

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

BEST OF YEAR 2018

THIS MONTH

- 180 CALIFORNIA
- 205 WASHINGTON
- 206 TEXAS
- 208 VIRGINIA
- 209 OTHER UNITED STATES
- 210 CHILE
- 212 NEW ZEALAND
- 214 SPAIN
- 217 BURGUNDY
- 220 RHÔNE VALLEY
- 224 VENETO
- 226 EMILIA-ROMAGNA
- 227 SICILY
- 229 BULGARIA
- 229 OTHER EUROPE
- 230 SPIRITS
- 231 BEER

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

BARGAIN BORDEAUX REDS

More than 180 reviews from Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur, with 36 Best Buys.

GLOBAL CHARDONNAY

Explore a full range of examples from California, Virginia, France, New Zealand, Chile and beyond.

NORTHERN ITALIAN FIZZ

More than 75 reviews of sparkling wines from Piedmont, Lombardy and Veneto.

Pinot Noir growing in Monterey County.

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BUYINGGUIDE

giving depth to the mulberry flavors. It's all framed by persistent, well integrated acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$46

93 Sanford 2014 Block 5 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). One of the winery's single-block series, this focused bottling features clone 777 and delivers aromas of red cherry, vanilla, licorice and pine oil on the nose. The texture is quite grippy, and the palate offers flavors of roasted cranberry, anise, sumac and allspice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$88

93 Sanford 2013 Founders' Vines Single Block Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 185. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% Price: \$115

93 Small Vines 2016 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Bright layers of citrus and strawberry highlight a wild element of high-toned character in this fiercely complex, tannic wine that expands on the palate over time. Floral rose and lavender persist from start to finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$55

93 Tantara 2016 Dierberg Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Light raspberry and strawberry aromas mesh with star anise and close on the pleasing if somewhat mellow nose of this single-vineyard expression. Riper, richer flavors of vanilla, oak, baking spice and cooked berries show on the palate, which is powered by strong acid. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

93 Tantara 2016 Zotovich Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Framboise, sweet dill, moss and dewy herbs show on the nose of this bottling from the Sta. Rita Hills. A grippy texture grabs hold of the palate right away and won't let go, allowing pungent and underripe strawberry, cinnamon and all spice flavors to grab the attention. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

93 Trombetta 2016 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 185.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

92 Alara 2016 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). For full review see page 185.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$41

92 Ancien 2015 Jouissance Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a tightly wound, youthful and still developing, medium-bodied wine, with plenty of beauty to show for it even as it evolves. Dense black cherry, plum and cardamom flavors are complemented by floral aromatics of rose, violet and lavender. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$48

92 Beckon 2016 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 186. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

92 Black Kite 2016 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). There's a rugged and burly quality to this single-vineyard expression, starting with aromas of roast pork in a pan sauce of cranberry, mulberry, dried herbs and cracked pepper. The hearty palate layers pomegranate and plum alongside chai spice, bay leaf and sage. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$45

92 Boekenooogen 2016 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). There is a strong earthy and rocky quality on the nose of this wine at first, with crushed gravel aromas, but then the dark red fruit becomes more boisterous. There is also candied red fruit in the background on the sip, but the mineral tones of slate and earth are prominent and compelling. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$46

92 Davies 2016 Nobles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Soft in wild blue fruit, black tea and stemmy earth, this wine has a brooding earthiness that's exotic and beguiling. It invites with a perfume of violet and rose as well as coastal salt and crushed rock, mineral components that accent a grainy texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

92 Domaine Anderson 2014 Pinoli Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Deep ripe fruit flavors give this full-bodied wine a big personality, while moderate tannins and brisk acidity add a nice textural touch. It has plenty of ripe black-fruit aromas and flavors, and light spicy accents like cinnamon and black tea. —J.G.
abv: NA Price: \$55

92 Foxen 2016 Block 43 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This coveted block designation from a historic property combines rich aromas of black cherry and dark berry with gamy hints of roasted pork and composting violets. It's bright and tart at first on the palate before wood spice, roasted cherry and cherry pit show in the midpalate. It's still a young wine. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$65

92 Foxen 2016 Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Black raspberry, turned earth, baked plum and incense show on the nose of this bottling from the vineyard of winemaker Billy Wathen's good friend Rick Longoria. There is a woody core to the palate, where oak and pine flavors are wrapped around black plum and boysenberry fruit, with a touch of sagebrush. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$70

92 Frank Family 2016 Lewis Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros). Lush and exotically spiced in nutmeg and rose, this wine is expansively complex and beguiling in its big-boned, full-bodied richness. It displays bold flavors of dark cherry and cola. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65