

Wine Spectator

WineSpectator.com

Napa & Sonoma When Can We Return?

100 SPARKLERS AT VALUE PRICES
BRUNELLO 2015: A CLASSIC VINTAGE
**CALIFORNIA ZINS FOR
SUMMER GRILLING**

JUNE 15 & 30, 2020
\$6.99 US



26>

0 09281 01712 7

SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Highly Recommended

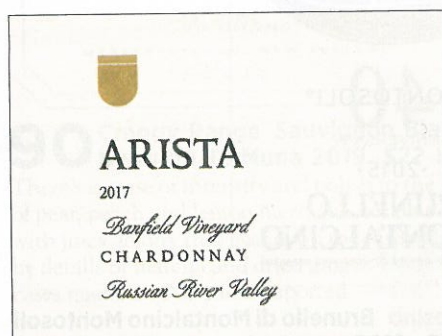
The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.



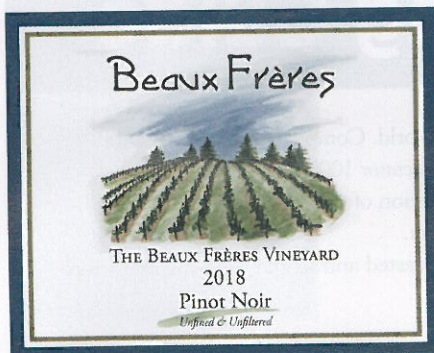
96 Bodega Piedra Negra Chacayes Los Chacayes 2015 \$99 ARGENTINA Very elegant and rich, with concentrated kirsch, dark plum and cherry tart flavors, backed by medium-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Shows grip midpalate, leading to a finish that turns creamy and plush, primed with spicy richness and chocolate mousse accents. Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2027. 3,000 cases made.—K.M.



96 Spring Mountain Vineyard Elivette Napa Valley 2016 \$160 CALIFORNIA Lush boysenberry, blackberry and plum fruit cascades forth, backed by streaks of charcoal, dark tobacco and roasted apple wood on the finish. Shows heft as well as mouthwatering cut, with a buried iron note resonating through the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Merlot and Malbec. Best from 2023 through 2040. 2,400 cases made.—J.M.



95 Arista Chardonnay Russian River Valley Banfield Vineyard 2017 \$80 CALIFORNIA Contoured, with a svelte structure to the pure-tasting flavors of Fuji apple, Bosc pear, peach tart and quince, layered with toasty accents. Wet stone notes show midpalate, leading to a finish that lingers with light buttery details and rich spiciness. Drink now through 2026. 357 cases made.—K.M.



95 Beaux Frères Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge The Beaux Frères Vineyard 2018 \$95 OREGON A wine of presence and expression, impeccably structured yet elegantly layered, with evocative raspberry, rose petal and brown baking spice notes that pick up richness and tension toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2029. 3,088 cases made.—T.F.



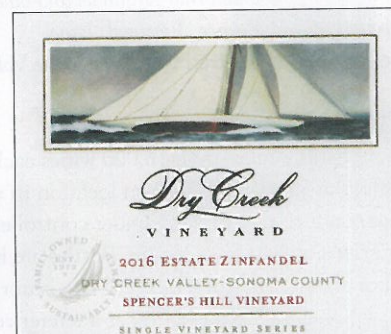
95 Caprili Brunello di Montalcino 2015 \$60 ITALY Offering cherry, plum, iron, earth and floral aromas and flavors, this is vibrant and beautifully balanced. Well-structured, with the harmony and concentration to develop. Best from 2023 through 2043. 4,000 cases made, 3,000 cases imported.—B.S.



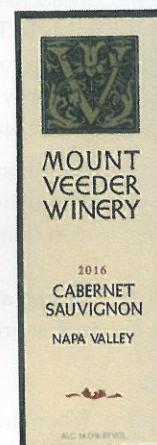
94 Alzinger Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Steinertal 2018 \$65 AUSTRIA Pure and elegant, featuring a pronounced mix of stone and orchard fruit, accented by elderflower, pine, durian and wet stone notes. Medium-bodied and elegant, with minerally grip adding to the structure and complexity. Saffron notes linger on the long, mouthwatering finish. Best from 2022 through 2035. 154 cases imported.—A.Z.



94 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino 2015 \$50 ITALY Distinctly salty, this red features cherry, strawberry, juniper, thyme and tobacco flavors. Tightly wound and energetic, with fine balance and a lingering, resonant aftertaste. Complex and built to age. Best from 2023 through 2042. 6,208 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.—B.S.



