Vintage Assessments is pleased to share this annotated SEPTEMBER 23 edition -LCBO-

NEW RELEASE COLLECTION

9

SEE PAGE BELOW for Release Summary plus NEW Reviews

click here to go to our Home Page

HIGH-SCORING WINES



Tempranillo

2020 Chianti Classico

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

LA DONCELLA " de las viñas

REFRESH THIS PAGE TO SEE UPDATES BY HOLDING DOWN THE CONTROL KEY & PRESS THE R KEY

LINKED SEPT 23 RELEASE SUMMARY 114 releases with agents/cases click here

wines of the month

Rrich rreds

LUCIANO ARDUINI RIPASSO VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE 2020

DOC, Veneto, Italy 12407 (X D) 750 mL \$21.95 🗸

A robust, aromatic blend of Corvina (60%), Corvinone (20%) and Rondinella (20%), this lovely Valpolicella is equal parts savoury and delicate, with rich dark fruit flavours accentuated by fine floral aromas and an extended finish. With its mild tannins and rich mouthfeel, this will pair well with mushroom pasta or spicy antipasti.

[Luca Maroni tasting note not available.] Score: **98** (lucamaroni.com, May 12, 2022)

Full-bodied & Smooth

RCABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

California (V Vines) 13181 (XD) 750 mL \$20.95

This Cabernet Sauvignon was aged for a year in American oak and delivers quite big, bold, juicy blueberry and blackcurrant alongside mocha and spice, with savoury, lifted herbs. It shows good structure and balance and would be excellent with grilled meats.

Full-bodied & Firm

MORE REVIEWS COMING SEPTEMBER 23 VINTAGES BUYERS GUIDE <u>click here</u>

Rcabernet

2017 13.5% ALC./VOL.

CALIFORNIA

CAREFINET SALMENON

750mL

2023 YEAR-TO-DATE BUYERS SUMMARY OUR LINKED VINTAGES BUYERS GUIDE click here



A C M S D 3 663

VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO Denominazione di Crigine Ceatrellata CLASSICO SUPERIORE

luciano arduini

VINTAGES

SEPTEMBER 23

THE NEW RELEASE COLLECTION

HIGH-SCORING WINES pg.2



LOCAL TALENT pg. 20



GOOD PARTNERS pg. 24

plus...

What's On / pg.26 Product Info & Tasting Notes / pg.28 Shopping List / pg.48 Vintages Special Offers / pg.50

CBO.com for all the products in this catalogue.

Product availability: Due to printing lead times, availability of some products in this catalogue may change and may vary by store location. For the most up-to-date product availability, visit LCBO.com.

Our annual roundup of fine wines with 90-and-north scores, plus a to-the-point primer on the ins, outs, ups and downs of points.

AUVIGNON BLANC

UGH 2021 NEW ZEALAND WIN

900

perstone

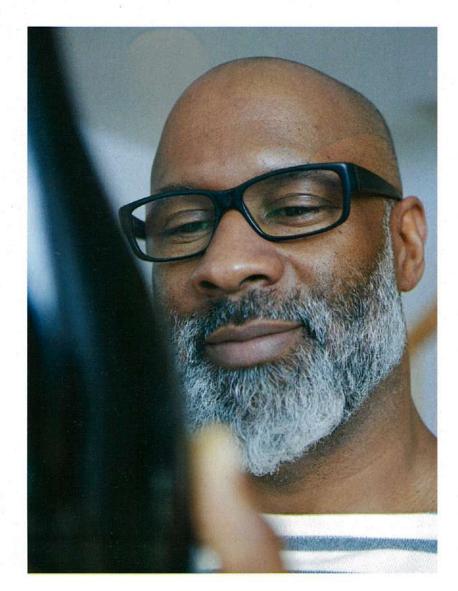
PIO VOA

The journey to find the perfect wine can be fraught with uncertainty. How do you know this bottle will be more suitable for the occasion than another? Most people, average and high-end consumers alike, will put their faith in a wine's score to determine if it's worth the price. Level up your wine game with this handy guide to aid you in your quest to find the perfect bottle and check out our curated list of 19 high-scoring wines at a wide range of prices. These great options will make a lovely gift or a perfect pairing for your upcoming special dinner.



BREAKING

The most common gauge for scoring wine is the 100-point scale. Popularized by Robert Parker Jr. in the 1980s, this system has been adopted by wine critics across the globe, from the US's James Suckling to Australia's Huon Hooke. How does it work, you ask? A wine with a score from 89 to 91 is considered good, 92 to 94 great, 95 to 97 excellent, and 98 to 100 is reserved for only the most stellar bottles. This tool isn't ubiquitous however, as some publications will opt for a different type of scoring system. British journalist Jancis Robinson, MW, uses a 20-point scale, New Zealand critic Michael Cooper channels the hotel model with a 5-star rating system, and European publications such as *Le Guide Hachette des Vins* and *Gambero Rosso* will exclusively rate high-quality wines on a scale of 1-3. The former uses stars, the latter uses wine goblets.



Wine Showcase Magazine 2020 SPRING ALL SHIRAZ

IRVINE SPRING HILL SHIRAZ 2020 Barossa, South Australia

This wine is sourced from Irvine's vineyards in Ebenezer and the Eden Valley. It has a robust and exotic character expressed through spicy dark fruit, plum, dark chocolate, coffee, earth and lifted herbal notes. The Eden Valley fruit imparts a generous freshness atop the bright fruit. Drink through 2025+.

[Wine Showcase Magazine did not include a tasting note.] Score: **94** (Wine Showcase Magazine, June 2021)

Full-bodied & Smooth 25944. (XD) 750 mL \$21.95 New at Vintages



SAN PEDRO 1865 SELECTED VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021 Las Piedras, DO Valle del Maipo, Chile

A cabernet from terraces in the Maipo Valley – classic soils for the variety in Chile consisting of sand and gravel from the Maipo River near Alto Jahuel in Alto Maipo. It was aged in barrels for 12 months, with 20% new oak, and the result is a cabernet very much from that valley, with herbal touches that gradually give way to earthy and fruity notes. The palate is full of fine tannins, with fresh and lively acidity as well as herbal tones combined with red and black fruits. [Drink till 2027+.] Score: **93** (Patricio Tapia, guiadescorchados.cl, 2023)

Full-bodied & Firm 37911 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95 < CABERNET SAUVIGNON I REDWINE PRODUCT OF CHILE /VIN ROUGE PRODUCT OF CHILE /VIN ROUGE ALC./VO.

> LAS PIEDRAS D.O. VALLE DEL MAIPO CHILE

> > SANPEDRO



CLINE VIOGNIER 2021 North Coast, California

The North Coast of California provides grapes a moderate amount of sunshine but slightly cooler temperatures than the central and southern reaches of the state. These conditions are ideal for growing Viognier. The mix of extensive daylight and cooling breezes leaves the soft palate and floral aromas intact while bringing out tropical fruit flavours of guava and nectarine.

[The California State Fair did not include a tasting note.] Score: **99** (California State Fair, 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful 128421 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95

> VIOGNIER NORTH COAST CALIFORNIA * 2021 / Family Quared

CLINE

minimusing

MORELLINO DI SCANSANO VITICCIO

95 Decanter World Wine Awards

VITICCIO MORELLINO DI SCANSANO 2018 DOCG, Tuscany, Italy

85% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot. A juicy nose with plenty of bright red and black cherry fruit and attractive pepper and sage nuances. Refreshing, unforced and expressive, lovely wine. Score: **95** (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2021)

Full-bodied & Firm 574186 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95 🗸



<text>

RONCOLATO AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA 2015 DOCG, Veneto, Italy

This is a statuesque wine defined by a stream of juicy plum and red cherry fruits. It is graceful and seamless, with depth and length of flavour perfectly integrated, and tannin equally so. Long and moreish finish. Score: **97** (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2020)

Full-bodied & Smooth 22997 (D) 750 mL \$47.95 Featured in Hand-Picked Gifts 93 gothicepicures. blogspot.com

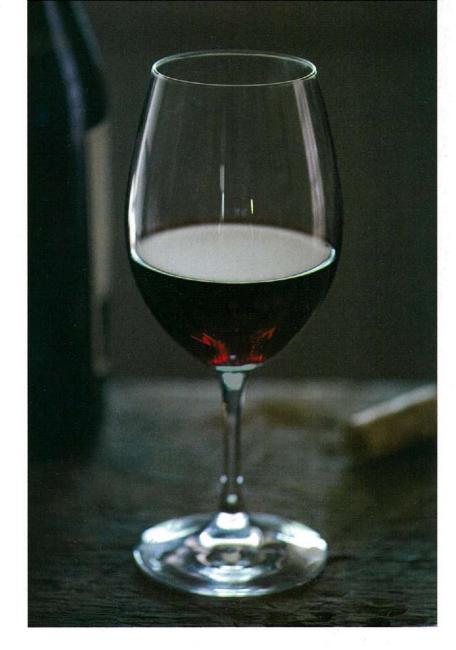


FEATHERSTONE CANADIAN OAK CHARDONNAY 2021 * VQA Ontario

One of my faves. Over the years it has simply gotten better as the grapevines matured. Wild indigenous yeast is used. Good midtone oaky component (it is very easy to say it is mid-way between French and US oak) from the use of nearby Canadian oak trees. 10% new oak, 90% 1 to 5 year old. Terrific ripe orchard fruit aromas and palate. Plus vanillin and cream after the mid-palate leading to citric food-friendly finish. Needs more time for balancing, but then at that moment it will be awesome. Vegan friendly. Score: **93** (Dean Tudor, gothicepicures. blogspot.com, June 2, 2023)

Full-bodied & Rich

149302 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95 🗸



VALUE PROPOSITIONS

It may seem like higher scores are reserved exclusively for the most coveted of bottles. Though generally true, take this maxim with a grain of salt. Every critic scores differently and every aspect of a wine is considered. Does a wine with a 92 really surpass a wine with an 89? Not exactly. A wine can also have a great score due to its price-to-quality ratio. There are plenty of examples of well-priced wines that have scores in the 90s, such as Domaine de Cause La Lande Cavagnac Malbec 2018 (\$23.95; page 15), which earned a 93 from *Wine Enthusiast*; or Cline Viognier 2021 (\$19.95; page 6), which was awarded a 99 from the California State Fair.



Decanter World Wine Awards

PORTIA ROBLE 2019 DO Ribera del Duero, Spain

100% Tempranillo. Blackberry nose with a hint of incense. Very soft, ripe and complex fruit with huge concentration, supported by firm tannins. Very long, oaky finish. Score: **94** (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2021)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30231 (XD) 750 mL \$18.95 🖌

New at Vintages



PORTIA ROBLE 2019 RIBERA DEL DUERO Denominación de Origen

NAPA VALLEY QUILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON



OUILT NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 Napa Valley, California (Copper Cane by Joseph J. Wagner)

Winemaker Joseph Wagner's expert touch brings layered notes of leather, dark chocolate, espresso, and blackberry to this expressive, concentrated red. As the liquid washes across the palate, a patchwork of earth, dark fruit, and slate melds with the well-constructed body. [Drink till 2031.] Score: **94** (Meridith May, tastingpanelmag.com, May/ June 2022)

Full-bodied & Firm 498808 (XD) 750 mL \$59.95 🗸



HIDDEN BENCH PINOT NOIR 2021 🍁

VQA Beamsville Bench, Niagara Escarpment, Ontario

100% Pinot Noir. Perfumed and fragrant, with bright raspberry, plush strawberry and pretty floral notes, then on to a textured palate of flinty, stony mineral, light spice, violet, small red berry fruit, crunchy blackberry and subtle, fine grained tannins. Score: **95** (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 274753 (XD) 750 mL \$37.95 🗸

A Vintages Essential & Organic product





OTU LIMITED RELEASE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2021

Sustainable, Marlborough, South Island, New Zealand

This is packed with delicious sauvignon flavours, showing passionfruit, green rockmelon, kiwifruit and lime zest aromas on the nose, followed by an impressively flavoured palate displaying juicy fruit intensity together with vibrant acidity, making it hugely appealing. At its best: now to 2025. Score: **95** (Sam Kim, wineorbit.co.nz, Nov, 2021)

Aromatic & Flavourful

17548 (XD) 750 mL \$28.95 🗸

92 jamessuckling.com

CASTELLO DI QUERCETO CHIANTI CLASSICO 2020 DOCG, Tuscany, Italy

Castello

aQuerceto 2020 Chianti Classico

Black cherries and lemons on the nose. Honeysuckle, too. It's medium-bodied with firm, chewy tannins and a fresh finish. A little hard now, but should soften with time. Give it a year or two in the bottle. Try in 2024. Score: **92** (jamessuckling.com, July 4, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 680496 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95 -





POÇAS COLHEITA PORT 2010 Vegan, aged in cask, DOC, Portugal

Ripe and juicy in feel, with a bright bing cherry and raspberry pâte de fruit core flanked by dried anise, bergamot and fruitcake flavors. Nice wood spice echo through the lively finish. Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barocca and Tinta Cão. Drink now [or cellar for up to a decade]. Score: **93** (James Molesworth, winespectator.com, Feb. 28, 2021)

Sweet 21813 (S) 750 mL \$38.95



COLHEITA 2010



BOTTLED & SHIPPED BY MANDEL DI POCASILINIOR VIENDOS SA VILA NOVADE GAA

PRODUCE OF PORTUGAL



NOTABLY ABSENT

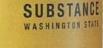
What if a wine lacks a score? With so many wines in the world, it's impossible for each of them to be reviewed promptly before they're put on shelves. If there's a bottle that hasn't been reviewed by a popular wine magazine or journalist, rest assured that the LCBO has you covered. Our commitment to quality ensures that every bottle is tested and reviewed pre-release, and our team of experts will typically write their own notes detailing a wine's characteristics.



