

Wine Spectator

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

10 Distinctive Golden State Values Up to 91 Points

New reviews of well-priced Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Zinfandel and more from leading California appellations, priced \$25 or less

By Aaron Romano

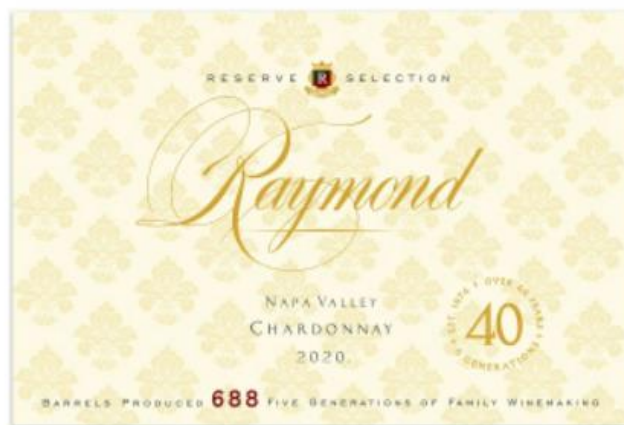


■ Apr 4, 2022

Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

When you have a budget for spending on wine, the last thing you want to do is sacrifice flavor. Fear not, because this week's list spans myriad California regions and wineries that deliver very good to outstanding options at \$25 or less, allowing you to comfortably fill your wine rack without breaking the bank.

Atop the list is a trio of Chardonnays, each with a unique personality. [Girard](#) leans on Carneros grapes for its elegant and supple 2019 white with mango, peach and salted butter notes. [Raymond](#)'s Reserve Selection bottling blends grapes from throughout Napa Valley, anchored by a vineyard in south Napa. The 2020 vintage offers butterscotch and toast notes that complement peach, citrus and apple flavors. Finally, [Wente](#) uses grapes from Monterey's Arroyo Seco subregion for its ripe and generous version with mango, peach and lemon curd flavors.



RAYMOND

Chardonnay Napa Valley Reserve Selection 2020

Score: 91 | \$20

WS review: Buttery toast and butterscotch notes complement the core of peach, citrus and apple flavors with accents of spice and dried flowers on a supple frame. Drink now. 12,800 cases made.—*M.W.*