

94 Bricoleur 2022 Characteria, State Bricoleur 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River flavors and a growing richness on the palate all contribute to this creamy, elegant wine's charm. A touch of almost peppery wood char adds nice lift on the palate and finish. -J.G.

aby: 14.1%

Price: \$42



Caiarossa 2020 Aria di Caiarossa (Toscana). The nose offers a captivating blend of nuanced fruit aromas, from Bing cherries to rhubarb to pomegranate, and then a fresh herbaceousness, with mint and fennel. On the palate, tannins guide you toward dark fruits that eventually explode into a powerfully peppery finish. A reminder that Bolgheri isn't the only part of the Maremma worth plundering, especially at this price point. Misa Imports. -D.C. abv: 14.5% Price: \$40



94 Caiarossa 2020 (Toscana). The nose balances dark fruit and berries with the fresh levity of white pepper, mint and eucalyptus. On the palate, notes of vanilla bean and dark chocolate underscore the juicy broadness of the fruit, but a hot, peppery finish presents a thought-provoking contrast and prompts a meditative finish. Misa Imports. -D.C. abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70



94 (Chianti Classico). Bing cherry and blood Castello di Monsanto 2020 Monsanto Riserva orange, potting soil, graphite and then wild herbsespecially sage—appear on the nose, before a whisper of vanilla and cedar. Juicy and fresh on the palate, with vanilla, chocolate and cherry, and then herbs emerging again on the back. A rare example of a wine with great sophistication that's also an undeniable crowd-pleaser. Freixenet Mionetto USA. -D.C. abv: 14% Price: \$33



Clos du Val 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa mouthfeel come with abundant red and black fruits in this full-bodied, appropriately tannic wine that needs time to reach its full potential. Pine and rosemary accents merge nicely with the blackberries and blueberries. Best from 2028-2038. -J.G. abv: 14.5% Price: \$60



94 Cyan 2018 Prestigio Time as the offers This inky-garnet-colored wine offers cherry, cassis, dark-chocolate and smoke aromas. There is a touch of earthiness on the palate that underlies black-cherry, blackberry, cocoa-powder, lavender and licorice flavors. Sturdy tannins slowly soften and linger for a while. Solera Imports. -M.D. abv: 15% Price: \$50



Decoy 2021 Limited Cabernet Sauvignon 94 (Alexander Valley). So concentrated and deep, this massively structured wine performs above its price range. Saturated with blackberries, black currants, espresso and dark chocolate flavors, it is firmly wrapped in a thick layer of tannin. Delicious now, it will become more complex and drinkable with time. Best from 2028-2040. Editors' Choice. --J.G. abv: 14.5% Price: \$30



94 Domaine Divio 2021 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine represents the best two barrels from a strong vintage. The wine leads with a tremendous blackberry-tomato leaf combination that is flanked by shortbread and coffee notes. Brilliant acidity goes hand in hand with tart raspberry and citrus flavors. Serve with braised beef cheeks and enjoy until 2034. Cellar Selection. -M.A. abv: 13.7%

Price: \$75



Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Endeavour Caber-94 Dry Creek Villeyard 2012 Luscious net Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Luscious in black fruits and oak spices, this posh-textured wine aged in 40% new French barrels boasts power with grace. Intensely rich and delicious black currants, blueberries and dark chocolate are framed in masses of fine-grained tannins to come off as soft and plush. Best from 2025-2032. -J.G. abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

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Cocchi 2017 Totocorde Brut (Alta Langa). Baked apples, spice and brioche aromas intertwine, accompanied by warm spice notes resembling apple compote infused with cinnamon. It presents a really pretty profile, with possible hints of strawberry and definite cream notes. Light on the palate yet very refreshing, it showcases crushed stone minerality and is quite tasty. Alpenz. -J.P. abv: 12.5% Price: \$45



92 Convene By Dan Kosta 2019 Sunchase Vine-yard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This generous, broad and almost jammy wine charms with its ripe strawberries and red plums that spread quickly across the palate. The wine develops more toastedoak nuances along with satisfying fruit and a rather full body. -J.G. abv: 14.2%

Price: \$74



Cupere 2021 Mariola Ridge Vineyard Love Is **A Gamble Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This sturdy, well-structured, tightly wound and barrelfermented wine ideally needs time to develop. Firm tannins and crisp acidity grip the palate, subduing the attractive black cherry and sour cherry flavors underneath. Best from 2027–2034. –J.G. **abv:** 13.3% Price: \$65



Decoy 2021 Limited Chardonnay (Sonoma **Coast).** Golden apples, green apples, vanilla and cinnamon flavors pour out of this ripe and indulgent wine. It has all the warm, buttery nuances and rich texture that make California Chardonnay so appealing. -J.G. abv: 14.2%

Price: \$30



Decoy 2021 Limited Merlot (Alexander Val-**92** Levy. 2021 Linited Merlot could almost pass for a Cabernet due to its generous tannins, bold black-fruit flavors and satisfying depth. More sipping reveals more fruit, more oak smoke and a more mouthcoating texture. The wine will be best from 2025-2030. -J.G. abv: 13.9%

Price: \$30



Domaine Divio 2021 Les Climats Pinot Noir **(Willamette Valley).** The Les Climats, with its tart black-cherry, mocha and cedar flavors, is an excellent introduction to the elegant Domaine Divio Pinots. Blackberry and thyme aromas unite with notes of saline, woodsmoke and a trace of bacon fat. A silky texture comes with velvety tannins and just enough acidity. Editors' Choice. -M.A. abv: 13.2% Price: \$30



Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel **92** (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh berry-fruit flavors, a good structure of moderate tannins and a velvety texture make this wine a winner. A full body supports blackberry and raspberry notes for a delicious, appetizing expression. Incorporating 20% Petite Sirah and 3% Alicante Bouschet grapes, the wine is ready to drink any time. -J.G. abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45



Dutcher Crossing 2018 Mathy Wines CFM **92** Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Potent black fruits, firm tannins and a full body drive this blackberry- and oak-spice-scented wine. Mouthfilling and rich, it enhances the deep fruitiness with accents of cinnamon, mocha and mint. Best from 2026. –J.G. abv: 15.1%

Price: \$95



92 Educated Guess 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A hefty, rich texture and a tempting blend of baking spices and baked apples make this full-bodied wine easy to appreciate. Ripe golden apples and poached pears meet toasted almonds and vanilla on the palate and continue into a lingering finish. —J.G. Price: \$30 abv: 14.3%