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BEST

Best biodynamic wines to try on Earth Day

Biodynamic winemaking results in some of the most fascinating wines in the world, and here is a selection of exciting bottles to seek out for Earth Day 2024.

D Decanter Staff
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Some of the best biodynamic wines are produced by small-scale, independent growers all over the globe, while other examples incorporate prestigious labels.

Below, you'll find some great biodynamic wines reviewed by *Decanter* experts to help you raise a toast to the wider movement for environmental protection on Earth Day 2024 – on Monday 22 April.

Taking inspiration from scientist and philosopher Rudolf Steiner, biodynamics is rooted in a holistic vision of vineyard management, respectful of soil and nature and promoting a form of ecological harmony.

It is also associated with lower intervention in the winemaking cellar, to a stronger extent than organic approaches.

As with organics, some wineries choose to pursue certification, while others have long adopted biodynamic principles without seeking such 'official' certifications, which come from bodies including Demeter and Biodyvin, and whose logos adorn the bottles of wines which meet the various criteria.

As *Decanter's* Amy Wislocki wrote in **her article of biodynamics in winemaking**, 'both Biodyvin and Demeter have rules on growing and vinification that can be stricter than organic alone – for example, less use of copper sulphate per hectare, and the use of natural yeasts for fermentation'.

Châteaux Palmer, Pontet-Canet and Climens in Bordeaux are leading proponents of biodynamic wines, but others in the region have been embracing the methods, **as Simon Woolf highlighted in this article**.

Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon, the highly regarded chef de cave and executive vice-president at Louis Roederer, owner of Cristal, has credited biodynamics with enhancing a 'fight for freshness' in Champagne vintages, in particular. He has previously spoken of how biodynamic approaches encourage greater attention to detail in the vineyard and critical thinking.

Some producers have said biodynamic approaches enhance the expression of terroir in the glass, although the skill and expertise of the winemaker is inevitably a big factor in terms of overall wine quality, while higher costs can be a downside of biodynamics.

Best biodynamic wines: a selection of top bottles to seek out



Vins El Cep, Claror, Paratge Qualificat Can Prats Brut, Cava de Paraje, Penedès, Spain 2015

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An old-vine blend of Xarel-lo, Macabeo and Parellada, aged for 84 months, this shows the rewards of age in its complexity. Aromas call to mind baked apple and cream, with roasted nuts, plus lifted green apple and herbal notes. The rich, expansive, toasty palate is layered with fresh grapefruit, lemon,...

Points 94



Domaine Hugo, Hugo Brut Nature, Wiltshire, England, United Kingdom 2020

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Made from a co-fermented field blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Meunier and Pinot Gris grown biodynamically in Wiltshire, this Bramley and Golden Delicious apple-scented wine is creamy, elegant, fruity an...

Points 91



Raventós i Blanc, de Nit Rosé Extra Brut, Conca del Riu Anoia, Penedès, Spain 2021

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There is Cava and then there are the wines made by Raventós i Blanc. This unusually elegant pink sparkler gets its super-pale hue from an addition of Monastrell from almost 50-year-old vines; some of the...

Points 90



Filipa Pato, Nossa Calcário Bical, Bairrada, Portugal 2022

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Nossa Calcário ('our limestone') is a biodynamic 100% Bical from the 'grand cru' vineyard on the much-vaunted chalky clay soils around the village of Ois do Bairro, where Pato and husband William Wouters live...

Points 97



Niepoort - Quinta de Baixo, VV Vinhas Velhas, Bairrada, Portugal 2017

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Niepoort's pursuit of freshness finds its keenest expression in Bairrada. Impressed by the region's limestone soils and Atlantic climate, Dirk Niepoort has proclaimed it 'Portugal's best terroir'. The estate is farme...

Points 97



Bott-Geyl, Sonnenglanz Gewurztraminer, Alsace, France 2015

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If you're feeling adventurous, try this medium-sweet, biodynamic Gewurztraminer which has intriguing aromas of baked pineapple and a yeasty tang, akin to a Belgian lambic beer. Complex notes of fermentin...

