

Wine Spectator

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TOP 100 WINE OF THE YEAR



U.S. Sparkling Wine
Australia Tasting Report
Klein Constantia Retrospective

Aussie Rules

A few familiar names highlight this group of Australian wines. John Duval is the former winemaker at Penfolds, who founded his own label in 2003. Leeuwin is well-known for its vibrant whites from Western Australia.

JOHN DUVAL Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Compono 2021 (94, \$40) Aromatic, distinctive; amaretto, morello cherry, framboise, red licorice, caraway, cumin, tobacco

PENFOLDS Shiraz South Australia Bin 28 2022 (93, \$40) Framboise, cherry, pomegranate, vanilla, almond nougat, milk chocolate, cedar, Saigon cinnamon, clove; ripe, fleshy

LONGVIEW Shiraz-Barbera Adelaide Hills Vista 2021 (91, \$18) Plush, juicy; maraschino cherry, raspberry, kirsch, cedar, black licorice, fennel, star anise, chai tea, milk chocolate, tobacco

BURGE FAMILY Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Corryton Burge 2022 (90, \$19) Blackberry, huckleberry, cassis, spearmint, bittersweet chocolate, licorice, toasted herbs; velvety, seamless

FIRST DROP Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale Mother's Ruin 2020 (90, \$20) Juicy, fresh; raspberry, blueberry, mulberry, mint, tobacco, chai tea, star anise

LEEUWIN Riesling Margaret River Art Series 2023 (90, \$22) Lime sherbet, pomelo, lemongrass, grated ginger; refreshing, focused

LEEUWIN Sauvignon Blanc Margaret River Siblings 2023 (90, \$21) Fragrant, juicy; passion fruit, pear, lime zest, fennel seed, lemon sorbet

Spanish Delights

All of the wines in this selection from Spain deliver excellent value. The southern reds are more robust and fruity, while the Riojas reveal savory, spicy notes. The white Rioja is a blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Viura and Malvasia.

BODEGAS ALTO MONCAYO Garnacha-Shiraz Campo de Borja Gruñón 2018 (92, \$30) Supple; dried strawberry, cranberry, pomegranate, red licorice, mineral

BODEGAS ALTO MONCAYO Garnacha-Tempranillo Campo de Borja Barambán Edición Limitada 2021 (91, \$28) Black raspberry, cherry, smoke, toast, herbs, espresso, mineral; rich

VIÑA DEL LENTISCO Rioja Alavesa Villota Selvanevada 2022 (91, \$25) Fragrant, plump; black plum, raspberry, lavender, rooibos tea leaf, vanilla, dusty spices

BODEGAS ALTO MONCAYO Garnacha Campo de Borja Zismero 2022 (90, \$20) Plum, mulberry, black cherry, tarragon, hot stone; juicy, well-defined

CAPCANES Catalunya Mas Picoso de Flor en Flor 2022 (90, \$18) Fresh, generous, briary; red currant, cherry, mulberry, wild herbs, woody spices, smoke, iron

BODEGAS EGO Monastrell-Syrah-Petit Verdot Jumilla Don Baffo 2022 (90, \$22) Balanced, well-knit, supple; plum skin, dried cranberry, black tea, mineral, spices

BODEGAS SIERRA CANTABRIA Rioja White 2023 (90, \$25) Poached pear, lemon oil, Marcona almond, beeswax, jasmine, cardamom; sleek, lacy

VIRGEN DEL GALIR Godello Valdeorras Val do Galir A Malosa-Éntoma 2023 (90, \$22) Sleek, mineral; ripe pear, melon, lemon oil, almond

European Vacation

Italy, France and Germany are represented by this roundup of reds and whites. From Bordeaux to the Rhône Valley, from the Italian coast to Alto Adige and the Mosel River, there's a wide range of flavors and styles on offer at affordable prices. Retout's Bordeaux white is a blend of Gros Manseng, Sauvignon Gris and Savagnin, while Pegau's Rhône white relies on Clairette, Bourboulen, Grenache Blanc and Ugni Blanc.