WINES OF SUBSTANCE CHARDONNAY 2020 Columbia Valley, Washington

Aromas of candied ginger, baked pear and fresh herbs. Full-bodied with a lovely, oily texture. Layered flavors of chamomile and lavender at the beginning, but turns toward fresh cream and then the note of candied ginger on the nose returns. Linear and balanced. Drink now. Score: **93** (jamessuckling. com, April 22, 2022)

Full-bodied & Rich 16996 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95









Gentle pressing and fermentation using only free-run juice, 4 months in tank for extended lees contact. What do we ask of sauvignon blanc? We ask for this: a wine that combines tension and energy with simply joyous, live-for-the-moment fruit intensity. Kaffir lime, lemon zest, grapefruit, nettle and lemongrass moments dart in, out and around zippy acidity. Scintillating. Trophy Perth Royal Wine Awards '21. Drink by: 2024. Special Value. Score: **95** (Jeni Port, winecompanion.com.au, May 4, 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful 518357 (XD) 750 mL \$18.95



LA DONCELLA-

winealign.com

DOP Castilla La Mancha, Spain

Reductive, especially for tempranillo, requiring forceful aeration to settle things down and release the charm. Otherwise there is a good dose of black cherry fruit, quite properly ripe which leads to thoughts of cool climate tempranillo in a world where we imagine it's always hot, sunny and dry. "The maid of the vines" does well to hold our attention and convince us she's demonstrating a thorough concern for all the wine's parts involved, no matter how small. Solid and scrupulous tempranillo indeed. Drink 2024-2027. Tasted May 2023. Score: **90** (Michael Godel, winealign.com)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A score is helpful for an at-a-glance assessment before you buy a wine, but the rest of a review is even more revealing. Here's what it all means.

The producer /

Much like your favourite artist, a trusted name can bring confidence when looking at a label. If a certain winemaker or producer has made wines you've enjoyed in the past, it's likely you'll enjoy other products that they've crafted. This isn't foolproof; even your favourite band can write songs that don't get you grooving.

The appellation /

These letters on the label next to the region indicate that the wine meets the region's (a.k.a. Appellation of Origin) quality standards. Many countries employ Appellation of Origin standards as an index of agricultural identity and to ensure certain criteria are met. In Ontario, for example, we have the VQA (Vintner's Quality Alliance) system. If you find this designation on a label, you can have an idea of how a wine will taste and an assurance that it upholds the region's official standards of quality.

The aromas, flavours and characteristics /

Every wine is different, and as such, certain grapes or styles will have telltale properties. These clues will let you know how close a wine is to a grape's typicity, what techniques may have gone into the winemaking process, and how to distinguish it from others of its ilk.

The drinking window /

Not all wines are meant to be consumed immediately. Some styles or great vintages are meant to be enjoyed after a few years in bottle when the wine reaches an ideal maturity. Barolo, for example, is highly tannic in youth and may need a long time in cellar to soften and develop complexity. Look for the bottle symbols at the bottom of each tasting note to know if a wine should be enjoyed now or cellared (see page 28 for details).

The wine name /

A wine's title can often indicate what you can expect. In this example, we can see the wine is from the Chablis region, which means it's 100% Chardonnay and has not gone through extensive oak ageing (Chablis is aged in neutral vessels to preserve freshness). We can also observe that the wine is distributed by a distinguished producer and is from high-quality vines.

William Fèvre Champs Royaux Chablis 2020 AC, Burgundy, France

From purchased grapes, Champs Royaux is an historic mark created in the past by William Fèvre. 5% is fermented in old wood from Bouchard, with the rest in steel. Lovely notes of confit lemon here, very good acidity and minerality. A complex, saline, age-worthy Chablis which will go beautifully with food. Drinking window: 2022-2025. Part of AOP Chablis 2020: Top-Scoring Wines. Score: **91** (Andy Howard, MW, decanter.com, Dec. 1, 2021)

461640 (XD) 750 mL \$34.95

The source /

A review written by a reputable source can ensure confidence when purchasing a wine. Finding a publication or critic that has recommended successful wines in the past is a great way to discover new wines. You may also find the title MW (Master of Wine) or MS (Master Sommelier). These are both highly esteemed designations that indicate the individual is a master in the field of wine, beer, and spirits knowledge.

The vintage /

The year the grapes were harvested. The conditions of each vintage will vary and affect the quality of the crop. This is especially true in premium wines or wines from a specific appellation. Wines that lack a vintage date are usually blends from multiple vintages.

The region /

....

....

You've undoubtedly heard of the term "terroir": the idea that a wine's place of origin will determine its characteristics. Regions are a great way to discover a style of wine you might enjoy and can be a means of broadening your horizons on how a grape can taste depending on its provenance.

The score /

The critic's assessment of the wine. Remember that everyone's tastes are subjective and every critic scores differently. Here's a generalized guide to understanding ratings:

98-100 = magnificent95-97 = excellent92-94 = great89-91 = good



CABRAL RESERVA 2020 DOC Douro, Portugal

Aromatic, floral, inviting. Flavors reminiscent of peaches and grapefruit on a rather oily texture. Juicy with good acidity. Leaves a nice mouthfeel. Grape varieties: viosinho; arinto; rabigato; and gouveiro. Score: **2.5 out of 3** (Marc André Gagnon, vinquebec.com, Aug. 9, 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful 35446 (XD) 750 mL \$14.95 New at Vintages

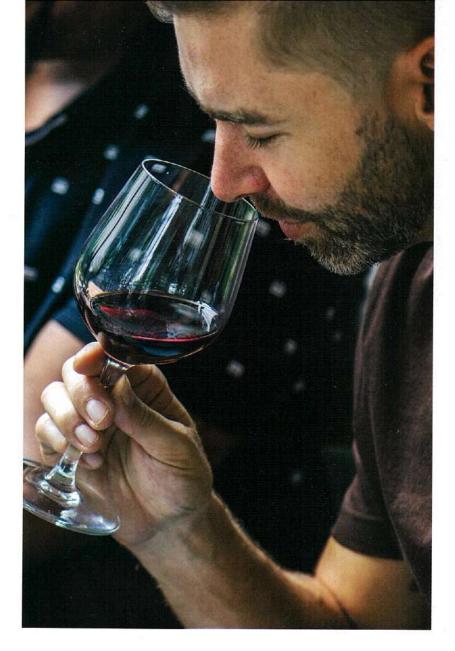




DOMAINE DE CAUSE LA LANDE CAVAGNAC MALBEC 2018 AP Cahors, Southwest, France

This is a massive and dense wine. Powerful tannins dominate solidly textured black fruits in a wine that shows concentration from the old-vine Malbec. This is a wine to age for several years, so don't drink before 2024. Cellar Selection. Score: **93** (Roger Voss, *Wine Enthusiast*, July 1, 2021)

Full-bodied & Firm 30989 (XD) 750 mL \$23.95 **—** New at Vintages



A MATTER OF TASTE

A high score or a sparkly write-up doesn't always mean the contents of the phthalo-green-tinted bottle will be universally admired. Everyone has unique tastes. And who better to recommend something tailored to your needs than an expert? The LCBO is proud to have talented Product Consultants in nearly every location who are dedicated to ensuring every customer finds what they're looking for. Our Product Consultants are experts specializing in all aspects of beverage alcohol knowledge and planning for special occasions. Take the hassle out of finding the right product and ask an expert next time you find yourself in an LCBO trying to find the perfect bottle.



decanter.com

CHÂTEAU MAGNOL 2018 Vegan, sustainable, AC Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France (Barton & Guestier)

So scented and floral on the nose, the Cabernet Franc really standing out and expressing itself despite being only 5% of the blend. There is a clear richness and ripeness to the fruit - the plush, crushed velvet texture holding up the blackcurrant and black cherry flavours. A touch jammy but staying just the right side with quite fine, slightly tight tannins that give a push-pull between fruit density and tension, closing down the structure slightly. This has good potential, just a little quiet at the moment, but I love the very clear blackcurrant flavours and the hint of savoury herbs and delicate violet touches. Feels finessed and has an air of elegance to it. Drinking window: 2023-2027. Score: 90 (Georgina Hindle, decanter.com, Aug. 25, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 384271 (XD) 750 mL \$26.95





CONDE DE HARO BRUT CAVA 2019 Traditional method, DO, Spain (Muga)

Biscuit, sliced green-apple, lemonpith and chalk aromas. Excellent freshness with a medium body and very fine bubbles. Nicely done and refined. 70% macabeo and 30% chardonnay. Drink now. Score: 92 (jamessuckling.com, July 14, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Flavourful 168559 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95

CONDE DE HARO

MIS EN BOUTEILLE AU CHATEAG

VINEYARD

CRU BOURGEOIS CRU BOURGEOIS CHATEAU MAGNOL HAUT-MÉDOC APPELLATION HAUT-MÉDOC CONTROLE

BIG Barton & Guestier

RIÉTAIRE ÉLEVE

VIGAOBLE LAGAGE

BRUT RESERVA 2019

MATCH POINTS

Perfect high-scoring pairings for Thanksgiving dinner

Have enough troubles with the main quest of getting everything ready for your family feast? Let us take care of some of the side missions with these great pairing options that will ensure your Thanksgiving plans stand victorious.





APPETIZERS

Camembert cheese topped with mango chutney: Cline Viognier (page 6) Fine cheese platter: Château Magnol (page 16) Prosciutto and parmesan: Viticcio Morellino di Scansano (page 7) Salami and black olives: San Pedro 1865 Selected Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (page 5) Crab cakes: Featherstone Canadian Oak Chardonnay (page 7)



TRADITIONAL MAINS

Braised lamb shanks: Hidden Bench Pinot Noir (page 10) Prime rib: Irvine Spring Hill Shiraz (page 4)

Roast beef: Domaine de Cause La Lande Cavagnac Malbec (page 15) Smoked ham: Portia Roble (page 8)

Roast turkey: OTU Limited Release Sauvignon Blanc (page 10)



LESS-TRADITIONAL MAINS

Meat lasagna: Castello di Querceto Chianti Classico (page 10) Moussaka: Cabral Reserva (page 15) Shepherd's pie with root vegetables: Quilt Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (page 9) Creamy shrimp scampi: Wines of Substance Chardonnay (page 12)



HEARTY SIDES

Baked acorn squash: Roncolato Amarone della Valpolicella (page 7)

Herbed goat cheese salad: Sidewood Sauvignon Blanc (page 13)

Stuffed potatoes: Familia Conesa La Doncella de las Viñas Tempranillo Crianza (page 13)

Vegetarian casserole: Conde de Haro Brut Cava (page 17)



DESSERTS Pastries, light puddings and cakes: Poças Colheita Port (page 11)



GOLOCAL FOR THANKSGIVING

For wine lovers and those who love to make wine, there's a lot to be thankful for in Ontario.

Ideal conditions combined with the hard work and dedication of Ontario's winemakers have established Niagara and Prince Edward County as world-class wine regions. The people behind the four wines featured here – all perfect pairings for Thanksgiving feasts – offer a little insight into what makes Ontario so special.