Points 96



Château de Plaisance, Savennières, Loire, France 2021

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Vanessa Cherruau describes this wine as 'aristocratic' compared to her Anjou Blanc wines. Although the soil types are similar, Savennières has crumblier schist soils, which naturally produce wines in a more delica...

Points 94



Domaine de Crève Coeur, Blanc, Côtes du Rhône Villages, Séguret, Rhône, France 2022

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Exuberantly fruity nose with pineapple and mango. In the mouth, it's satin-textured, mouthcoating and enlivened by an almost imperceptible spritz. Based on 30% Picpoul de Pinet, a compelling blend of great...

Points 93



Domaine du Closel, Les Caillardières, Savennières, Loire, France 2020

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This wine falls in the middle of the range of three Savennières produced by Evelyne de Pontbriand, the third generation of women to manage this historic estate. Full, yet charming and supple, with some toasty oa...

Points 93



Aroa, Le Naturel Blanco, Navarra, Spain 2022

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An organic and biodynamic Garnacha Blanca, free from added sulphites, from the Valle del Yerri, the highest and coolest part of Navarra. A great example of low-intervention winemaking – with very...

Points 92



Bonny Doon, Le Cigare Blanc, California, USA 2021

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Bonny Doon and founder Randall Grahm were pioneers in the production of Rhône varietal wines in California's Central Coast region. Grahm sold the winery in January 2020, but stayed on as head winemaker. This complex and food-friendly blend of mainly Vermentino, along with Grenache Blanc and a dash of Clairette...

Points 92



Loxarel, Xarel·lo en Amfores, Penedès, Catalonia, Spain 2021

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Ripe peaches and apricots belie a saline, flinty character to the wine, with hints of mandarin orange in the background. Elegant and soft on the palate with a light grip and gentle acidity. Biodynamically grown a...

Points 91



Aroa, Le Naturel Tinto, Navarra, Spain 2022

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Like its white counterpart, this wine is organic and biodynamic. Really intense blackberry and dark fruit dominate the nose with a hint of violet floral notes. There's an impressive freshness to the wine with a minty...

Points 90



Escorihuela Gascón, Organic Vineyard Malbec, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2021

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Pampa El Cepillo is one of Uco's most recently announced GIs and boasts a distinctively cool climate. Here, using grapes from a biodynamically certified vineyard, Matías Ciciani makes a Malbec that...

Points 95



Joshua Cooper, Ray-Monde Vineyard Pinot Noir, Victoria, Australia 2021

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Joshua Cooper sources fruit from organic or biodynamic vineyards in and around the Macedon Ranges where he grew up. This 5ha site at an elevation of 400m, part of a grazing farm, was planted in 1988 by the...

Points 95



Domaine de Mourchon, Grande Réserve, Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret Rhône, France 2021

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Full-bodied, but juicy with brisk, vibrant acidity. Remarkably fresh, with subtle violet hints to the blackberry fruit. A tense and upright style, as is common for the vintage. Enjoyably thirst quenching despite its power,...

Points 93



The Hedonist, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, South Australia 2021

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This McLaren Vale Shiraz from certified organic and biodynamic vineyards has been a fixture on the Waitrose list for 15 years, and you can see why it's so popular with customers. It's a very deep ruby in the glass, and just as intense when you get stuck in. It's drinking...

Points 93



Domaine Arnaud Lambert, Clos Moleton, Saumur-Champigny, Loire, France 2018

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The top red wine from biodynamic and organic producer Arnaud Lambert, who farms 40ha of vines in St-Cyr-en-Bourg. I love the savoury character here, with a distinct tapenade note on the finish, pl...

Points 92



Vino di Anna, Qvevri Don Alfio, Sicily, Italy 2020

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Complex nose, full of nuances and subtleties: crushed rose petals, tobacco leaf and prune mingle with blood orange and bergamot. The palate follows with a refreshing layer of citrus coating a core of intens...

Points 92