

SPECIAL ISSUE

Wine & Spirits

TOP 100

WINERIES

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BEST
BUYS

**34TH
ANNUAL
BUYING
GUIDE**



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**95 | Broadbent** \$113

1998 Madeira Single Cask N117 Boal Madeira's coastal scents rise out of the glass, transforming into a beautiful freshness. This wine is all about salinity, whether it's the salt air of the sea, or sea salt on caramelized pecans. In the end, those notes tighten up around the acidity, lasting on scents of fresh mint and green tea. It's a robust wine that feels cool for all of its alcohol, a wine with complexity that doesn't stop. Bartholomew Broadbent started this project in 1996 with the help of his father, Michael Broadbent, to help source the wines and finalize the blends. The elder Broadbent, who headed up Christie's wine department during his long career in wine auctions, passed away this past March at the age of 92. The collection of Madeira he helped his son to build—and wines like this 1998, which the Broadbent team made and aged—will live long into the future. —J.G. (*W&S* 10/20) *Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA*

BEST TAWNY PORT**96 | Krohn** \$73

1982 Porto Colheita This colheita specialist is now in the hands of the Fladgate Partnership; under the leadership of Adrian Bridge, the partners have focused increasing attention on aged Tawnies and the treasures hidden in cellars like Krohn's. While 1982 was trumpeted as a great year in many wine regions, by now, most of those wines are past their prime. Not this one. In fact, the particular way in which it merges textures and flavors is unique to the Douro: It has a gentle touch of stone, a quiet floral riff, a serious richness that defies whatever austere tendencies the mineral structure might suggest. "A world-class wine," one taster noted, while others were taken by its completeness and the beautiful buzz of its riches. (Bottled 2017) —J.G. (*W&S* 12/19) *Kobrand, Purchase, NY*

SOUTH AFRICA**BEST PINOT NOIRS****95 | Crystallum** \$38

2018 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge Peter Max Pinot Noir Cool and elegant, this pinot noir offers new perspectives with every sip. Grown at Crystallum's five estate vineyards, this was fermented with 30 percent whole clusters. It delivers notes of ground coffee and baked cherries under bright cranberry tartness; there's an open woodiness to the tannins that feels refreshing. Our tasting coordinator, Corey Warren, described it as having "an early-morning-dew crispness." —R.D.T. (*W&S* 2/20) *Pascal Schildt Selections, Newport, RI*

95 | Storm Wines \$55

2016 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley Ignis Pinot Noir Hannes Storm sources grapes from three vineyard sites, including Ignus, a parcel in the Upper Valley named for the volcanic origins of its granitic soil. In 2016, it grew a spicy, gamey red with rustic tannins and lifted black-cherry notes. One of our tasters noted that it could be easily mistaken for an aged, rustic Burgundy. —R.D.T. (*W&S* 2/20) *Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA*

BEST SYRAH**95 | Lismore** \$65

2016 Greyton Syrah Samantha O'Keefe, a Los Angeles native, moved to South Africa in 2000 and settled in the Overberg district at the foot of the Riviersonderend Mountains. Her Lismore winery is currently the only producer in Greyton, one of the region's newest appellations. More may follow after a taste of this peppery cool-climate syrah. Scents of blueberries and blackberries invite a sip, then notes of beef broth, dried herbs and tobacco follow. O'Keefe fermented it with 40 percent whole clusters in large oak casks, then extended its time on the skins before mellowing the intensity over nine months in a 3,000-liter oak vat. The wine has a touch of oak spice and vanilla bean yet it feels graceful from start to finish. —R.D.T. (*W&S* 2/20) *Kysela Père et Fils, Winchester, VA*

SPAIN SPARKLING**BEST CATALAN BRUT****93 | Raventós i Blanc** \$44

2013 Conca del Riu Anoia Textures de Pedra Blanc de Negrès Vinya Més Alta Manuel and Pepe Raventós focus this spark-

ler on the red- and pink-skinned xarel-lo ver-mell, bastard negre and sumoll—all grown in stony soils at Més Alta, their vineyard rising to 820 feet in altitude. That elevation lends the wine a lively lemon freshness to brighten rich undertones of mango and papaya. After 42 months of aging on lees, the texture has developed enough silky roundness to fill out the dry Brut Nature style. —R.D.T. (*W&S* 4/20) *Skurnik Wines & Spirits, NY*

SPAIN WHITE**BEST GODELLO****94 | Raúl Pérez** \$29**2018 Bierzo Ultra Godello (Best Buy)**

"For a Spaniard, godello may be the closest thing you can get to Burgundy," said Nacho Monclús, a native of Huesca, Spain, who's now wine buyer at Despaña in NYC and a panelist for our tastings. This does, in fact, have the savory intensity of a Côte d'Or wine, with its notes of bruised apple, green pear and mineral acidity. In style and sophistication, it may be more like the long-lived white wines Luís Anxo Rodríguez Vázquez produces across the mountains from Bierzo in Galicia's Ribeiro. Whatever comparison you make, it's beautiful, fresh, mineral-rich and well worth seeking out. —J.G. (*W&S* 10/20) *Skurnik Wines & Spirits, NY*

BEST GALICIA**94 | Quinta da Muradella** \$84**2013 Monterrei Bajo Velo Treixadura**

José Luís Mateo farms treixadura in clay soils at 1,510 feet, using altitude to temper the heat of Monterrei. He farms organically and lets the wine ferment spontaneously, then leaves it in barrel for 18 months under a veil of flor (*bajo velo*). This 2013 is the current release, having aged an additional five years in tank. Through all that time, the wine sustained treixadura's zesty freshness while it developed a level of complexity that would satisfy lovers of mature Burgundy. It may have been grown in clay, but it tastes like stones, its golden color replayed in scents of orange blossoms and toasted hazelnuts. It has the remote wilderness feel of the forests at the edge of Mateo's vineyards. —J.G. (*W&S* 8/20) *Olé & Obrigado, New Rochelle, NY*

94 | Viña Mein \$26

2017 Ribeiro In 1988, Javier Alén was part of the first generation to explore Ribeira's lost fame, replanting 40 acres of vines in the hills above the Avia River to local varieties. In 2013, he hired Dani Landi and Fer-