

Decanter WORLD WINE AWARDS

GOOD VINTAGES



SILVER MEDAL
92
POINTS
VINTAGE 2016



SILVER MEDAL
91
POINTS
VINTAGE 2017



SILVER MEDAL
90
POINTS
VINTAGE 2018



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WINES OF THE YEAR 2020: SPARKLINGS AND REDS

We asked our experts from around the world, and the *Decanter* team, to nominate the classic, offbeat and value wines that impressed them most in 2020. Our trio of judges blind-tasted and ranked them, and here we reveal the first half of the results, as **Tina Gellie** reports

There hasn't been much to celebrate in the past 12 months. But in challenging times, great wines can always lift the spirits – and our fourth Wines of the Year tasting certainly does that.

We asked Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chairs, key contributors and staff to nominate the wines they have most enjoyed over the past 12 months, under the categories of Classic (a premium, textbook wine style), Offbeat (unusual grape, winemaking method, region or unearthed gem) and Value (a wine that impresses at £25 or under).

They put forward 107 nominations, and here we reveal the 64 sparkling and red wines, of which almost a quarter scored 95 points or more.

Unique tasting

'This is all about experts – who really understand the varieties and wine styles of their regions – choosing wines they love, and that makes it an unique tasting,' explained Beth Willard. 'We've had an incredibly broad range across two days of tasting: some classics, some unusual varieties, and some varieties from regions where you wouldn't expect to find them. And in general, all of these Wines of the Year, at all price points, have broad appeal.'

Andy Howard MW enjoyed the sparkling flight. 'The Champagnes, as you'd expect, were excellent, and the English wine with the extra ageing was an outstanding example.' But it was the Tasmanian sparkling (*overleaf*) that stole the judges' hearts with its maturity, complexity and 'sheer deliciousness – I'd very happily drink that any day', said Howard.

However, it was the red wines which really piqued their excitement. 'It was fascinating to see what our fellow experts had chosen,' said Ronan Sayburn MS. 'Though it was often quite

difficult to judge – like when you taste your first ever Moschomavro (*see p40*), which clearly someone thinks is great, and probably is, but you're not trying it in context with a bunch of other Moschomavros!'

The classic wines were benchmark examples. Sayburn singled out the Pinot Noirs, including a 'delicious, characterful' Sancerre and 'a fantastic IGP Pinot from the Loire – it will be interesting to know the price of that'.

Willard was impressed by the Cabernets. 'I really enjoyed the different expressions from around the world, but the classic regions shone through: Western Australia's Margaret River and Rutherford in Napa. I was also really excited by the Canadian Merlot blend – an outstanding red with great elegance and intensity.'

For Howard it was all about Syrah, and especially the St-Joseph: 'This stood out for me – I always think it's not as great as Côte-Rôtie or Hermitage, but this example was fantastic.'

But the wine of the tasting was an Amarone. 'It was an outstanding example of the genre,' said Howard. 'Its age, depth, complexity of flavour and alcohol – everything was beautifully balanced.'

The judges were keen to point out to readers that prices (and the categories in which the wines were entered) were not revealed, so their scores were based purely on quality. 'For example,' said Howard, 'there was an IGP Puy de Dôme red and a Vin de France Grenache that I suspect are not particularly expensive, but were just really delicious wines to drink.'

'Across the board, whether you are at the exotic end of Amarones, SuperTuscans, Napa Cabernets and Champagnes or down at that IGP level, this tasting showed the diversity of great wines out there.' >

NEXT MONTH *Decanter's* 43 top white, rosé, sweet and fortified Wines of the Year



Andy Howard MW is a *Decanter* contributing editor and was formerly a wine buyer in the UK retail sector for 30 years



Ronan Sayburn MS is head of wine at 67 Pall Mall private members' club and CEO of the Court of Master Sommeliers Europe



Beth Willard is buying manager for Direct Wines and was Joint Chair for North, Central & Eastern Europe at DWWA 2020

