

93 Anthonij Rupert Cabernet Franc Franschoek 2019 \$85 This fresh, fluid red offers an enticing, concentrated core of ripe red currant, plumped cherry and pureed raspberry flavors enmeshed with fine, chalky-edged tannins. Hints of dark chocolate, dried violet, bay leaf and spicy mineral are a fragrant thread lacing the lingering finish. Drink now through 2035. 500 cases made, 50 cases imported.—A.N.

92 Boschendal Black Angus Stellenbosch 2021 \$45 There's purity to the black currant and black raspberry fruit flavors in this fresh, structured red, layered with firm, fine-grained tannins. Violet, *garrigue*, licorice root, black pepper and mineral hints lace the core of fruit and linger on the finish. Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2035. 3,100 cases made, 186 cases imported.—A.N.

92 Anthonij Rupert Cabernet Sauvignon Coastal Region 2019 \$85 Fragrant with bay leaf, anise and cured tobacco aromatics, this shows a pure beam of ripe currant fruit alongside notes of dried fig, espresso and olive, plus touches of tar and leather. Its tannins are fine-grained and integrated, providing a structured frame for this well-tailored red. Drink now through 2035. 500 cases made, 50 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Bellingham The Maverick S.M.V. The Bernard Series Paarl 2021 \$32 Fragrant hints of ground coffee, bay leaf, green olive and dill are enmeshed with flavors of black raspberry paste, fig cake and smoke in this creamy, medium- to full-bodied red, with supple tannins. Shiraz, Mourvèdre and Viognier. Drink now through 2031. 1,300 cases made, 20 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Lelie Van Saron Jade Cape Coast 2023 \$35 A fragrant red, with spice box, dried flower and herb notes lacing cherry and raspberry fruit flavors, plus rich hints of milk chocolate and smoke on the finish. Tangy, with light, taut tannins. Syrah, Petit Syrah and Cinsault. Drink now. 205 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Thistle & Weed Khakibos White Stellenbosch 2022 \$30 A sleek, refreshing white, with a subtle thread of salinity lacing flavors of poached pear, lemon wax, crushed hazelnut and broom blossoms. Verdelho, Chenin Blanc, Palomino, Alvarinho and Fernão Pires. Drink now through 2030. 417 cases made, 200 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Thistle & Weed Nastergal Red Western Cape 2022 \$30 There's purity to the crushed boysenberry and black currant fruit on display in this supple red, animated by fresh acidity and framed by light tannins. Hints of herbed green olive, paprika and smoke emerge as a savory thread through the finish. Tempranillo, Alicante Bouschet, Souzao, Tinta Francisca, Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca. Drink now through 2030. 500 cases made, 200 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Thorne & Daughters Pinot Noir Cape South Coast Copper Pot 2023 \$25 A juicy red, showing light, soft tannins, with flavors of dried raspberry, strawberry paste and briary herbs, plus mineral hints of stone and smoke. Drink now. 2,500 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Thorne & Daughters Rocking Horse Cape White Blend Western Cape 2023 \$28 This bright white pairs its lightly fleshy texture with bright acidity to pleasing result, framing flavors of ripe melon, guava, lemon parfait, chopped hazelnut and ground cardamom. Lightly salty and floral on the finish. Roussanne, Sémillon, Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc and Clairette Blanche. Drink now.—A.N.

89 Buitenverwachting Sauvignon Blanc Constantia Bayten 2024 \$17 A racy white, offering a fragrant overtone of slate and white blossom notes, with a salty underpinning, plus well-meshed flavors of poached quince and peach skin. Shows a pleasing, savory touch of quinine on the finish. Drink now. 15,000 cases made, 2,160 cases imported.—A.N.

SPAIN Sparkling

92 Raventós I Blanc Brut Nature Vino Espumoso Manuel Raventós Negra 2018 \$110

This harmonious sparkler starts off sleek, showing linear drive, but reveals subtle notes of baked pear, dried white cherry, toasted almond and crystallized honey that expand on the palate, carried by racy acidity and the finely detailed mousse. Savory hints of fleur de sel and lemon thyme echo on the finish. Xarel-lo and Macabeo. Disgorged April 2025. Drink now through 2033. 250 cases made, 110 cases imported.—A.N.



PEPE REVENTÓS
Proprietor

91 Codorníu Brut Blanc de Noirs Cava Ars Collecta Reserva 2019 \$30 Juicy black cherry and boysenberry fruit is accented by pickled ginger, verbena and green almond notes in this elegant sparkler. Well-structured, with bright, integrated acidity and a fine, creamy mousse. Pinot Noir, Xarel-lo and Trepat. Drink now. 22,000 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

