



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **JAN. 31 – FEB. 28, 2019** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's Jan. 31 – Feb. 28 Smart Buys issue includes a chart of the nearly 1,500 wines in 2018 that scored 90 points or higher and cost \$30 or less. Plus, our senior editors highlight the people, places and things that made the past year so exciting. Finally, a tasting report on Port, covering the classic-rated 2016 vintage.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

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- 95** **BOSQUET DES PAPES** Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chante Le Merle Vieilles Vignes 2016 • \$85
This has a lovely feel, with a silky but persistent structure allowing a range of creamed raspberry, damson plum and boysenberry fruit flavors to glide through, while light rooibos tea, sandalwood and anise accents chime throughout. Shows pretty floral lift at the end. Best from 2020 through 2036. 1,200 cases made.—*J.M.*
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- 95** **EMINENT DOMAINE** Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Reserve 2016 • \$65
Satin and sleek, with an elegant yet ripe complexity, offering vivid notes of floral raspberry, stony mineral and spiced cinnamon that take on structure on the finish. Drink now through 2025. 220 cases made.—*T.F.*
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- 95** **K** Syrah Walla Walla Valley Powerline 2015 • \$45
Bold and expressive, yet refined, with vibrant blackberry, bacon fat and licorice flavors that take on richness and depth on the long finish. The tannins are big but polished. Drink now through 2025. 1,011 cases made.—*T.F.*
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- 95** **LUIANO** Chianti Classico Ottantuno Gran Selezione 2015 • \$56
Heady aromas of kirsch, black cherry, violet, tar and iron signal this firm, dense red. Creates fine tension between the ripe, sweet fruit and bitter, savory elements, finding balance as this plays out on the long finish. Best from 2021 through 2038. 400 cases made.—*B.S.*
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- 94** **ALEXANA** Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Terroir Series 2016 • \$34
Precise and harmonious, offering layered raspberry and cherry flavors laced with smoky anise and spice notes, building richness toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025. 5,286 cases made.—*T.F.*
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- 94** **BETHEL HEIGHTS** Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Aeolian 2016 • \$42
Expressive and powerfully built, with vibrant black raspberry and orange peel aromas that open to a vibrant core of tannins and acidity, wrapped in dynamic cherry and spice flavors. Hands-off for now. Best from 2020 through 2025. 389 cases made.—*T.F.*
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- 94** **EMRICH-SCHÖNLEBER** Riesling Nahe Frühlingsplätzchen GG 2017 • \$97
This well-crafted, mineral-infused white has a velvety texture, with aromas of lemon oil and tarragon leading to flavors of quince and elderberry that show hints of white pepper and cardamom. This is firmly structured, and the acidity is powerful right now, but all the elements suggest this needs several years to find balance. Best from 2022 through 2032. 6,000 cases made.—*A.Z.*
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- 94** **VECCHIE TERRE DI MONTEFILI** Chianti Classico Riserva 2015 • \$50
Dense and still raw, this delivers ample black cherry and dark plum fruit along with dense tannins and a solid, intense profile. There is a fresh beam of acidity and a long aftertaste of earth, iron and tobacco. Best from 2022 through 2038. 416 cases made.—*B.S.*
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- 93** **AU BON CLIMAT** Chardonnay Santa Maria Valley Nuits-Blanches au Bouge 2015 • \$40
Powerful, with concentrated quince, pear tart and apple pastry flavors that are supported by fresh acidity. The richly spiced and cream-filled finish lingers with hints of dried green herbs. Drink now through 2023. 800 cases made.—*K.M.*
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COLLECTIBLES

- 96 PHILIP TOGNI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2015 • \$135**
A focused, tannic style, featuring tobacco and sage notes intermixed liberally with steeped currant and blackberry fruit flavors, with cast iron and graphite hints flowing underneath. This has loads of character and range, showing vigorous, savory-edged cut. Youthfully rugged, with bramble-edged grip to burn. Cellaring will let all the elements meld. Best from 2021 through 2040. 790 cases made.—*J.M.*
- 95 MAYACAMAS Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder 2014 • \$125**
This packs in a lot of juicy black currant and blackberry paste notes, with lively licorice snap and bramble accents filling the available space. A roasted apple wood accent lends a mouthwatering edge while a tarry echo at the very end adds range and length. Should cruise in the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2045. 4,396 cases made.—*J.M.*
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SMART BUYS

