

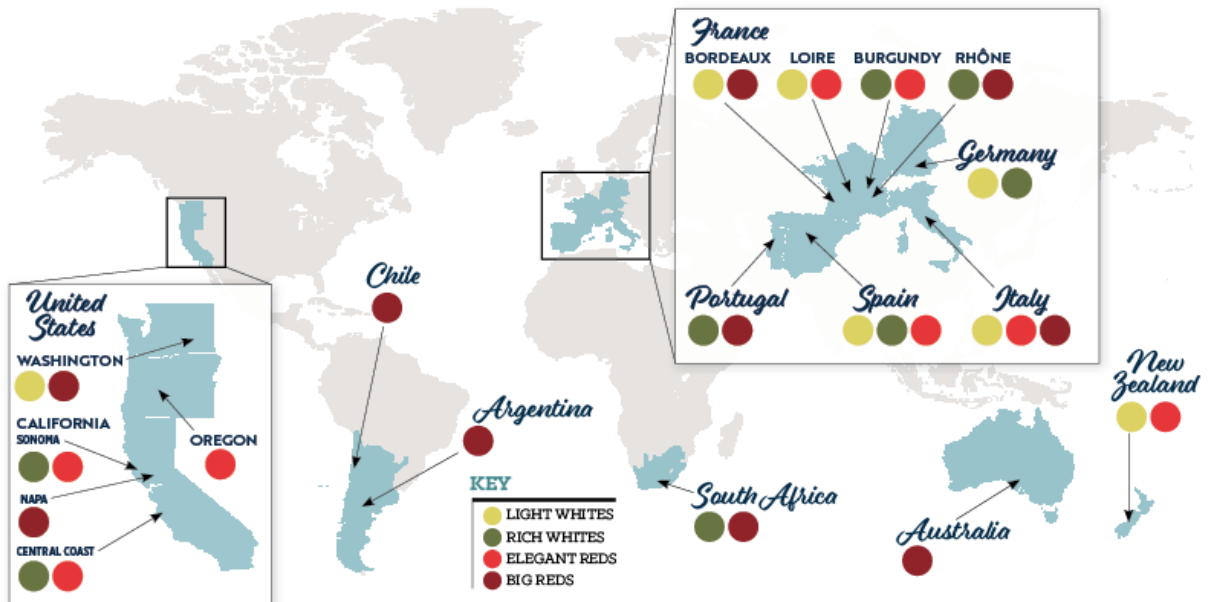
Wine Spectator

TOP 100

The wines in this year's annual roundup of 100 top values each answer are rated 88 points or higher, priced at \$20 or less and made in large enough quantities to be widely available, providing further evidence of the high quality that can be found at wallet-friendly prices.

WINE STYLES AROUND THE WORLD

This map charts the world's major winegrowing regions by their most prominent wine styles



LIGHT WHITES

Freshness and vibrancy define these light-bodied whites, whose lively flavors and bright acidity make them ideal aperitifs or perfect matches with seafood. With producers around the world pushing into cooler-climate regions, there are more wines than ever that offer high quality in a lighter, crisper style. Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling present go-to examples, yet less-familiar grapes such as Jacquère, grown in France's Savoie region, also make distinctive versions.