Gamay UNFILTERED / NON FILTRÉ

Red With PRODUCT OF CANADA / PRODUIT DU CANADA Vin Rose



LOCAL TALENT



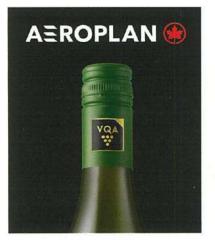
"While our first Gamay vines were planted in 2016, this project began long before that," says Harald Thiel, vigneron and proprietor at Hidden Bench. "We committed to the Lincoln Lakeshore site in 2013. We felt that Gamay was a varietal that performed very well overall in Niagara, and that the lighter soils of the Lincoln Lakeshore sub-appellation were ideally suited to premium wine-growing and precision viticulture. While these vines are still young and we won't know their full potential for decades, the first vintages of wine we have made from this site have been compelling and we look forward to watching them grow and evolve over time. A leaner, more elegant expression of Gamay, the 2021 is immediately approachable and drinking well today but will continue to evolve in the cellar over the next 5 to 7 years."

"The 2021 Vineyard Pinot Noir is a blend of both the Churchside and South Clos vineyards on the estate," says Keith Tyers, Closson Chase winemaker. "Each vineyard adds its own distinctive characteristics to the wine and the slope of the ridge that these two vineyards are located on has great water drainage, sun exposure, and air circulation. Churchside gives us the fruit and floral notes which harmonize well with South Clos's earth and savoury tones. The 2021 harvest was a challenging one, as frequent rains slowed ripening. Thankfully, thinning at veraison helped mitigate sugar loss and we were able to pick mature fruit with good concentration. This vintage created Pinot Noirs with great floral components, persistent red fruit and savoury notes all on a ripe, delicate frame."

"Chardonnay has quickly proven to be a flagship for Niagara that shines on the international stage," says Ed Madronich, owner and president of **Flat Rock Cellars.** "When handled correctly,

Chardonnay translates its terroir from grape to glass exceptionally well. These nuances are maybe best expressed in the wines of the Niagara Escarpment, whose geological benches provide variations of soil, aspect and elevation that turn the region into unique sub-appellations, each with their own distinct characteristics. The diversity of high-quality wines coming from a relatively small area is fuelling the grape's success here. The Flat Rock Vineyard is an extraordinary site. Our proximity to Lake Ontario and the unique geological and climatic conditions here consistently allow Chardonnay as well as Riesling and Pinot Noir (all early-ripening varieties) to achieve optimal maturity."

"Our Limestone Vineyard tends to produce Rieslings with elevated minerality and bright acidity," says Jessica Otting, winemaker at **Tawse**. "Located along the slopes of the Niagara Escarpment,



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it rests on a mix of clay and loam soil over limestone and this parcel is exposed to constant cool breezes. These conditions produce a fruitforward yet fresh and mineral-driven Riesling. Being an early-ripening variety, Riesling performs best in shorter growing conditions such as Niagara's, and the elevated amount of limestone here provides minerality and freshness to the wines, which are qualities not unknown to the best examples from Germany and Alsace. Also, during harvest, the nights remain relatively cool, helping the grapes to retain vivacious acidity. The 2020 vintage was exceptional: dry, hot and sunny, it produced small, tight berries, creating concentrated, rich wines."

finer points

HIDDEN BENCH GAMAY 2021 Unfiltered, VQA Lincoln Lakeshore, Niagara Peninsula

"This is a main-course wine and would pair perfectly with traditional roast turkey as the centrepiece of a holiday meal. The flavours and depth also complement an array of side dishes, flavours and condiments to carry you from appetizer to main to dessert with ease." Harald Thiel

Light-bodied & Fruity 20422 (XD) 750 mL \$29.95 Solution Of Contemposity of C

CLOSSON CHASE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2021 Vegan, unfiltered, VQA Prince

Edward County

"This Pinot screams for traditional roasted turkey with mushroom stuffing and cranberry-orange sauce, all the way!" **Keith Tyers**

Medium-bodied & Fruity 145888 (XD) 750 mL \$37.00 ✔

FOR COMPLETE TASTING NOTES, SEE PAGES 30 TO 31.

FLAT ROCK GOOD KHARMA CHARDONNAY 2021 Sustainable, VOA Niagara Peninsula

"A bottle of 2021 Good Kharma Chardonnay on your table means you'll have a delicious local wine that pairs perfectly with all the seasonal classics, plus you'll be supporting your community at the same time. A win-win!" Ed Madronich

Full-bodied & Rich 356873 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95

TAWSE LIMESTONE RIDGE-NORTH RIESLING 2020 Vegan, VQA Twenty Mile Bench,

Vegan, VOA Twenty Mile Bench Niagara Escarpment

"The Tawse Limestone Ridge Riesling, with its fruity yet crisp character, will pair well with any food at the Thanksgiving table, most importantly butternut squash soup, roasted turkey, sweet-potato casserole, honey-roasted carrot and parsnip." **Sessica Otting**

92 points (nataliemaclean.com) Aromatic & Flavourful 431593 (M) 750 mL \$21.95 ✓ [€] Organic product

Root-to-shoot sustainability

Pelee Island Winery incorporates planet-friendly practices into everything they do.



LCBO SPIRIT OF SUSTAINABILITY

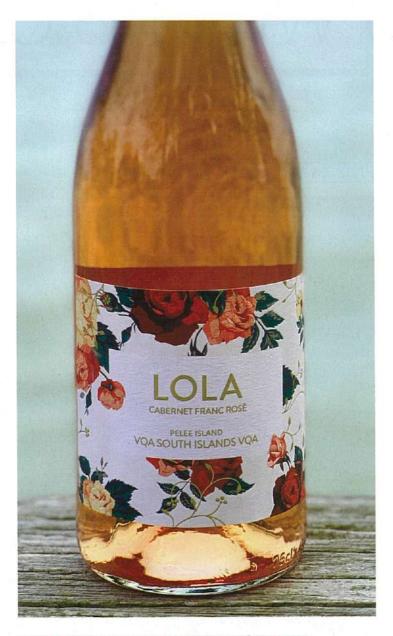
At LCBO, we're focused on building a more sustainable future through an initiative called Spirit of Sustainability. To learn more about SoS and see some of our initiatives, visit LCBO.com/sustainability.

The question of how to tread lightly on the earth and give back to the land that has provided us with so much is one that many grapple with. There is never a single easy answer; the most effective approaches look at every action through a sustainability lens. That's the route Pelee Island Winery has taken.

Their commitment to sustainability is on full display at their winery, which has solar panels on the roof and electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot. Less visible but just as integral are their initiatives within the winery, which include careful management of water use, waste and energy. These big and small choices add up to Sustainable Winegrowing Ontario (SWO) certification in both the vineyard and winery.

To be most impactful, you cannot act alone. Pelee Island Winery recently joined the Porto Protocol: an international non-profit collective of wine industry members committed to sharing knowledge and best practices to mitigate climate change. They are also collaborating with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to restore former agricultural fields on Pelee Island to natural wetland habitats. Revitalized wetlands protect at-risk species such as the monarch butterflies so key for crop pollination, as well as providing critically important water retention and flood mitigation to the local community.

By continually striving to protect their unique habitat, Pelee Island Winery are helping ensure it stays healthy and fruitful for years to come.



PELEE ISLAND LOLA CABERNET FRANC ROSÉ 2022 🌞

Vegan, sustainable, VQA South Islands, Lake Erie North Shore, Ontario

Pelee Island Winery know they have something special. The island is Canada's warmest grape-growing region and is home to many rare and at-risk species. The winery goes to great lengths to employ sustainable practices in-house and engage in local conservation efforts. This crisp, elegant 100% Cabernet Franc rosé shows notes of wildflowers and wild strawberries. Serve chilled alongside chicken souvlaki or eggplant curry.

Easygoing & Fruity 552497 (D) 750 mL \$16.95

VINTAGES WHAT'S ON

A snapshot of exciting events, great wines to try, new collections, special offers and more.

THE ESSENTIALS COLLECTION



LONG-WEEKEND WINES

If you're a cottager, you're likely planning one last trip out of the city for a cozy Thanksgiving weekend. Between closing up for the season and cooking up a turkey with all the fixings for your cottage companions, it will be a busy visit, so we've made things easier for you! Many of our smaller rural stores are still stocked with great wines from the Essentials Collection. With so much choice, it will be easy to please every palate at the table. Check out your local LCBO or order online and have it delivered there, or right to your cottage.

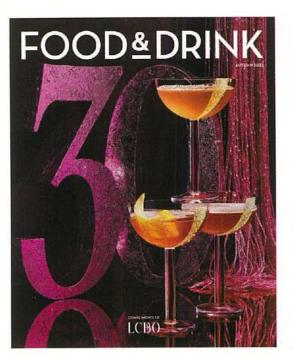
Visit LCBO.com/vintages-summer to see the selection, get food pairing and host-gift ideas, or check inventory.



FIND OUT FIRST

Subscribe to Vintages emails to get a sneak peek at new releases, special offers, events and more. Visit LCBO.com/vintages or scan here.





HAPPY 30th, FOOD & DRINK!

This fall, we're toasting three decades of LCBO's iconic publication. In this very special collector's edition, we revisit and reimagine drinks and dishes from the past; celebrate the present with a look at trailblazing local crafters and their creations; and survey *F&D*'s own contributors and other experts to forecast the future of food and the ever-evolving world of drink.

Pick up a copy in your local LCBO store starting September 13, or view the digital version on LCBO.com. AEROPLAN 🏟

EARN BONUS POINTS WHEN YOU BUY ONTARIO VQA WINES

EARN 25 BONUS POINTS WHEN YOU SPEND \$25; OR EARN 75 BONUS POINTS WHEN YOU SPEND \$50 OR MORE.

Visit LCBO.com/aeroplan for details. Terms and conditions apply.



product notes

Look for this icon to find Ontario VOA and BC wines.

DRINKABILITY INDEX

This index is intended as a guideline and reflects the collective view of our purchasing panel.

DRINK NOW: Enjoy tonight. There is no benefit to cellaring.

DRINK OR HOLD: Can be enjoyed now, but may be matured further by cellaring.

HOLD: This wine may be enjoyed now, but it will develop favourably under ideal cellaring conditions.

SUGAR CONTENT

Residual sugar content (e.g., 5 g/L) is displayed on shelf signs and online (visit LCBO.com and search the product number). Perceived sweetness - ranging from Extra Dry to Sweet or XD. D, M, MS, S - is printed in this catalogue, on shelf signs and online. Please discuss specifics with a Product Consultant.

WINE STYLES

Every wine in this section includes a style (e.g. Full-bodied & Smooth, Aromatic & Flavourful) designed to help you quickly and easily choose products. Visit LCBO.com/winestyles.

ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Wines designated as organic & contain 30 mg/L or less of free sulphur for dry wines (<50 g/L sugar); 35 mg/L or less for sweeter wines (50-99 g/L sugar); 45 mg/L or less for sweet wines (>99 g/L sugar).

ALCOHOL CONTENT

The alcohol/volume content for any product released by Vintages is available online. Visit LCBO.com/vintages and enter the product number into the search field.

Products in this catalogue are available in stores and online in limited quantities.

All reviews, scores, prices and content in this catalogue are accurate and current at time of printing. Prices are subject to change without notice. For up-to-date prices, visit LCBO.com/vintages. All prices include applicable container deposit and HST. Vintages cannot assume responsibility for typographical errors in this catalogue.