- 93 GORMAN Zachary's Ladder Red Mountain 2016 • \$32**
Deeply structured yet showing plenty of finesse, offering blackberry, steely mineral and licorice flavors that build richness toward polished tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2025. 1,100 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 93 LA CREMA Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2016 • \$30**
Expressive and well-structured, with lively and layered raspberry, violet and flint notes, finishing with refined tannins. Drink now through 2024. 14,339 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 93 LAMOLE DI LAMOLE Chianti Classico Blue Label 2015 • \$19**
A dark, brooding red, this exhibits black cherry, blackberry, leather, iron and wild herb aromas and flavors. Features a core of pure fruit, surrounded by a firm structure and savory nuances. Best from 2021 through 2036. 16,000 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 92 LUIGI EINAUDI Dogliani 2017 • \$20**
Bright and juicy, displaying pure cherry, blackberry and floral aromas and flavors. The vintage's dense tannins are present but well-integrated. Fine length. Drink now through 2024. 9,000 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 91 FINCA DECERO Malbec Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2017 • \$22**
A rich red, with a plush array of dark plum and cherry tart flavors that are creamy and richly spiced. The open-textured finish shows plenty of savoriness, accented by dark chocolate hints. Drink now through 2023. 19,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
- 91 QUIVIRA Sauvignon Blanc Dry Creek Valley 2017 • \$18**
Offers distinctive herbal and floral notes, with chamomile and lemongrass accents up front. Crisp, vibrant flavors of Key lime, lemon and grapefruit are in harmony on the light, refreshing frame, showing plenty of intensity. Drink now. 4,010 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 91 TOMMASI Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana Poggio al Tufo 2016 • \$18**
Dark and concentrated, with the vibrant structure imparting fluidity. Dill, blackberry, black currant and toasted spice flavors linger, with the dusty tannins sealing the deal. Best from 2020 through 2025. 3,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 90 MAROTTI CAMPI Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore Luzano 2017 • \$17**
Light herb and citrus zest notes accent the apricot, wet stone, almond blossom and pear flavors in this sleek, silky, light- to medium-bodied white. Fresh and lingering, with a mineral finish. Drink now through 2024. 1,500 cases imported.—*A.N.*
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BEST VALUES

89 **VIÑA DOÑA PAULA** Black Edition Luján de Cuyo 2017 • \$15
Firm and focused, with notes of graphite to the dark currant and plum tart flavors. Slate and white pepper hints come in on the taut finish, with some green herbal edges. Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2022. 20,000 cases made.—*K.M.*

88 **BODEGAS BRECA** Garnacha Spain de Fuego 2017 • \$10
This bold red delivers ripe plum and blackberry flavors wrapped in cola, toast and spice notes. Features a thick texture, backed by light, firm tannins and lively acidity. Rich and fruity, yet stays balanced. Drink now through 2024. 30,000 cases made.—*T.M.*

88 **PACIFIC RIM** Riesling Columbia Valley J 2017 • \$10
Supple and soft, with fresh and delicately sweet star fruit and spice flavors. Drink now. 12,000 cases made.—*T.F.*

88 **BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS SHAYA** Rueda Arindo 2017 • \$11
This thick white delivers creamed pear, ginger, smoke and dried herbal flavors, balanced by lively acidity. More savory than fruity, with good depth. Drink now. 9,500 cases made.—*T.M.*

87 **LAMURA** Nero d'Avola Sicilia 2017 • \$10
Round and balanced, this medium-bodied red offers a pleasing mix of crushed black cherry and strawberry fruit flavors, with notes of dried thyme and graphite. Drink now. 15,000 cases made.—*A.N.*

ABOUT THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Highly Recommended: The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.

Collectibles: Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.

Smart Buys: Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

Best Values: Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

Initials at the end of each tasting note indicate the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review. The tasters are as follows: James Laube (*J.L.*); Kim Marcus (*K.M.*); Thomas Matthews (*T.M.*); James Molesworth (*J.M.*); Bruce Sanderson (*B.S.*); Harvey Steiman (*H.S.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*); Gillian Sciaretta (*G.S.*); Aleks Zecevic (*A.Z.*).