Thank you to the following people who contributed their recommendations: Sarah Ahmed, Jane Anson, Richard Baudains, Laura Bianco, Jim Budd, James Button, Bob Campbell MW, Jeannie Cho Lee MW, Alistair Cooper MW, Charles Curtis MW, Michael Denton, Sarah Jane Evans MW, Simon Field MW, Aldo Fiordelli, Tina Gellie, Rosemary George MW, Rebecca Gibb MW, Caroline Gilby MW, Charlotte Hale, Michael Hill Smith MW, Georgie Hindle, Stephen Hopley, Huon Hooke, Anne Krebiehl MW, James Lawther MW, Matthew Luczy, Nico Manassis, Caro Maurer MW, Fiona McDonald, Michaela Morris, Rupert Owen, Anthony Rose, Ronan Sayburn MS, Greg Sherwood MW, Cesar Soler, Sonja van Praag, Matt Walls, Amy Wislocki, Sylvia Wu



TOP
fizz

**House of Arras, EJ Carr
Late Disgorged, Tasmania,
Australia 2004** 96

Andy Howard MW 97 Ronan Sayburn MS 96 Beth Willard 96
£99.75-£102.80 Exel, Liberty Wines, Oz Wines, Vinvm
It is fitting that such an exceptional cuvée should be named after sparkling wine maestro and Arras head winemaker Ed Carr. The wine's unique character is due to a very extended period on the lees – a total of 12 years, in fact.

Andy Howard MW Great complexity on the nose and palate. Intriguing pea-pod characters, hints of oyster shell, a saline influence combined with bright stone fruits. Great precision on the palate with fine-boned acidity and a long, lingering aftertaste.

This has great development of smoky, umami character, all kept in check by laser-like acidity, along with great purity on the finish. Very fine.

Ronan Sayburn MS Complex and rich nose of toasted brioche and nuts with deep mango and peach fruit. Melted butter on warm toast. Big palate, but structured, with balanced acidity.

Beth Willard Smells a bit like home for me, with attractive eucalyptus notes along with lime and lychee. The palate is rich with ripe fruit, but has well-balanced acidity. Showing just a hint of evolution, but incredibly fresh for its 16 years. Very refreshing finish, with a touch of white pepper and spice.

Drink 2021-2030 Alcohol 13%
Nominated by Rupert Owen



TOP
red

**Allegrini, Fieramonte,
Amarone della Valpolicella
Classico Riserva, Veneto,
Italy 2012** 98

£369 Liberty Wines, NY Wines of Cambridge
Very much a prestige bottling, from one of the most famous producers of amarone, Fieramonte is a single-vineyard wine made from grapes grown at an altitude of 415m above sea level. As is traditional for the style, the fruit is dried and sees a drop in weight of 40%-50%, after which fermentation is carried out in stainless steel before the wine ages for four years in French oak barriques.

AH A lovely amarone, this has all the characteristics you would hope for. Warmth on the palate, intriguing, slightly raisined fruits and restrained acidity. The sugar feels very low. Fine structure, elegant and seems much lower than the stated 16.5% alcohol.

Retains a coolness on the palate which makes the wine extremely drinkable. There is a lot of disappointing amarone out there; this is a bottle to put things to rights!

RS Dense and concentrated nose of espresso, dates, chocolate, dried fruit and raisins, forest floor and black forest gâteau on the palate. Rich, full, with heavy alcohol. Long, complex and delicious.

BW Attractive aged character to this wine. Really intense dried fruit, big and rich with a long finish. Shows off the region and [Corvina] variety very well. Even though obvious, the oak is well integrated, and there is good potential to age further.

Drink 2022-2040 Alc 16.5%
Nominated by Aldo Fiorelli

**③ Krug, Vintage Brut, Champagne,
France 2006** 95

£223-£246 Berry Bros & Rudd, Clos19, Jeroboams, Justerini & Brooks, The Finest Bubble

Salty brine on the nose. Restrained on the palate, showing lots of finesse and a soft mousse. Excellent acidity provides a freshness to allow further ageing in bottle. Long, savoury, umami-style aftertaste. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 13% Charles Curtis MW

**④ Redfold Vineyards, Ambriel Classic
Cuvée, West Sussex, England NV**

95

£28.95 Ambrielsparkling.com, Corney & Barrow, Private Cellar
A refined, elegant style of English sparkling wine with subtle nuances of green apple and floral notes on the nose. A gentle, persistent mousse with fresh and driving acidity on the palate. Elegant finish with a hint of sweet fruit. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 11% Anthony Rose