BOCAS COLHEITA 2010

FORTIFIED WINE

PORT

POÇAS COLHEITA PORT 2010

Vegan, aged in cask, DOC, Portugal Ripe and juicy in feel, with a bright bing cherry and raspberry pâte de fruit core flanked by dried anise, bergamot and fruitcake flavors. Nice wood spice echo through the lively finish. Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barocca and Tinta Cão. Drink now [or cellar for up to a decade]. Score: 93 (James Molesworth, winespectator.com, Feb. 28, 2021)

Sweet 21813 750 mL \$38.95 🗸 (S) Featured in High Score



CHAMPAGNE

CHÂTEAU DE BLIGNY GRANDE RÉSERVE BRUT ROSÉ CHAMPAGNE AC, France

An excellent value, this finely textured Brut rosé features flavours of soft muddled strawberry and red currant. Perfectly nervy acidity is balanced with a very delicate toastiness. Sophisticated and poised with notable balance. Tasted November 2021. Score: 92 (Sara d'Amato, winealign.com)

Rich & Complex 21290 (XD) 750 mL \$69.95 🗸





DUVAL-LEROY PRESTIGE PREMIER CRU BRUT ROSÉ CHAMPAGNE

AC, France

The NV Duval-Leroy Champagne Premier Cru Prestige Rosé offers a salmon/amber color as well as impressive notes of orange blossoms, dried strawberries, burnt toast, and hints of minerality. Made in a medium-bodied, concentrated, yet elegant style, it has a fine, crisp mousse, and terrific length. It's an impressive rosé that should evolve gracefully. Maturity: 2018-2026. Score: 93 (jebdunnuck.com, March 12, 2018)

Rich & Complex 483107 (XD) 750 mL \$93.95 4

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LANSON LE VINTAGE BRUT CHAMPAGNE 2009 AC, France

From grand and premier cru vineyards, this Champagne comes from a good but not great vintage. That explains its precocious maturity, its fine toastiness and its great balance between a steely texture and nutty flavors. It is a delicious wine now, very much ready to drink. Score: **94** (Roger Voss, *Wine Enthusiast*, Dec. 1, 2020)

Rich & Complex 29949 (XD) 750 mL \$102.95

VEV

LA GIOIOSA ET AMOROSA BRUT PROSECCO DOC Treviso, Italy Notes of sliced apples and lemons with hints of sage and citrus zest. Medium-bodied and creamy

with fine mousse and a fresh, fruity finish. Drink now. Score: **89** (jamessuckling.com, June 4, 2023)

Light & Fruity 32214 (D) 750 mL \$16.95



MONMARTHE SECRET DE FAMILLE 1^{ER} CRU BRUT CHAMPAGNE

AC, France

A solid, simple and fruity champagne here from Monmarthe, certainly an improvement over what I last tasted from this estate a decade ago. There's notable dosage on the palate, but it still comes across as lively and brut, as advertised, if not exactly tight and chiseled. Length and depth are good. Drink or hold short term. Tasted December 2020. Score: **90** (John Szabo, MS, winealign.com)

750 mL \$52.95 🗸

Rich & Complex 624775 (D)



VILLA SANDI VALDOBBIADENE EXTRA DRY PROSECCO SUPERIOR DOCG, Italy



The steep hills of Valdobbiadene are well-known as some of the finest soils to grow the Glera grape, of which most plantings go towards making Prosecco. From celebrated producer Villa Sandi, this Prosecco is crisp and refreshing, displaying a heavy mousse, light floral aromas of acacia oil, and flavours of lemon, honeydew and cream.

[Falstaff.com did not include a tasting note.] Score: **92** (Othmar Kiem & Simon Staffler, falstaff. com, Oct. 17, 2022)

Light & Fruity 32209 (D) 750 mL **\$18.95** 🗸



SPARKLING WINE

NOMAD FIREFLY ROSÉ SPARKLING 2021 * Charmat method, VQA Ontario

(Hinterbrook) The 2021 vintage of this Charmat-method rosé sparkler is composed of 100% Cabernet Franc. It's bright, fresh and cheery, with wonderful aromatic lift and buoyant fruit flavours. The gentle hint of sweetness is balanced by a fine acidity. A refreshing, pleasurable wine for sipping under a sunset or with spicy seafood.

Medium-bodied & Flavourful 20377 (D) 750 mL **\$19.95**



CONDE DE HARO BRUT CAVA 2019 Traditional method, DO, Spain (Muga)

Biscuit, sliced green-apple, lemon-pith and chalk aromas. Excellent freshness with a medium body and very fine bubbles. Nicely done and refined. 70% macabeo and 30% chardonnay. Drink now. Score: **92** (jamessuckling.com, July 14, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Flavourful 168559 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95**



CANADA - WHITE WINE

ONTARIO

FEATHERSTONE CANADIAN OAK CHARDONNAY 2021 *

VQA Ontario

... Wild indigenous yeast is used. Good mid-tone oaky component (it is very easy to say it is midway between French and US oak) from the use of nearby Canadian oak trees. 10% new oak, 90% 1 to 5 year old. Terrific ripe orchard fruit aromas and palate. Plus vanillin and cream after the midpalate leading to citric food-friendly finish. Needs more time for balancing, but then at that moment it will be awesome ... Score: **93** (Dean Tudor, gothicepicures.blogspot.com, June 2, 2023)

Full-bodied & Rich 149302 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95** Featured in *High Score*

FLAT ROCK GOOD KHARMA CHARDONNAY 2021 *

Sustainable, VQA Niagara Peninsula Flat Rock winemaker Dave Sheppard was named Winemaker of the Year at the 2021 Ontario Wine Awards. This fruity, direct Chardonnay offers green apple, lemon, pear and tropical notes. A generous wine in and out of the glass; proceeds from the sale of Good Kharma support Feed Ontario, and to date have provided more than 150,000 meals to Ontarians in need. Drink now through 2026.

Full-bodied & Rich 356873 (XD) 750 mL **\$17.95** Featured in Local Talent



HENRY OF PELHAM SPECK FAMILY RESERVE RIESLING 2022 *

VQA Short Hills Bench, Niagara Escarpment This rich, lifted, generously expressive Riesling comes from vines planted in 1984. It shows lemon, pear, and tropical fruit atop Niagara's precise, refined minerality. A food-friendly wine that will benefit from a further year or more of development but can be enjoyed tonight with barbecued ribs, chicken, pulled pork or seafood. This will evolve into the early 2030s.

Aromatic & Flavourful 643361 (M) 750 mL \$32.95



REDTAIL PINOT GRIS 2021 * VQA Niagara Peninsula

/UA Niagara Peninsula

This Pinot Gris is fermented in stainless steel, preserving even the most delicate of fruit flavours. It saw malolactic fermentation, which rounded out the acidity and added some texture and weight. It all adds up to a creamy, fresh, sippable wine with snappy pear and peach notes. Enjoy this on its own or with seafood or chicken dishes.

Aromatic & Flavourful 35086 (XD) 750 mL \$18.00

TAWSE LIMESTONE RIDGE-NORTH RIESLING 2020 *

Vegan, VQA Twenty Mile Bench, Niagara Escarpment

From Twenty Mile Bench, Niagara Escarpment wine region, Tawse Limestone Ridge-North 2020 Riesling is vegan-friendly and great value at \$22. Limestone Ridge is the most limestone-laden vineyard of Tawse's estate vineyards, and this off-dry, vibrant Riesling is expressive of its terroir with fresh green apple, soft citrus, ripe peach and flinty mineral flavours fresh and lingering on the palate. Chill and enjoy with fish tacos. Drink: 2023-2028. Score: **92** (nataliemaclean.com, March 18, 2023)

Aromatic & Flavourful 431593 (M) 750 mL **\$21.95** Featured in Local Talent & Organic product

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MISSION HILL RESERVE CHARDONNAY 2021 * BC VQA Okanagan Valley

If you haven't yet experienced the dazzling wines of BC's Okanagan Valley, this is a striking introduction. It's a juicy Chardonnay loaded with flavours of fresh fig, honeydew melon, vanilla, tobacco and ripe pear. It will sing with pasta alfredo, grilled-eggplant sandwiches, or baked chicken.

[The National Wine Awards of Canada did not include a tasting note.] Score: **90** (National Wine Awards of Canada, 2023)

Full-bodied & Rich 545004 (XD) 750 mL **\$26.95 Ørganic product**

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CANADA - RED WINE

ONTARIO

CLOSSON CHASE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2021 *

Vegan, unfiltered, VOA Prince Edward County This Pinot was aged for 18 months in French oak, 5% of which was new. It's bright and elegant, with well-framed red flower tones, cherry, strawberry, savoury herbs, sage, earth, and a pleasing mineral counterpoint. A great example of the fine Pinot PEC produced in 2021. Pair with mushroom burgers or grilled duck breast. This has the potential to evolve through 2028+.

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$37.00 145888 **Featured in Local Talent**

HENRY OF PELHAM ESTATE CABERNET/MERLOT 2019 *

Sustainable, VQA Short Hills Bench, Niagara Escarpment

This is a nicely polished, fairly rich and well balanced cab-merlot. Oak is sitting a bit heavy on the nose emitting resin and vanillin, but the raspberry/currant fruit is plentiful as well, along with some typical Niagara greenness. It is medium-full bodied, well balanced with 13% alcohol, firm acid and moderate tannin. As a result it is drinking guite well now, but like many Ontario Bordeaux blends it should also age well. The length is excellent. Score: 90 (David Lawrason, winealign.com, Dec. 15, 2021)

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$27.95 🗸 395855



HIDDEN BENCH GAMAY 2021 *

Unfiltered, VQA Lincoln Lakeshore, Niagara Peninsula

This wine is crafted with a nod to a Beaujolaiscru-style Gamay. It sees nine months in French oak, 14% of which was new and 24% second fill, the rest third fill and older. This regimen allows for oak expression without utter domination of the fruit. The result is a ripe, fresh wine with raspberry, cherry, savoury herbs, subtle smoke and spice. Enjoy through 2026+.

Light-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$29.95 🗸 20422 **Featured in Local Talent** & Organic product



HIDDEN BENCH PINOT NOIR 2021 *

VQA Beamsville Bench, Niagara Escarpment 100% Pinot Noir. Perfumed and fragrant, with bright raspberry, plush strawberry and pretty floral notes, then on to a textured palate of flinty, stony mineral, light spice, violet, small red berry fruit, crunchy blackberry and subtle, fine grained tannins. Score: 95 (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 274753 (XD) 750 mL \$37.95 🗸 **A Vintages Essential** Featured in High Score & Organic product



LEANING POST PINOT NOIR 2021 * VOA Niagara Peninsula

The 2021 is composed of fruit sourced from the Senchuk Vineyard and Grimsby Hillside Vineyard in Lincoln Lakeshore, and the Hemeris Vineyard in the Beamsville Bench. Each vineyard's grapes were fermented separately. The result is a balanced, fresh Pinot, with rich, ripe cherry, raspberry, blackberry, earth and mineral. Showing excellent structure and versatility with food, this wine will continue to evolve through 2026+.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 523183 (XD) 750 mL \$34.95



THE FOREIGN AFFAIR WHISKY BARRELLED CONSPIRACY 2019 * VQA Niagara Peninsula

62% Cabernet Franc, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot. The wine repassed over the skins and lees of the Appassimento red grapes. Deep purpleruby colour; cedary, malty nose of blackcurrant; medium to full-bodied, dry, juicy and succulent cherry and currant flavours; well-balanced, with a tannic lift on the warm alcoholic finish. Score: 90 (tonyaspler.com, July 6, 2021)

26422

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$21.95 🗸



CANADA - RED WINE CONT'D

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MISSION HILL RESERVE MERLOT 2021 * BC VQA Okanagan Valley

Ripe, west coast style, with oak and smoke, blue fruit, bold and blowsy, modest length. Tannins are quite tough – cellar for another year or two. Tasted blind at the NWACs 2023. Score: **90** (John Szabo, MS, winealign.com)

Full-bodied & Firm 553313 (XD) 750 mL **\$31.95**



USA – WHITE WINE

CALIFORNIA

BENZIGER SAUVIGNON BLANC 2021 North Coast

Cold-fermented in stainless steel, this is an intense, elegantly framed Sauvignon Blanc. It's balanced and fresh, with bright citrus, apple, grapefruit and melon. Try this with sushi.

Aromatic & Flavourful 172171 (XD) 750 mL **\$21.95** 🗸



VOLCANIC HILLS MAGMA RED 2020 🍁



Vegan, BC VOA Okanagan Valley This wine is sourced from Volcanic Hills's own estate vineyards in West Kelowna as well as from select growers in Osoyoos. Each grape variety is fermented and barrel aged separately in a mix of French and American oak for 12-16 months, depending on the grape. The resulting wine is charismatic, rich and complex, with black cherry, plum, clove, mint, chocolate and spice.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 32372 (XD) 750 mL **\$26.95**

CANADA - ROSÉ WINE



ONTARIO

PELEE ISLAND LOLA CABERNET FRANC ROSÉ 2022 🍁

Vegan, sustainable, VQA South Islands, Lake Erie North Shore

Pelee Island Winery know they have something special. The island is Canada's warmest grapegrowing region and is home to many rare and at-risk species. The winery goes to great lengths to employ sustainable practices in-house and engage in local conservation efforts. This crisp, elegant 100% Cabernet Franc rosé shows notes of wildflowers and wild strawberries. Serve chilled alongside chicken souvlaki or eggplant curry.

Easygoing & Fruity 552497 (D) 750 mL \$16.95 Featured in Good Partners



CLINE VIOGNIER 2021 North Coast

The North Coast of California provides grapes a moderate amount of sunshine but slightly cooler temperatures than the central and southern reaches of the state. These conditions are ideal for growing Viognier. The mix of extensive daylight and cooling breezes leaves the soft palate and floral aromas intact while bringing out tropical fruit flavours of guava and nectarine.

