

LOS GATOS

MAGAZINE

HOLIDAY GUIDE 2018

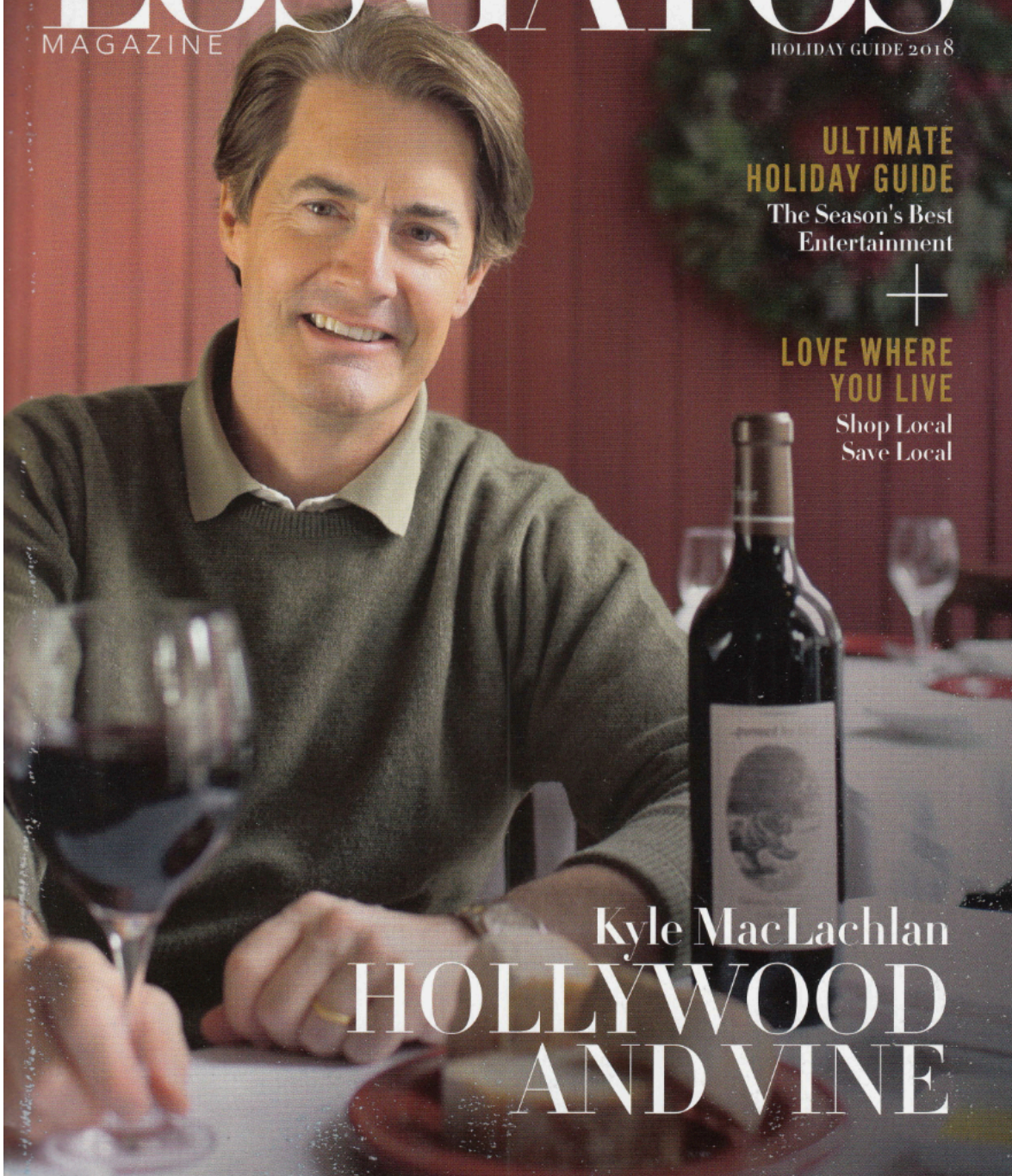
**ULTIMATE
HOLIDAY GUIDE**

The Season's Best
Entertainment



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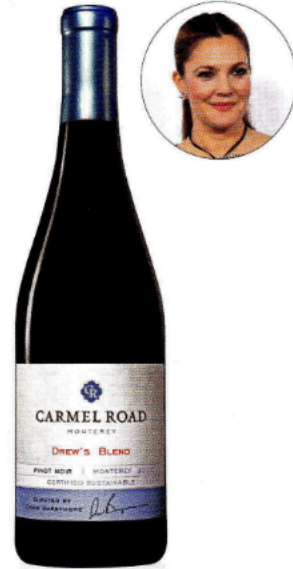
Kyle MacLachlan
**HOLLYWOOD
AND VINE**