**⑤ Charles Heidsieck, Brut Réserve,
Champagne, France NV** 93

£39.99-£52.50 Liberty Wines, Nickolls & Perks, NY Wines, Waud Wines

Delicate nose with hints of white flower and salty sea air. Subtle and elegant with a lovely balance of acidity and lemony, apple fruit flavours. Firm mousse with a touch of smoke on the palate. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 12% Anne Krebiehl MW

**⑥ Château Rives-Blanques, Blanquette
de Limoux, Languedoc, France 2017**

93

£16.30-£16.50 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Tanners
A great expression of Limoux sparkling with the green-apple character of the Mauzac grape coming through. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 12.5% Rosemary George MW


**⑦ Domaine Vincent Carême,
l'Ancestrale, Vouvray, Loire, France
2016** 93

£24.95-£28 Berry Bros & Rudd, Streatham Wine House
Perfumed with notes of lemon peel and a touch of grapefruit on the nose, which is lively and complex. Great varietal character on the palate with melon and pear, and a creamy, seamless texture. Attractive finish, with aniseed notes. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 13% Rebecca Gibb MW >




③ Classic ④ Offbeat ⑤ Value

⑧ **Gosset, 12 Ans de Cave a Minima Brut, Champagne, France NV**

93  AH 94 RS 93 BW 93
 £95 Champagne Direct, Hedonism, Master of Malt, The Finest Bubble, The Whisky Exchange

Deep and nutty autolytic nose with fresh acacia flowers, brioche and burnt toast. Fine mousse, soft and beautifully integrated on the palate. A hint of autumn leaf and extended maturation on lees. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 12% *Charlotte Hale*


⑨ **Billecart-Salmon, Cuvée Nicolas François, Champagne, France 2006**

92  AH 95 RS 91 BW 91
 £100.50-£125 Berry Bros & Rudd, Champagne Direct, Goedhuis & Co, Hedonism, The Vinorium, Wanderlust Wine
 Mature toasted brioche and macadamia nuts on the nose, white chocolate and toast. Great acidity supports the complex, smoky characters and balances the butter. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 12.5% *Charlotte Hale*


⑩ **Bollinger, PNVZ 15, Champagne, France NV** 92  AH 94 RS 88 BW 94
 £73.29-£85 Berry Bros & Rudd, Cambridge Wine Merchants,

Drinks Direct, Jeroboams, Laithwaite's, Master of Malt, Nickolls & Perks, NY Wines, The Drink Shop, The Finest Bubble
 Intriguing rustic aromas of truffle and mushroom add to a very appealing Champagne. Lovely acidity, bright and fresh with plenty of structure. Floral notes to finish. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 12% *Simon Field MW*

⑪ **Ettore Germano, Rosanna Rosé Extra Brut, Piedmont, Italy NV**


92  AH 93 RS 90 BW 92
 £27.75 Field & Fawcett, Philglas & Swiggot, Sociovino
 Sweet strawberry, forest fruit nose accompanied by an appealing sour fruit note. Refined and appetising with high acidity giving freshness. Drink 2021-2024 Alc 12.5% *Anthony Rose*

⑫ **Ruggeri, Vecchie Viti, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy 2019**

92  AH 92 RS 92 BW 91
 £30 Enotria&Coe
 Fresh, appealing, lifted and very enjoyable already, this shows a fine balance between sweetness, acidity and purity of fruit. Pear skin texture and flavour. Very crisp, with crunchy acidity to finish. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 12% *Richard Baudains*



⑬ **Fattoria Montellori, Riserva Blanc de Blancs Pas Dosé, Tuscany, Italy 2013**

91  AH 92 RS 90 BW 90
 N/A UK www.fattoriomontellori.it
 Rich, powerful, bright sparkling wine with lots of purity and upfront pleasure. Stone fruit characters on the palate with confit-lemon notes. Drink 2021-2024 Alc 12.5% *Aldo Fiordelli*


⑭ **Gusbourne, Blanc de Noirs, Kent, England 2016** 91  AH 91 RS 92 BW 91

£59 Gusbourne, Jeroboams
 Very pale rosé colour with exuberant mousse, ripe and rich nose of white lilies, pear and light strawberry notes. Rosehip on the palate, with lively citrusy acidity on the finish. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 12% *Charlotte Hale*

⑮ **Bortolomiol, Grande Cuvée del Fondatore, Motus Vitae, Valdobbiadene Superiore Rive di San Pietro di Barbozza Brut Nature, Veneto, Italy 2018**


