

WINE ENTHUSIAST

APRIL 2024

THE EMERGING REGIONS
YOU MIGHT NOT
HAVE KNOWN
YOU NEED
TO KNOW

THE PINOT NOIR ISSUE

\$7.99 US & CANADA

\$7.99US/CAN

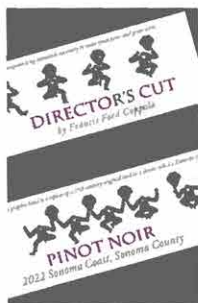
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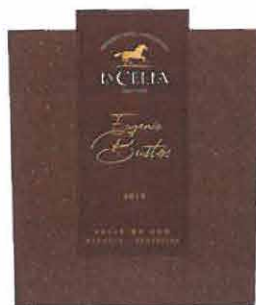
93 Davis Family 2022 Camino Don Miguel Vineyard Albariño (Russian River Valley). Vibrant green apple and mandarin orange aromas grab your interest before tangy, refreshing citrus, apricot and apple flavors wake up the palate. Great balance comes from good acidity accompanied by a slightly rounded finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38



93 Director's Cut 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Comforting and plush in texture, this full-bodied wine is deep in dried cherries, dark plums and a touch of tangy cranberry. Warm oak spices like cinnamon, clove and cedar come up in the aroma and linger through the flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26



93 Fattoria La Violla 2018 Casal Duro (Toscana). The nose is a blend of sweet, bitter and slightly spicy aromas, which all continue onto the palate, where they encounter a wall of balancing earth tones reinforced by dusty, grippy tannins and ferocious acid pulling at the chain like a guard dog. Haw River Wine Man. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33



93 Finca la Celia 2019 Eugenio Bustos Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). This is well-structured, with aromatic berries forming a delicate bouquet. Aged for 24 months, the resulting wine has integrated notes of wood spice and firm tannins. Red fruit is mixed with hints of rosemary on the mid-palate. It has a fine mineral texture and a vibrant character. Enjoy now–2033. VSPT Wine Group. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90



93 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Harmonious, well-balanced, exciting in aroma and rich in flavor, this wine seems to have it all. An enticing nose of winter spices, pine, cedar and black currants give way to layers of black cherries, subtle oak char, black pepper and mint on the palate. Fine-grained tannins set it up for further aging. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



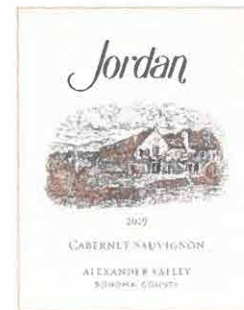
93 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Broad, rich and full of black fruits, this full-bodied and gently tannic wine sports black cherries, blueberries, black figs and cocoa layered on a creamy texture. Drinkable soon with a rich main course, this wine will be best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90



93 Force & Grace 2021 Revelist Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Impressively saturated and deep in black fruits, this firmly structured wine tastes superripe, offering dried plums and dried cherries accented by dark chocolate, mint and blueberries. It is mouthfilling, laced with fine tannins and quite full in body. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125



93 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Reserva (Alentejo). This vast estate, whose boundaries have remained unchanged for 750 years, has produced a rich, yet elegant expression in keeping with its reputed style. Full of black fruits and concentrated, still-young tannins; wood aging adds polish. Drink from 2026. Now Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



93 Jordan 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Excellent concentration and a classic flavor profile of black cherries, black olives and toasted oak give good reasons to buy and enjoy this Sonoma County icon. Firmly structured with fine-grained tannins and equally generous in black fruits, the wine is well-balanced and trim in body. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

BEST BUYS



90 D'Arenberg 2021 The Stump Jump White Blend (Adelaide). There's lots happening on this aromatic, crowd-pleasing white blend. Aromas of lamp oil and flint fill the senses first, followed by apricot kernel, waxy lemon and a hint of ground ginger. The palate is slightly waxy in texture, which plays nicely with tongue-tingling acidity. A lemon zest flavor lingers on the finish. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$14



90 Duck Pond 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). In need of a great white wine value? Then try a glass of Duck Pond's Chardonnay. You will be treated to yellow apple and lemon cake aromas that are spiced up by a bit of guava and wet pavement. The flavors are a tropical sea breeze featuring grapefruit and Marcona almonds. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16



90 Fattoria La Violla 2019 Torbolone (Toscana). The earthy, umami nose is a camping trip, full of aromas of coffee, leather, earth and peppery grilled meat, with a pleasing tartness coming from a blackberry undertone. That tart fruit element headlines the palate, but dense tannins and a warm finish preserve the peppery, meaty note. Haw River Wine Man. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

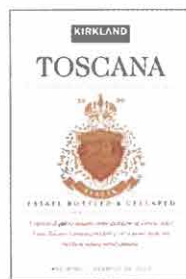
BEST BUYS



90 Gratién et Meyer NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Loire). Salmon in color, this wine has a nose of red-cherry skin, bruised red-apple slice, orange citrus and dried white blossom. On the palate, this Crémant rosé is supple in texture with mature acidity that is comfortable riding below the fruit structure. This is a delightful sparkling wine that could be served with all courses of a meal including dessert. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$18



90 Gratién et Meyer NV Brut (Crémant de Loire). This is a fulsome Crémant de Loire that has a lot to offer. The sparkling wine opens with baked apple and pear, and a tinge of caramel and white peach. The palate mirrors the nose along with a splash of white cola, lemon-citrus peel and orange blossom. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$18



90 Kirkland Signature 2020 Estate Bottled & Cellared (Toscana). The nose starts heavy, earthy and a tiny bit metallic, then pivots toward aromas of currants and cranberries. The fruit stays sweet and tart on the palate, but a touch of salt and pepper bolsters the enduring earthiness to create a fresh, lively wine that is an indisputable home run at this price point. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$14

BEST BUYS



90 Le Ragose 2021 (Valpolicella Classico). Fresh cherry aromas combine with turned earth, herbs and tobacco on this old-school-style Valpolicella. Notes of coffee and bitter chocolate meet with crushed cranberry notes on the palate with a savory finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$19



90 Lillie 2022 Feather Boa Pinot Grigio (California). This wine is fresh and zesty with kaffir lime, blood orange, pink grapefruit and Charentais melon. These come together with savory notes of dried herbs, white tea, white flowers, lime meringue, jalapeño and honeyed lemon, leading to a dry finish. This bottling uses top selections from throughout California to produce an outstanding wine. Enjoy with crab Louie, a seafood tower or a lobster roll. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$15



90 Lillie 2022 Feather Boa Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This wine is bright, lively and supple. Key lime, green apple, white peach, white flowers, pink grapefruit, fresh ginger, orange-blossom water, dried herbs and lemon balm come together to produce a medium-bodied wine. Enjoy with your favorite fish, poultry and veggie dishes. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$15