

Wine Spectator

WineSpectator.com

TEQUILA

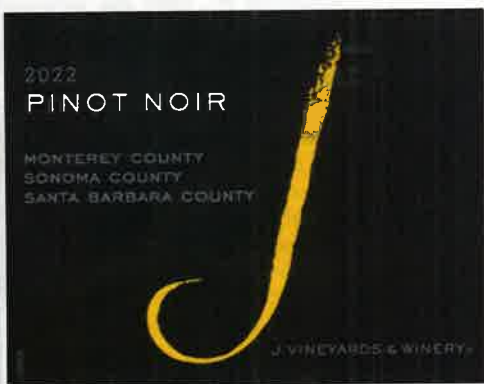
A CONNOISSEUR'S GUIDE

PLUS STARS OF CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY



JULY 31, 2024
\$7.99 US





91 J Pinot Noir Monterey-Sonoma-Santa Barbara Counties 2022 \$27 CALIFORNIA A plump, friendly style, with a lacing of cinnamon weaving around a core of gently mulled raspberry and cherry fruit flavors. A splash of anise fills in on the finish. Drink now through 2026. 156,000 cases made.—J.M.



91 Josep Maria Raventós i Blanc Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Vino Espumoso 2022 \$25 SPAIN This vibrant sparkler is sleek and mineral, with fine mousse carrying a well-meshed range of delicate poached pear, persimmon, lemon curd, beeswax and white blossom notes. Xarel-lo, Macabeu, Parellada and Malvasia de Sitges. Disgorged March 2024. Drink now through 2027. 17,000 cases made, 9,000 cases imported.—A.N.



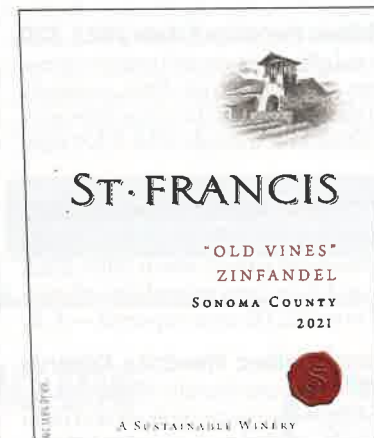
91 Bodegas Carlos Serres Rioja Gran Reserva 2016 \$27 SPAIN Lively and focused, this medium-to full-bodied red layers fine, taut tannins under a fragrant overtone of fern, mace and mocha notes. Shows flavors of dried cherry, cranberry and raspberry fruit, backed by hints of cola and loamy earth. Tempranillo, Graciano and Mazuelo. Drink now through 2031. 10,000 cases made, 7,000 cases imported.—A.N.



90 La Crema Chardonnay Sonoma Coast 2022 \$23 CALIFORNIA Appealing for how all of its pieces fit together, offering notes of salted butterscotch, peach preserves, mango and orange blossoms, with a thread of baking spices. Shows vibrant acidity and a seamless texture on a generous frame. Drink now. 347,082 cases made.—M.W.



90 Bodegas Sierra Cantabria Rioja Crianza 2020 \$24 SPAIN A harmonious red, showing good energy and a sanguine edge, this features a core of dried cherry and black raspberry flavors, plus notes of Mediterranean herbs, milled pepper, iron and citrus peel. Drink now through 2029. 20,000 cases made, 7,000 cases imported.—A.N.



90 St. Francis Zinfandel Sonoma County Old Vines 2021 \$22 CALIFORNIA Jammy and generous but not blowsy, this Zin is loaded with blackberry and cherry flavors that are accented with hints of pepper and licorice. Drink now through 2030. 37,000 cases made.—T.F.



90 Volver Alicante Tarima Hill Old Vines 2021 \$21 SPAIN This elegant red offers a broad and expressive core of blackberry paste, crème de cassis, mocha and vanilla flavors trimmed nicely by sculpted tannins and lively acidity. Monastrell. Drink now through 2029. 30,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.—A.N.

Best Values

Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.



91 Kaiken Malbec Mendoza Estate 2021 \$15 ARGENTINA With a floral, slate and peppery-herb cast to the concentrated dried cherry and plum paste flavors that lengthen nicely around a gentle push of fresh acidity, this red ends on a toasty note, showing hints of chocolate. Drink now through 2034. 100,000 cases made, 18,000 cases imported.—A.R.



89 Bodegas LAN Rioja Crianza 2021 \$15 SPAIN Light, creamy tannins support flavors of warm black cherry and fig fruit, licorice and vanilla, plus a touch of loamy earth. Round and well-knit, this harmonious red shows accents of tobacco and paprika on the finish. Tempranillo, Mazuelo and Garnacha. Drink now. 166,000 cases made, 20,000 cases imported.—A.N.