

350 Club Wine Notes

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Below are descriptions of the wines that we have tasted, plan on ordering or think deserve inclusion.

There are times when the winemaker captures the essence of their wine, or a wine magazine reviews a wine and we concede to their description.

After the description of a wine there are notations in parentheses that reference the name of the distributor and might include (NO) which indicates the wine has not been ordered yet.

Argentina

SALTA

(Northwest Argentina)

ANKO 100% Malbec: Dark Cherry bouquet and a long fresh finish (I), (i-L), (NO)

ANKO Flor DE Cardon Malbec: A nice representation for an easy to drink Malbec. (I), (i-L), (NO)

Terrazas de los Andes Malbec Single Vineyard: This wine has an intense red plum color; the wine is smooth but also displays spicy notes, and there is a slight effervescence along with the finish. This is a polished Malbec and is very elegant. (GL), (NO)

Enjoy with red meats.

Terrazas de los Andes Torrontes Reserve, Salta: The Torrontes grape is a white grape indigenous to Argentina. The wine is aromatic and stands out with a freshness and intensity which is very distinctive for the Torrontes grape. (GL)

Enjoy with appetizers and spicy Asian dishes.

Mendoza

Catena Zapata, Nicasta Vineyard, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina: An exceptional Malbec. (GL), (NO)

Cheval des Andes, 2015, Mendoza, Argentina: A big Bordeaux blend produced in Mendoza, Argentina. This wine has achieved a 98-point rating by James Suckling. Please refer to the winery's fact sheet. (GL), (NO)

Kaiken, Ultra, Malbec, 2017, Los Rocas, Mendoza, Argentina: This Malbec pours into the glass reflecting a deep violet color, the nose radiates a fresh bouquet of berries evoking the senses of a classic Malbec.

This wine is not tannic but smooth, and the finish is long and pleasant. A well-balanced Malbec and very reasonably priced. (RBC)

Australia

Barossa Valley

Tait "The Ballbuster Shiraz": (80%) Shiraz, (12%) Cabernet, (8%) Merlot. This is an earthy wine and extremely drinkable, smooth, and ending with light pepper notes. (V)

Tim Smith, Barossa: (76%) Mataro, (synonymous with the Monastrell grape), (20%) Grenache, (4%) Shiraz. A big and full wine, with a little time in the glass it opens into a spicy wine with cool tannins. (i-l), (NO)

Yalumba, Bush Vine Grenache: With an exquisite red color, cherry berry flavor, you could mistake this wine for a lovely Pinot Noir, but the wine is (100%) Grenache. An easy to drink wine that you open and enjoy, relaxing with friends. (GL), (NO)

South Australia

Penfolds Max's Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016: This wine is a bold cabernet that starts out strong but, if left to breath, will smooth out and finish nicely. This Max's cabernet is an enjoyable value from Penfold of Australia. (A)

McLaren Valley

d'Arenberg, The Dead Arm Shiraz: The color is dark and rich, full bodied, finishing with just the right amount of tannins. (I), (NO)

Enjoy with savory cheeses and hearty red meats.

Southwestern Australia

Clare Valley

Jim Barry, Watervale Riesling, 2017: The color of this wine is like water reflecting on a summer day. A dry Riesling with just a hint of sweetness on the finish. Very pleasant. (GL)

Kilkanoon, Clare Valley, Killerman's Run, Shiraz: A nice Shiraz from Australia with a fun story about its origins. A bio and description of the wine is printed and available next to the wine. (I), (NO)

Edna Valley

Pewsey Vale, Eden Valley, Dry Riesling, 2017: This wine exhibits a light platinum color, is dry and non-minerally. A very pleasant Riesling. This wine is a bargain. (GL)

Western Australia

Hope Estate Shiraz "The Ripper": 100% Shiraz, from Australia, the "Ripper" is a medium to full bodied wine, which depends on your level of palate, regarding Syrah/Shiraz. Easy to drink, this wine is good for entertaining small or large groups or enjoy to by yourself. (RBC)

Enjoy with pork and other meat dishes.

Austria

Niederpostereich

Kamptal

Barbara Ohzelt

Barbara Ohzelt, Gruner Leader, 2019: A refreshing and acidic Gruner Veltliner white wine for the summer. (i-L), (NO)

Barbara Ohlzelt, Gruner Veltiner, Zobinger, 2018: At first you will wonder if you are going to enjoy this wine, then you set your glass down. In the next sip, after the wine has sat for about 10 minutes, the wine opens, and you will probably drink the whole bottle. (I-L), (NO)

Chile

Aconcagua

Casabalanca Valley

Cuvee Alexandre, Chardonnay, Lapostolle: A big Chardonnay with a bright golden color, plenty of richness going on here. This wine is produced by one of the most well-known vintners in Chile. (GR), (NO)

Central Valley

Rapel Valley/Cachapoel

Marques de Casa Concha, Camenere, 2016: This is subtle and fragrant wine that continues to please the palate with the passage of time. This is an amazing value. (GL), (NO)

Terrunyo, Carmenere, Concha Y Toro: This wine is dense ruby red, the a nose of dark cherries, spicy with a smokey cigar taste which finishes like a truck running off the road. Fasten your seat belt. (GL), (NO)

Enjoy with heavy meat dishes, especially those meat sauces served over pasta.

Rapel Valley/Colchagua

Lapostolle, Cuvee Alexandre, Carmenere: A big red, nice tannins and spicy. This red holds up very nicely for next day drinking. (GL), (NO)

TerraNoble 2013 CA2 Costa Carmenere: The Carmenere grape is an old grape from the Bordeaux. Carmenere's parents are Cabernet Franc and Gros Cabernet and the siblings of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Camenere is now widely

grown in Chile. This wine turns into a big red after breathing for 30 minutes. The wine maintains a nice spiciness, long finish and is reasonably priced. (GL), (NO)

Enjoy with meats.

Elqui Valley/ Coquimbo

Elqui, 2016, Carmenere (50%), Syrah (14%), Malbec (26%), Elqui Valley: A big red wine with a low price, this wine needs one hour of breathing. Please see the winery fact sheet. (EE), (NO)

Enjoy with hearty meat pasta dish.

