



WINE SPECTATOR's Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **JUNE 15 & 30, 2022** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's June 15 & 30 issue spotlights Dave Phinney, creator of The Prisoner, Orin Swift and other quality affordable wines. Tasting reports cover the outstanding 2017 vintage for Brunello di Montalcino and Cabernet Sauvignon from Washington. Plus, don't miss our feature on global sparkling wines.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

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- 97 BOLLINGER** Brut Champagne La Grande Année 2014 • \$190
Racy acidity drives this mouthwatering Champagne, enlivening the rich panoply of flavors. Features a fine and creamy mousse that's still a lively springboard for aromas and flavors of crème de cassis, glazed tangerine, roasted hazelnut, ground coffee, pickled ginger and white blossoms. Long and satiny, with mineral salt and chalk notes gaining momentum on the lasting finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Disgorged July 2021. Drink now through 2037. 1,500 cases imported.—A.N.
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- 97 CAPRILI** Brunello di Montalcino AdAlberto Riserva 2016 • \$90
A taut, linear red, hallmarked by cherry, strawberry, green olive, rose, sanguine and iron aromas and flavors. This is packed with fruit, backed by a solid matrix of tannins and an aftertaste of wild herbs, fruit and tobacco. Best from 2026 through 2045. 400 cases made, 200 cases imported.—B.S.
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- 96 TALENTI** Brunello di Montalcino Pian di Conte Riserva 2016 • \$70
Fluid cherry, currant and raspberry flavors are matched to dense, dusty tannins in this taut red, which shows wild herb, tobacco and mineral elements that peek through as everything plays out on the lingering, tactile finish. Best from 2025 through 2043. 550 cases made, 170 cases imported.—B.S.
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- 95 ALTESINO** Brunello di Montalcino Montosoli 2017 • \$125
This concentrated red is saturated by black currant, blackberry and blueberry flavors, with notes of iron, tar, tobacco and wild herbs chiming in as it evolves toward the long finish. So fresh and fruity, it's hard to believe this is a 2017 if not for the stiff tannins. Shows superb balance and complexity. Best from 2025 through 2045. 1,415 cases made, 250 cases imported.—B.S.
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- 95 K** Syrah Walla Walla Valley The Beautiful Powerline Vineyard 2018 • \$55
A potent red, deeply structured yet dynamic, with blackberry, crushed stone, cured meat and black olive accents that gather richness and polish toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 1,128 cases made.—T.F.
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- 95 RAMEY** Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2019 • \$75
Powerful and sleek up front, showing Honeycrisp apple, lemon blossom, Asian pear and Sumo orange flavors that are bright, fresh and heightened by crisp acidity. Offers sea salt, white tea and nutmeg details on the finish, with a touch of fresh lemon thyme for aromatic flair. Drink now through 2040. 960 cases made.—M.W.
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COLLECTIBLES

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- 98 CASANOVA DI NERI** Brunello di Montalcino Cerretalto 2016 • \$390
A dense, racy and expressive red, offering black cherry, black currant, violet and iron aromas and flavors, with a hint of rosemary. This is driven by vivid acidity and refined tannins, which lend both finesse and length. Shows great harmony and elegance. Best from 2025 through 2047. 828 cases made, 145 cases imported.—B.S.
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- 98 CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGONA** Brunello di Montalcino Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d'Oro Riserva 2016 • \$150
Both fluid and concentrated at once, this exudes cherry, black currant, violet and mineral aromas and flavors. Saturated with ripe fruit, this has beautifully integrated acidity and tannins, with a racy profile that drives the superlong finish. The tannins flex their muscles at the end yet remain refined. Best from 2024 through 2042. 915 cases made, 400 cases imported.—B.S.
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COLLECTIBLES (continued)

98

LOUIS ROEDERER Brut Champagne Cristal 2014 • \$359

This vivid Champagne shows up-front and linear definition, thanks to rapierlike acidity, with finely meshed flavors of ripe black cherry and mandarin orange fruit, raw almond, anise and cardamom spice as well as a touch of honeycomb, which all unfurl and expand on the fine, creamy palate. Sleek acidity continues through to the finish, with additional racy character provided by a streak of minerally saline and chalk, which gains momentum through the midpalate and rings out on the well-cut, lasting finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now through 2040. 9,181 cases imported.—*A.N.*

98

UCCELLIERA Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2016 • \$176

Offers forthcoming aromas and flavors of blackberry, black currant, licorice, tobacco and vanilla backed by vivid acidity and dusty tannins, with a long, saline finish. Showing enough fruit and structure to absorb the oakiness over time, this is balanced overall and poised for a promising future. Best from 2026 through 2045. 800 cases made, 350 cases imported.—*B.S.*

98

VALDICAVA Brunello di Montalcino Madonna del Piano Riserva 2016 • \$285

Expressive yet complex, this red is already revealing tertiary hints of truffle, fading roses and spice. Features cherry, raspberry, iron, eucalyptus and anise flavors allied to a firm, compact structure. Balanced and long, with fresh fruit, spice and mineral accents lingering on the endless finish. Best from 2025 through 2045. 2,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.—*B.S.*