89  AH 91 RS 86 BW 89
 N/A UK www.bortolomiol.com

Fresh and attractive Prosecco nose, showing bright lime and pineapple aromas. Rather earthy on the palate but with plenty of acidity. Drink 2021-2022 Alc 12% *Stephen Hoble*

⑯ **Cigliuti, Serraboella, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy 2016** 96  AH 96 RS 97 BW 94

£58.50 Lea & Sandeman
 A smoky, full, modernist Barbaresco. Chocolate and forest floor with dense Chinese tea and dried rose petal notes. Soft, full and fleshy on the palate. There is good tannic grip here and the wine will age memorably for many years. A very muscular Barbaresco. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 15% *Michaela Morris*

⑰ **Domaine des Amphores, Les 7 Lieux, St-Joseph, Rhône, France 2018**

96  AH 95 RS 97 BW 95
 £22 Montrachet, Oddbins
 Plenty of dark berry and pepper spice on the nose. Lovely purity here with a fine balance between ripeness of fruit and a lingering black olive tapenade character. Restrained oak supports the palate along with great acidity. There is an attractive flinty, mineral aspect to this wine, which finishes very clean, but smoky and long. Drink 2021-2035 Alc 13.5% *Matt Walls* >



 Classic  Offbeat  Value

18 Henschke, Mount Edelstone, Eden Valley, South Australia 2015

96 **C** AH 96 RS 96 RS 97

£135 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Liberty Wines, NY Wines, Roberson Super-intense blackcurrant and spice nose. The palate is laden with dried fruit, figs, dates and Christmas cake notes. Incredibly ripe fruit, but combined with lovely freshness and balance. This is a big wine but holds all its components well and perfectly demonstrates this style of wine. **Drink 2021-2035 Alc 14.5% Rupert Owen**

19 Inglenook, Rubicon, Rutherford, Napa Valley, USA 2013

96 **C** AH 95 RS 95 BW 97

£202 Hedonism Intense, brooding wine with lovely aromatics. There is concentrated dark berry fruit here with an intriguing herbal twist. Soft, ripe fruits on the palate with very well-integrated oak. Lovely freshness on the finish. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 13.8% Jane Anson**

20 The Eyrie Vineyards, Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA 2016

96 **C** AH 96 RS 95 BW 96

£40-£45 Justerini & Brooks, Private Cellar, Savage Selection Intense but elegant raspberry perfume and tomato vine on the

nose. Palate shows lovely purity both of variety and region, a slightly sour cherry note combining with lovely strawberry fruit for balance, freshness and complexity. Long and appealing on the finish. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 13.5% Ronan Sayburn MS**

21 Craggy Range, Le Sol, Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand 2018

95 **C** AH 94 RS 96 BW 95

£65 Bibendum Wine Great New World Syrah nose with orange rind, black pepper and blackberry. Silky tannins give elegance on the palate. Olive notes lead to a savoury, complex finish. **Drink 2021-2035 Alc 13% Bob Campbell MW**

22 Cullen, Diana Madeline, Margaret River, Western Australia 2018

95 **C** AH 91 RS 96 BW 97

£87.99-£88.99 Liberty Wines, NY Wines Minty eucalyptus dominates this wine on both the nose and palate. Complex with lots of spice and depth of flavour, but fresh and lively from beginning to end. Very silky, velvety tannins, and balanced acid and alcohol. Seamlessly knitted together to make a refined wine. **Drink 2021-2035 Alc 13% Sarah Ahmed, Michael Hill Smith MW**



23 Domaine Vacheron, Belle Dame, Sancerre, Loire, France 2016

95 **C** AH 95 RS 97 BW 92

£47 adVINTure, Terra Wines Elegant Pinot nose with red cherry, raspberry and a little sweet cranberry, along with a bacon/meaty aroma and smoky oak. A powerful, forceful expression of Sancerre Rouge on the palate with deep colour in the glass. Some tannic grip showing a touch of Côte de Nuits in style. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 13% Rebecca Gibb MW**

24 Domaines Barons de Rothschild, Château d'Aussières, Corbières, Languedoc, France 2017

95 **C** AH 95 RS 95 BW 94

£25.75-£38 Harvey Nichols, Peake Wine Associates, The Oxford Wine Co, Waddesdon Wine Shop A really good example of warm, ripe fruit from the south of France, showing good integration of oak, lots of red fruit and chocolate character. No rusticity here. Generous and very appealing style. Dark cherry notes and a hint of floral character on the finish. **Drink 2021-2035 Alc 14.5% Michael Denton**

