

Wine Spectator Buying Guide



Rows of Pinot Noir line the estate vineyards of Colene Clemens in the Chehalem Mountains appellation of Oregon's Willamette Valley.

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BY THE NUMBERS

The Sept. 30 Buying Guide features **20 classic wines** and **380 outstanding wines** from among reviews of more than **550 new releases**. Members can access tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with **hundreds of additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, using the Wine Ratings search at WineSpectator.com.

88 Bodegas Arrocal Tempranillo Ribera del Duero 2019 \$18 This concentrated red sports nice charm, offering bright cherry and juicy red plum flavors, with violet and anise details and plush, moderate tannins. Drink now. 5,000 cases made, 800 cases imported.—G.S.

88 Viñedos y Bodegas Áster Ribera del Duero 2016 \$24 This red casts a balsamic undertone to the macerated cherry and plum notes, marked with tar, wild herb and savory spice accents, with plush tannins. Drink now through 2026. 8,300 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—G.S.

87 Bodegas y Viñedos Viña Mayor Tempranillo Ribera del Duero La Poda 2019 \$15 This juicy, concentrated red is brimming with cherry, boysenberry and violet notes supported by moderate tannins and accents of anise, orange zest and tea on the finish. Drink now. 4,000 cases made, 150 cases imported.—G.S.

86 Bodega Matarromera Tempranillo Ribera del Duero Granza 2019 \$16 Dusty earth notes flank plum and black currant notes in this brooding red, with savory spice, dried herb and tea notes leading to a firm finish. Drink now. 1,250 cases made, 700 cases imported.—G.S.

SPAIN

Rioja

94 Cune Rioja Imperial Gran Reserva 2015 \$92 This vivid red shows good momentum, with solid tannins encasing cherry, cola, clove and balsamic notes, marked with cedar, anise and spice elements. The flavors are well-integrated, but this complex red has a long life ahead of it. Drink now through 2038. 42,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—G.S.

94 Bodegas Marqués de Murrieta Rioja Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial 2011 \$129 See Collectibles, page 110.

93 Bodegas Muga Rioja Prado Enea Gran Reserva 2014 \$95 Full-bodied, refined and powerful, with a luxurious texture, this red boasts glossy raspberry reduction, cherry and mineral notes, woven together with floral and spice accents and hints of tobacco and tea. Drink now through 2033. 5,500 cases made, 1,650 cases imported.—G.S.

93 Bodegas Sierra Cantabria Rioja Gran Reserva 2010 \$40 An edge of tar and smoke lines the cherry, clove and herb flavors in this complex red, which is focused and balanced. Mineral elements and woody notes combine on the long finish. Drink now through 2032. 1,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.—G.S.

92 Contino Rioja Gran Reserva 2015 \$68 This flashy, layered red shows rich flavors of raspberry preserves, orange peel and anise, fine-tuned with herb, cedar and sweet spice accents. A tangy, integrated acidity binds this all together, with plush tannins. Drink now through 2032. 600 cases made, 300 cases imported.—G.S.

92 Cune Rioja Viña Real Especial Gran Reserva 2015 \$62 Tobacco-laced flavors of cherry and currant are cast with anise, dried orange peel and herb notes that are supported by integrated tannins. Details of clove and mineral combine on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2032. 2,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.—G.S.

92 Bodegas Marqués de Murrieta Rioja Dalmáu 2017 \$94 This suave, full-bodied red offers violet, cola and blackberry compote flavors packed into generous layers, with accents of cocoa, graphite, toast and herb detailing the rich finish. Drink now through 2032. 1,253 cases made, 100 cases imported.—G.S.

92 La Rioja Alta Rioja 904 Gran Reserva 2015 \$68 This elegant, sanguine red offers supple layers of dried cherry, sandalwood, vanilla and Kalamata olive, supported by smooth tannins. Hints of leather, tobacco, mineral and anise echo on the finish. A balanced, traditional style red. Drink now through 2031. 12,500 cases made, 3,200 cases imported.—G.S.

92 La Rioja Alta Rioja Viña Arana Gran Reserva 2015 \$46 Supple, smooth tannins give this red an inviting texture, with dried dark cherry, balsamic, leather and smoke notes, layered together with anise, garrigue and black tea details. Complex, with good balance. Drink now through 2031. 6,200 cases made, 1,800 cases imported.—G.S.

91 La Rioja Alta Rioja Viña Ardanza Reserva 2015 \$39 This smooth red has a balsamic undertone, with dried cherry, herb, tobacco and anise notes mixed with sanguine and woody details. A refined, traditional style red. Drink now through 2030. 50,000 cases made, 9,500 cases imported.—G.S.

90 Marqués de Cáceres Rioja Generación MC 2018

\$38 Flavors of cola, tea and dark cherry are accented by loamy earth, red plum and anise notes, with crisp acidity. Moderate, polished tannins give this a nice texture and appeal. Drink now through 2030. 100 cases imported.—G.S.