10 CELEBRITY WINES WORTH THE HYPE

BY LAURA NESS

A lot of vines seem to be planted at the intersection of Hollywood, the NFL and motor racing. What is it about wine that draws celebrity to it? For some, it's the challenge, the exhilaration of succeeding at yet another high-stakes contest. For others, it's an innate love of farming and the ability to create something enduring. Certainly, for others, it's a way of preserving a legacy or supporting a worthy cause. While many celebrities have been lured by the vine, not all wines are worthy of your time or money. Here are 10 standout successes in celebrity wine that would make fine holiday gifts; far more impressive than team jerseys or logo'd socks.

Bottle Photos: Mockingbird Studio



**Drew Barrymore, Actress
Barrymore Wines**

2013 CARMEL ROAD, DREW'S BLEND, PINOT NOIR, MONTEREY

What a career Barrymore has had, from *Altered States* and *ET* to *The Wedding Singer* to *Cover Girl* model. She really hit her stride with her own production company, killing it with "Charlie's Angels." Carmel Road winemaker Kris Kato, who works for Jackson Family Wines, says Barrymore "definitely has her own ideas about wine: she's pretty specific about what she wants." Barrymore herself says, "We wanted to make a beautiful Pinot Noir perfect for sharing with friends and family." It paid off in this fine example of pure Monterey Pinot that begins with aromas of fern, earth, red apple and ripe red raspberry. Lean with minerality, yet flavor-packed with pomegranate and red cherry, it has an alluring spice, both savory and sweet. Fine and supple of texture, this wine begs for duck liver mousse.

13.5% | \$28



Drew Bledsoe, NFL Quarterback
Doubleback and Bledsoe Family Wines

**2016 FLYING B
CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA**

Bledsoe, who calls Walla Walla, Washington home, was the 1993 No. 1 draft pick and New England Patriots quarterback from 1993-2001. (Brady replaced him after an injury.) He credits his teammates with turning him on to wine. Upon retiring from the NFL, Bledsoe and his wife Maura, returned to WA to found Doubleback Winery. The name refers to coming back home. There's a lot of that going on with wine: it brings you back to your roots. Winemaker Josh McDaniels crafts this bold, fullback style blend from carefully selected blocks of Cabernet and Syrah. Leather, raspberry, cedar, menthol and tobacco aromas set up the flavor play, which goes long and deep with big, sandy super-plush tannins, intense blueberry and blackberry, and a wallop of sage and white pepper on the everlasting finish. We're glad Drew came home to make this winning pass at winemaking.

14.5% | \$48



Richard Frank, Walt Disney Executive
Frank Family Vineyards

**2013 FRANK FAMILY BLANC
DE BLANCS, CARNEROS**

Richard Frank was chairman of Walt Disney Television and Telecommunications, and president of Walt Disney Studios before acquiring the Larkmead Winery in Napa. "We're committed to bubbles! It has been produced on this property since the 1950s, when Marilyn Monroe used to come taste here. We kept making it because I'm a sentimental guy. There is no place I'd rather be than home for the holidays, and no other way I'd rather celebrate than with loved ones and a beautiful glass of sparkling wine," says Frank.

From 100% Chardonnay, this holiday-worthy hand-riddled beauty keeps you coming back for its honey, sage, fresh pineapple and quince aromas. It practically attacks the palate with golden apple and pineapple on an endless stream of tiny bubbles, adding apricot jam to the long vibrant finish of lime and mandarin. Like Tinkerbell's magic wand, it will make your holidays sparkle.