25 Isole e Olena, Cepparello, Tuscany, Italy 2016

95 **C** AH 96 RS 95 BW 95

£85-£85.99 Liberty Wines, NY Wines

Lively, intense, ripely fruited Sangiovese. This shows all of the richness found in this great vintage. Very good purity and density on the palate, all kept fresh by lively tannins and some great acidity. Dark berry fruits and a hint of slightly dried grapes here. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 15% Michaela Morris**

26 Painted Rock, Red Icon, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada 2017

95 **C** AH 96 RS 94 BW 96

£54 The Wine Treasury A rich wine displaying lots of fruit and intensity, but with an underlying elegance. The nose is very pretty, revealing attractive raspberry and other red fruits, while the palate is quite plummy with a touch of mint, red pepper and black pepper spice on the finish. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14.6% Sonja van Praag**

27 Domaine Sauvat, Nymphéa, Puy de Dôme, Loire, France 2018

94 **V** AH 93 RS 95 BW 95

N/A UK www.sauvat-vins.com A great Pinot nose with a herbal touch along with kirsch cherry and bacon fat. Well balanced and fresh on the palate with a touch of violet, boiled sweets and raspberry. A fresh, fruity but complex wine to enjoy now. **Drink 2021-2024 Alc 13.2% Jim Budd >**

28 Château Léoville Barton, St-Julien 2CC, Bordeaux, France 2016

94 **C** AH 95 RS 94 RS 93

£95-£120 Dunell's, Exel, Grand Vin, L'Assemblage, Nemo Wine Cellars
Intense, luxurious, fresh yet also very classically Bordeaux on the nose. Loads of dark berry and currant fruit, allied to a touch of oaky spiciness. Dense on the palate, but also refined, elegant and smooth. Drink 2021-2045 Alc 13% *Michael Denton*

29 Frescobaldi, Tenuta Perano, Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy 2016

94 **C** AH 93 RS 92 BW 96

£23.99-£29.80 Hallgarten Wines, Vinvm
Classic aromas with a touch of mint, a hint of chocolate and notes of balsamic. Elegant with well-integrated oak, soft tannins, juicy red fruit and savoury notes on the finish. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 14% *Stephen Hoble*

30 Gramercy Cellars, John Lewis Syrah, Walla Walla Valley, Washington, USA 2015

94 **C** AH 94 RS 92 BW 95

£73.68 The Vinorium

Has a very appealing structure with some mineral notes and subtle oak to support the vibrant dark cherry and berry fruit. An appetising, succulent Syrah with some spice, but the overriding impression is freshness, which leads in to the finish. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 13.6% *Tina Gellie*

31 Il Poggione, Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy 2015

94 **C** AH 95 RS 96 BW 91

£31.68-£42 Goedhuis & Co, Morrisons, NY Wines, The Great Wine Co
Super-ripe dark berry fruit, a touch of dried plum and firm tannins coupled with brisk acidity. The anticipated wood structure is there but the fruit coats the wood in a very appealing way. A touch of cooked meats on the finish. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 15% *Sylvia Wu*

32 La Rioja Alta, Viña Ardanza Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2012

94 **C** AH 94 RS 92 BW 95

£24-£26.50 Armit, WineTrust100
Warming, nutty, complex Rioja with layers of fruit and a softness of dark cherry fruit on the palate. Has soft tannins and is elegantly poised, with a long, savoury finish. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14.5% *Sarah Jane Evans MW*



33 Rutini, Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc, Gualtallary, Mendoza, Argentina 2017

94 **V** AH 93 RS 92 BW 96

N/A UK www.rutiniwines.com

The altitude can be felt here, with the floral lift and a coolness to the tannins. It's not heavy - there is plenty of brightness and purity here with red pepper, mint and spice combining to give complexity. Drink 2021-2027 Alc 13.5% *Cesar Soler*

34 St Andrea, Aldás Egri Bikavér Superior, Eger, Hungary 2018

94 **V** AH 93 RS 93 BW 95

£21.99 Winebuyers

A highly individual blend which works very well. The palate is much more lifted and ethereal than expected. Cherry and raspberry fruit give way to savoury notes with a minty, spicy finish. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 14.5% *Caroline Gilby MW*