France

Bordeaux

Chateau Carignan: This wine is (100%) Merlot, and you will want to decant it for a bit. This wine is rich, heavy, and robust. Ready to drink now! (V)

Enjoy with heavier meats.

Graves

Chateaux Ducasse Bordeaux: A white Bordeaux blend consisting of (60%) Semillon, (dry), (35%) Sauvignon Blanc, (fruitiness), and (5%) Muscadelle, (aromatic). The Muscadelle starts the wine off with a taste of honey crisp apple, and with the Semillon and Sauvignon grape combination, produces a refreshing bright wine. (V)

Enjoy with grilling and kicked up poultry and ethnic dishes.

Chantegrive Graves: This wine is a combination of Semillon (a Bordeaux original grape, pure, clean, and fresh) and Sauvignon Blanc (a big white grape with intense flavors, such as straw, hay, grass, smoke green herbs, green tea, lime, etc., acidic, and full flavored). Chantegrive is a dry white wine that is floral on the nose and mouthwatering appealing texture, the Semillon tames the Sauvignon Blanc. (AHD)

Chateaux Graville Lacoste: (Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon), aromas of grapefruit, a tangy crisp taste, and a clean finish. This wine is produced by the same vintner as Chateaux Ducasse. (V)

Enjoy with cheese and fish.

Haut-Medoc

Chateau Belgrave, Haut-Medoc, 2010: A heavy wine and excellent representation of a Bordeaux. This wine has a great color, is low in tannins and acidity. Decant for 1 to 2 hours. (V), (NO)

Pomerol

Chateau Bonalgie 2012 Pomerol: See the fact sheet on Chateau Bonalgie and the vineyard's history. (AHD)

Chateau Beauregard, Pomerol, 2015: This Bordeaux has several impressive reviews rating the wine in the 90 plus point range. We have printed off some of these reviews for you to read. (AHD), (NO)

A great steak wine!

Clos Grangeneuve: A beautiful Bordeaux blend, (Merlot/Cabernet), the wine opens beautifully and is elegant and smooth. Exceptional value. (AHD)

Enjoy with seafood, poultry, and pork.

Saint Emillon

Chateau Pasde Rauzen, Bordeaux Superieur, 2016, Maison Riviere, Saint Emillon: From the Maison Riviere family, wine producers and merchants since 1875, this wine is (35%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (30%) Cabernet Franc and (35%) Merlot. The Riviere family are known for their Gran Crus. Although this is a young Bordeaux, after 10 minutes of breathing, it smooths out into a delicious wine with low tannins. A particularly good Bordeaux value. (EE), (NO)

Burgundy

Bret Brothers, Macon-Chardonnay, Grand Vin De Bourgogne, 2016: Non-oaky or buttery. An easy Chardonnay to drink. (GL)

Bret Brothers, Vire-Clesse, Grand Vin De Bourgogne, 2015: A crisp chardonnay, with hint of oak and butter. (GL)

Burrier Chateau de Beauregard Saint Veran 2016: This wine is a white Burgundy from St. Veron, Maconnais, Burgundy, France. This is not a heavy Chardonnay and will pair nicely with fish and roasted vegetables or poultry. Easy to drink. (AHD)

Jean Foillard Beaujolais Villages: The Gamay grape is known for low tannins and fruitiness. Jean Foillard is considered one of the top producers of old-style Beaujolais production; described as traditional “Burgundian”. The winery uses no herbicides or pesticides and ages the wine in older Oak barrels. (V)

Enjoy with charcuterie, pork, and poultry.

Louis Chevallier, Bourgnone, Pinot Noir, 2017: The wine is bright, fresh, and ready to drink when opened. This a great Pinot Noir value from Burgundy, France. (EE), (NO)

Enjoy with Salmon or Cheeses.

Meo-Camuzet: A wonderful Chardonnay. The color is beautiful, the wine is light and refreshing. The finish is distinctive and stimulating but does not overwhelm. (V)

Enjoy with seafood.

Valmoissine Pinot Noir, by Louis Latour, 2016: This Pinot Noir will surprise you with both its richness and low price. (V)

Chablis

Simonnet-Febvre Chablis: This wine exhibits a beautiful color, a very pleasant fruitiness on the nose and ends in an extended gentle finish. (V)

Enjoy with appetizers on a summery day.

Loire Valley

Breton Bourg Trinch 2018 Cabernet Franc: A beautiful ruby red color and a pleasant fragrance on the nose and subtle soft tannins, this wine delivers a smooth and slight effervescence on the finish. (V), (NO)

Champalou, Vouvray, 2018: This wine comes from a certified Sustainable Farming Vineyard. 100% Chenin Blanc, the wine is neither sweet nor dry, a nice balance. (V)

Sancerre

Sancerre “Pascal & Nicolas Reverdy”: This wine has an understated bouquet that does not overwhelm but enhances the accompaniment of cheeses and of cheeses and seafood. (AHD)

Enjoy with shellfish, white meats, vegetables.

Rhone Valley

Domaine de Beurenard “Rasteau”: The Beurenard family is an old château with a rich history of wine production in the Rhone Valley region going as far back as the late 1600’s.

Rasteau is a parish in the Southern Rhone Valley. The appellation is known for their Grenache varietal grapes. This wine is (80%) Grenache, (17%) Syrah, and (3%) Mourvedre.

The wine is smooth and light and represents good value. (AHD), (NO)

Enjoy with game or meat or serve for large gatherings.

Chatauneuf-du-Pape

Beurenard Chatauneuf-du-Pape, 2015: (70%) Grenache, (10%) Syrah, (10%) Mourvedre, (6%) Cinsault, (4%) other AOC varieties.