12% | \$55



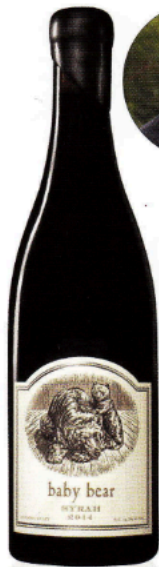
Terry Hoage, Super Bowl Champion
TH Estate Wines and TH Vineyards

**2015 THE 46, WILLOW
CREEK DISTRICT,
PASO ROBLES**

A native of Iowa, defensive star Hoage won the 1992 Super Bowl with the Washington Redskins. Upon retiring from the NFL in 1996, he and his wife Jennifer discovered the up-and-coming wine region, Paso Robles, and built a whole new life. Says Hoage, "Football is instantaneous feedback and winemaking is anything but. Winning in wine means finding the audience that relates to what you are doing and enjoys the end product."

All of Terry's wines have a tongue-in-cheek reference to football. Here, "The 46" refers both to the highway that runs through Paso, and to Buddy Ryan's defense. It's 50% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 10% Mourvedre, smoldering with fig, earth, limestone, blackberry and smoked wood, and flowing freely with happy, ripe summer fruits, making your mouth smile.

14.7% | \$60



Kyle MacLachlan, Actor
Pursued by Bear

**2014 BABY BEAR SYRAH,
COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA**

We loved him in *Dune*, an impossible book to turn into a movie, but he endeared himself to us in *Sex & the City*, every woman's excuse to buy more shoes. So what made Kyle decide to retreat to the wilds of eastern Washington state to grow grapes? This is home turf to MacLachlan,—he grew up in Yakima—and although he lives in New York with his wife and young son, for whom Baby Bear is named, he finds making wine lets him appreciate it more deeply. Pursued by Bear is a reference to a stage direction in Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, (exit stage left, pursued by bear). Anything but a baby, this wine is meaty, plummy and redolent of earth and spice, a truly well-made, chewy Syrah, with salami and grilled prosciutto wrapped around abundant acid and finishing with chocolate cake. A wine worthy of a Christmas feast, and most certainly, of your next Oscar party.

14.2% | \$60



Dan Marino, Pro Football Hall of Famer
Passing Time Wines

**2015 CABERNET
SAUVIGNON, HORSE
HEAVEN HILLS, WA**

Considered one of the best quarterbacks to play the game, NFL star Dan Marino, QB'd the Miami Dolphins for 17 years. About 15 years ago, Dan teamed up with his former Dolphins backup quarterback, Damon Huard, who grew up in Walla Walla, to make a play in the wine business. Says Huard, "We think Cabernet is what Washington does best. We have very consistent growing seasons, allowing grapes to hang longer than most growing regions and really develop complexity." They've produced a seemingly effortless win with this 2015 Cab. Loaded with graphite, tilled soil, tobacco leaf and fragrant herbs, it tackles the palate with dark red raspberry, cocoa, lavender and tarragon, lifting the graceful core and gravelly tannins to perfection. Marino and Huard may not have a Super Bowl title, but they have this stunning Cabernet, and it tastes better than revenge.

14.5% | \$80

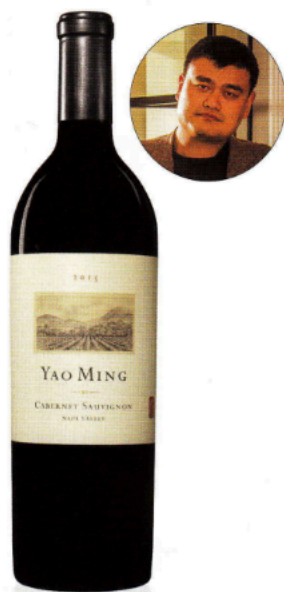


Jim Nantz, Emmy Winning Broadcaster
The Calling Wine

**2016 PATRIARCH PINOT
NOIR, SONOMA COAST**

A stunning package, complete with a 3D platinum-looking cellar door with an embossed lock on the label, this Pinot from The Calling's Platinum collection would satisfy pretty much any palate. From its alluring mountain spice and forest floor aromas, to its astonishing breadth of harmonious flavors, this is seamlessly constructed, with a perfectly poised delivery. Five-time National Sportscaster of the Year, Jim Nantz, and wine industry entrepreneur Peter Deutsch, met after Peter read Jim's book about his father's struggles with Alzheimers, *Always by my Side*, and thus, The Calling was born. Working with renowned winemakers Dan Goldfield, Wayne Donaldson, and James MacPhail, Jim and Peter pulled out all the stops as they created this truly memorable—and memory-making—wine. Fittingly, proceeds help fund the world-renowned research and treatment facility Nantz National Alzheimer Center at the Methodist Hospital in Houston.

