125
· plush entry of ripe black cherry and blackberry pie is followed by richer tones of toffee, fresh oak and a hint of black pepper. elegant and supple, this wine showcases a long finish and those signature rutherford dust qualities.(92VM)

539 DAOU VINEYARDS, "Soul Of A Lion", Bordeaux Blend, Paso Robles, 2016 · 225
· think paso robles can't compete with the best of napa? i cordially invite you to sample this bottle and have your mind changed...and blown..a veritable treasure trove of tastes..creme de cassis, violets, graphite, this is a full-throttle, unadulterated, hedonistic bottle of liquid pleasure.(95WA/98JD/94JS)

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CABERNET SAUVIGNON AND BORDEAUX STYLE BLENDS C'TD.

540 ORIN SWIFT, Proprietary Red, "Papillon", Napa Valley, 2015 · 135
· an homage to the famed left bank blends of bordeaux..cabernet sauvignon based with all 5 traditional varietals in play..powerful and seductive aromas of graphite, cassis..uber ripe dark fruits envelop your palate with a flourish of flavor..a hint of mint on the firm and grippy finish..massive and mesmerizing. (93WS/94WA/91JS)

542 ROBERT CRAIG, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, Spring Mountain, 2014 · 150
· i count the spring mountain appellation as my favorite in the napa valley..the higher elevation combines power with grace..fruit with finesse..stunning wild blueberry and black raspberry fruits on the nose..floral notes..out of control texture and purity. (94WA)

543 ARIETTA, Red, "QUARTET", Napa Valley, 2016 · 130
· full bodied with signature notes of crème de cassis, blackest cherry compote, blackberries, earth and cigar box..spicy and very rich but well integrated and mature tannins.. a rich and spice driven finish that lasts for minutes.this bottle has long been a favorite of mine. (94WA)

544 STONESTREET, Cabernet Sauvignon,"ROCKFALL, Sonoma, 2014 · 175
· black cherry, blackberry, cassis..dense, full-bodied and positively textbook cabernet sauvignon from the sensational stonestreet..like rachel alexandra..it will captivate you, leaving you cheering for more..and crying with joy at the finish. (95+WA)

545 KAPCSÁNDY FAMILY WINERY, Cabernet Sauvignon, Estate Cuvée, Napa Valley, Yountville, 2015 · 250
· if you love margaux, you just may want to give this pedigreed bottle a swirl..just a stunning perfume of floral notes coupled with exotic and savory spices..both elegant and rich, full bodied with a sensational core of fruit..a positively bewitching texture..this is a SEXY wine. (97JD/95WA)

548 SPOTTSWOODE, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, St. Helena, 2014 · 300
· like a thoroughbred, this wine has a power that is also graceful, elegant and equipped with legs to run ALL DAY..crushed rocks, winter potpourri, red currants, dried plums, very firm tannins and a persistent acidity. (95+WA/98WE/96VM)

"IT IS WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE FIVE REASONS FOR DRINKING: THE ARRIVAL OF A FRIEND, ONE'S PRESENT OR FUTURE THIRST, THE EXCELLENCE OF THE WINE OR ANY OTHER REASON" - LATIN PROVERB

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