Excellent ruby red color, wonderful aromas of berries and spices. A smooth wine with an elegant finish. (AHD)

Boisrenard, Chateaneuf Du Pape, 2015: (70%) Grenache, (10%) Syrah, (10%) Mourvede, (6%) Censault, (4%) other. The wine pours and opens with a bright ruby red color. There are wonderful aromas of fruit and spice notes. After 30 minutes of breathing we found the wine to have smooth tannins and a very pleasant finish. (AHD), (NO)

Enjoy with any hearty red meats.

Chateau Simian Atout Rouge, Chateauneuf-du-Pape: (40%) Merlot, (40%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (10%) Caladoc and (10%) Syrah, this wine is referred to as a rare blend when the wine is blended with the Caladoc grape which was cultivated to be similar to the grenache.

The wine is smooth and exhibits very supple tannins. Reasonably priced. (i-L)

Enjoy with meat dishes.

Chateau Simian Chateauneuf du Pape Le Traversier: (70%) Grenache, (20%), Syrah, (5%) Cinsaut, (5%) Mourvedre, this is a medium body wine that is silky and graceful. The wine conveys wonderful berry flavors and has a lovely finish. A good value Chateauneuf du Pape. (I-L)

Enjoy with meat dishes.

Cotes du Rhone

Provence

Chateau Canadel, Bandol, 2015: This wine is (65%) Mourvedre, (25%) Cinsault and (5%) Granache. The wine makers describe the wine as follows, "Pretty deep red dress. On the nose, the wine reveals aromas of red fruits and spices. We find these aromas in the mouth, coated with tannins of extreme finesse. The finish is long and fresh, with minty spicy notes." We agree. (GL)

Enjoy with meats and eggplant dishes.

Tempier Rose, Bandol, 2018: This is an allocated wine and is sold out immediately upon arrival. Only a few bottles in stock. (V)

Tempier Rouge: Located in Bandol, Provence of France, on the Mediterranean coast, the winemaker, Peyraud family, are icons of Bandol. Tempier Rouge is (70-75%) Mourvedre, one of the major grapes used in the Bandol Provence to provide structure to reds and roses. Also, the wine is a mixture of (25%) Grenache, adding luscious berry flavors, (20%) Cinsault, for spiciness, (2%) Carignan. (A grape that is earthy, acidic, and adds tannins. (V)

Enjoy with meat and game dishes.

Germany

Rheingau

Schloss Vollrads, Riesling, 2015, Spatlese, Rheingau: This is a sweet delicate Riesling, clear in color with a long finish. This Riesling will accompany nice spicy foods and is great to drink on those hot summer days. (RBC), (N0)

Italy

Abruzzo

San Zopito: The Montepulciano grape is rustic, powerful, and full of spices. This wine offers great value and delivers the Montepulciano grape strengths. They include wild black cherry, plum, chocolate, cinnamon, licorice, and a savory finish that is soft and lingering. (AHD)

Enjoy with hearty appetizers, casseroles, and meat dishes.

Alto Adige

Andrian, Pinot Noir, 2018: The wine is ruby red in color, delicate and medium dry, an elegant wine. (V)

Andrian, Pinot Grigio, 2018: The wine has a light straw color with fresh fruit aromas and a soft, long finish. The 13.5% alcohol content makes this pinot grigio nice and dry. (V)

Campania

La Capranere Falanghina: The Falanghina grape is thought to be the Falernum wine revered by the Romans. An easy drinking white wine at a good price. (V)

Enjoy with cheeses, shellfish, and seafood.

Piedmont

Barolo

Paolo Scavino, Barolo: Piedmont, Italy is the home to Barolo. The Scavino family is a fourth-generation winery located in Castiglione Falletto, Piedmont. Their Barolo exhibits fresh fruit flavors, is delicate and well balanced. The wine has a long finish and should age beautifully through 2030. (V), (NO)

Scavino Dolcetto D'Alba: From Piedmont region of Italy, this is an affordable wine and can be utilized as an everyday drinking wine for those that would like a glass or two a day. The wine is light and bright with low tannins. (V), (NO)

Sicily

Tascante Buonara 2017: This wine is made from the Carricante grapes of Sicily. It is spicy and fresh, a yummy white wine. (V)

Terra Costa Ntino, deAetna, etna rosso doc, 2016: The grape for this wine is Nerrello-Mascalese. The grape is related to Sangiovese and from the Italian region of Sicily. This a savory and classic wine. (V)

Terra Costa Ntino, deAetna, etna Bianco doc, 2017: The two main grapes that make up this wine are Carricante, an acidic white grape indigenous to Sicily and Catarrato, a blending grape grown in Sicily.

The combination of these two grapes makes a delicate white wine that is medium dry and full bodied with citrus flavors. A nice wine with seafood. (V)

Tuscany

Cantalore Bianco: Surprisingly refreshing. See Vintners fact sheet. (I)

AIA Vecchia Sor Ugo, 2017: This wine pours into the glass a beautiful red garnet color, the taste is smooth and exhibits a unique richness. The grape combination that delivers these fine qualities are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. The finish is smooth and lasting. (I), (NO)

The vintner's food recommendations are red meat, game, hard cheeses; we resoundingly agree.

Laagone, AIA Vecchia, Tuscany, 2017: This wine is smooth and delivers soft tannins. A particularly good value for a Tuscan wine. (I)

Vietti, Roero Arneis, 2017: This wine comes from Santo Stefano Roero, a municipality in the Province of Cuneo, the Italian region of Piedmont.

The wine is (100%) Arneis grape; the varietal is known for its floral, citrus, and dry attributes.

Vietti's fact sheet is available to view. This is a wonderful summer wine to enjoy with a variety of foods. (V)

Torre Raone Rosso, 2011: A grape blend of Montepulciano/Merlot/Cabernet Franc. By adding the Merlot and Cabernet Franc., these two grapes tone down the Montepulciano spiciness, and creates a wine that is more refined and smoother.

A good value wine! (AHD)

Enjoy with appetizers and socializing with friends.

