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WINE ENTHUSIAST

NOVEMBER 2019

TOP 100 BEST BUYS

2019



\$5.99 US & CANADA



Winemag.com

TOP 100 BEST BUYS OF 2019



Delicious wines for \$15 or less.

BY THE EDITORS OF *WINE ENTHUSIAST*

We all want to find a fantastic bottle of wine that doesn't break the bank. But with an ever-growing selection, how do you decide? A catchy label might draw attention, but you know that what really matters is what's inside the bottle.

That's where our Best Buys come in. Priced at \$15 or less, these are quality-driven pours that provide the most bang for your buck. Each year, more than 1,300 reviewed wines earn this coveted designation—a number that could cause anyone's head to spin.

So in the hopes of making it easy, we assemble the Top 100 Best Buys list, highlighting some of the best value-driven wines on the market today.

This year's showcases wines from 17 countries, including sought-after pours like California Pinot Noir, New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, Chianti and rosé from Provence. For those who enjoy exploring the world through wine while maintaining their budgets, there are also plenty of examples from Spain, Austria, South Africa, Georgia, India and beyond.

And if you're searching for the best wines to serve at a party, look for the exciting large-format or canned options that grace this year's list.

Great wine truly comes in all shapes and sizes.



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WINE ENTHUSIAST TOP 100 BEST BUYS | 2019

1



91 Beringer 2017 Founders' Estate Pinot Noir (California). This medium- to full-bodied wine is one of the best values in Pinot today. It shows classic black- and red-cherry aromas, a broad palate of dark fruits and light oak spices. Lifted acidity and moderate tannins complete the nicely composed picture. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$10

2



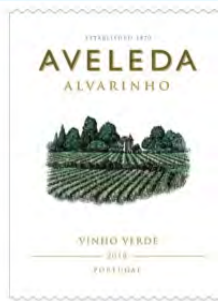
90 Dark Horse NV Brut Bubbles (California). This can of bubbles offers a lot of Chardonnay character in the apple and pear aromas and a lightly toasty vanilla accent. The flavors are layered but light and the acidity is fresh. —J.G.
abv: 10% Price: \$6/375 ml

3



89 Pacific Rim 2017 Sweet Riesling (Columbia Valley). The aromas are vibrant, with notes of tangerine peel, lime zest and jasmine. It drinks medium sweet, with plentiful stone fruit and citrus flavors, with zippy acidity on the finish. Yum. —S.S.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$10

4



90 Aveleda 2018 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). The ripe, creamy character of Alvarinho from the Monção and Melgaço subregion of Vinho Verde gives this wine a smooth character that is sharpened by touches of minerality. It is packed with refreshing fruitiness from the lingering juicy acidity. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

5



91 Three Thieves 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This exuberant wine is packed with expressive fruit aromas and irresistible

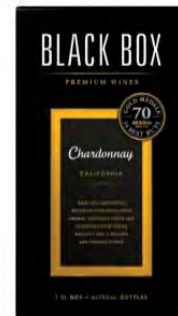
flavors that range from cherry to black plum and blackberry. No noticeable oak gets in the way of the wine's fruit flavors. Medium body, good balance and gentle tannins make it easy to sip. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

6



90 Bonpas 2017 Légende de Bonpas White (Luberon). While the nose is demure, the palate of this medium-bodied white offers loads of fresh white grapefruit, peach and apricot flavors. Made from a blend of Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Ugni Blanc and Vermentino, it's fresh and fruity yet edged by veins of salt and chalk. Enjoy this brightly balanced wine now—2022. Boisset Collection. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

7



88 Black Box 2017 Chardonnay (California). This is a rich style of Chardonnay that shows pear and apple aromas, with vanilla and butter flavors. The palate offers a good balance of ripeness and natural acidity. It's medium in body and smoothly textured without feeling too soft. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25/3 L

HOW THE WINES BREAK DOWN



ARGENTINA: 5



AUSTRALIA: 6



AUSTRIA: 4



BULGARIA: 1



CHILE: 2