- 92 \$15 RAPAURA SPRINGS Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016** *New Zealand* A lip-smacking and juicy white, offering flavors of mango, lemon and pineapple that are bold and energetic. Finishes crisp and bright.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 90 \$15 YEALANDS Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Peter Yealands 2016** *New Zealand* Whiffs of smoke and honeysuckle add an aromatic accent to the core of peach, pear and mango flavors in this white.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 90 \$16 DOMAINE DU SALVARD Cheverny 2016** *France* Chiseled, with chive and flint notes backed by a zip of sel gris through the bracing finish. Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay.—James Molesworth
- 90 \$17 WAKEFIELD Riesling Clare Valley 2016** *Australia* Citrus and floral notes mingle on a lithe body, with white pepper and green apple peel details, finishing with a crescendo of acidity.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 90 \$18 RAVINES Riesling Finger Lakes Dry 2015** *New York* Still youthfully tight, this brims with tension as the mineral spine holds the yellow apple, star fruit and white peach flavors together.—James Molesworth
- 90 \$20 POET'S LEAP Riesling Columbia Valley 2016** *Washington* Snappy and refined, with expressive star fruit and slate aromas and sleek, lingering apricot and spice flavors.—Tim Fish
- 89 \$14 JOEL GOTT Sauvignon Blanc California 2016** *California* Silky and elegant, with crisp Key lime, Meyer lemon and fresh herbal shadings on a light, refreshing body.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 89 \$14 KONO Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016** *New Zealand* Light and lively, with refreshing acidity that keeps the papaya, lime and pineapple flavors fresh and vibrant.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 89 \$15 A TO Z WINEWORKS Pinot Gris Oregon 2015** *Oregon* Bright and graceful, with pretty cantaloupe and almond flavors on a slightly nubby texture, lingering on the finish.—Harvey Steiman
- 89 \$15 PEDRONCELLI Sauvignon Blanc Dry Creek Valley East Side Vineyards 2016** *California* This vivid white features lemon-lime flavors, with whiffs of peach blossom and lemon verbena adding aromatic intensity.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 89 \$15 PHILIPPE VIALLET Vin de Savoie 2016** *France* A zip of white peach is laced with verbena and quinine notes that race through the pretty, high-pitched finish. Jacquère blend.—James Molesworth
- 89 \$18 AUGUST KESSELER Riesling Kabinett Pfalz R 2015** *Germany* This is redolent of fresh-cut Fuji apple, with notes of ripe melon and kiwifruit that are crunchy and well-spiced.—Kim Marcus
- 89 \$20 DOMAINE VETRICCIE Corse White 2016** *France* Lively lemon zest, white peach and yellow apple notes form the core, backed by a mineral zing on the finish. Vermentino.—James Molesworth
- 88 \$13 CUNE Rioja White Monopole 2016** *Spain* Lively flavors of apple, wet stone and herbs mingle in this fresh white, kept focused by crisp acidity. Viura.—Thomas Matthews
- 88 \$14 ALSACE WILLM Riesling Alsace Réserve 2016** *France* Bright and citrusy, this light-bodied Riesling has a mineral underpinning to its blood orange, nectarine and fresh basil flavors.—Alison Napjus
- 88 \$15 I GRECO Calabria White Filù 2015** *Italy* Lively and expressive, with juicy clementine flavors that show hints of cardamom, pink grapefruit zest and ginger. Greco Bianco.—Alison Napjus
- 88 \$15 HUGEL Alsace Gentil 2016** *France* Offers a lively mix of Honeycrisp apple, white cherry, basil and pickled ginger, with a stony underpinning and tangy acidity. Gewürztraminer blend.—Alison Napjus
- 88 \$17 VICENTE GANDÍA Albariño Rias Baixas Con un Par (With a Pair) 2016** *Spain* Aromatic, with floral and ginger notes, this polished white offers light peach and quince flavors enlivened by fresh citrusy acidity.—Thomas Matthews
- 88 \$17 PRA Soave Classico Otto 2015** *Italy* This lithe white is fresh and creamy, with a stony element to the Honeycrisp apple, apricot, ginger and orchard blossom flavors.—Alison Napjus
- 88 \$18 ROBERTO ANSELMi Veneto White San Vincenzo 2016** *Italy* Lightly creamy, with a fresh basil note leading to pink grapefruit sorbet, peach skin and stone flavors. Garganega blend.—Alison Napjus

RICH WHITES

From its home in France's Burgundy region to its New World outposts in California, Chile and Argentina, Chardonnay anchors this category of full, ripe, flavorful whites. The grape's popularity has led producers to drive quality up while keeping prices low. The same instinct toward value is at work in many other regions around the world, yielding an array of rich, juicy whites from diverse varieties such as Gavi's Cortese grape and Austria's Grüner Veltliner.