Chianti

Valdisanti, Tolaini, 2014, Chianti, Tuscany: Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Cabernet Franc, this wine is full bodied and elegant. (V)

Veneto

Della Valpolicella

Speri, Amarone, Della Valpolicella, Classico: The Speri family winery dates to 1874. They are one of the established family owned wineries in the Valpolicella Classico areas. This Amarone is outstanding with heavy appetizers. A word of caution; you need to decant this wine for at 6-7 hours before serving. (I)

Ripassa Della Valpolicella

Tenuta Santa Maria Valpolicella Ripasso, “Classico Superiore”: The grapes in this wine are Corvina, Rondinella and Corvinone. This wine has a ruby red color and aromas of intense berry and spice flavors. The Valpolicella wine is achieved by a secondary maceration fermentation over the Amarone grape skins, called the “Ripasso method”. The wine is fruity but dry, with a long finish. This is a great way to enjoy a wine like Amarone at the price. (I)

Enjoy with meat, game, and savory cheese.

MiddleEast

Massaya: From Lebanon and the Beqaa Valley, with a tradition of producing wine that dates back 6,000 years, this is an interesting wine. (35%) Cinsault, a blending grape that adds spiciness’, a grape crossed over with Pinot Noir to create, Pinotage. (35%) Grenache Noir, a white Grenache grape, adding spiciness and savory notes. (15%) Syrah and (15%) Tempranillo, a black grape that is full bodied and closely resembles the Pinot Noir grape of Burgundy.

The wine maker recommends serving chilled. We opened the bottle and let the wine breath for a half hour and found the wine a pleasure to consume. (V)

New Zealand

Marlborough

Mohua Sauvignon Blanc: This wine is light in color, with a taste of grapefruit, and an effervescent finish. A good deck wine for those hot summer days outside and a great value. (AHD)

Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, 2018: Wairau River Winery is family owned and operating in the Marlborough region of New Zealand.

This wine is a good representation of an affordable New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc that offers grapefruit finesse and other citrus notes. The wine has a nice supple finish. (GL), (NO)

Portugal

Douro

Churchills Port, 2000: This Port and vintage is some of the world's best. The color is like black ink, full bodied, with a long finish and slight sweetness. (A), (NO)

Enjoy with hearty cheeses and chocolate desserts. Use small port glasses.

Quinta Do Noval, Colheita, 2005, Tawny Porto: This is a small production Port by Noval. Rich and creamy with a pleasant fruit forward finish, it is a great addition to cheese, chocolate, and desserts. (I), (NO)

South Africa

Cape of Good Hope

Bloem Chenin Blanc-Viognier, South Africa: An easy to drink Viognier and very reasonably priced, resulting in a good value. (i-L)

Stellenbosh

Groot Constantia

Groot Constantia is a winery with a deep history. With a beginning that started in 1685, customers of this winery were Frederick the Great of Prussia, King Louis Philippe of France, and Napoleon Bonaparte.

Groot Constantia Shiraz, 2016: All the grapes are from a single vineyard. The wine is full bodied and can use an hour of breathing to reach the wine's full potential. This a good wine to accompany a hearty meat dish. (I), (NO)

Groot Constantia Pinotage: You will think that you are drinking a Burgundian style wine from Burgundy, France. It is good representation of a Pinotage. (The Vintner's fact sheet is available for review with a full description of the wine.) (I), (NO)

Groot Constantia Sauvignon Blanc: Lively and fresh with tropical fruit tones. (I), (NO)

Rustenberg John X Merriman, 2013: (52%) Merlot, (38.5%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (4.5%) Malbec, (3.7%) Cabernet Franc, (1.3%) Petit Verdot, this wine, can be described as a Bordeaux blend. The winery was started in 1892 by John X Merriman. The wine will excite you and tease your taste buds. You can drink now but better decant for an hour prior to serving. According to Wine Spectator, this wine can be cellared until 2023. (I), (NO)

Simonsig Chenin Blanc: This wine has a light straw color with a tint of green. On the nose, the wine has moderate acidity with melon and tree fruit. An easy drinking wine that is well balanced and would be great to serve at a luncheon. (I), (NO)

Serve with Asian, cheeses, salads, shellfish.

Spain

Cataluna

Jumilla

Clio, Jumilla, Spain, 2017: (70%) Monastrell and (30%) Cabernet, this is one of our favorite wines; with its opaque purple color that paints the wine glass and posh fruit notes, it rounds out to a savory long finish. (V)

Juan Gill, Blue Label 18 Months: Monastrell, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Syrah. Monastrell is a late ripening grape used to blend with other grapes to produce an intensity in the wine. Please see the Vintner's fact sheet. (V)

Enjoy with meat and heavy pasta dishes.

Priorat

Camins del Priorat, 2018, Alvaro Palacios: (40%) Grenache, (30%) Samsó, (Samsó is a grape native to northern Spain with the characteristics of the Carignan grape.), (20%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (10%) Syrah, this wine needs 30 minutes of breathing, preferably by the decanting method.

After a half hour of breathing the wine will change color from a dull red and transform into a deep ruby red. Initially the wine will have a distinct sweetness but loses that intense sweetness and mellows out into a soft wine. (GL)

Enjoy with meats and rich cheeses.

Alicante/Boarding Jumilla

Mira Salinas, 2016: (Monstrell) The Bodegas Sierra Salinas winery is located at the foot of Sierra Salinas Mountains in Spain. James Suckling gives this wine 90 points and describes the wine as follows, “fruity and straightforward with plum and cherry flavors, medium body...soft tannins and fruity finish to drink now”. Let this wine breath for an hour, you will be very pleasantly surprised. (V)

Almansa Bordering JumiliaAlaya Garnacha, 2015: (100% old vines) Alaya is produced by the Juan Gil wineries that also produce Clio and Shaya. Juan Gil maintains an impeccable reputation of producing high quality wines.

This wine has a 16% alcohol content and needs aerating and decanting before serving. The finish is distinctively sweet Garnacha. (V)

Drink with spicy pasta dishes.

Duero River Valley

ABADIA RETIERTA: From the Castilla y Leon region of Spain, this wine is composed of (75%) Tempranillo, (15%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (10%) Syrah. Immediately you pick up aromas of black fruit and find the wine elegant to drink. The wine maker describes the wine as possessing the “richness of Tempranillo, the suppleness of Syrah, and aromatic elegance of Cabernet Sauvignon, which result in a well-balanced wine.” (V)

Enjoy with meat and hearty casserole dishes.