[The California State Fair did not include a tasting note.] Score: **99** (California State Fair, 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful 128421 (XD) 750 mL **\$19.95** Featured in *High Score*



DOUGH CHARDONNAY 2020 North Coast

Dough offers two needs-based \$2,500 scholarships to students of George Brown College's hospitality and culinary arts programs. This Chardonnay has good tension and structure and is crafted with early enjoyment in mind. It's mostly barrel fermented in French oak, with a small amount fermented in stainless steel. It's rich and fresh, with a crisp, creamy mouthfeel, brightly delineated lemon, pineapple, orange, apple, pie crust and spice. Enjoy through 2024+.

Lough Creeker

Full-bodied & Rich 25598 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95** 🗸

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GRGICH HILLS ESTATE GROWN CHARDONNAY 2019 Napa Valley

... complex and compelling wine. Put aside any preconceptions you might have about contemporary Napa Valley chardonnay; consider instead an agriculture that might include native corn (one taster cited the ethereal sweetness of nixtamalized corn) and stone-fruit orchards (a scent of apricots). There's the smokiness of ancho chile and a scent of woodland mushrooms in the wine's dark-toned leesiness. Then the layers of flavor last, harmonious and delicious. [Drink till 2029+.] Score: **94** (Joshua Greene, wineandspiritsmagazine.com, Oct. 2021)

Full-bodied & Rich 346304 (XD) 750 mL **\$78.95 Ørganic product**



McMANIS CHARDONNAY 2022 Estate grown, River Junction

The River Junction AVA is located in the driest part of the delta created by the confluence of the San Joaquin and Stanislaus rivers. Vines are grown in sandy loam soils and the tiny pocket is, on average, 2-5 degrees cooler than the surrounding areas. Ripe peach, pear, apple and butter tones make this Chardonnay a great match for grilled lobster, chicken or pork chops.

MCMANIS Construction

Full-bodied & Rich 265983 (XD) 750 mL **\$20.95**



READ & BUTTER

USA - RED WINE

BREAD & BUTTER RESERVE

CALIFORNIA

PINOT NOIR 2021

HESS SELECT CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 North Coast

This Cabernet Sauvignon adds a bit of Petite Sirah and Malbec to the mix. The result is an overall well-balanced red that offers approachable layers of complexity. Find notes of black currant, black plum, boysenberry jam, clove, nutmeg, coriander, black licorice and just a hint of barnyard. Best Buy. [Enjoy through 2027+.] Score: **91** (Stacy Briscoe, *Wine Enthusiast*, May 1, 2023)

Full-bodied & Firm 25080 (D) 750 mL **\$29.95**



WASHINGTON

WINES OF SUBSTANCE CHARDONNAY 2020 Columbia Valley

Aromas of candied ginger, baked pear and fresh herbs. Full-bodied with a lovely, oily texture. Layered flavors of chamomile and lavender at the beginning, but turns toward fresh cream and then the note of candied ginger on the nose returns. Linear and balanced. Drink now. Score: **93** (jamessuckling.com, April 22, 2022)

Full-bodied & Rich 16996 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95**



IRONSTONE OLD VINE ZINFANDEL 2020 Mokelumne River, Lodi

This super-popular old-vine Zinfandel comes from vines averaging 40-60 years of age. The 2020 includes 8% Petite Sirah and is ripe and rich, with cherry, blackberry, vanilla, pepper spice, smoke and oak. A great option for grilled ribs, beef stews, or strong cheeses.

Full-bodied & Smooth 951889 (D) 750 mL **\$22.95** 🗸



Russian River Valley, Sonoma County Charming strawberry and red cherry aromas lead to friendly, fruity flavors and a lightly tannic texture in this medium-bodied wine. A sense of sweetness comes with a soothing texture. [Enjoy through 2026.] Score: **90** (Jim Gordon, *Wine Enthusiast*, March 1, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 32815 (XD) 750 mL **\$44.95**

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USA - RED WINE CONT'D

CALIFORNIA

QUILT NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 Napa Valley

(Copper Cane by Joseph J. Wagner) Winemaker Joseph Wagner's expert touch brings layered notes of leather, dark chocolate, espresso, and blackberry to this expressive, concentrated red. As the liquid washes across the palate, a patchwork of earth, dark fruit, and slate melds with the wellconstructed body. [Drink till 2031.] Score: **94** (Meridith May, tastingpanelmag.com, May/June 2022)

Full-bodied & Firm 498808 (XD) 750 mL **\$59.95** Featured in *High Score*



1021

ca Sun

RCABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021 California

(V Vines) This Cabernet Sauvignon was aged for a year in American oak and delivers quite big, bold, juicy blueberry and blackcurrant alongside mocha and spice, with savoury, lifted herbs. It shows good structure and balance and would be excellent with grilled meats.

Full-bodied & Firm 13181 (XD) 750 mL **\$20.95** Featured as our Wine of the Month



Acrobat

OREGON

ACROBAT PINOT NOIR 2021 Oregon

It is difficult to find a good quality Pinot Noir at or under \$20 [USD]. Why? The grape is notoriously finicky in the vineyard and requires handling with kid gloves. This Acrobat Pinot Noir delivers incredible value. Bright red fruit (cranberry and raspberry) and baking spices on the nose all persist through to the palate. A crowd pleaser of a Pinot Noir that is easy on the wallet. Drinking window: [Now]-2024. Score: **90** (Brianne Cohen, decanter.com, Feb. 15, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 421149 (XD) 750 mL **\$26.95**

WASHINGTON

GOLDEN WEST THE PROMISE PINOT NOIR 2020

Royal Slope, Columbia Valley (Charles Smith)

Aromas of fresh strawberries, crushed herbs and violets. Medium-bodied with nice freshness and transparency. Silky tannins. Earnest and charming stuff. Drink now [through 2025+]. Score: **92** (jamessuckling.com, April 22, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 20490 (XD) 750 mL **\$27.95**

JOEL GOTT WASHINGTON RED BLEND 2018

Columbia Valley

Joel Gott Washington 2018 is a dry, full-bodied and concentrated red wine blend of 53% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Syrah, 2% Malbec and 1% Zinfandel sourced from three different appellations in Columbia Valley: the Wahluke Slope, Yakima Valley and Red Mountain, the smallest AVA in the Washington state. The wine was aged in American oak barrels (75% new). Fragrant with blackberry, spiced plum and licorice aromas, on the palate the wine is concentrated with cassis, tart cherry, anise, nutmeg and toasty oak spice with balanced acidity. Tannins are fine and velvety. Enjoy with a roast leg of lamb. Drink: 2022-2026. Score: **91** (nataliemaclean.com, July 15, 2022)

Full-bodied & Smooth 488510 (XD) 750 mL **\$25.95** 🗸

SEA SUN PINOT NOIR 2021 California (Charlie Wagner) From prime ocean-cooled coasta

From prime ocean-cooled coastal sites, this tasty Pinot Noir has excellent bounce and vitality along with finely articulated dark berry, earth, vanilla and spice. It's a layered, appealing wine that brings the sun home and is a great option for grilled beef or roast turkey dinners. Enjoy for another 3-4 years.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 16027 (D) 750 mL **\$24.95**



ALAMOS

Selection



STONECAP CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 Columbia Valley

(Goose Ridge Vineyards)

This ripe, juicy Washington red makes a great introduction to the region and an exciting opportunity for customers seeking great value-priced alternatives to California for their New World Cabs. It shows cherry, cassis, plum, savoury herbs and spice and boasts a long, complex finish. Pair it with your favourite grilled meats or veggies.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 365973 (D) 750 mL \$18.95 <

ARGENTINA - RED WINE

ALAMOS SELECCIÓN MALBEC 2019

La Consulta, Valle de Uco, Mendoza This has a very rich array of ripe blackberries and blueberries with some succulent, juicy plums and blackberries, packed into the palate in an effusive, vibrant mode. Some cocoa powder to close. Drink over the next five years. Score: 92 (jamessuckling. com, April 2, 2020)

Full-bodied & Smooth 322800 (XD) 750 mL \$18.95



SUBSTANCE PN PINOT NOIR 2021 Columbia Valley



The 2021 Pinot Noir PN is spicy and earthy in the glass, reminding me more of food than wine, with notes of savory herbs, tomato leaf and cherry sauce forming its bouquet. This is round and pliant on the palate with ripe red and black fruits that soothe, as sweet inner herbal tones form toward the close. It leaves a pleasant staining of round tannins, as rosy inner florals slowly fade. This is a unique style of Pinot Noir from Washington State, but one that's very easy to like. Drinking window: 2023-2026. Score: 90 (Eric Guido, vinous.com, March 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 32825 (XD) 750 mL \$29.95



TORRONTES

ARGENTINA – WHITE WINE

ZUCCARDI SERIE A TORRONTÉS 2022 Sustainable, Argentina

They have had a parral vineyard rented in Tolombón to produce the only wine not from Mendoza, and that vineyard has always been used for this wine ... fermented in stainless steel and with short maceration to avoid rusticity and look more for the citrus and herbal side of the variety. It ferments in Salta and then is moved to Mendoza, so the wine has no geographical indication on the labels. It comes through as fresh and vibrant, with depth of flavors and very nice precision and clarity. Drink date: 2023-2025. Score: 92 (Luis Gutiérrez, robertparker.com, Nov. 30, 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful 389262 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95



ALTA YARI **GRAN MALBEC 2020**

Gualtallary, Valle de Uco, Mendoza For the Gran Malbec, winemaker Juan Bruzzone opts for vineyards planted with the bush style gobelet system 14 years ago on stony, calcareous soils at an altitude of about 1,500 meters. That's where the malbec is transformed. It stops being the friendly red from warmer zones and becomes a piercing, sharp-angled red with pronounced acidity and notes of red fruits and flowers as well as earthy touches that lend complexity in a wine that is all character and sense of place. [Enjoy through 2035.] Score: 95 (Patricio Tapia, guiad escorchados.cl, 2022)

Full-bodied & Smooth (XD) 750 mL \$24.95 32147



DESQUICIADO CABERNET FRANC 2021 Tupungato, Mendoza

The varietal and fresh 2021 Cabernet Franc comes from Tupungato and was produced in a clean and pure way with moderate ripeness, denoting a cooler year. The grapes were fermented together with some 10% Malbec. It's very tasty, with very fine tannins and an almost salty finish. A bargain. Drink date: 2022-2026. Score: 91 (Luis Gutiérrez, robertparker.com, Nov. 30, 2022)

Full-bodied & Firm (XD) 750 mL \$17.95 32146



13



ARGENTINA - RED WINE CONT'D

TRAPICHE GRAN MEDALLA MALBEC 2019 Valle de Uco, Mendoza

This is a selection of blocks from a vineyard in the Los Árboles zone, near the foot of the first mountain chains of the Andes. The soil is sandy with stones covered in calcium carbonate, and the wine was aged for 12 months. There's something deliciously herbal here that accompanies the ripe red fruits that spread across the palate. The sensation is of cherry juice. The texture is smooth, but still has sharp, fine tannins. One of those typical new-school malbecs focused on fruit and the fresh aromas of the Andes. [Enjoy through mid-2030s.] Score: 94 (Patricio Tapia, guiadescorchados.cl, 2023)

Full-bodied & Smooth 467977 (XD) 750 mL \$32.95



CHILE - WHITE WINE

MATURANA NARANJO TORONTEL **ORANGE WINE 2022** Valle del Maule

A torontel from a vineyard planted more than 90 years ago ... is the base for this delicious orange wine that has been offering a softer and more elegant take on this style since its first vintage in 2016 ... It spent nine months in contact with its skins in concrete eggs, and that has had an impact on its dense and ample body as well as on its candied and ripe flavors. This one is for sea urchins. [A wine that will drink till the end of the decade.] Score: 93 (Patricio Tapia, guiadescorchados.cl, 2023)

Aromatic & Flavourful 556217 (XD) 750 mL \$29.95 🗸



CHILE - RED WINE

CALITERRA TRIBUTO SYRAH 2021

Vegan, single vineyard, DO Valle de Colchagua This meaty, spicy Syrah is made from fruit sourced exclusively from Caliterra's estate plantings. It has powerful aromas of blackberry, smoked meat, cumin and camphor, with prominent black fruit and a mineral tinge. It will pair nicely with a spiced rack of lamb.

