

# sonoma magazine

## 100 Best Wines of Sonoma 2017

by **LINDA MURPHY**

**Let's be honest: Sonoma's most acclaimed and highest-quality wines are expensive.**

Top-tier Sonoma Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, the current darlings of critics and collectors, command \$60 a bottle and up. That's painful for many of us, yet Sonoma wines are less pricey than Napa Valley bottles of similar quality. Heck, even some Napa types slink into Sonoma to source their Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, so admired are our county's grapes.

While this list is studded with wines most would consider special-occasion purchases, there are also many reasonably priced bottles and some crazy-good values.

In addition to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, our Top 100 showcases rosé — its popularity soaring now that sweet White Zinfandel is firmly in the rear-view mirror. "Red" Zinfandel remains historically and deliciously important, with high-alcohol versions largely giving way to wines with balance and freshness. Sauvignon Blanc, Rhône Valley-style wines, Bordeaux varietals and sparklers are all represented here, underscoring Sonoma's ability to produce a diverse range of fine wines.

### Chardonnay

#### **DeLoach Vineyards**

2015 Russian River Valley Chardonnay, \$20

Here's a relative steal in Russian River Valley Chardonnay: an expertly made wine with fabulous balance and clarity. Granny Smith apple, citrus and unripe pear flavors are wrapped in gentle oak spice and vanillin, finishing long and crisp.

### Pinot

#### **Buena Vista Winery**

2014 Carneros Pinot Noir, \$25

This fairly priced Pinot has a forest-floor edge that adds interest to the dried cherry and fresh berry fruit. It's medium-bodied and lithe, with a citrus note on the clean finish.