Bierzo/Boarding Galiicia

***Petalos, (Bierzo), Descendientes De J. Palacios, 2016:** (GL), (NO)

Central/Castilla y Leon

Gota De Arena, 2016: (100%) Tempranillo, Gota De Arena is an inexpensive Tempranillo, a nice wine to serve a large group. It can replace more expensive Pinot Noirs. Please visit the fact sheet. (V)

Ribera Del Duero

***Pago De Carraovejas:** The first tasting, particularly good, review pending. (A), (NO)

Rioja

Muga Vinyards

Muga Rioja Blanco, 2018: (90%) Viura, a leading white grape of the Rioja region, is used to make dry whites with (10%) Malvasia added for floral notes. This white wine is highly rated and described as bright and citrusy. A particularly good table white for almost all dishes. (V)

Vegetable dishes, fish and tapas are the recommended foods.

Muga Reserve 2014 and 2015: (70%) Tempranillo, (20%), Granacha, (7%) Mazuelo, (3%) Graciano; this is a nice blend of grapes from the Spain's most popular wine growing region.

Enjoy with game or meat.

Sierra Cantabria Reserve Unica 2014: (98%) Tempranillo, (2%) Graciano old vines, this wine has a rating of 90-94 points. The wine is often described as opulent, decadent, full-bodied, and velvety. It has beautifully layered textures with a great finish. This is a quality wine and outstanding value. (V)

Rueda

NISA Rueda Verdejo, Old Vine 2016: The Verdejo grape is the Spanish Sauvignon Blanc. The wine is citrusy, floral, and dry but not too fruity. (V)

Enjoy with appetizers or light meals.

Toro

Trinton Toro, 2014: An old vine Tempranillo, imported by Jorge Ordóñez. Tinta de Toro is the oldest clone of Tempranillo grape in Spain. It is stated that if you try a Tempranillo-based wine from Rioja next to the Toro Tempranillo, you will never guess that they were produced from the same grape.

It is further suggested that if you are a big Cab and Malbec drinker, you will love this wine. This wine will open beautifully from an hour of decanting which goes against the rule of never decanting a Pinot Noir. (V)

Erbo River Valley

Alto Moncayo Veraton: This is a Spanish winery and the wine Veraton is (100%) Grenache, produced from 30 to 50-year old grape vines and aged 16 months in French oak barrels. 90+ points. (V)

Enjoy with Pasta, Pasta, Pasta.

Alto Moncayo: This wine is an old vine (100%) Grenache produced from 40-70-year-old vines and aged in French oak barrels for 20 months. This wine is a bit fuller than the Alto Moncayo Veraton, the wine is more complex, and it finishes with a nice spiciness. (V)

Enjoy with Pasta, Pasta, Pasta.

Bodgas Breca: (100% Old Vines Garnacha) With a taste of black cherry, blackberry, and raspberry, this wine delivers a smooth and velvety richness and easy finish. (V)

Enjoy with pasta dishes served in a red sauce.

Godina Garnacha, 2016: This is another highly rated Garnacha from the Juan Gil family of wines. This wine is produced in what is known as the “Empire of Garnacha” that rests at the foot of the Moncayo Mountain in Spain. The wine is not heavy, nor too sweet on the finish. A pleasant wine. (V)

Gota De Arena, 2016: (100%) Tempranillo, Gota De Arena is an inexpensive Tempranillo, a nice wine to serve a large group. It can replace more expensive Pinot Noirs. Please visit the fact sheet. (V)

Getariako/North

Txakoli Txomin Etxaniz, 2018: (90%) Hondurribi Zuri, a specific grape of the Basque region of Spain, and (10%) Hondurribi Beltz, a grape which is a descendant of cabernet franc, are blended to produce this specific wine.

This wine is described as crisp, ethereal, with lime zest, minerality notes and a fresh acidic finish. This wine is refreshing and an up lifter for any seafood or spicy dish. (V)

Galicia

Rias Baixas

Granbazan Albarino Etiqueta Verde: This wine is bright and exhibits nice fruit aromas. An easy to drink wine with a smooth finish. (AHD)

Enjoy with seafood and particularly with mussels.

United States

California

Central Valley

Lodi

Michael-David Chardonnay: A good value Chardonnay for the budget minded wine buyer. The wine has a slight buttery taste and oak flavor. (I)

Napa

Abstract: A complex wine that brings together the strengths of the grapes Grenache, (rich, smooth, cherry flavors, elegant texture), Syrah, (California Syrah that is fruity and peppery), and Petite Syrah, (nothing petite about this grape; concentrated, flavorful, it provides a great bite to the wine). (GL)

Enjoy with hearty appetizers, poultry, and meat.

BonAnno Cabernet Sauvignon: For the Cabernet Sauvignon drinker, BonAnno is a reasonable priced Cabernet from California that is easy to drink and affordable. (I), (NO)

Chaos Theory: This wine is (50%) Merlot, (25%) Petite Sirah, (25%) Zinfandel. The minute this wine touches your tongue, it pops and sizzles and continues to be vibrant! What a fun wine. (I)

Just enjoy.

Conundrum Red: The wine makers fact sheet provides a complete and descriptive picture of this reasonably priced bold wine. (GL)

Darioush Caravan Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa: See the wine maker's description. (GL)

Eight Years in The Desert, Orin Swift, 2018: Zinfandel blend, vintner's fact sheet available for review. A beautiful Zinfandel, hard to obtain. (GL)

Girard Petite Sirah: An intense wine produced from old vine Petite Sirah grapes. The color of this wine is incredibly vibrant displaying a deep ruby red color. This wine needs at least a half hour of breathing. (VTG), (NO)

Girard Old Vine Zinfandel: This wine has soft tannins and a beautiful red color. This is an outstanding Zinfandel and is offered at a very reasonable price point. (VTG), (NO)

Hendry Albarino: The description that you will find on the web describes this wine as “**mouthwatering**”; that phrase captures the essence of this wine. (I)

A great wine to enjoy with seafood, bar food.