Full-bodied & Smooth (XD) 750 mL \$18.95 <





Sustainable, DO Valle del Cachapoal A flattering, approachable red with generous dark fruit and hints of leafy herbs and walnuts. Mediumbodied, supple and creamy with ripe tannins and a juicy finish. Drink now. Score: 90 (jamessuckling. com, April 24, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$21.95 31056



865

CONCHAY TORO CASILLERO DEL DIABLO RESERVA ESPECIAL **CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021** Valle del Maule

Dark raw spices, smoked red chili pepper and some olives to the nicely leafy berries and plums. Quite juicy on the palate with a medium body and tight, nicely chewy tannins. Bright red fruit in the finish. Drink now [through 2026+]. Score: 91 (Zekun Shuai, jamessuckling.com, May 9, 2023)

NEV

Full-bodied & Smooth (XD) 750 mL \$17.95 🗸 30994

SAN PEDRO 1865 SELECTED VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021 Las Piedras, DO Valle del Maipo

A cabernet from terraces in the Maipo Valley - classic soils for the variety in Chile consisting of sand and gravel from the Maipo River near Alto Jahuel in Alto Maipo. It was aged in barrels for 12 months, with 20% new oak, and the result is a cabernet very much from that valley, with herbal touches that gradually give way to earthy and fruity notes. The palate is full of fine tannins, with fresh and lively acidity as well as herbal tones combined with red and black fruits. [Drink till 2027+.] Score: 93 (Patricio Tapia, guiadescorchados.cl, 2023)

Full-bodied & Firm (XD) 750 mL \$19.95 37911 Featured in High Score





AUSTRALIA - WHITE WINE

SIDEWOOD SAUVIGNON BLANC 2021

Sustainable, Adelaide Hills, South Australia Gentle pressing and fermentation using only free-run juice, 4 months in tank for extended lees contact. What do we ask of sauvignon blanc? We ask for this: a wine that combines tension and energy with simply joyous, live-for-the-moment fruit intensity. Kaffir lime, lemon zest, grapefruit, nettle and lemongrass moments dart in, out and around zippy acidity. Scintillating. Trophy Perth Royal Wine Awards '21. Drink by: 2024. Special Value. Score: **95** (Jeni Port, winecompanion.com.au, May 4, 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful 518357 (XD) 750 mL **\$18.95**



AUSTRALIA - RED WINE

ENCHANTED TREE SHIRAZ 2018 South Australia (Quarisa)

This Shiraz is sourced from blocks in the Padthaway and Coonawarra regions. It has a good depth of ripe fruit, with floral and savoury herb tones bracketed by vanilla and spice.

[The China Wine & Spirits Awards did not include a tasting note.] Score: **Double Gold** (China Wine & Spirits Awards, 2020)

Full-bodied & Smooth 540286 (XD) 750 mL \$18.95



IRVINE SPRING HILL SHIRAZ 2020

Barossa, South Australia

This wine is sourced from Irvine's vineyards in Ebenezer and the Eden Valley. It has a robust and exotic character expressed through spicy dark fruit, plum, dark chocolate, coffee, earth and lifted herbal notes. The Eden Valley fruit imparts a generous freshness atop the bright fruit. Drink through 2025+.

[*Wine Showcase Magazine* did not include a tasting note.] Score: **94** (*Wine Showcase Magazine*, June 2021)

Full-bodied & Smooth 25944 (XD) 750 mL **\$21.95** Featured in *High Score*



THOMPSON FOUR CHAMBERS SHIRAZ 2021

Margaret River, Western Australia

This 100% Shiraz is aged for 10 months in new French oak barrels. It's a great example of Margaret River's preference for a more vegetal, savoury style of wine in contrast to its Barossan counterparts. Look for notes of black olive, redcurrant, mocha, dark chocolate, and black pepper, with a smoky finish.

Full-bodied & Smooth 30750 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95



WATKINS LANGHORNE CREEK SHIRAZ 2021 Vegan, sustainable,



NED

Vegan, sustainable, Langhorne Creek, South Australia (S, B & J Watkins) This is an impressive and in its way precise:

This is an impressive and in its way precise shiraz with juiciness and elegance. I wanted more lift and depth for a higher rating but it meets its value quotient very well at \$18. It pours deep purple-ruby. The nose is fairly lifted with cran-cherry fruit, menthol, licorice and vanillin. It is medium-full bodied, quite dense, smooth yet lively with fine tannin. The length is very good to excellent. Tasted July 2022. Score: **89** (David Lawrason, winealign.com)

Full-bodied & Smooth 30751 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95

YALUMBA SAMUEL'S COLLECTION BAROSSA GRENACHE/SHIRAZ/ MATARO 2019



Vegan, Barossa, South Australia Very enticing bouquet, complex, fleshy and fresh with aromas of plums and myriad red berries, black currant then spices, vanilla and moments of clove the dark clay earth suggestions. Dry on the palate with medium+ body, flavours of dark berries and plums are matched by firm tannins and a back bone of acidity surrounded by a judicious level of oak and spice. Plenty of texture and power, a wine best suited to food while still in its youth ... best drinking from 2025 through 2030. Premium. [Decant for one hour to enjoy tonight.] Score: **92** (camdouglas ms.com, March 29, 2023)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30888 (XD) 750 mL **\$26.95**



YALUMBA

BIRDSEL

VEV



NEW ZEALAND - WHITE WINE

AUNTSFIELD SINGLE VINEYARD SAUVIGNON BLANC 2022

Sustainable, Southern Valleys, Marlborough, South Island Exhibiting outstanding fruit purity and vibrancy, the wine shows Granny Smith apple, kiwifruit, jalapeno and white floral aromas on the nose. The concentrated palate displays brilliant focus and drive, leading to a persistent mouth-watering finish. The wine offers terrific precision and varietal expression with textured mouthfeel, making it stylish and engaging. At its best: now to 2030. Score: 95 (Sam Kim, wineorbit.co.nz, Sept. 2022)

Aromatic & Flavourful (XD) 750 mL \$21.95 663286



LAWSON'S DRY HILLS SAUVIGNON **BLANC 2022**

Sustainable, Marlborough, South Island Impressive passionfruit, lemon zest and white flower aromatics with a bright, spicy fruit crunch and a lingering finish. [Drink for another 3+ years.] Score: 92 (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2023)

Aromatic & Flavourful 214460 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95 🗸 & Organic product



JULES TAYLOR

2020

PINOT NOIR

NEW ZEALAND - RED WINE

JULES TAYLOR PINOT NOIR 2020

Sustainable, Marlborough, South Island The wine shows splendid fruit purity together with elegant complexity, delivering Black Doris plum, violet, olive and roasted nut characters with hints of olive and mushroom. It's juicy and beautifully layered on the palate, leading to a persistent silky finish. Harmonious and seductively comforting. At its best: now to 2026. Score: 94 (Sam Kim, wineorbit.co.nz, June 2021)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 329805 (XD) 750 mL \$27.95



SOUTH AFRICA - WHITE WINE

HAMILTON RUSSELL CHARDONNAY 2022 WO Hemel-en-Aarde Valley

This is the Hamilton Russell flagship Chardonnay. It's grown in one of South Africa's most southerly estates in vineyards overlooking the ocean. The 2022 growing season encouraged particularly pronounced pear and lime atop the apple, smoke, plum, and saline minerality. A wine of purity and elegance that is drinking well now and will continue to delight through the early 2030s.

Full-bodied & Rich 931006 (XD) 750 mL \$64.95



OTU LIMITED RELEASE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2021

Sustainable, Marlborough, South Island This is packed with delicious sauvignon flavours, showing passionfruit, green rockmelon, kiwifruit and lime zest aromas on the nose, followed by an impressively flavoured palate displaying juicy fruit intensity together with vibrant acidity, making it hugely appealing. At its best: now to 2025. Score: 95 (Sam Kim, wineorbit.co.nz, Nov. 2021)

Aromatic & Flavourful (XD) 750 mL \$28.95 🗸 17548 Featured in High Score

SOUTH AFRICA - RED WINE

THE WINERY OF GOOD HOPE FULL **BERRY FERMENTATION PINOTAGE 2021** WO Coastal Region

This wine comes from two sites, one in northern Stellenbosch with sandy, decomposed quartz and granite soils, and the other in the weathered granite soils of Voor Paardeberg. Destemmed but not crushed, the grapes underwent spontaneous wild fermentation in stainless steel with the intent of encouraging a less tannic style of Pinotage and emphasizing the wine's vibrant cherry, black fruit, spice and minerality.

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$16.95 15712



CROATIA - RED WINE

CUVÉE BENKOVAC 2021 PDO Coastal (United Stars)

Wines grown in the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia are exposed to extensive sunshine from the long days, leading to wines with a notable black fruit and spicy character. This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah is packed with flavours of blueberry, dark chocolate and black pepper and will make a fine match for a hearty meatloaf.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 359901 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95



WILLIAM FÈVRE CHAMPS ROYAUX CHABLIS 2020 AC

From purchased grapes, Champs Royaux is an historic mark created in the past by William Fèvre. 5% is fermented in old wood from Bouchard, with the rest in steel. Lovely notes of confit lemon here, very good acidity and minerality. A complex, saline, age-worthy Chablis which will go beautifully with food. Drinking window: 2022-2025. Part of AOP Chablis 2020: Top-Scoring Wines. Score: **91** (Andy Howard, MW, decanter.com, Dec. 1, 2021)

Light & Crisp

461640 (XD) 750 mL \$34.95 🗸



FRANCE - WHITE WINE

ALSACE

WILLM RÉSERVE PINOT BLANC 2021 AC Alsace

Maison Willm has been one of the most trusted names of characteristically Alsatian wines for over 120 years. This Pinot Blanc is a lovely example of the supple, refreshing character that Alsace produces, with notes of white peach, lemon zest, raw almonds and elderflower. Pair with tarte flambée or a charcuterie spread that includes cream cheese.

Light & Crisp 667774 (XD) 750 mL **\$16.95**



BURGUNDY

MAISON ROCHE DE BELLENE VIEILLES VIGNES BOURGOGNE CHARDONNAY 2021 AC

This is fairly light, fresh and tender chardonnay with nicely generous ripe yellow apple/peach, lemon, a hint of butter and subtle oak spicing. It is medium weight with a sense of juiciness and bite, but also warmth and richness. The length is very good to excellent, with some hazelnut joining the finish. Tasted January 2023. Score: **91** (David Lawrason, winealign.com)

Full-bodied & Rich 299867 (XD) 750 mL \$35.95



LANGUEDOC

ALTUGNAC TERRES AMOUREUSES 2021 AP Limoux

(Collovray et Terrier)

Sourced from vines grown on southeastern-facing slopes along the Pyrenees, this blend of Chardonnay and a splash of Mauzac shows lovely tree fruit, fine minerality, and a subtle toasted character reminiscent of wines grown in southern Côte de Beaune. With flavours of green pear, flint and toasted oak, it will make a fine accompaniment to grilled cod.

Full-bodied & Rich 16413 (XD) 750 mL **\$26.95**



DOMAINE LES SALICES VIOGNIER 2021 IGP Pays d'Oc

(François Lurton)

This supple, easy-drinking Viognier is sourced from vines grown in the limestone and clay-laden plateau of Minervois. It shows highly perfumed aromas of rose petal, freshly cut white flowers, peach and toasted hazelnuts. Soft on the palate with a light zip of acidity, this will fare well with roasted eggplant or fennel salad.

Full-bodied & Rich 14031 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95 🗸 VEV

NEW



FRANCE - WHITE WINE CONT'D

LOIRE

CHÂTEAU LA PERRIÈRE MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE SUR LIE 2021 AC

Wines from the Muscadet region are made from the Melon de Bourgogne grape, which is known for its bracing acidity and lightly saline character. Muscadet wines are bred for pairing with seafood and show flavours of lime and green apple, with a hint of bread dough from ageing on the lees. Pour this racy white with mussels and add a dash of it to the sauce for a truly harmonious pairing.