35 Berry Bros & Rudd, Extra Ordinary Claret, Graves, Bordeaux, France 2018

93 **V** AH 93 RS 91 BW 95

£16.95 Berry Bros & Rudd

Very fresh, lifted nose with juicy, pure fruit notes. Distinguished by a gravelly, almost earthy character to the palate. Fruit quality is fresh and youthful, but the tertiary notes on the palate add a lot of interest. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 14% *Jane Anson*

36 Bodega Aleanna, Gran Enemigo Single Vineyard Chacayes, Tunuyán, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2016

93 **C** AH 95 RS 90 BW 94

£66.40 Alex Marton, Atlas Fine Wines, Cru

A very rich and concentrated Cabernet Franc. There's great intensity of dark fruit here, though it remains elegant despite the fruit weight, and the fruit is expressed without reliance on oak. Drink 2021-2027 Alc 13.5% *Cesar Soler*

37 Bodegas Remírez de Ganuza, Reserva, Rioja Alavesa, Spain 2012

93 **C** AH 93 RS 91 BW 95

£45 (ib)-£70 Brunswick, Cult Wines, Cru, Crump Richmond Shaw, Fine & Rare, Hedonism, Wineye

Lovely intensity on the nose with warming aromas of dark berry fruit and a touch of cinnamon spice. Fleshy, warm and enveloping on the palate, this has a great texture with good concentration, freshness and fine oak. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14.5% *Laura Bianco*

Decanter's Spanish Red Wine of the Year 2020

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
94 POINTS



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38 **Château du Moulin-à-Vent, La Rochelle, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France 2016** 93 AH 90 RS 93 BW 95

£39 Liberty Wines
Rounded and ripe forest fruits, plums and sweet raspberry. Soft and unctuous on the palate with fleshy red fruit. Long, savoury finish. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13% *Jeannie Cho Lee MW*

39 **Château Thivin, Les Sept Vignes, Côte de Brouilly, Beaujolais, France 2018** 93 AH 92 RS 95 BW 92

£21-£22 Butlers Wine Cellar, Emile Wines
Cool, fresh, clean and very precise example of cru Beaujolais. Lovely purity here with bright, dark cherry fruit and crisp acidity. Finishes with a fine mineral edge. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 13.5% *Michael Hill Smith MW*

40 **Domaine des Tourelles, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon 2018** 93 AH 91 RS 94 BW 95

£13 Cork of the North, D Byrne & Co, Great Grog, Hennings, Madeleine Waters, Talking Wines
Mediterranean-like character with lots of vibrant redcurrant,

raspberry and herbal notes. Floral, restrained and quite finely textured on the palate. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 14% *Caro Maurer MW*

41 **Edoardo Miroglio, Soli Merlot, Thracian Valley, Bulgaria 2018** 93 AH 92 RS 92 BW 94

£12.49-£12.95 Butlers Wine Cellar, L'Art du Vin, Roberson, Swig
Tobacco and cigar box on the nose, with bitter dark chocolate and some attractive herbal notes. Full-bodied style but with balanced oak and acidity, which lends the wine an overall elegance and restraint. Finishes with an appealing grip of tannin and a floral edge. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 14% *Sylvia Wu*

42 **El Coto, Coto de Imaz, Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2012** 93 AH 94 RS 94 BW 92

£21.20-£24.99 Exel, Liberty Wines, NY Wines, Roberson
This is a big, rich style of gran reserva showing toasty, balsamic notes coupled with intense dark berries and spice. Dark fruit, currants and berries, a hint of cool menthol and bright acidity. Drinking well already, but with great potential for further development. Drink 2022-2040 Alc 13.5% *Sonja van Praag* >



Classic Offbeat Value



43



44



45



46



47

43 Heitz Cellar, Trailside Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2014 93 ● AH 93 RS 95 BW 92

£97.50 (ib) Justerini & Brooks, Private Cellar, Savage Selection
Elegant yet dense, concentrated nose of sweet blackberries, fine oak and complex black fruit flavours. Ripe and forward on the palate. Drink 2021-2035 Alc 14.5% *Matthew Luczy*