- 91 \$17 KUNDE ESTATE Sauvignon Blanc Sonoma Valley Magnolia Lane 2015 California** Perfectly ripe peach, mango and melon flavors are intense and fleshy, with bright acidity and floral and honey details.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 91 \$20 VIÑA ERRÁZURIZ Chardonnay Aconcagua Coast Max Reserva 2016 Chile** Minerally and rich-tasting, with finely crafted flavors of apple, citrus, pear and spice that are supported by fresh acidity.—Kim Marcus
- 90 \$12 HESS SELECT Chardonnay Monterey County 2015 California** Exuberantly spicy, with plenty of cream and tropical notes to the ripe pear, apple compote and dried apricot flavors.—Kim Marcus
- 90 \$15 A.A. BADENHORST FAMILY Chenin Blanc Swartland Secateurs 2016 South Africa** Brightly defined, with quince, persimmon and green almond notes forming the core, threaded with quinine and white ginger details.—James Molesworth
- 90 \$20 COLLEMASSARI Vermentino Montecucco Melacce 2016 Italy** A ripe, round style, this white boasts peach, melon and mineral flavors, with fine intensity and balance, finishing long and satisfying.—Bruce Sanderson
- 90 \$20 LA CREMA Chardonnay Monterey 2015 California** This balanced and fruity white shows juicy apricot, pear and guava flavors, with hints of spice. Creamy notes linger on the pastry-filled finish.—Kim Marcus
- 90 \$20 YALUMBA Viognier Eden Valley 2016 Australia** Peach, rose petal and marmalade flavors, drizzled with honey and spice. A juiciness lingers on the finish.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 89 \$12 FORSTREITER Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Niederösterreich Grooner 2015 Austria** A juicy white, with apricot, peach, thyme and white pepper flavors. Vibrant and balanced in an easygoing way.—Bruce Sanderson
- 89 \$12 LOS HAROLDOS Chardonnay Mendoza 2015 Argentina** This version is loaded with white peach and pear flavors that are crisp and fresh-tasting, with a seductive spiciness and rich minerality on the lilted finish.—Kim Marcus
- 89 \$12 SAUVION & FILS Vouvray 2016 France** Enticing, with a plump hint to the racy green apple, pear and quince flavors. A light honeysuckle note adds charm on the finish.—James Molesworth
- 89 \$14 THE SEEKER Chardonnay California 2015 California** Lushly fruity, with juicy flavors of tangerine, pear tart, white plum and cherry, accented by notes of sugar snap pea.—Kim Marcus
- 89 \$19 BARBERANI Orvieto Classico Superiore Castagnolo 2015 Italy** A creamy white, this offers a subtle mix of pear tart, spring blossom and blanched almond notes. Grechetto.—Alison Napjus
- 89 \$19 E. GUIGAL Côtes du Rhône White 2015 France** A ripe white, with ginger, yellow apple and white peach flavors. Shows more weight than is typical, yet stays fresh. Viognier blend.—James Molesworth
- 88 \$11 DUORUM Douro Tons White 2016 Portugal** A floral-tinged white backed with peach, kumquat and melon notes, accented by spice and mineral underpinnings.—Gillian Sciaretta
- 88 \$11 VIÑEDOS EMILIANA Chardonnay Bío Bío Valley Natura Un-Oaked 2016 Chile** Honeysuckle and snap pea notes enliven the apple, citrus and gooseberry flavors, with creamy details.—Kim Marcus
- 88 \$12 HERDADE DO ESPORÃO Alentejo Monte Velho White 2016 Portugal** Shows peach and apple flavors, with refreshing, savory undertones of melon rind, spice and herb.—Gillian Sciaretta
- 88 \$14 M. CHAPOUTIER Côtes du Roussillon White Les Vignes de Bila-Haut 2015 France** Lithe and fresh, with pear, peach and apple skin flavors that show accents of crunchy herb, white pepper and mineral. Grenache Blanc blend.—Gillian Sciaretta
- 88 \$16 BANFI Gavi Principessa Gavia 2015 Italy** A rich, buttery style, boasting peach, apple and almond flavors. Though balanced on the soft side, this finishes with ample zip.—Bruce Sanderson
- 88 \$16 JOSEPH DROUHIN Mâcon-Villages 2015 France** Round and juicy, this white is elegant and open, evoking aromas and flavors of apple, peach and lemon, with a moderate finish.—Bruce Sanderson
- 88 \$18 LOUIS JADOT Bourgogne White 2015 France** Vanilla and toast flavors highlight the apple and lemon core in this rich white, which is balanced and easygoing.—Bruce Sanderson

ELEGANT REDS

Pinot Noir exemplifies the balance and refinement of these medium-bodied reds, with Burgundy, California, Oregon and New Zealand all producing distinctive versions at affordable prices. Yet the focus and freshness of this category can be found in a range of other wines, such as the Sangiovese-based reds of Tuscany, which offer complex flavors in an elegant package, and the lively Tempranillos of Spain's Rioja and Ribera del Duero regions.