97

ABREU Las Posadas Howell Mountain 2017 • \$650

Dark and winey, with lots of steeped black currant, fig and boysenberry compote flavors forming the bulk of the wine, while licorice snap and bittersweet cocoa notes weave around. Hefty but very fine-grained, with a suave feel as the fruit drips on the finish, offset nicely by subtle alder and warm earth hints. A very strong effort for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2040. 250 cases made.—*J.M.*

97

BIONDI-SANTI Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Greppo 2016 • \$253

This features a well of blackberry and black cherry flavors, along with iron, licorice and fresh herb aromas and flavors. The dense tannins are easily matched by the concentrated flavors, and this shows fine potential, despite the compact finish now. Best from 2025 through 2045. 550 cases imported.—*B.S.*

SMART BUYS

93

BUCKLIN Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Bambino Field Blend Old Hill Ranch 2019 • \$24

This opens with a fruit bomb of wild berry briar patch, then transitions into an appealingly rustic and structured zest fest, revealing heaps of licorice, roasted sage and forest floor accents that build toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2030. 1,192 cases made.—*T.F.*

93

TURLEY Zinfandel California Old Vines 2019 • \$25

Plump and zesty, this red is both fruit-forward and multilayered, featuring briary black cherry, licorice and toasty sage flavors that fan out on the long, vibrant finish. Drink now through 2030. 11,383 cases made.—*T.F.*

92

L'ECOLE NO. 41 Syrah Columbia Valley 2019 • \$25

Spry and zesty, with medium-bodied raspberry, smoky herb and pepper flavors that build richness toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2029. 3,300 cases made.—*T.F.*

92

TEN SISTERS Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Single Vineyard 2021 • \$19

Focused and intense, offering juicy fresh grated ginger, Meyer lemon, green apple and white grapefruit flavors that show a hint of beeswax, with plenty of verve and energy on the long, expressive finish. Drink now. 2,500 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—*M.W.*

91

MATUA Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2020 • \$13

Generous and effusive, with passion fruit and guava flavors at the core, showing citrus elements as well as clipped notes of lemon verbena and candied ginger on a light, juicy frame. Drink now. 800,000 cases imported.—*M.W.*

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SMART BUYS (continued)

- 90 ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS** Zinfandel Alexander Valley 2018 • \$20
Supple and zesty, with vibrant, elegantly layered flavors of cherry and toasty spices that show a whiff of sassafras. Ends with a long, lively finish. Drink now through 2028. 7,530 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 90 DOMAINE CHANDON** Blanc de Pinot Noir California NV • \$25
A festive sparkler, with bright cherry and raspberry flavors highlighted by graham cracker and spice. The finish is marked by a burst of fruit. Drink now. 35,000 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 90 BODEGAS EGO** Jumilla Goru Verde 2020 • \$15
This bright red ripples across the palate, with savory hints of cured tobacco and loamy earth underscoring the black currant and black raspberry fruit. Medium-bodied, with lightly chewy tannins. Drink now through 2027. 35,000 cases made, 30,000 cases imported.—*A.N.*
- 90 FERRARI-CARANO** Chardonnay Sonoma County 2020 • \$25
Reveals rich toffee, lemon drop, apricot and Fuji apple flavors that are juicy and appealing on a smooth frame, with plenty of complexity fanning out on the finish, showing off nutmeg, toasted hazelnut and brioche. Drink now. 99,000 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 90 KLINKER BRICK** Zinfandel Lodi Old Vine 2018 • \$19
Dried cherry notes meet jammy raspberry flavors in this user-friendly Zin, which is accented by dried herb and white pepper hints. Drink now through 2026. 50,000 cases made.—*T.F.*

BEST VALUES

- 90 KIRKLAND SIGNATURE** Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Ti Point 2021 • \$7
Key lime, peach and lemon curd flavors show good intensity, with fresh ginger and lemon zest notes on the fresh, crisp finish. Takes off at the end, where the flavors and intensity expand. Drink now. 466,000 cases made, 466,000 cases imported.—*M.W.*
- 89 BODEGAS JUAN GIL** Monastrell Jumilla Albacea 2020 • \$10
A well-spiced, medium- to full-bodied red that folds chalky tannins into ripe and juicy blackberry and cherry fruit, with lots of *garrigue* and a tang of orange peel. Shows good length and expression. Drink now through 2027. 10,000 cases made, 4,000 cases imported.—*A.N.*
- 89 OYSTER BAY** Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2021 • \$15
Delivers pear, citrus and lemon curd flavors that are generous and balanced, with touches of matcha and lime zest on a light, refreshing frame. Drink now. 456,700 cases imported.—*M.W.*
- 88 KIRKLAND SIGNATURE** Zinfandel Sonoma County Old Vine 2019 • \$10
This zesty version is loaded with spice, offering easygoing cherry and smoked sage flavors. Drink now through 2025. 46,500 cases made.—*T.F.*

ABOUT THE 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.

Collectibles: Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.

Smart Buys: Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

Best Values: Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

Initials at the end of each tasting note indicate the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review.

The tasters are as follows: Bruce Sanderson (*B.S.*); James Molesworth (*J.M.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*);

MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Aaron Romano (*A.R.*)