91 Raventós I Blanc Brut Nature Vino Espumoso de la Finca 2022 \$45 An elegant sparkler in an aperitif style, with its crisp acidity and lacy texture providing a fine frame for delicate notes of white raspberry, Honeycrisp apple, hazelnut and white blossoms. Lightly salty on the clean-cut finish. Xarel-lo, Macabeo and Parellada. Disgorged January 2025. Drink now. 3,500 cases made, 800 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Codorníu Brut Blanc de Blancs Cava Ars Collecta Reserva 2021 \$30 Pretty notes of orchard blossoms and ripe yellow apple and pear are animated by fine, buoyant acidity in this lithe, harmonious sparkler. Brioche and vanilla hints impart a subtle richness to the finish. Chardonnay, Xarel-lo and Parellada. Drink now. 32,000 cases made, 100 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Raventós I Blanc Brut Rosé Vino Espumoso de Nit 2023 \$30 Refreshing and focused, with a raw silk-like mousse and well-cut acidity enmeshed with flavors of white cherry, peach skin, smoked almond and broom blossoms. Xarel-lo, Macabeo, Parellada and Monastrell. Disgorged February 2025. Drink now. 17,000 cases made, 9,000 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Raventós I Blanc Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Vino Espumoso 2023 \$27 Minerally on the nose, with hints of petrol and brine, this version offers notes of dried raspberry, mandarin orange peel, chopped almond and smoke set on the lively bead, ending with a zesty finish. Xarel-lo, Macabeo, Parellada and Malvasia de Sitges. Disgorged February 2025. Drink now. 17,000 cases made, 9,000 cases imported.—A.N.

SPAIN Other

93 Comando G Vinos de Madrid Sierra de Gredos Rozas de Puerto Real Valle del Tiétar 2023 \$69 Graceful, fresh and aromatic, not weighty but nicely structured, with a plush texture to its supple tannins. Flavors of plumped raspberry and strawberry fruit, blood orange peel, dried lavender, rosemary and thyme show a lovely skein of ground anise, pink peppercorn and paprika. Minerally stone and smoke notes linger on the creamy finish. Garnacha Tinta. Drink now through 2035. 941 cases made, 344 cases imported.—A.N.

92 Can Blau Montsant Mas de Can Blau 2020 \$45 There's an enticing interplay between the savory leather, espresso, moss and smoke notes in this rich, plush red, which offers a core of blackberry coulis,

warm fig, anise, vanilla and graphite. Firmed by sculpted tannins, this is long and well-integrated while expanding through the well-spiced finish. Mazuelo, Syrah and Garnacha. Drink now through 2035. 400 cases made, 120 cases imported.—A.N.

91 Scala Del Priorat Prior 2022 \$30 Fresh and focused, this appealing red offers flavors of crushed black raspberry, plum skin, espresso, licorice and tar, with a subtle overtone of wild thyme and rosemary, plus a mineral undertow. Fine, lightly chalky tannins emerge to firm the finish. Garnacha Tinta, Cariñena, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2030. 6,600 cases made, 300 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Comando G Cebros Sierra de Gredos La Bruja 2023 \$40 A lively, mouthwatering red, with a stony underpinning, plus a pleasing core of crushed raspberry and boysenberry fruit accented by pomegranate, mountain herb, milled white pepper and red licorice notes. Lightly chewy on the spiced finish. Garnacha. Drink now through 2030. 3,411 cases made, 755 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Llicorella Vins Priorat Bluegray 2022 \$27 This medium-bodied red is well-balanced, with light, sculpted tannins defining a dark mix of blackberry paste, dried fig, herbed black olive and slate. Fresh and peppery on the finish. Drink now through 2030. 1,200 cases made, 320 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Scala Dei Priorat Rosado Pla dels Àngels 2024 \$35 A pretty, ballet slipper pink rosé, with lively acidity creating a snappy frame for flavors of wild strawberry, raspberry and blood orange granita, plus accents of dried thyme, stone and ground ginger. Drink now. 625 cases made, 10 cases imported.—A.N.

89 Can Blau Montsant Can Blau 2021 \$17 See Smart Buys, page 96.

89 Casal de Armán Ribeiro 2024 \$27 Floral and enticing on the nose, with lightly juicy acidity and a plush texture carrying flavors of ripe Gala apple, cantaloupe and blood orange peel. A subtle streak of salinity is a clean sweep on the finish. Treixadura, Godello and Albariño. Drink now. 8,333 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—A.N.

88 Bodega Bideona Tempranillo Rioja Alavesa Laderas 2021 \$20 Plumped cherry and plum fruit shows fresh, loamy earth and vanilla in this accessible, medium-bodied red, ending with hints of tobacco and cocoa powder on the lightly chewy finish. Drink now. 11,921 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—A.N.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL

91 Mantlerhof Grüner Veltliner Kremstal Gedersdorf Ried Spiegel 2021 \$59 There's a salty, leesy, earthy dimension to this version, rounded out with Asian pear, dried ginger and lanolin. Silky in feel and savory, with dried green herbs playing out on the round, smoky finish. Shows good concentration and structure. Tangy length. From Austria. Drink now through 2028. 600 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

91 Otronia Pinot Noir Patagonia 2022 \$80 Tightly coiled but finds its way, with subtle floral and mineral tinges to the bright core of strawberry and red currant, which quietly swells with richness, while rooibos tea notes swirl in on the finish around fine, mineral-tinged tannins. From Argentina. Drink now. 1,500 cases made, 281 cases imported.—A.R.

90 Otronia Pinot Noir Patagonia 45 Rugientes 2022 \$40 Savory, wet stone and red tea aromas pave the way for this red, which is linear in feel. A fresh, mineral underpinning enlivens the cherry and raspberry core. Finishes with fine tannins. From Argentina. Drink now. 3,600 cases made, 1,664 cases imported.—A.R.