- 91 \$20 RODÁNO Chianti Classico 2013** *Italy* Fresh and aromatic, this balanced red delivers black cherry, blackberry and spice flavors, allied to a juicy texture. Echoes fruit and spice on the aftertaste.—Bruce Sanderson
- 90 \$16 CANOE RIDGE Merlot Horse Heaven Hills The Expedition 2015** *Washington* Sleek and supple, with black cherry and dark chocolate aromas that lead to layered plum and orange zest flavors.—Tim Fish
- 90 \$17 AVIGNONESI Rosso di Montepulciano 2015** *Italy* An elegant red, balancing notes of cherry, leather, tobacco and earth with a vibrant structure, with mineral and tobacco accents.—Bruce Sanderson
- 90 \$17 BABICH Pinot Noir Marlborough 2016** *New Zealand* Dried lavender and Earl Grey tea details add to the charm of this perfumed red, with lingering cranberry and raspberry notes.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 90 \$18 CHAOS & HARMONY Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015** *New Zealand* This stylish red is lavishly perfumed, with a tangy cherry core.—MaryAnn Worobiec
- 90 \$19 DOMAINE GOURON Chinon 2016** *France* A brisk, fresh style, offering pomegranate and red currant fruit, with a bright finish.—James Molesworth
- 90 \$19 BODEGAS SIERRA Cantabria Rioja Crianza 2013** *Spain* This juicy red is balanced and lively, offering fresh flavors of cherry, blood orange and licorice, with citrusy acidity.—Thomas Matthews
- 89 \$11 BODEGAS CASTAÑO Monastrell Yecla Hécúla 2015** *Spain* Black cherry and red plum flavors are balanced by leafy and loamy earth notes in this red, with orange peel acidity.—Thomas Matthews
- 89 \$13 CHÂTEAU PUYGUERAUD Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2014** *France* A fresh red, with good energy to the red currant, cherry and damson plum fruit. Racy finish. Merlot blend.—James Molesworth
- 89 \$13 SANTA CRISTINA Toscana 2015** *Italy* This light, juicy red has black cherry, blackberry and herb flavors, with moderate grip. Merlot blend.—Bruce Sanderson
- 89 \$15 BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS Tamaral Tempranillo Ribera del Duero 2015** *Spain* This delivers bright flavors of blackberry, blood orange, toasty vanilla and cardamom, with lively acidity.—Thomas Matthews
- 89 \$16 CHÂTEAU ST.-DIDIER Malbec Cahors Prieuré de Cénac 2015** *France* This expressive red is fresh and concentrated, offering flavors of blueberry, black cherry and licorice.—Gillian Sciarretta
- 89 \$18 BRIDLEWOOD Pinot Noir Monterey County 2014** *California* A spicy, savory expression, with dried herb, cherry and raspberry flavors. Shows an overall sense of balance and finesse.—James Laube
- 89 \$18 KINGS RIDGE Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2015** *Oregon* Focused on a medium-weight frame, this has cherry, licorice and wet earth flavors that glide into the long, expressive finish.—Harvey Steiman
- 89 \$19 ERATH Pinot Noir Oregon 2015** *Oregon* Bright and sleek, with pretty pomegranate and pear flavors that linger gently.—Harvey Steiman
- 88 \$13 BODEGAS CAMPO VIEJO Tempranillo Rioja 2015** *Spain* Cherry, leafy and vanilla notes mingle in this juicy and harmonious red.—Thomas Matthews
- 88 \$14 BRIGALDARA Valpolicella 2015** *Italy* Ripe strawberry and cream flavors are accented by dried herb and smoke in this lightly chewy red.—Alison Napjus
- 88 \$16 MICHELE CHIARLO Barbera d'Asti Superiore Le Orme 2015** *Italy* Rich, vibrant and smooth, evoking black cherry, black currant and almond flavors, with a lingering aftertaste.—Bruce Sanderson
- 88 \$18 JOSH CELLARS Pinot Noir Central Coast 2014** *California* Pure, rich and vibrant, with a zesty mix of wild berry, raspberry, licorice, savory herb and cassis notes.—James Laube
- 88 \$20 LOUIS LATOUR Bourgogne 2015** *France* This firm red is shy in aroma, yet offers plenty of juicy cherry, smoke and spice flavors.—Bruce Sanderson

BIG REDS

These powerful reds leave it all on the field. They're as bold as wine gets, delivering concentrated flavors with as much depth as the fruit will allow. The perennial standouts in this category all hail from warmer climates, where grapes such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Malbec and Zinfandel can reach their optimal ripeness. Syrah continues to prove itself to be a breakout star in regions around the world, from Australia to California to Washington.