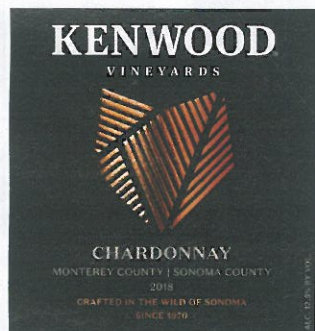
94 Dry Creek Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Spencer's Hill Vineyard Single Vineyard Series 2016 \$44 CALIFORNIA A knockout example of Dry Creek Zin, this is briary yet polished and refined, with lively raspberry, grilled anise and cracked pepper flavors that build power and tension toward broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2030. 800 cases made.—T.F.



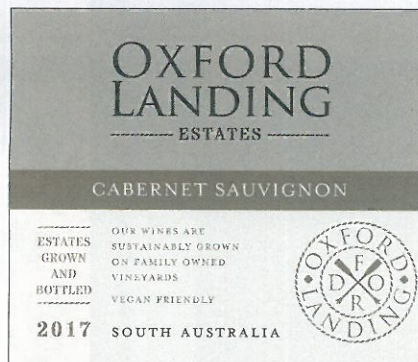
94 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2016 \$44 CALIFORNIA This displays a pure core of black cherry, cassis and plum puree flavors before the back end clamps down, revealing grippy tar and apple wood notes. Shows freshness and drive, with a pervasive sagebrush detail. Needs time to round into form. Best from 2022 through 2038. 39,041 cases made.—J.M.



89 The Seeker Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2019 \$14 NEW ZEALAND Lime, white grapefruit and white pepper flavors are fresh and bright, leaning into Key lime notes on the mouthwatering, intense finish. Drink now. 22,000 cases made, 22,000 cases imported.—M.W.



87 Kenwood Chardonnay Monterey-Sonoma Counties 2018 \$12 CALIFORNIA Fruity, with melon and crisp Gala apple flavors that are filled with light spice, cream and honey notes. Hints of dried shiso leaf show on the finish. Drink now. 59,000 cases made.—K.M.



86 Oxford Landing Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia 2017 \$10 AUSTRALIA This is dense, with notes of toffee and espresso complementing the blackberry and cassis flavors. Toasted herb and tobacco elements linger on the finish, where the tannins firm up. Drink now. 55,000 cases made, 5,000 cases imported.—M.W.

New Wines From Around the World

ARGENTINA

96 Bodega Piedra Negra Chacayes Los Chacayes 2015 \$99 See Highly Recommended, page 101.

91 Alpasión Malbec Los Chacayes Grand 2016 \$35 Rich and well-spiced, with juicy flavors of cherry, huckleberry and plum. Creamy notes show midpalate. The finish lingers with tannins and graphite accents. Drink now through 2024. 2,700 cases made, 800 cases imported.—K.M.

91 Clos de los Siete Uco Valley 2017 \$20 See Smart Buys, page 103.

90 Alpasión Private Selection Los Chacayes 2014 \$50 Big and ripe, with focused dark plum and blackberry flavors that feature rich tarry and chocolate mousse notes. The lively finish is loaded with cooking

spice accents. Malbec, Syrah, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2023. 1,140 cases made, 240 cases imported.—K.M.

90 Domaine Bousquet Malbec Tupungato 2019 \$13 See Best Values, page 103.

89 Maal Malbec Vista Flores Imposible 2017 \$32 Floral notes accent the cherry tart and roast plum flavors, backed by firm acidity. Smoky hints show midpalate, with a spicy finish that exhibits peppery and cedary details. Drink now through 2023. 700 cases made, 700 cases imported.—K.M.

89 TriVento Malbec Luján de Cuyo Golden Reserve 2017 \$21 Crisp and fresh-tasting, with cherry, licorice and brambly flavors, accented by flinty notes. The peppery finish shows smoky details. Drink now through 2023. 55,000 cases made, 11,000 cases imported.—K.M.

88 Bodega Colomé Torrontés Calchaquí Valley 2019 \$15 The gooseberry and lemon lime flavors show peach accents. The juicy finish lingers with curry notes. Drink now. 8,500 cases made, 3,500 cases imported.—K.M.

87 Bodega Piedra Negra Malbec Mendoza Alta Colección 2019 \$13 Ripe, with good cut to the dark fruit and spice flavors, showing green herbal accents. Smoky notes emerge on the finish. Drink now. 15,000 cases made, 7,500 cases imported.—K.M.

AUSTRALIA

91 Jansz Premium Rosé Pipers River Tasmania NV \$27 Fresh strawberry, pomegranate, mandarin orange and orange sherbet flavors are plump and juicy, with hints of white flower and spice on the refreshing finish. Drink now. 3,000 cases made, 400 cases imported.—M.W.

90 Best's Shiraz Great Western LSV 2017 \$35 The vanilla-scented cherry and plum flavors show appealing polish, revealing details of licorice, black tea and white pepper. Effusive and harmonious, with velvety tannins. Drink now through 2023. 300 cases made, 25 cases imported.—M.W.