14.5% | \$70

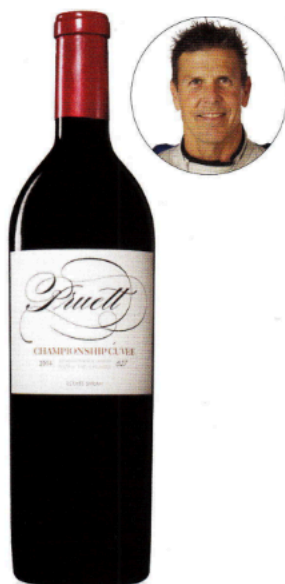


Yao Ming, NBA Basketball Star
Yao Family Wines

**2015 YAO MING
CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
NAPA VALLEY**

Yao Ming's career in basketball enabled him to travel all over the world but he always returns to the peaceful vineyards and volcanic soil of the Napa Valley. From its deep ruby hue to its abundantly berrylicious and toasty oak aromas, this wine delivers classic dark cherry, cassis, lavender and plum, wrapped around a solid core of minerality. Aged in 65% new French oak for 18 months, hints of vanilla and wild sage augment the plush texture and depth of this Cab, sourced from vineyards in Yountville and St. Helena. Yao Ming says, "I'm involved in the wine world because I love the Napa Valley, and I'm a real fan of great wine. What is in the bottle comes from the people and place of Napa. When I savor wine, I think about where it came from and the artisans who created it."

14.6% | \$95

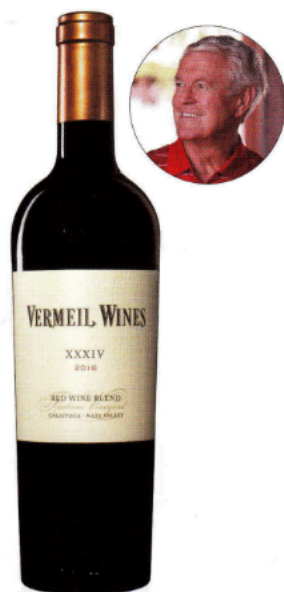


Scott Pruett, Champion Race Car Driver
Pruett Vineyards

**2014 CHAMPIONSHIP
ESTATE SYRAH,
SIERRA FOOTHILLS**

Racing legend Scott Pruett recently retired after a 50-year career of winning championships in motor racing. Nobody has competed in more forms of racing including CART, Nascar, Trans Am, IMSA and Grand Am. He's won Le Mans, Sebring and the 24 Hours of Daytona. He appears to live at lightspeed. Just ask his wife, Judy, who has spent a lifetime dealing with his intense travel schedule. Scott does everything in the vineyard himself, a natural farmer having grown up in Roseville on his father's farm. This gorgeous Championship Estate Syrah is dark midnight purple velvet, filled with dusty blackberries, ginger plum tart and olive tapenade. It achieves near textural perfection. Says Pruett, "We do it all, from berry to bottle. I'm doing all the work. It's my passion." It takes drive to be this driven.

15.5% | \$150



Dick Vermell, NFL Coach
Vermell Wines

**2016 CALISTOGA CUVÉE
XXXIV, FREDIANI VINEYARD,
CALISTOGA, NAPA VALLEY**

Coach Dick Vermell was born and raised in Calistoga, where his great grandfathers, who emigrated from Italy and France in the late 1800s, had vacation homes and vineyards. Vermell, aka "Coach," grew up with wine as part of meals and helped his grandparents rack barrels, but only under a full moon. This wine is named in honor of Super Bowl 34, in which Coach's St. Louis Rams vanquished the Titans to take their first title crown. A blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Cabernet Franc, 22% Petite Sirah and 9% Zinfandel, it's as lush as the deep garnet color suggests, with dark plum, rose petal, leather and cocoa dust. Sweet ripe cherries, flourless chocolate torte, gingersnaps, cola and bold tannins take you on a long drive downfield into an end zone of endless velvet. Hmm, is this what victory tastes like?

14.5% | \$52