Hendry Primitive, Block 24: A medium to full bodied wine, a great example of a California Zinfandel that provides all the attributes that a Zinfandel lover expects. (I)

Long Meadow Ranch Winery

Long Meadow Ranch Farmstead Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018: Although a young Cabernet, this wine is very drinkable right now. The wine begins with a sweet berry flavor up front and finishes smooth. You can cellar this wine for up to 10 years. It is a good value Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley. (13.5% alcohol), (EE), (NO)

Long Meadow Ranch Chardonnay, 2018: This is a food friendly Chardonnay, well balanced and elegant. (EE), (NO)

Mount Peak Winery

Mount Peak Gravity Red Blend: 91 points, see Wine Advocate description. (GL)

Mount Peak Rattlesnake Zinfandel: 91 points, see Wine Advocate description. (GL)

Noah River Chardonnay, 2017: An inexpensive dry chardonnay with a hint of oak. A good everyday drinking wine or for serving at parties. (EE)

Peter Franus Napa Valley Zinfandel, 2014: This wine pours from the bottle into your wine glass a ruby red color; the wine is bright with nice aromas of berries. The wine is soft and spicy, medium bodied and has a lovey finish. (I)

Enjoy with savory cheeses and hearty red meats.

Robert Foley “The Griffin”: (38%) Merlot, (18%) Petite Sirah, (17%) Petite Verdot, (11%) Syrah, (9%) Charbono, (5%) Cabernet Sauvignon, and (2%) other reds.

The Charbono Grape is generally used for blending and adds wild berry aromas, acidity, a rich darkness. The Petite Verdot grape adds spice, depth, and tannins. When fully ripe, people associate aromas and tastes of flowers, olives, and very ripe blueberries.

The winemaker describes the wine as a “ripe blackberry fruit with floral hints”.

You can drink it now, but it will cellar nicely and should age well. (V)

Saddleback Cellars Winery

Saddleback Chardonnay: This Chardonnay is bright and lively. The wine has just the right amount of oak and butter, beautifully balanced. The finish is fantastic! (I),

Enjoy with cheeses, seafood, and food with cream sauces.

Saddle Back Merlot: This wine has a rich purple color in the glass with classic Merlot flavors (blackberry, cassis, baked cherries, plums, dark chocolate, and mocha) which all come together in this wine. The wine is bright and juicy and has a long finish. I think this wine stands up to any big Cabernet. (I)

Enjoy with hearty meat dishes.

Saddleback Cellars, Ranchers Red, 2014: (83%) Cabernet Sauvignon, ((10%) petite Syrah, (7%) Syrah. This wine exhibits a nice cherry color and is not overly bold. We encourage you to see the technical sheet written by the wine maker to get a full profile on this wine. (I)

Enjoy with meats and barbecue.

Venge Red Scouts Honor. (70%) Zinfandel, (14) Charbono, (9%) Petit Sirah, (7%) Syrah, the wine displays a nice purple color and is full bodied. This is a rich wine and has a great finish. (I)

Enjoy this wine with meat and hearty pasta dishes.

North Central Coast

Santa Barbara Winery Chardonnay, 2018: This is an all-around wonderful Chardonnay. A solid food wine at a bargain price. (RBC),

Santa Lucia Highlands

Diora La Petite Grace Pinot Noir: Produced by Delicato Vineyards, this Pinot Noir is moderately light and opens with a little spiciness. (RBC)

Enjoy with light meat dishes and Salmon.

Santa Rita Hills

Sanford Pinot Noir: (Santa Rita Hills) A good representation of the Pinot Noir grape, the wine reveals fruity flavors and a smooth finish. An elegant Pinot Noir. (GL) (NO)

North Coast

Alexander Valley

Rodney Strong, Alexander Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016: (93%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (4%) Merlot, (2%) Petit Verdot, (1%) Malbec. This wine pours into the glass a rich deep red, with aromas of black fruit on the nose. The tannins give the wine a long finish. **Really good value.** (A)

Silver Oak, Alexander Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2014: This wine has a dark red garnet color and connects immediately with its origin. The wine is full, smooth and maintains a long finish. (GL), (NO)

Enjoy with lamb, meats, or hearty meaty casseroles.

Mendocino

Goldeneye Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley: See wine maker's fact sheet. (GL)

Parducci, True Grit, Reserve, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendocino County,

California: A solid California Cabernet with low tannins. ready to drink. You will like the price. (A), (NO)

Sonoma

Chateau St. Jean, Cinq Cepages, 2015: This wine is a rich Bordeaux blend, deep purple in color and robust with a spicy finish. (RBC), (NO)

Clos du Bois Zinfandel: A big and full Zinfandel. (F)

Dry Creek Vineyards, Zinfandel: (77%) Zinfandel, (21%) Petite Sirah, (2%) Carignane, please see the Wine Spectator review. (GL)

Ferrari Carano Vineyard

Ferrari Carano Chardonnay Reserve: (Carneros) A beautiful dry Chardonnay with just the right balance of fruitiness, butter, and oak. (V), (RBC)

Enjoy with seafood and poultry.

Ferrari Carano Cabernet Sauvignon: From Alexander Valley, the wine maker describes this wine as follows, "aromas of cassis, mocha, dried cherries, mint, cola, and Smokey leather". This cab is a sheer pleasure to consume. (V), (RBC)

Enjoy with barbecue, red meats, strong cheeses.

Ferrari Carano Dry Creek Zinfandel: A particularly good Zinfandel; starts off spicy and smooths out within about 15 minutes into a lush, concentrated, rich, jammy Zinfandel. (VTG), (NO)

Ferrari Carano Tresor: A Bordeaux blend of (71%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (10%) Malbec, (5%) Petit Verdot, (5%) Cabernet Franc; this wine has very pleasant nuances and complexity. (V), (RBC)

Enjoy with roasted meats and duck.