90 Jansz Premium Cuvée Pipers River Tasmania NV \$27 Succulent, with a thread of saline that mingles with plump notes of lemon curd, tangerine and melon, showing some richness. Finishes crisp, with fresh acidity. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—M.W.

90 Kay Brothers Shiraz McLaren Vale Block 6 Amery Vineyard 2017 \$120 Powerful and polished, with plush, ripe huckleberry and blueberry flavors that show off a smoky thread, delivering terrific details of tobacco, baking spice and sandalwood. Shows great harmony on the finish. Drink now through 2036. 1,492 cases made, 80 cases imported.—M.W.

90 Yalumba Viognier South Australia The Y Series 2019 \$14 See Best Values, page 103.

88 Two Hands Shiraz Barossa Valley Bella's Garden 2017 \$69 Wild berry flavors mingle with forest floor, cigar box, black tea and spice notes. Plump and juicy, showing harmony on the finish. Drink now. 6,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—M.W.

88 Vinaceous Chardonnay Margaret River Reverend V 2018 \$23 The apple, citrus and pear flavors show an appealing richness, with spice and dried floral hints on the finish. Drink now. 500 cases made, 150 cases imported.—M.W.

87 Bulletin Place Moscato South Eastern Australia NV \$11 Sweet candied apple, pear and peach flavors are tangy and juicy in this version, with fizzy bubbles, a floral detail and fresh acidity. Drink now. 1,000 cases imported.—M.W.

87 The Chook Sparkling Shiraz South Australia NV \$23 Robust, with black cherry, star anise and strong black tea flavors that lean into notes of sandalwood and mahogany, with a spicy, fizzy finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 1,400 cases imported.—M.W.

86 Oxford Landing Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia 2017 \$10 See Best Values, page 104.

85 WitsEnd Vermentino McLaren Vale 2019 \$18 Crisp and refreshing, offering a juicy mix of lemon, white grapefruit and white pepper flavors. Drink now. 700 cases made, 200 cases imported.—M.W.

AUSTRIA

94 Alzinger Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Steinertal 2018 \$65 See Highly Recommended, page 101.

93 Alzinger Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Hollerin 2018 \$49 This is expressive and suave, with some body, showing slight grip midpalate. Features notes of white raspberry, bergamot and lavender. Firmly structured, exhibiting great complexity and a long, mouthwatering finish. Beautifully balanced and focused overall. Best from 2021 through 2030. 157 cases imported.—A.Z.



LEO ALZINGER
Owner

93 Hiedler Riesling Kamptal Ried Heiligenstein Reserve 2018 \$53 A glossy white, featuring notes of nectarine, persimmon and honeysuckle, underscored by a crunchy texture and vibrant acidity. Exhibits great balance and length, with well-rounded edges and no sharpness whatsoever. This will probably show more with a few years of age, but remains approachable now. Drink now through 2030. 125 cases imported.—A.Z.

92 Prieler Pinot Blanc Leithaberg 2017 \$42 A beautiful white that combines richness with elegance, featuring notes of jasmine and elderflower that frame the core of white peach and yellow apple flavors. Shows a firm backbone, built from chalky minerality and well-integrated acidity. White pepper and wet stone details emerge on the prolonged finish. Drink now through 2027. 116 cases imported.—A.Z.

90 Der Pollerhof Niederösterreich Vom Löss 2018 \$25 Offers aromas of orchard blossom and freshly cut melon, while the palate features flavors of apricot, papaya and white pepper. Lively and expressive, with a finish that lingers and invites you back for another sip. Sauvignon Blanc, Gelber Muskateller and Traminer. Drink now. 50 cases imported.—A.Z.

89 Schmelzer Zweigelt Burgenland 2015 \$25 Finely extracted, this features firm tannins and good flavor intensity, with dark mulberry, blackberry and wild berry tea notes. Lively, showing ample complexity, this red can be enjoyed on its own but would be better with food. Drink now through 2024. 100 cases imported.—A.Z.

88 Glatzer Zweigelt Carnuntum Rebencuvée 2018 \$17 Notes of candied cherry and violet mark this light- to medium-bodied red. Round and well-balanced, with good vibrancy. Shows a subtle spice accent on the moderate finish. Drink now. 195 cases imported.—A.Z.

FRANCE

Alsace

93 Schoffit Pinot Gris Alsace Grand Cru Rangen Clos St.-Théobald Sélection de Grains Nobles 2012 \$108 A vivid, creamy dessert wine, with vibrant acidity creating a mouthwatering impression that enlivens the lovely flavor range of apple glacée, ground cardamom, ginger and baked yellow peach. Hints of sweet and smoky toffee echo on the finish. Drink now through 2029. 55 cases made, 5 cases imported.—A.N.