CANTINA TERLANO Pinot Noir Alto Adige Tradition 2023 (92, \$37) Savory, juicy; raspberry, strawberry, smoke, Earl Grey, roasted plum, toast

CHÂTEAU DU RETOUT Haut-Médoc 2022 (92, \$25) Ripe, gripping; dark currant, blackberry, singed cedar, vanilla, warm earth, iron

GAROFOLI Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore Podium 2021 (92, \$30) Canary melon, white peach, almond blossoms, grated ginger, salty; vibrant, well-meshed

CHÂTEAU DU RETOUT Vin de France White Le Retout Blanc 2022 (91, \$25) Enticing; white peach, white nectarine, verbena, honeysuckle, jasmine, shortbread

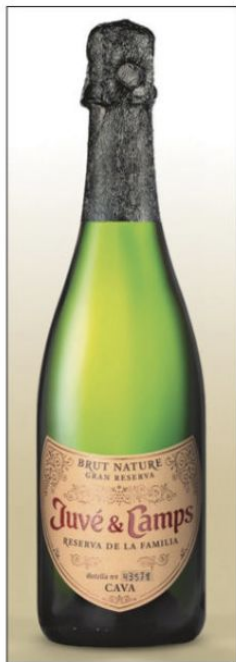
CHÂTEAU PÉGAU Côtes du Rhône White Cuvée Lône 2023 (91, \$24) Peach, melon, chalky mineral, green herbs, smoke, lemon peel; concentrated, tense

CHÂTEAU ST.-ROCH Maury Sec Kerbuccio 2022 (91, \$26) Powerful, brooding; plum spice cake, fig, cherry compote, schist, iron, dusty earth, tobacco, floral

DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Wehler Sonnenuhr 2022 (91, \$26) Orchard fruit, apricot, candied grapefruit peel, lilac, flinty mineral, spices; opulent, driven

OLIVIER RAVOIRE Vacqueyras Pavois 2022 (91, \$26) Perfumed; violet, raspberry coulis, humus, smoke, singed alder, graphite

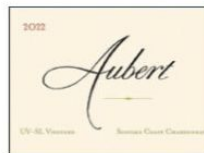
—Bruce Sanderson



JUVÉ Y CAMPS Brut Nature Cava Reserva de la Familia Gran Reserva 2019 (91, \$25) **SMART BUY** Creamy, elegant; poached apricot, white cherry, grilled nuts, tangerine peel, ginger, honey

SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

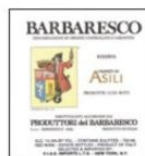
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



96 AUBERT Chardonnay Sonoma Coast UV-SL Vineyard 2022 \$100 CALIFORNIA

Complex, with a rich, aromatic mix of salted caramel, nutmeg and cardamom leading to plump, fleshy flavors of pear pastry and white peach. Mouthwatering acidity keeps everything light on its feet.

COLLECTIBLE



96 PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO Barbaresco Asili Riserva 2019 \$90 ITALY

This firm, fresh version is lean and well-defined, offering aromas and flavors of plum, cherry, earth, mineral and camphor. There's a feeling of ripeness midpalate, before the tannins put their exclamation mark on the lingering finish.

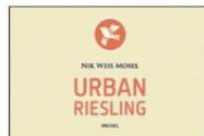
SMART BUY



91 EL ENEMIGO Malbec Mendoza 2021 \$26 ARGENTINA

Expressive notes of plumeria and orange peel make for an alluring entry to this version, which boasts a polished berry mélange core, with a subtle toasty cocoa bean thread underneath, plus suave, mineral-tinged tannins.

BEST VALUE



89 NIK WEIS Riesling Mosel Urban 2023 \$14 GERMANY

An open-knit and inviting white, with a mix of orchard fruit and subtle warm hay notes. Slightly off-dry, showing honeysuckle high tones and waxiness on the palate, with mouthwatering acidity.

IN THIS ISSUE'S BUYING GUIDE

You'll find **47 classic wines** and more than **375 outstanding wines** from among reviews of **nearly 500 new releases**. Tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with **hundreds of additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, can be found at WineSpectator.com using the Wine Ratings search, a members-only service.