

Golden State

This group features a range of offerings from California. Half are familiar varietals, while the other half are blends. The High On The Hog is based on Grenache, while the Best Cellars Love White, a Massane blend, is sold as a 355ml can.

HORSE & PLOW Sauvignon Blanc Sonoma County 2021 (\$2, \$26) Intense, juicy; lemongrass, candied ginger, white grapefruit, green apple

CASS Mr. Blanc Paso Robles Genesee District 2021 (\$9, \$19) Lush, lively, supple; jasmine flower, honeydew rind, lemon verbena

GIRARD Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2020 (\$9, \$19) Orange, tangerine, apple, apricot, orange blossom; smooth, fresh

HONIG Sauvignon Blanc Napa-Lake Counties 2021 (\$9, \$22) Plump, focused; orange blossom, tangerine, mango, citrus zest, spice

MCPRICE MYERS High On The Hog Paso Robles 2020 (\$9, \$25) Raspberry, peppered beef, savory spices; zesty

PROVENANCE Sauvignon Blanc Rutherford 2020 (\$9, \$25) Fresh, lively; tropical fruit, stone fruit, citrus, pineapple, peach, tangerine

BROC CELLARS Love White California 2021 (\$8, \$10/\$350ml) Aromatic, juicy; melon, papaya, peach, jasmine, orange blossom

SAN SIMON Viognier Paso Robles Stefano Vineyard 2021 (\$8, \$19) Rich, creamy; poaches with cream, lemon, spice

On the Continent

This tour across Spain, France and Germany showcases some of Europe's classic appellations. Rising prices in the Rhône make Vacqueyras, Rasteau and Tavel good sources of value.

FRITZ HAAG Riesling Kabinett Mosel Juffer 2020 (\$2, \$26) Peach, apricot, lime, slate; vivid, fleshy, crunchy

BODEGAS RIOJANAS Rioja Viña Albina Reserva 2018 (\$9, \$24) Dark berry, cherry, dried fig, olive, espresso, mineral, spice; fresh

RHONÉA Vacqueyras Fortimpele 2020 (\$9, \$25) Caressing, fluid; plum, cherry, garrigue, incense

BODEGAS ARROCAL Tempranillo Ribera del Duero 2020 (\$9, \$19) Candied cherry, orange peel, lavender, black tea leaf, red licorice; balanced, supple

BODEGAS CEPA 21 Tempranillo Ribera del Duero Hito 2020 (\$9, \$19) Dark berry, dried thyme, mandarin orange peel; juicy

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS VALDERIZ Ribera del Duero Valdehormoso Roble 2020 (\$9, \$16) Crème de cassis, violet, anise; pure, chewy

CHÂTEAU STE.-MARGUERITE Côtes de Provence Rosé 2021 (\$9, \$25) Vibrant, pure, creamy; red berries, watermelon, flinty mineral

DOMAINE DE LA BERNARDE Côtes du Rhône-Villages Les Caisagnes La Kerthe 2020 (\$9, \$25) Steeped plum fruit, singed almond, licorice snap; juicy, ripe

ZILLIKEN Riesling Mosel Butterfly 2020 (\$9, \$25) Lush, lively, supple; jasmine flower, honeydew rind, lemon verbena

LOUIS BERNARD Tavel Vignobles Mireille Petit-Roudil 2021 (\$8, \$14) Meaty, pithy, chalky; plum, watermelon, blood orange, garrigue, mineral

RHONÉA Rasteau Tradition 2020 (\$8, \$20) Dark cherry, light bramble, licorice; open-knit

Marlborough Country

Famous for its Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand continues to release terrific values from this variety. The Marlborough region, including subregions such as Wairau Valley, is the major source for outstanding Sauvignon Blancs.