Light & Crisp

30099 (XD) 750 mL \$14.95 🖉



FRANCE - RED WINE

BORDEAUX

CHÂTEAU HAUT-VEYRAC 2018 AC Saint-Émilion Grand Cru

The 2018 Haut-Veyrac has a lot to offer. Inky red fruit, blood orange, mocha, spice, rose petal and mint all run through the 2018. Haut-Veyrac is rich and textured, yet offers terrific energy as well. Floral and spice overtones reappear, lifting the finish nicely. All the elements are so nicely balanced. Drinking window: 2025-2038. Score: **93** (Antonio Galloni, vinous.com, March 2021)

Full-bodied & Firm

30137 (XD) 750 mL \$37.95 🖛



CHÂTEAU MAGNOL 2018 Vegan, sustainable, AC Haut-Médoc

(Barton & Guestier)

So scented and floral on the nose, the Cabernet Franc really standing out and expressing itself despite being only 5% of the blend. There is a clear richness and ripeness to the fruit – the plush, crushed velvet texture holding up the blackcurrant and black cherry flavours. A touch jammy but staying just the right side with quite fine, slightly tight tannins that give a push-pull between fruit density and tension, closing down the structure slightly ... Feels finessed and has an air of elegance to it. Drinking window: 2023-2027. Score: **90** (Georgina Hindle, decanter.com, Aug. 25, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 384271 (XD) 750 mL **\$26.95** Featured in *High* Score



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MARSANNAY



DOMAINE DE LA BOURONIÈRE FLEURIE 2019 AC



The attractive red-cherry fruit and the pleasantly dry tannins that counterpoint it make this a satisfying, traditional-style Beaujolais that will shine with fatty or oily foods, thanks to its rather long, crisp finish. From organically grown grapes with Terra Vitis certification. Drink now. Score: **90** (jamessuckling. com, July 14, 2021)

Light-bodied & Fruity 29831 (XD) 750 mL **\$25.95**

BURGUNDY

MARCHAND-TAWSE MARSANNAY 2020 Unfined, unfiltered, AC

(Pascal Marchand)

Aged for 17 months in 15% new French oak barrels, this well-structured, balanced wine retains the robust red and black fruit and hint of smoky minerality that come from clay and limestone soils and extensive barrel ageing. Meant for the long haul, it will offer lovely aromas of red cherry, wild blueberry, cinnamon, truffles, and toasted oak and will drink favourably from 2024 onwards.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 648345 (XD) 750 mL **\$54.95**

LANGUEDOC

CHÂTEAU L'ESPARROU PRESTIGE 2020



Sustainable, AC Côtes du Roussillon (Bonfils)

Dark garnet with a developed rim. Some hints of oak ageing and a certain development, vanilla, toast and sweet red fruit notes. Rounded and supple palate, generous fruit with jammed plum and red berry notes with an oak derived spiciness, warm and rounded finish. Score: **89** (Andreas Larsson, tasted.wine, Jan. 3, 2023)

Full-bodied & Smooth 31691 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95





RHÔNE

FAMILLE PERRIN LES CHRISTINS VACQUEYRAS 2020 AC

A prominent name in Côtes du Rhône winemaking, Famille Perrin produce wines that reflect the characteristics of their region. Primarily Grenache with a splash of Syrah, this red blend is rich yet rustic, with bold notes of grilled plum, blueberry, leather and violets. Pour it alongside a sumptuous meal that can match its weight, such as a rack of ribs or beef stew.

Full-bodied & Smooth 973453 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95**



M. CHAPOUTIER PETITE RUCHE CROZES-HERMITAGE 2020 AP

The 2020 Crozes Hermitage La Petite Ruche is a real gem in the vintage, offering juicy darker fruits, some classic peppery, gamey, bacon fat-like characteristics, medium body, supple tannins, and a clean, lengthy finish. All destemmed and brought up mostly in concrete, it would make one screaming good house red to drink over the coming 2-4 years, if not longer. Drink date: 2022-2027. Score: **90** (jebdunnuck.com, Dec. 15, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 264655 (XD) 750 mL \$32.95



ROUSSILLON

LAFAGE NARASSA 2020

IGP Côtes Catalanes A blend of Grenache and Syrah, generally in about a 4:1 ratio, the 2020 IGP Cotes Catalanes Narassa features appealing, complex aromas of violets and plummy fruit, reminiscent of blackberries and blueberries. Picked as two separate harvests – one in September and one in November – and then blended, this is full-bodied, richly concentrated and fleshy, with a velvety finish that shows a touch of warmth. It's winter-weight wine, for sure. Drink date: [Now]-2028. Score: **91** (Joe Czerwinski, robertparker.com, March 31, 2023)

Full-bodied & Smooth 483313 (D) 750 mL **\$24.95**





CHÂTEAU PEYROS HÉRITAGE TANNAT/CABERNET FRANC 2019 AC Madiran

(Famille Lesgourgues)

A straightforward blend of Tannat and Cabernet Franc offers both firm tannins and perfumed black fruits. The wine is powered by its dark, young structure and licorice flavors. Drink from 2025. Score: **89** (Roger Voss, *Wine Enthusiast*, Oct. 1, 2022)

YROS

Full-bodied & Firm 208249 (XD) 750 mL \$18.95



DOMAINE DE CAUSE LA LANDE CAVAGNAC MALBEC 2018 AP Cahors



This is a massive and dense wine. Powerful tannins dominate solidly textured black fruits in a wine that shows concentration from the old-vine Malbec. This is a wine to age for several years, so don't drink before 2024. Cellar Selection. Score: **93** (Roger Voss, *Wine Enthusiast*, July 1, 2021)

Full-bodied & Firm 30989 (XD) 750 mL **\$23.95** -Featured in *High Score*

FRANCE - ROSÉ WINE

RHÔNE

CHÂTEAU D'AQUÉRIA TAVEL ROSÉ 2022 Cru des Côtes du Rhône, AP (Jean Olivier)



The estate of Aquéria employs an impressively complex proprietary process in the creation of their one and only wine ... The result is a complex cornucopia of red fruit and flora that include strawberry, candied cherry, white peach, starfruit, dragon fruit, thyme and rose. Marked by a hot, drought vintage, the 2022 vintage shows more concentration than the norm. Drink now or hold another 2-3 years. Tasted April 2023. Score: **92** (Sara d'Amato, winealign.com)



Medium-bodied & Dry 319368 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95 🗸 NEN

NEV



GERMANY - RED WINE

PFALZ

NEISS BOCKENHEIM PINOT NOIR 2019 Vegan, sustainable

This wine is sourced from vines rooted in slate soil with deep reserves of chalk in the far north area of Pfalz. The result is a fruity, earthy Pinot reminiscent of a red from the Loire Valley, with hints of raspberry, cinnamon, and potting soil.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 25769 (XD) 750 mL **\$30.95**



GREECE - WHITE WINE

THYMIOPOULOS ATMA WHITE XINOMAVRO/MALAGOUSIA 2021 Greece

This blend of Xinomavro and Malagousia comes from Decanter's 2022 Rising Star recipient, Apostolos Thymiopoulos. Thymiopoulos is almost singlehandedly responsible for the global excitement around Naoussa and Xinomavro. This refreshing white has suggestions of white flowers, peach, lemon and jasmine. Sip and enjoy with charcuterie.

Aromatic & Flavourful 33249 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95 🗸



LAGOUSIA

WINE ART ESTATE PLANO MALAGOUSIA 2022 PGI Drama



Fragrant nose of melons, green apples, guava, lemons and almond blossom. Fresh and floral with a mineral stony twist, too. Medium body and lovely sleek texture. Drink now. Score: **91** (jamessuckling. com, June 4, 2023)

Aromatic & Flavourful 33256 (XD) 750 mL **\$23.95**



GREECE - RED WINE

THYMIOPOULOS YOUNG VINES XINOMAVRO 2020 IGP Macedonia

Apostolos Thymiopoulos, the winemaker behind this superb Xinomavro, was named the *Decanter* Rising Star in 2022. This wine is a blend of fruit sourced from sites on both the warmer lower and cooler upper slopes of Mount Vermio, where altitude and cooling breezes aid in the balanced, even ripening of the grapes. Look for ripe red fruit and savoury herbs, with a crisp acidity.

Medium-bodied & Fruity 466474 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95 **Organic & biodynamic product**



ITALY - WHITE WINE

PIEDMONT

BERSANO GAVI DI GAVI 2021 DOCG

Where northeastern Italy has Pinot Grigio, northwestern Italy has Cortese: a crisp, delicate white grape used for making Gavi. This lovely wine from one of the most trusted producers in northwestern Italian winemaking has zippy acidity and a refreshing taste, finishing with notes of Meyer lemon, ripe apricot, and green almonds. Enjoy with sweetpotato-stuffed pesto ravioli.

[Luca Maroni tasting note not available.] Score: **91** (lucamaroni.com, July 19, 2022)

Light & Crisp 999979 (XD) 750 mL **\$22.95**



SÜDTIROL-ALTO ADIGE

KELLEREI BOZEN PINOT GRIGIO 2022

Sustainable, DOC Südtirol – Alto Adige Grown in the gravelly alluvial soils of Alto Adige, this Pinot Grigio is bright and fresh, with the distinct mineral character commonly found in the region. Flavours of lemon, yellow pear and honeydew spill from the glass and concentrate on the mid-palate for a mellow, satisfying drink. Pair this with hard cheese and green olives.

Light & Crisp 249466 (XD) 750 mL **\$21.95**



ITALY - RED WINE

BASILICATA

PIANO DEL CERRO 2019 DOC Aglianico del Vulture (Farnese)

The Vulture region in Basilicata has been making waves the past few decades with their sumptuous. savoury red grape, Aglianico. Bold, gamey and smoky, this fine example is best enjoyed slow to appreciate the fine-grained tannins, round mouthfeel, and flavours of red plum, white pepper, smoked meat and dried herbs.

[Luca Maroni tasting note not available.] Score: 97 (lucamaroni.com, July 23, 2021)

Full-bodied & Smooth 17570 (D) 750 mL \$31.95 🗸



TANAD

FONTANAFREDDA

BARBERA

D'ALBA

PIEDMONT

CASCINA CHICCO ROCCHE DI CASTELLETTO BAROLO 2017 DOCG

Violet, forest floor, tobacco and new leather aromas lead the way. The savory, balanced palate features fleshy black cherry, raspberry jam, licorice and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023-2032. Score: 93 (Kerin O'Keefe, Wine Enthusiast, Oct. 1, 2021)

Full-bodied & Firm (XD) 750 mL \$57.95 🗸 17697



PUGLIA

FILI D'ERBA NERO DI TROIA 2019

IGT Puglia

Beautiful red tinged with purple-blue. Nose of heady red fruits with a cherry in brandy tone. Freshness and polished tannins keep the palate compelling. This is a wine with a fruity finish, pairing with grilled foods. Score: Gold (gilbert

NEI



Fili d'erbai

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$20.95 🗸 32520 & Organic product

SICILY

FEUDO MACCARI NOTO NERÉ NERO **D'AVOLA 2020** DOP

Plenty of crushed mulberry and blackberry aromas with hints of fresh herbs. Medium bodied with medium, round tannins and a delicious finish. Ironlike undertones. Shows a nice balance of light tannins and freshness, as in recent vintages. Drink and enjoy. Score: 91 (jamessuckling.com, Aug. 17, 2022)

Full-bodied & Smooth 339101 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95 Organic product

TUSCANY

CASTELLI DEL GREVEPESA CLEMENTE VII **RISERVA CHIANTI CLASSICO 2018** Sustainable, DOCG

Bright red-berry and stony-mineral character to this with a tinge of vanilla accompanying the fruit from start to finish. Medium- to full-bodied with still quite tight tannins and the same blend of vivid, creamy red berry through the finish. Nicely proportioned. Drink or hold [to 2030]. Score: 93 (jamessuckling. com, Aug. 9, 2022)

Full-bodied & Firm 643205 (XD) 750 mL \$24.95

FONTANAFREDDA **BARBERA D'ALBA 2020** DOC

Though rich and full of black cherry and blackberry fruit, this red is also vibrant and well-defined, with flashes of roasted almond, chocolate and mineral. Balanced, energetic and long. Drink now through 2026. Score: 90 (Bruce Sanderson, winespectator. com, Dec. 15, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 17530 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95





Castello Querceto

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ITALY - RED WINE CONT'D

TUSCANY

CASTELLO DI QUERCETO CHIANTI CLASSICO 2020 DOCG

Black cherries and lemons on the nose. Honeysuckle, too. It's medium-bodied with firm, chewy tannins and a fresh finish. A little hard now, but should soften with time. Give it a year or two in the bottle. Try in 2024. Score: **92** (jamessuckling.com, July 4, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 680496 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95** -Featured in *High* Score



FAMIGLIA CASTELLANI SANGIOVESE 2019 IGT Toscana

Perfumed nose of cedar, spearmint, morello cherry, vanilla and lemon verbena. Medium-bodied with polished tannins. Spicy character with ambitious new wood. Mocha at the end. Better after 2023. Score: **91** (jamessuckling.com, Aug. 8, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity

14374	(D)	750 mL	\$23.95	-
27				



IL PALAGIO WHEN WE DANCE CHIANTI 2021 DOCG

From the Valdarno area east of Chianti Classico and a sangiovese accented by small splashes of canaiolo and colorino. Named after Sting's song "When We Dance" and the allusion to the idea that "angels will run and hide their wings." The song was released in 1999 and funny because this '21 and many Chianti from the vintage are reminiscent of those from 1999. Free and generous wines they are, exemplary of the land and place, pure at heart, flowing, graceful and loving. This is a lovely wine. Drink 2022-2024. Tasted November 2022. Score: **90** (Michael Godel, winealign.com)

Full-bodied & Smooth 14008 (XD) 750 mL **\$25.95**



VITICCIO MORELLINO DI SCANSANO 2018 DOCG

85% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot. A juicy nose with plenty of bright red and black cherry fruit and attractive pepper and sage nuances. Refreshing, unforced and expressive, lovely wine. Score: **95** (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2021)

Full-bodied & Firm 574186 (XD) 750 mL **\$24.95** Featured in *High Score*

UMBRIA

LUNGAROTTI L'Um UMBRIA ROSSO 2020 IGT

One of Umbria's most celebrated producers, Lungarotti craft wines that are designed to showcase the intricate style of this underappreciated region. Warm, spicy and robust, this blend of Sangiovese and Merlot shows fine-grained tannins wrapped around a core of dark cherry, black licorice, and espresso beans.