92 \$20 PETER LEHMANN Shiraz Barossa The Barossan 2015 Australia This dense red offers sink-your-teeth-into-them tannins and fleshy notes of spiced plum and wild blackberry.—MaryAnn Worobiec

90 \$16 HESS FAMILY Latin America Malbec Salta Amalaya 2016 Argentina Creamy and lush, showing vibrant red fruit flavors, with good cut and length on the peppery finish.—Kim Marcus

90 \$17 CASAS DEL BOSQUE Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Gran Reserva 2015 Chile Powerful and rich-tasting, with concentrated flavors of dried raspberry and plum tart accented by plenty of toasty notes.—Kim Marcus

90 \$17 VOLVER La Mancha 2015 Spain Flavors of black cherry and red plum flavors mingle with cocoa and licorice notes in this generous red. A fruit-forward style, with depth.—Thomas Matthews

90 \$18 ANTIGAL WINERY & ESTATES Malbec Mendoza Uno 2014 Argentina A well-structured red, offering rich flavors of dried raspberry and cherry tart accented by beefy notes.—Kim Marcus

90 \$20 TURLEY Zinfandel California Juvenile 2015 California Peppery black cherry aromas lead to complex flavors of berry cobbler and licorice in this vibrant, zesty red.—Tim Fish

90 \$20 FINCA VILLACRECES Ribera del Duero Pruno 2015 Spain Rich yet lively, this red delivers ripe flavors of boysenberry and black plum, with leafy and orange peel notes.—Thomas Matthews

89 \$12 PARINGA Shiraz South Australia 2015 Australia Smoke and sandalwood details accent the black cherry and currant flavors in this red, with lingering dried herb notes.—MaryAnn Worobiec

89 \$13 D'ARENBERG Shiraz McLaren Vale The Stump Jump 2014 Australia Raspberry and matcha green tea flavors are fresh and vibrant in this red, with details of spice and red licorice.—MaryAnn Worobiec

89 \$15 BROTTE Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Création Grosset 2016 France Ripe and focused, offering a racy feel to the raspberry and cherry coulis flavors. Shows a light pastis hint on the finish, with a solid graphite edge.—James Molesworth

89 \$15 CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Syrah Columbia Valley 2014 Washington Expressive blackberry and smoky meat aromas lead to licorice and pepper flavors framed by ripe tannins.—Tim Fish

89 \$15 COLUMBIA CREST Cabernet Sauvignon Horse Heaven Hills H3 2015 Washington Floral red currant aromas lead to focused black cherry, crushed stone and tobacco flavors that finish with refined tannins.—Tim Fish

89 \$15 CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON Côtes du Rhône Réserve 2015 France Ripe and racy, with a beam of red currant and raspberry pâte de fruit laced with anise and singed apple wood notes.—James Molesworth

89 \$16 CAVE DE ROQUEBRUN Coteaux du Languedoc Chemin des Olivettes 2016 France A muscular red, with savory aromas of dried meat and charred herb weaving through the grilled plum and dried blackberry fruit flavors.—Gillian Sciaretta

89 \$18 TENSLEY FUNDAMENTAL Central Coast 2015 California Dark and potent, with brooding blueberry, orange zest and smoky spice flavors that finish with big but ripe tannins. Syrah.—Tim Fish

89 \$20 FREI BROTHERS Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Reserve 2015 California Expressive raspberry jam aromas open to snappy, fruit-forward cherry and spicy cinnamon flavors.—Tim Fish

89 \$20 ROBERT HALL Syrah Paso Robles 2014 California A lovely, easygoing Syrah, with violet and blueberry aromas that lead to supple, soft raspberry and spicy cinnamon flavors.—Tim Fish

88 \$13 QUINTA DOS MURÇAS Douro Assobio 2015 Portugal Savory and well-spiced, showing dried herb and fresh earth aromas and boysenberry and red plum flavors, with firm tannins.—Gillian Sciaretta

88 \$13 LOS VASCOS Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua 2015 Chile This fleshy red offers dried berry and roasted plum flavors that are firm, with savory and white pepper notes.—Kim Marcus

88 \$19 PEDRONCELLI Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Creek Valley Three Vineyards 2014 California Pure, rich and focused, this red offers mint and bay leaf notes shaded by currant and blackberry nuances, with full, round tannins.—James Laube

ROSÉ

Rosé has exploded in popularity in recent years and, happily, supply has kept up with demand. That means there are more affordable versions than ever, from a diverse array of regions. Southern France continues to make the exquisite rosés it's long been known for, yet California has come on strong in recent years, with a range of styles from appellations throughout the state.