ASTROLABE Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Kekerengu Coast 2020 (\$5, \$25) Precise, crisp; yuzu, pomelo, Fuji apple, green tea, white pepper

VILLA MARIA Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Taylors Pass Single Vineyard 2021 (\$2, \$27) Yuzu, ruby grapefruit, lemon verbena, sea salt, fresh ginger; intense, fragrant

MOUNT FISHTAIL Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Sur Lie 2021 (\$4, \$16) Succulent, intense; guava, passion fruit, water

VILLA MARIA Sauvignon Blanc Wairau Valley Reserve 2021 (\$9, \$25) Salted melon, poach, mango, dried ginger; vibrant

Andean Altitude

This quartet of wines hails from both sides of the Andes Mountains. The Malbecs from Argentina need no introduction, while Carmenère, a specialty of Chile, is featured in the other two examples, if only part of the Lagostolle Apalta blend.

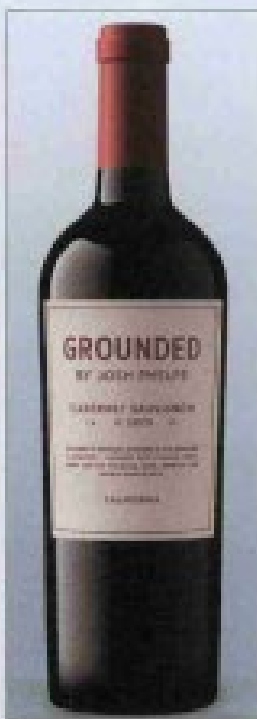
CASAS DEL BOSQUE Carmenère Cachapal Valley Gran Reserva 2019 (\$1, \$17) Well-structured, vibrant; cherry, cranberry, dried lavender, geranium, mineral

ALMARADA Malbec Uco Valley Single Vineyard 2020 (\$9, \$16) Spiced berry compote, vanilla oak, mineral; creamy, suave

LAPOSTOLLE Apalta 2020 (\$9, \$16) Pure, fruity; plum, cherry, slate, chocolate, spices

BODEGA NORTON Malbec Luján de Cuyo D.O.C. 2020 (\$8, \$16) Ripe blackberry, plum, Asian spice, graphite, kirsch; dark, rich

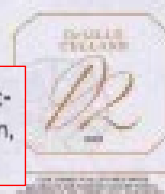
—Bruce Sanderson



GROUNDWINE CO. Cabernet Sauvignon California 2020 (\$8, \$15) **BEST VALUE** Direct, fan-friendly; cherry compote, vanilla, melted licorice

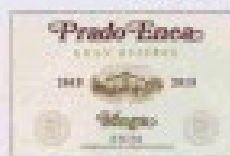
SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



94 DELILLE D2 Columbia Valley 2019 (\$50) **WASHINGTON** Polish meets structure in this red, which offers well-defined black cherry, toasty spice and bay leaf accents as this slowly unfurls toward fine-grained tannins. Merlot blend.

COLLECTIBLE



94 BODEGAS HUGA Rioja Prado Enea Gran Reserva 2015 (\$100) **SPAIN** This harmonious red is plushly

creamy, showing seamless integration of the sculpted tannins, with finely detailed flavors of black cherry and black plum reduction, sandalwood, cedar, green olive, espresso crema and minimally smoke and iron.

SMART BUY



92 ALMA DE CATTLEYA Sauvignon Blanc Sonoma County 2021 (\$22) **CALIFORNIA** This white is aromatic, intense and distinctive, with mouthwatering lemongrass, Meyer lemon, pomelo and white grapefruit flavors, followed by a touch of lime oil that lingers on the fresh finish.

BEST VALUE



90 VIÑA HARAS DE PIROQUE Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Hassonet Gran Reserva 2019 (\$15) **CHILE** This sanguine red opens with a layer of roasted coffee beans, which join a core of cherry tart before fanning out around mineral-laced acidity. Shows nice length around firm tannins.

IN THIS ISSUE'S BUYING GUIDE

You'll find 14 classic wines and nearly 275 outstanding wines from among reviews of 450 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.