44 I Luoghi, Campo al Fico, Bolgheri Superiore, Tuscany, Italy 2016

93 ● AH 91 RS 95 BW 94

£51 Vinum Fine Wines

A vibrant example of the region. Very attractive creamy texture, almost like milk chocolate. Velvety and sweet. On the palate there is a wild, garrigue-type character with oregano and spice, and a leathery, tobacco finish. Drink 2021-2035 Alc 14% *Richard Baudains*

45 Maison Ventenac, Le Paria, Vin de France 2019

93 ● AH 92 RS 92 BW 96

£11.50-£13 JN Wine, Red Squirrel

Made from old-vine Grenache grown on the hills of Cabardès in Languedoc. Packed full of raspberry fruit – no oak, fresh and balanced. There is a lovely underlying freshness here which adds to the appeal of the wine. Bright strawberry fruits with a saline undertow. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14% *Georgie Hindle*

46 Tenuta di Passopisciaro, Contrada R Rampante, Terre Siciliane, Sicily, Italy 2014 93 ● AH 92 RS 93 BW 95

£50.75 Corney & Barrow

Rose petal and sour cherry, very pretty and vibrant nose. Great balance between fruit and acidity with ripeness balanced by freshness on the palate. Drink 2021-2027 Alc 14% *James Button*

47 Tenuta San Leonardo, Dolomiti, Trentino, Italy 2015 93 ● AH 92 RS 92 BW 95

£60-£65 AG Wines, Honest Grapes, Jeroboams, Millésima

Herbal/medicinal on the nose with subtle leathery notes and chocolate. Quite earthy, already showing some attractive age, but on the palate there's really impressive freshness. A long, savoury, Cabernet finish. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 13% *Aldo Fiordelli* >



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④⑧ **Trivento, Gaudeo Single Vineyard Malbec, Tunuyán, Mendoza, Argentina 2018** 93  AH 91 RS 94 BW 93

N/A UK www.trivento.com

Very pure Malbec character with blueberry and plum fruit, intense ripeness but with the fresh acidity of the region. Quite a bit of grip but this has good purity, balanced wood and will age well for several years. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14% Cesar Soler**

④⑨ **Tzora Vineyards, Judean Hills, Israel 2018** 93  AH 93 RS 91 BW 95

£35.95 32°-34° Wines

A serious wine on the nose with dark fruits, smoky bacon and woody notes. On the palate the wine maintains a serious structure but offers really lovely, sweet, ripe red fruit, coupled with a touch of mint and black pepper. **Drink 2022-2030 Alc 15% Caro Maurer MW**

⑤⑩ **Bononia Estate, Gomotartzi Gamza, Danube Plain, Northern Region, Bulgaria 2019** 92  AH 91 RS 91 BW 93

£10.50 The Old Cellar

Some tobacco notes give way to redcurrant and rhubarb fruit aromas. Crisp, upfront red fruits on the palate with fresh acidity. Moreish. **Drink 2021-2023 Alc 12.7% Caroline Gilby MW**


⑤① **Château Mercian, Mariko Vineyard Omnis, Nagano, Japan 2013**

92  AH 94 RS 93 BW 90

N/A UK www.chateaumercian.com

Excellent purity on the nose with subtle nuances of wood shavings and dark berry fruits. Lively, fresh and juicy, with very smooth tannins and well-integrated oak. Still youthful and vibrant despite its age. **Drink 2021-2025 Alc 13% Jeannie Cho Lee MW**

⑤② **Mvemve Raats, MR de Compostella, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2017**

92  AH 90 RS 94 BW 92

£54.99 Handford

Smoky South African nose, dark bramble and burnt spice, classic. Well-structured, solid palate with weighty tannins. Nice berry characters with plumpness of fruit, juicy acidity and freshness on the finish. **Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14.5% Greg Sherwood MW >**





53 Terre de l'Elu, Maupiti, Vin de France 2018 92 AH 93 RS 94 BW 90

£22 *Buon Vino, European Cellars*
 Intriguing aromas of autumn leaves, restrained, with subtle oak. Soft tannins with herbal and gamey notes. An individual Gamay-based blend from the Loire that will develop well in the bottle. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13.5% *Rebecca Gibb MW*

54 Algueira Risco, Ribeira Sacra, Galicia, Spain 2016 91 AH 90 RS 91 BW 91

£46.70 *Vine Trail*
 Rounded and ripe, 100% Merenzao with a sweet confiture nose of ripe strawberries and cherries. Soft tannins and balanced acidity. Fresh, bright and light-bodied in style. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 14% *Sarah Jane Evans MW*