90 \$20 TENSHEM Rosé Central Coast 2016 *California* Expressive and fun to drink, this rosé has crisp nectarine, smoky spice and watermelon flavors. Syrah blend.—Tim Fish

89 \$14 FERRARI-CARANO Sangiovese Sonoma County Rosé Dry 2016 *California* Effusive aromas of spicy cinnamon and strawberry lead to crisp and zesty raspberry flavors.—Tim Fish

89 \$20 CHÂTEAU D'AQUÉRIA Tavel 2016 *France* This sports a plump core of strawberry and red currant notes, flanked with high-pitched rose water and floral accents.—James Molesworth

88 \$11 14 HANDS Rosé Columbia Valley 2016 *Washington* Expressive raspberry and watermelon aromas combine with snappy, easygoing flavors. Syrah and Grenache.—Tim Fish

88 \$12 MATUA Pinot Noir Marlborough Rosé 2016 *New Zealand* Light, juicy watermelon and apple skin flavors are wrapped around fresh berry notes in this rosé, which is vibrant on the finish.—MaryAnn Worobiec

88 \$13 JEAN-LUC COLOMBO Méditerranée Rosé Cape Bleue 2016 *France* Pure and precise, with streamlined watermelon and white cherry fruit that has a very fresh feel. Syrah and Mourvèdre.—James Molesworth

88 \$15 LES CAVES DU COMMANDEUR Côtes de Provence Rosé Âme du Vin 2016 *France* There's a creamy edge to the notes of white cherry, bergamot and mango in this rosé, ending with a light rose water echo. Grenache and Cinsault.—James Molesworth

88 \$15 PHILIPPE VIALLET Vin de Savoie Rosé 2016 *France* Lively blood orange and rose water notes streak along, backed by a vibrant stony spine on the finish. Gamay.—James Molesworth

88 \$17 BODEGAS MUGA Rioja Rosado 2016 *Spain* This lively rosé rides energetic citrusy acidity to deliver focus and freshness, with cherry and red plum flavors that show depth.—Thomas Matthews

88 \$20 LA CREMA Pinot Noir Monterey Rosé 2016 *California* This version is soft and delicate, with supple strawberry and cranberry flavors.—Tim Fish

SPARKLING

As with rosé, the growing demand for sparkling wine is keeping producers busy. The difficult, time-consuming production process used to mean a lack of affordable bubbly, but as more regions and producers have gotten into the game and refined their techniques, the better and more affordable the wines have become. Look to Italy for the greatest diversity.

89 \$16 KORBEL Brut California Organic Grapes 2016 *California* Alluring apple and floral cherry aromas lead to supple, fruit-forward Meyer lemon and fresh ginger flavors in this sparkler.—Tim Fish

88 \$15 14 HANDS Brut Rosé Columbia Valley NV *Washington* Festive and a touch sweet, this offers lively strawberry and spicy cinnamon aromas and zesty cherry and graham cracker flavors. —Tim Fish

88 \$15 EL CEP Brut Cava Kila 2015 *Spain* A minerally version, with subtle flavors of melon, apple blossom, lemon curd and light toast riding the refined mousse.—Alison Napjus

88 \$17 JUVÉ Y CAMPS Brut Rosé Pinot Noir Cava NV *Spain* A firm backbone of acidity frames this well-balanced rosé sparkler, offering flavors of crushed raspberry, orange zest and smoke.—Alison Napjus

88 \$18 BRAIDA DI GIACOMO BOLOGNA Moscato d'Asti Vigna Senza Nome 2015 *Italy* A fresh, floral version, showing verbena, blood orange granita and Thai basil flavors set on a fine, creamy mousse.—Alison Napjus

88 \$18 LINI ORESTE & FIGLI Lambrusco Emilia In Correggio 910 Scuro NV *Italy* A balanced, appealing Lambrusco, with pure black currant, orange peel and light herb flavors.—Alison Napjus

88 \$19 BELLENDIA Brut Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore San Fermo 2016 *Italy* Vibrant acidity enlivens this well-meshed Prosecco, with flavors of Honeycrisp apple, peach skin and pickled ginger.—Alison Napjus

88 \$19 SOFIA Brut Rosé Monterey County Sofia 2016 *California* Showing a hint of spicy sweetness, this is a fun quaff for a warm day, with fresh cherry and strawberry accents.—Tim Fish

88 \$20 MEDICI ERMETE Secco Reggiano Le Tenute Solo NV *Italy* Well-balanced and creamy, this lively version offers black cherry coulis, licorice snap and crushed pink peppercorn notes. —Alison Napjus

88 \$20 SCHARFFENBERGER Brut Mendocino County Excellence NV *California* Creamy and lively, this sparkler features festive apple and spice flavors.—Tim Fish