

BUYINGGUIDE

ery in texture with dried apple and light lemon flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Pali Wine Co. 2023 Pali Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Sta. Rita Hills). This is the first Chenin Blanc planted in the Sta. Rita Hills, maybe ever, and it's off to a great start. Easygoing aromas of baked apple, pear, wool and wet rocks lead from the nose into a pithy palate full of crisp apple and citrus peel, set atop a leathery texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Robert Hall 2022 Cavern Select Fumé Blanc (Paso Robles). It's quite rare for a Sauvignon Blanc to be worthy of cellar time, but this bottling is packed with the body to last a bit of time. Aroma of grass, concrete and wispy passion fruit lead from the nose into a palate of chopped lawn and lime skins, set atop a pleasantly viscous texture. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2022 Malvasia Bianca (Los Olivos District). Winemaker Steve Clifton is bullish on Malvasia Bianca, which goes down especially well under the sun on the patio of the winery's on-site restaurant. Aromas of melon balls, tropical fruit and wet stone lead into a leathery texture on the palate, which is full of grapefruit and ginger flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$39

90 Marco Lucchesi 2023 Tierra Alta Vineyard Arneis (Ballard Canyon). Slightly sour Meyer lemon and orange rind aromas meet with riper melon scents on the nose of this bottling. There's a good amount of body to the palate, where tart lemon and apple flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

90 Marimar 2023 Don Miguel Vineyard Godello (Russian River Valley). Aromas of nectarine, almond skin and freshly cut herbs dominate the nose of this Godello. The palate is dry and waxy-textured, with minerality for days, balanced acidity and flavors of pineapple, sage and grapefruit rind. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

90 Vincent Vineyards 2023 Llevada Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District). There's a long if very sporadic history of "blanc" Cabernet Sauvignon in this region. This pale bottling offers aromas of wet stone, yellow melon and tart citrus rind. The palate is light but pleasant with nectarine flavors and a lingering texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

88 Bethel Road 2022 Whale Rock Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Templeton Gap District). Lightly buttered aromas of toasted nut and light pear show on the nose of this bottling. There's a waxy texture to the palate, where ripe cantaloupe flavors grow nearly sweet by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

WHITE BLENDS

94 T. Berkley Wines 2023 White Blend (California). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of acacia flower, melon, lemon grass and savory herbs. The flavors are papaya, white grapefruit, Satsuma orange and crushed coriander seed, with vibrant minerality on the finish. Pair with steamed mussels and aioli. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

92 Nenow Family 2023 The Tightrope Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). This blend of 79% Viognier and 21% Grenache Blanc comes across as quite smooth on the nose with prominent but well-integrated aromas of stone fruit and white flowers. The palate is brisk with acidity and laced in a stony minerality, offering flavors of Asian pear and white peach. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$42

91 Bartholomew Estate 2023 Fifth Hill Vineyard Marsanne-Roussanne (Sonoma Valley). The nose of this energetic blend of Marsanne and Roussanne bursts from the glass with aromas of peach, banana, fresh cream and caramelized brown sugar. The broad and fleshy palate possesses textbook waxy texture and flavors of stone fruit, white pepper, caramel and a lingering peachy freshness. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Adelaida 2023 Anna's White Rhône-style White Blend (Adelaida District). Lightly tart aromas of tangerine, melon and dust show on the nose of this blend of 50% Grenache Blanc, 25% Picpoul Blanc, 19% Roussanne and 6% Muscat Canelli. A chalky grip wraps around the palate, where stone fruit and melon flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

90 Fuil 2023 Ban White Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). Though called a blend, this is Chardonnay and starts with tart grapefruit and white flower blossom aromas. The palate is tart with lime peel flavors that are quite forward. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

89 Caliza 2023 Kissin' Cousins Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). Aromas of peach and cold steel show on the nose of this blend of 42% Grenache Blanc, 38% Viognier and 10% Picpoul Blanc. The palate is pleasantly textured, framing subtle flavors of pear skin and apple flesh. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

SPARKLING WINES

93 Brick & Mortar 2018 Block House Vineyard Brut Rosé (Napa Valley). A complex of aromas and flavors deliver an enticing sparkling rosé from Brick & Mortar, also known for their Pinot Noirs from throughout the North Coast of California. Dried cherry, orange zest and crushed almonds on the nose glitter through with rose petal and cran-

berry accents. A silky mousse lifts through a savory and persistent long finish. A pleasing California Brut rosé. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$125

93 Decoy NV Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (California). This wine is lively and bright, with aromas of apple, nectarine, fresh bread and white flowers. The midpalate has firm mousse with flavors of citrus blossoms, orange zest, vanilla cream and Golden Delicious apple, with a mineral, mouth-watering finish. Pair with fresh oysters. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

93 Decoy NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (California). This wine is pale salmon hued, bright and zesty, with aromas of pear, plum, Bing cherry, brioche and acacia florals. The flavors are peach, white nectarine, orange zest, lemon cream and mineral, with medium mousse on the midpalate and a dry finish. Pair with grilled spiced salmon tacos. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Romél NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (California). This wine is deep rose hued, lush and lively, with strawberry, raspberry, blood orange, vanilla cream and brioche on the nose. The palate sings with ripe Bing cherry, dark plum, watermelon and dried herbs, with a fine mousse and a dry, supple finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

92 Bolero at Europa Village NV Sol Rosa Rosé (California). This wine is deep pink hued, bright and lush, with aromas of melon, berries, vanilla cream and orange blossom. On the palate are watermelon, strawberry coulis, orange sherbet and dried herbs, with a fine mousse on the midpalate and a juicy dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

92 R35 NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (California). This wine is salmon hued, bright and lush, with aromas of plum, strawberry, dried herbs, orange sherbet and brioche. The flavors are orange, Golden Delicious apple, Bing cherry and clove, with a fine mousse on the midpalate and a dry finish. Pair with fun in sun and friends. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Supernova 2023 Rosé Sparkling Blend (California). This wine is deep salmon hued, fresh and bright, with strawberry cream, plum, citrus, vanilla and spice on the nose. The flavors speak of melon, raspberry, candied orange, the midpalate is fine mousse, with almond, brioche, and a dry, supple finish. Super fun and crushable. —T.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$50

91 Chester. NV Sparkling Blend (California). This wine is lively and fresh, with aromas of ripe pear, yellow apple, nectarine and apple blossom on the nose. The flavors on the palate are ripe peach, apricot and orange sherbet, with a fine mousse on the midpalate and a dry, supple finish. There is a