Gehricke Chardonnay: For those that want to drink a chardonnay but do not want a heavy buttery or oaky taste will find that this wine will fit the order. (I)

Easy to drink and pair with a variety of light food.

Gundlach-Bundschu Cabernet Sauvignon 2015: (89%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (6%) Petit Verdot, (3%) Malbec, (2%) Merlot. This wine is a good representation of a big California Cabernet from Sonoma County. A nice long finish. Rated from 90 to 92 points. (RBC), (NO)

Gundlach Bundschu Mountain Cuvee: (88%) Merlot, (12%) Cabernet Sauvignon, is a Bordeaux style blend, exceptionally drinkable. (RBC)

Enjoy with almost any type of food.

Louis M. Martini, 2017, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County: Louis M. Martini is a well-known and long-established winery in Sonoma County, California. This Cabernet Sauvignon with its recognizable name is an affordable red wine to purchase for an event. (GL)

Ridge Three Valleys: This wine offers lively acidity but a medium bodied, blend of Zinfandel, (soft textured, dry red wine, a jammy characteristic, with blackberry, boysenberry notes), Carignane, (high in acidity and tannins, but earthly flavored and dark in color) Petite Syrah (concentrated and strong), Grenache (smooth and velvety). Nice exotic spices, with a smooth and a delightful gravelly ending. (GL)

Enjoy with hearty appetizers, pork, and meat dishes.

Stuhlmuller Vineyards, Chardonnay: Aromas of pear and apple with a hint of butter and oak. A nice and drinkable wine. (V)

Enjoy with seafood.

Sonoma/Russian River

Deloach Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, 2015: A crisp Chardonnay with a hint apple and butter with a pleasant finish. This reasonably priced Chardonnay will go well with any light dishes. (GL)

Deloach Pinot Noir: This wine is a full body Pinot Noir, which is dry, elegant, and packed with berry flavors. The wine maker produces this Pinot Noir in a traditional Burgundian fashion and demonstrates all those qualities. (GL)

Enjoy with salmon, pasta dishes in a red sauce, and poultry.

Edge Cabernet Sauvignon, 2017: An easy to drink and reasonably priced Cabernet Sauvignon. (V)

Hartford Court Pinot Noir: A heavy hitting Pinot Noir that starts with concentrated berry flavors and end in a spicy finish. The wine has just enough sweetness to entertain the palate and is elegant. (A), (NO)

Iron Horse, Wedding Cuvee: (GR), (NO)

South Central Coast

Edna Valley/Fielding Recordings/Andrew Jones

Wonderwall Chardonnay: A good Chardonnay, easy to drink and has just the right balance of citrus notes. (i-L), (NO)

An easy wine to enjoy with appetizers, chicken, pizza, seafood.

Wonderwall Pinot Noir: This wine is a light bodied Pinot Noir. The wine is reticent but still has a fresh ripe fruit element. Because the wine is aged in oak, there is a display of oaky elements.

Enjoy with Salmon or pork dishes.

Paso Robles

Days Gone By, Saint K, Syrah: A big Syrah produced by Chris Kiranbay, who studied and trained under Hermon Story. (i-L)

Hearty dishes.

Herman Story-Nuts & Bolts, Syrah: A rich and intense full-bodied Syrah. (i-L) (NO)

Paring Red Blend Cabernet/Merlot by Jonata of Paso Robles: (50%) Cabernet, (20%) Merlot, (20%) Cabernet Franc, (10%) Petit Verdot, this is a very pleasant and brilliantly balanced red wine. (See the winery fact sheet.) (GL), (NO)

Oregon

Applegate Valley

Rogue

Quady North

Quady North Pistoleta White: A white blend of Viognier, Roussanne, and Marsanne with a touch of Grenache and Vermentino. This wine is bursting with fresh fruit flavors. Fabulous! (I)

Quady North Sam's Syrah: The intent of of Quady North Winery intent is to produce wines that resemble those from the Rhone Valley in France. (I,) NO)

Willamette Valley

Cardwell Hill Cellars Monet Blocks Pinot Noir. The wine begins with an aromatic fragrance and stimulates your sense of smell; meanwhile the flavors expand in the back of your mouth to finish the experience. A robust Pinot Noir. (A)

Enjoy with charcuterie, meat, poultry.

Cristom, Willamette Valley, Pinot Noir, Mr. Jefferson Cuvee: This wine is light and perfumed with aromas of cherry and finishes with a delicate sweetness. (V)

Enjoy with chicken, salmon, and turkey.

ILLahe Vineyards

ILLahe Viognier: Very nice acidity and a supple dryness with a touch of sweetness. (AHD)

Enjoy with appetizers, salads, and seafood.

ILLahe Pinot Noir Estate 2017: A good entry level Pinot Noir, nicely balanced, soft tannins and reasonably priced. (AHD), (NO)

ILLahe Bon Sauvage Estate Pinot Noir 2016: A Burgundian style Pinot Noir, with smooth tannins and an elegant finish. (AHD), (NO)

ILLahe Percheron Estate Pinot Noir 2015: The Percheron is a big Burgundian style Pinot Noir, resulting in a more robust berry taste and which maintains a long finish. (AHD), (NO)

Patricia Green, Pinot Noir Reserve, Willamette Valley, Oregon: This Pinot Noir scores 90 to 93 points. The wine is complex but well balanced at the same time and opens beautifully. (V)

Ponzi Vineyards, Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley, Oregon, 2017: This wine delivers a fresh and acidic brightness with a long finish. The wine maker recommends Asian foods and soft cheeses. We agree. (V), (NO)

Chechlem Mountains

J. Christopher Pinot Noir, Basalte: This is a small winery consisting of 40 acres, owned by Ernst Loosen, the producer of the famous Riesling from Germany, Dr. Loosen. The goal of this winery was to combine old world and new world techniques to produce quality Pinot Noirs resulting in western and Burgundian style. The Basalte Pinot Noir is a nice representation. (I), (NO)

Washington

Columbia Valley

Andrew Will Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley, State of Washington: A 92-point Cabernet, full bodied and with a firm finish: the winery description is available. (V)