[Luca Maroni tasting note not available.] Score: **98** (lucamaroni.com, March 31, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 476002 (M) 750 mL \$19.95

VENETO

LUCIANO ARDUINI BACAN ROSSO VERONESE 2020 IGT

This soft, easygoing Veronese blended red is made with native varieties Corvina (70%) and Teroldego (30%) and has supple tannins and hints of black cherry, toasted almonds, cinnamon and vanilla. Pair this relaxed red with creamy pasta dishes or mature cheeses.

[Luca Maroni tasting note not available.] Score: **97** (lucamaroni.com, Aug. 30, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 10126 (XD) 750 mL \$17.95





LUCIANO ARDUINI RIPASSO VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE 2020 DOC

A robust, aromatic blend of Corvina (60%), Corvinone (20%) and Rondinella (20%), this lovely Valpolicella is equal parts savoury and delicate, with rich dark fruit flavours accentuated by fine floral aromas and an extended finish. With its mild tannins and rich mouthfeel, this will pair well with mushroom pasta or spicy antipasti.

[Luca Maroni tasting note not available.] Score: **98** (lucamaroni.com, May 12, 2022)

Full-bodied & Smooth 12407 (XD) 750 mL \$21.95 **/** Featured as our Wine of the Month



MASI COSTASERA RISERVA AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO 2017 DOCG

... 70% corvina, 15% rondinella, 10% oseleta and a dash of molinara. Oseleta's thick, skin-heavy solid-to-liquid ratio serves as a bulwark against a warming climate, imparting tannins and very bright acidity. A fine variety, serving a warming region well while adding a sense of completion to the blend ... This is excellent. Dense as much as it is remarkably sprightly and fresh. Aromas of pine, fennel and layers of maraschino cherry, damson, balsamic, polished leather and high quality bitter chocolate. Finishes pithy, firm and nobly bitter. Drink or hold. Score: **96** (Ned Goodwin, MW, jamessuckling.com, May 9, 2023)

Full-bodied & Firm 324137 (D) 750 mL \$79.95



RONCOLATO AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA 2015 DOCG

This is a statuesque wine defined by a stream of juicy plum and red cherry fruits. It is graceful and seamless, with depth and length of flavour perfectly integrated, and tannin equally so. Long and moreish finish. Score: **97** (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2020)

Full-bodied & Smooth 22997 (D) 750 mL \$47.95 **/** Featured in Hand-Picked Gifts and High Score



ZENATO VALPOLICELLA SUPERIORE 2020 DOC

Super-clean aromas of spicy red fruit and perfumed oak follow through to a medium-bodied palate with well-integrated tannins and a well-ordered finish. All nicely in place. Drink now. Score: **91** (james suckling.com, May 5, 2023)

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PORTUGAL - WHITE WINE

CABRAL RESERVA 2020 DOC Douro

Medium-bodied & Fruity

995704 (D) 750 mL \$20.95

Aromatic, floral, inviting. Flavors reminiscent of peaches and grapefruit on a rather oily texture. Juicy with good acidity. Leaves a nice mouthfeel. Grape varieties: viosinho; arinto; rabigato; and gouveiro. Score: **2.5 out of 3** (Marc André Gagnon, vinquebec.com, Aug. 9, 2022)

NEV

Aromatic & Flavourful 35446 (XD) 750 mL **\$14.95** Featured in *High Score*

PORTUGAL - RED WINE

GUADALUPE RED 2020 Vinho Regional Alentejano (Quinta do Quetzal)

Portugal is well-known for making robust wines from blends of their numerous native grape varieties. This powerful blend of 40% Aragonez, 40% Trincadeira and 20% Alfrocheiro shows the rustic yet rich character their grapes can achieve, with aromas of dark cherry, black licorice, pipe tobacco and wet earth. Serve alongside lamb chops or pasta bolognese.

GUADALUPE

2020

Medium-bodied & Fruity 336313 (XD) 750 mL **\$14.95**



SPAIN - RED WINE

GARNACHA DE LA MADRE 2018

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla (Más Que Vinos)

I was really surprised by the floral and elegant nose ... The vines are in a cooler place, and they ripen slowly and are picked late with fully developed aromas and flavors but, curiously enough, not with a very dark color. It talks about a short maceration and an élevage in concrete for 12 months, which has respected the primary character of the wine while it's also polished and complex. The finest vintage for this wine so far. Drink date: 2022-2028. Score: **93+** (Luis Gutiérrez, robertparker.com, April 29, 2022)

Full-bodied & Smooth 18927 (XD) 750 mL \$19.95



EL PETIT BONHOMME 2020

Vegan, DOP Jumilla (Les Vins Bonhomme) Blackberries, cassis, cherries and sweet spices. Medium body with sleek tannins. Round and juicy with fruity character and a spicy finish. A blend of monastrell, garnacha and syrah. Vegan. Drink now. Score: **90** (jamessuckling.com, Nov. 4, 2021)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 16578 (XD) 750 mL \$16.95



FAMILIA CONESA LA DONCELLA DE LAS VIÑAS TEMPRANILLO CRIANZA 2020

DOP Castilla La Mancha

Reductive, especially for tempranillo, requiring forceful aeration to settle things down and release the charm. Otherwise there is a good dose of black cherry fruit, quite properly ripe which leads to thoughts of cool climate tempranillo in a world where we imagine it's always hot, sunny and dry ... Solid and scrupulous tempranillo indeed. Drink 2024-2027. Tasted May 2023. Score: **90** (Michael Godel, winealign.com)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30255 (D) 750 mL \$16.95 -Featured in *High Score* & Organic product



MILCAMPOS VIÑAS VIEJAS TEMPRANILLO 2019

DO Ribera del Duero (La Milagrosa)

(La Milagrosa) A soft, pretty red with plum, chocolate and cherry. Medium to full body, round and creamy tannins and a juicy finish. Shows polish and balance. Drink or

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30229 (XD) 750 mL **\$19.95**

hold. Score: 93 (jamessuckling.com, Nov. 2, 2020)



J. NAVASCUES

MURVIEDRO SERICIS CEPAS VIEJAS MONASTRELL 2017 Vegan, DOP Alicante

Fleshy sour cherries with baked licorice and oregano. A rich and flavorful monastrell with juicy fruit on the medium-bodied palate with quite polished tannins. A hint of coffee, spice and damsons in the finish. Vegan. Drink now. Score: **91** (jamessuckling.com, Sept. 9, 2022)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30242 (D) 750 mL \$15.95

NAVASCUÉS ENOLOGÍA CUTIO GARNACHA 2019 DO Cariñena



VEV

... mostly Garnacha with some 15% Cariñena at some 690 meters in altitude. It fermented destemmed in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in underground concrete vats lined with epoxy. This feels deeper and more serious than the 2018; there's more wine, the texture is velvety and the tannins are fine grained and chalky. It became more and more floral as the wine sat in the glass, becoming also spicy with some white pepper notes. It's medium-bodied, balanced and long. A bargain. Drink date: 2022-2026. Score: **92** (Luis Gutiérrez, robertparker.com, Nov. 11, 2021)

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30586 (XD) 750 mL \$16.95



TRANS CRIANZAR RIOJA

OLARRA CERRO AÑÓN CRIANZA 2019 DOCa Rioja

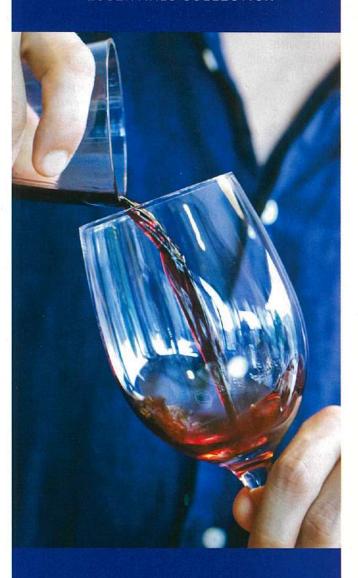
90% Tempranillo, 5% Garnacha, 5% Mazuelo. This has mid-intensity oak, red fruit vividness and a sour-sweet strawberry compote character. Toothsome and appetising with a tangy finish and sandy-grained tannins. Score: 92 (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2021)

VE I

E

Medium-bodied & Fruity 30224 (XD) 750 mL \$14.95

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PORTIA ROBLE 2019 DO Ribera del Duero

100% Tempranillo. Blackberry nose with a hint of incense. Very soft, ripe and complex fruit with huge concentration, supported by firm tannins. Very long, oaky finish. Score: 94 (Decanter World Wine Awards, 2021)

Medium-bodied & Fruity (XD) 750 mL \$18.95 🗸 30231 Featured in High Score



PRADOREY FINCA LA MINA RESERVA 2017

Single vineyard, DO Ribera del Duero Tempranillo from vineyards above 800m on sandy loam soils planted in 1989 and 1991 in Ribera Del Duero. From a hot and arid vintage out of which experienced wines do well to not merely survive but thrive. Both full and burgeoning with texture and spice made readily averrable after 12 months in deliverable barrel. The created effect is filled with coffee and dark chocolate but also piques of pepper on the fruit at moments when this is made available. Classic really, with purposed acids, a decade worth of tannins and plenty of length. Drink 2023-2027. Tasted May 2022. Score: 91 (Michael Godel, winealign.com)

Full-bodied & Smooth 995191 (XD) 750 mL \$35.95 🖉



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CONUNDRUM RED California (Charles F. Wagner, prop.) 294298 (D – 12 g/L) 750 mL \$24.95 NOW \$21.95 Save \$3.00

DANDELION VINEYARDS LIONHEART OF THE BAROSSA SHIRAZ Barossa, South Australia 167189 (XD – 3 g/L) 750 mL \$23.95 NOW \$20.95 Save \$3.00 SANTA MARGHERITA PINOT GRIGIO DOC Valdadige, Alto Adige, Italy 106450 (XD - 2 g/L) 750 mL \$22.95 NOW \$20.95 Save \$2.00

SONOMA-CUTRER RUSSIAN RIVER RANCHES CHARDONNAY Sonoma Coast, Sonoma County, California 608653 (XD – 3 g/L) 750 mL \$29.95 NOW \$27.95 Save \$2.00

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EL GORÚ MONASTRELL/ SYRAH/PETIT VERDOT DOP Jumilla, Spain (Bodegas Ego) 443945 (D – 5 g/L) 750 mL \$15.95 NOW \$14.95 Save \$1.00

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· Classic European wine regions

WINES OF THE MONTH

LA FERME DU MONT LE PONNANT CÔTES DU RHÔNE-VILLAGES 2021 AP, Rhône, France (171371)

CATENA PARAJE ALTAMIRA MALBEC 2020 Paraje Altamira, Valle de Uco, Mendoza, Argentina (492413)

HAND-PICKED GIFTS

WAPISA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020 San Javier, Río Negro, Patagonia, Argentina (10970)

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DOCG, Veneto, Italy

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22997 (D) 750 mL 🗸

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Full-bodied & Smooth

97 points (Decanter World Wine Awards) Featured in *High Score*

FOR COMPLETE TASTING NOTE, SEE PAGE 45.

IN THIS RELEASE

Round, juicy, fruity and spicy. See page 46. This appealing wine brings the sun home. See page 34. Approachable, complex fruit and spice. See page 33.



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