55 Domaine de Marcoux, La Lorentine, Lirac, Rhône, France 2016

91 AH 90 RS 91 BW 93
 N/A UK www.domainedemarcoux.fr
 Warm, sunny, ripe fruit aromas along with strawberry jam and a

touch of spice. A really attractive, fruity red with balanced acidity and some spice. Cool and fresh finish. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 15% *Simon Field MW*

56 Domaine Paetzold, Mastroio, Côtes Catalanes, Roussillon, France 2011

91 RS 95 BW 90 AH 89
 N/A UK www.domainepaetzold.com
 Interesting varietal typicity of old-vine Carignan, matured for more than a year in stainless steel vats. Herbal notes, smoked meat and a generally wild, garrigue character. Earthy, tight on the palate with grippy tannins and acidity. Drink 2021-2040 Alc 14% *Georgie Hindle*

57 Familia Deicas, Extreme Vineyards Cerro del Guazuvirá, Lavalleja, Uruguay 2018 91 RS 94 BW 87 AH 92

£25.99 *Wines of Uruguay*
 Dark, stalky, tight fruit on the nose with black olive, Provence herbs and a curious saline quality. Smooth acidity, ripe tannins; a very elegant wine with lots of texture and no harsh edges. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13.5% *Alistair Cooper MW* >

Harvested 2010, released 2020




Decanter
 OUTSTANDING
 95
 POINTS

Remírez de Ganuza


58 J Bouchon, Granito Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère, Maule Valley, Chile 2015 91  AH 92 RS 89 BW 93

£29.95-£36.95 Slurp, South Downs Cellars, The Wine Box
Unmistakeably Chilean on the nose, with vibrant, spicy dark fruits allied to a hint of green pepper. On the palate this is intense but fresh and the Carmenère clearly plays its part with more red fruits, herbal notes and a smoky, meaty finish. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 13.5% *Alistair Cooper MW*

59 La Tunella, Pinot Nero, Colli Orientali del Friuli, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy 2017 91  AH 92 RS 92 BW 90

£13.50 Corney & Barrow
Complex Pinot nose of meaty and gamey aromas with dark forest fruit, some oak smoke and elegance. A very good balance on the palate of briary fruit, ripe tannins and some intriguing oaky notes. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13% *Amy Wislocki*


60 Remelluri, Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2012

91  AH 92 RS 91 BW 91

£33 Bottle Apostle, Highbury Vintners, Noble Green, Thorne Wines

Subtle and complex on the nose with dark fruits, a hint of menthol and some damson fruit characters. A serious, brooding wine which has plenty in reserve. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14% *James Lawther MW*

61 Yarra Yering, Carrodus Shiraz, Yarra Valley, Victoria, Australia 2018

91  AH 92 RS 89 BW 92


£108 Berkmann
Dark cherry fruits on the nose. Smooth and fresh with good purity allied to depth and concentration on the palate. Intense, spicy finish. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 14% *Huon Hooke*

62 Diamantis, Moschomavro, Siatista, Greece 2018 90  AH 90 RS 90 BW 90

£18 Maltby & Greek

A firm wine that is still very youthful and needs a little time to soften. Crisp, crunchy dark fruits with briary notes and a leafy, floral character. Finishes with an attractive touch of spice. Drink 2021-2024 Alc 13.5% *Nico Manessis*

63 Kanonkop, Paul Sauer, Simonsberg, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2017


90  AH 93 RS 88 BW 90



 Classic  Offbeat  Value

£42.99-£45 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Frontier Fine Wines, Handford, Harvey Nichols, Lay & Wheeler, Slurp, Vagabond Deep, brooding, intense wine with a lot more to give for a few years in bottle. Very appealing nose with dark cherry and currant fruits and a hint of creamy vanilla oak. Precision and class here. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 14% *Fiona McDonald*

64 Muriel, Fincas de la Villa Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2015

90  AH 89 RS 90 BW 90

£12.50 Exel

Ripe but maturing nose of a classic Rioja with strawberry and cranberry notes. Lots of warm red fruit on the palate with fresh acidity and grippy tannins to keep everything fresh. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 13.5% *Sonja van Praag MW*

 Classic  Offbeat  Value



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