CRISTINA FORNER
CEO

90 Contino Rioja Reserva 2017 \$46 This sleek red offers raspberry and plum flavors flanked with anise, orange zest and mineral notes that are focused and fresh, followed by a smooth finish. Drink now through 2029. 2,400 cases made, 800 cases imported.—G.S.

90 Bodegas Valdemar Rioja Conde Valdemar Reserva 2015 \$30 This broad red opens with anise-tinged cherry and raspberry flavors, matched with orange peel, floral, olive and tea notes. Accents of cedar and mineral follow along the finish, with moderate tannins. Drink now through 2030. 10,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—G.S.

89 Bodegas Bilbainas Rioja Viña Pomal Crianza 2017 \$16 Silky and firm, this sleek red shows vibrant red fruit flavors, backed by tobacco, licorice and toast. Shows energy and balance, leaving a clean, spicy finish. Drink now through 2028. 2,500 cases imported.—T.M.

89 Cune Rioja Crianza 2018 \$15 See Best Values, page 112.

88 El Coto de Rioja Rioja Coto de Imaz Gran Reserva 2014 \$37 Spice and herb notes weave through the currant and berry flavors in this red, with crisp acidity. Leather, anise and tobacco details round out the tannic finish. Drink now through 2025. 18,757 cases made, 4,021 cases imported.—G.S.

88 Bodegas Sierra Cantabria Rioja Reserva 2014 \$28 This glossy red shows dark cherry, smoke, and spice flavors, supported by plush tannins. Savory details of herb, mineral and toast weave along the finish. Drink now through 2026. 3,000 cases made, 800 cases imported.—G.S.

87 Cune Rioja 2020 \$15 Notes of juicy dark cherry, pomegranate and spice are packed into this plump, fresh red, with light tannins framing the anise, violet and spice notes on the finish. Drink now. 2,500 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—G.S.

SPAIN

Other

92 Bodegas Emilio Moro Godello Bierzo El Zarzal 2018 \$28 This white shows finesse, offering generous layers of lychee, orange blossom, papaya and honey flavors that stay focused, with mineral, spice and herb underpinnings. A touch of vanilla lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2023. 2,800 cases made, 225 cases imported.—G.S.

91 Bodega Burdigala Rueda Campo Elíseo 2019 \$22 This creamy, open-knit white boasts tropical fruit flavors of mango and papaya interwoven with honeysuckle and coconut notes that show a touch of blanched almond. Lovely and enticing. Drink now through 2022. 3,750 cases made, 300 cases imported.—G.S.

91 Cune Rioja White Monopole Clásico 2018 \$30 An elegant white, with poached pear and peach flavors interwoven with coconut, almond and spice notes, all backed by nicely integrated acidity. The briny finish shows a hint of walnut. Drink now through 2024. 2,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.—G.S.

91 Bodegas Pazo de Barrantes Albariño Rias Baixas 2019 \$21 This white has a smooth, luxurious texture, with lime, honey cream, white blossom and tangerine flavors that are matched with a hint of toast and ample spice elements. Mouthwatering acidity is well-integrated, with a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2024. 11,667 cases made, 1,620 cases imported.—G.S.

91 Bodegas Pazo de Barrantes Albariño Rias Baixas La Comtesse 2017 \$59 Orange blossom, lychee, papaya and lime oil notes are encased in a silky, supple texture in this medium-bodied white, which is engaging and aromatic, with spice notes echoing on the finish. Drink now through 2024. 255 cases made, 13 cases imported.—G.S.

91 Josep Maria Raventós i Blanc Brut Nature Vino Espumoso de la Finca 2017 \$34 This sparkler has an appealing toasty edge, with fresh, nicely balanced layers of pineapple, smoke, almond and brioche flavors. The mousse shows finesse. Xarel-lo, Macabeo and Parellada. Disgorged August 2020. Drink now through 2024. 3,333 cases made, 67 cases imported.—G.S.

91 Josep Maria Raventós i Blanc Brut Nature Vino Espumoso Manuel Raventós Negra 2013 \$95 Elegant and harmonious, with toast and oyster shell elements edging the peach, white cherry and coffee flavors that are streamlined, harmonious and nicely integrated. Sumoll and Xarel-lo. Disgorged December 2020. Drink now through 2024. 167 cases made, 5 cases imported.—G.S.



PEPE RAVENTÓS
& MANUEL RAVENTÓS
Owners & Winemakers

90 Lagar de Fornelos Rias Baixas Pazo de Seoane Rosal 2020 \$21 This focused white has a glossy texture, with a beam of flinty mineral flanking pineapple and apricot notes, all supported by mouthwatering acidity. Elements of sea salt and herb follow through on the finish. Albariño, Caiño, Loureiro and Treixadura. Drink now. 400 cases made, 200 cases imported.—G.S.

89 Torres Albariño Rias Baixas Pazo das Bruxas 2019 \$19 Peach, lime and apricot notes are cast with undertones of chive and sea breeze in this mouthwatering white, which shows nice purity and focus. Drink now. 16,000 cases made, 3,500 cases imported.—G.S.