Barter and Trade, Columbia Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon: A solid Cabernet. Good Value. (i-L), (NO)

Barter and Trade, Columbia Valley, Merlot: A solid Merlot. Good value. (i-L), (NO)

Charles Smith Boom Boom Syrah: An easy drinking Syrah, reasonably priced that would have a wide appeal to serve at a party with a variety of food. (GL), (NO)

Dunham Cellars, 2015, Cabernet Sauvignon XXI: This a rich and smooth wine with a long finish. Very enjoyable. (EE)

Dunham Cellars, 2016 Trutina, Columbia Valley, State of Washington: (45%) Cabernet Sauvignon, (40%) Merlot, (12%) Malbec and (3%) Cabernet Franc. With a deep ruby red color that pours into your wine glass and a cool note that hits your palate with the first sip, the wine finishes with nice robustness. This is a wine that you can drink immediately. (EE), (NO)

Dusted Valley, Stained Tooth Syrah: With its deep purple color, pepper notes and soft tannins, this Syrah is throughout an agreeable wine. (GL), (NO)

Januik Red, 2016: Januik is being added to our inventory as another affordable easy to drink red wine from the State of Washington. (V), (NO)

Pedestal, Columbia Valley, Washington, Merlot, 2015, Long Shadows Vintners Collection: This big and bold wine needs at least an hour of decanting; you can shorten the process by pouring the wine first through an aerator. This should shorten the breathing time by a half hour.

Besides the Merlot grape, the vintner, Michael Rolland, has added Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot.

Michael Rolland is recognized as a world class wine maker. A short bio is available for reading. (GL), (NO)

Substance, Charles Smith, Cabernet Sauvignon: Capital Grill Steak House offers this wine by the glass on their drink menu. This is a solid Washington State Cabernet and represents a good value. (I)

Rattlesnake Hills

Hyatt Vineyards

Hyatt Vineyards is in Yakima Valley and located in the prestigious wine region of Rattlesnake Hills, in the State of Washington. Their Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Riesling are easy to drink and affordable. (i-L)

Red Mountain

Col Solare Red Blend: This wine has ratings from 90 to 94 points. The grapes are Cabernet, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Syrah. The retail price can range from \$60.00 to \$75.00 dollars a bottle. (F)

Force Majeure, Parvata, Red Mountain, 2016: (69%), Mourvedre, (21%) Syrah, (10%) Grenache. This a dark rich red Rhone style wine that has lots of depth and structure. We have printed off a description from Timeless Wines that describes the Pavata, the winery and Red Mountain region in the State of Washington.

This is an outstanding wine to enjoy with lamb. (EE)

Gorman Wines

Gorman Wines, The Devil You Know, Red Mountain, Columbia Valley, State of Washington: Cabernet Sauvignon (53%), Merlot (42%), Petite Sirah (5%). This is a good solid **blend-bold** and structured. (I), (NO)

Gorman Wines, Old Scratch Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Mountain, Columbia Valley, State of Washington: A particularly good Cabernet that is easy to drink and a smooth finish. (I), (NO)

Hedges Winery/Red Mountain

Goedhart Family, Red Mountain, Syrah, Bel'Villa Vineyard, 2013: This wine is part of the Washington State Hedges family of wines. A delicious Syrah. (V)

Hedges Cabernet Sauvignon, 2015: Dark garnet in color, the wine includes the grape varietals, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Pettit Verdot. An excellent Cabernet Sauvignon. (V), (NO)

Hedges Red Mountain: (59%) Cabernet, (28%) Merlot, (5%) Cabernet Franc, (2%) Petit Verdot, and (2%) Syrah. A medium bodied wine, but with a unique rich finish. (V)

Enjoy with meat dishes.

Yakima Valley

B. Leighton Syrah/Olson Brothers Vineyard, Yakima Valley, Columbia,

Washington: You can pick your number from 92 to 97 points from the major wine critics. This wine receives only accolades. The praises are well deserved, the wine exhibits depth and complex structure and a show case for the Syrah grape. This wine will benefit by decanting and breathing for an hour. (I), (NO)

K Viognier, Yakima Valley, 2016: A well balanced white wine with tropical citrus flavors. (I), (NO)

K. Vintner's, SIXTO, Uncovered, Chardonnay: This wine is a blend of Chardonnay grapes from three old vine vineyards located in Washington State. You will immediately pick up granny smith apples on the nose, followed by a spiciness of caramel-butterscotch on the palate. An unusual Chardonnay with interesting characteristics. (I)

Great Event Wines

Beaurenard Rasteau 2016, (Rhône), (Blend), (AHD)

Bloem Chenin Blanc-Viognier, South Africa, (i-L)

Cantalore Bianco, (I)

Chateau Simian Atout Rouge, Chateauneuf-du-Pape. (i-L)

Double Canyon Horse Heavens Hills Cabernet Sauvignon 2015, (Washington), (RBC)

Deloach Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, 2015, (GL)

Dry Creek Vineyards, Zinfandel, (GL)

FlorDe Campo, Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara, California, (GL)

Hyatt Vineyards, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Riesling, (I-L)

Gundlach Bundschu Mountain Cuvee, (RBC)

LA Capranera, (V)

Louis Latour, Bourgogne, Pinot Noir, 2017, (V)

Michael-David Chardonnay, (I)

Mohua Sauvignon Blanc, (AHD)

NISA Rueda Verdejo, Old Vine, 2016, (V)

Noah River Chardonnay, (EE)

Rusten Verde, Merlot, South Africa, (GL)

Seven Hills Merlot, 2016, (Walla Walla Valley), (RBC)

Substance, Charles Smith, Cabernet Sauvignon, Washington, (I)

TerraNoble CA2 Costa Carmenera, (GL)

Torre Raone Rosso, 2011, (AHD)

Valmoissine, Pinot Nior, Louis Latour, 2016, (V)

Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc, (GL)

Waterbrook Chardonnay, (I)

Waterbrook Merlot, (I)

Yalumba Bush Vine Grenache, Barossa Valley, (GL)