

# WINES OF THE YEAR



The results are in! Our experts around the world and the *Decanter* team nominated the wines that impressed them most in 2021, and they have been retasted blind by our three judges to select the best of the best

REPORT TINA GELLIE

With 40% of entries scoring 95 points or more, this was undoubtedly the most successful Wines of the Year tasting *Decanter* has ever held. Our trio of judges, Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW, Matt Walls and Stefan Neumann MS were unanimous in their praise.

'It was overwhelming to taste so many fantastic wines – it was hit after hit!' said Walls. 'Given the line-up was so diverse, it was notable how much we agreed on our scores,' commented Cherutti-Kowal. 'That just shows the sheer quality and class of the wines put forward for this tasting.' While for Neumann, it was a landmark occasion: 'This is the first time I've ever given 100 points! My average score was probably the highest ever, too.'

To select the wines, *Decanter* World Wine Awards Regional Chairs, key contributors and staff nominated the three wines that most impressed them during 2021, under the categories of Classic (a premium, textbook wine style), Offbeat (unusual grape, winemaking method, region or unearthened gem) and Value (£25 or under). While many had sold out, or were unable to be sourced because of low stock or shipping issues, 126 wines arrived at *Decanter's* offices to be judged blind over two days. Neither the category nor price was revealed, so the wines were assessed purely on a quality basis – a fact that our judges appreciated.

## QUALITY ABOVE ALL

'It should always be about the quality in the glass before price becomes a consideration,' said Neumann. Cherutti-Kowal agreed, but also found it 'fascinating' that the classic names came through. 'It's reassuring that so many of these top wines, which command top prices, justify them. They deserve the accolades – the cream really rose to the top,' she said.

Before the wines' identities were revealed to them, the judges each gave a few personal highlights from the two days.

In the reds, it was the three Naoussa Xinomavros that stood out for Walls and Neumann. 'It's a style of wine that deserves more recognition,' said Walls. 'Complex, food-friendly, and

'So many fantastic wines – it was hit after hit'

—————Matt Walls

I imagine these will be well priced too.' Cherutti-Kowal was impressed by the 'beautifully elegant' Cabernets and blends from such a broad cross-section of countries. She also singled out Italy's exceptional performance across both reds and whites and from north to south.

'The Sangiovese flight was incredible,' agreed Neumann. 'So many interpretations and styles, but all a privilege to taste.' Equally, he was happy to see the less common wine regions and varieties shining through, 'from China to Azerbaijan, from Blaufränkisch to Kékfrankos'.

On day two, it was the sparkling wine flight that set the tone for the day, ranging from the 'truly stunning' Champagnes to the 'amazingly different' Cava.

More whites than reds are usually submitted in the Offbeat category and this year was no different, with a host of 'idiosyncratic, characterful and fascinating' examples with strong identities that 'kept us on our toes,' said Cherutti-Kowal. 'Hárslevelű, Timorasso and Pinot Bianco are not that well known except by wine geeks like us,' said Walls, 'so I was pleased

to see them stepping up to the plate and fighting it out with classic varieties like Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.'

Elsewhere, Neumann singled out the Assyrtiko for its beautiful ageing potential, while Cherutti-Kowal championed the New World wines. 'The Chardonnays all showed well and the Chenin Blancs were extraordinary – the producers really showed their talent.' Regardless of where any of these 126 Wines of the Year were from, said Neumann, they each showed personality and quality.

And that wasn't surprising, noted Walls, when you consider that out of the thousands of wines *Decanter's* experts tasted in a year, these were the ones that impressed them most. 'It goes to show,' he added, 'that, just when we think we know the wine world, new and great things bubble up to the surface.'

Dive in and enjoy!

Tina Gellie is *Decanter's* content manager



**MICHELLE CHERUTTI-KOWAL MW** is a wine consultant, judge and writer as well as a WSET educator, and the DWWA 2021 Regional Chair for Veneto



**STEFAN NEUMANN MS** is an independent wine consultant, director of wine for Michelin two-star Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, a master sommelier since 2017 and a DWWA judge



**MATT WALLS** is an awarded wine writer, author and consultant, and the DWWA Regional Chair for the Rhône. His latest book, *Wines of the Rhône*, was published in January 2021

Thank you to the following people who contributed their recommendations: Sarah Ahmed, Jane Anson, Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW, Amanda Barnes, Richard Baudains, Laura Bianco, Jim Budd, James Button, Bob Campbell MW, Yohan Castaing, Jeannie Cho Lee MW, Alistair Cooper MW, Peter Csizmadia-Honigh, Charles Curtis MW, Markus Del Monego MW, Michael Denton, Natalie Earl, Sarah Jane Evans MW, Simon Field MW, Aldo Fiordelli, Elizabeth Gabay MW, Michael Garner, Tina Gellie, Rosemary George MW, Caroline Gilby MW, Charlotte Hale, Georgina Hindle, Stephen Hobley, Huon Hooke, Andy Howard MW, Justin Howard-Sneyd MW, Susan Hulme MW, Yiannis Karakasis MW, Justin Knock MW, James Lawther MW, Fiona McDonald, Thierry Meyer, Michela Nassiz, Rupert Owen, Barbara Philip MW, Alessandra Piubello, Anthony Rose, Ronan Sayburn MS, Julie Sheppard, Greg Sherwood MW, Cesar Soler, Sonja van Praag, Matt Walls, Beth Willard, Amy Wislocki, Sylvia Wu



Dom Pérignon, Brut, Champagne, France 2008 Classic

Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW 97

Stefan Neumann MS 99

Matt Walls 98

£225 Clos19, Lay & Wheeler, Le Vignoble, Nemo Wine Cellar, The Huntsworth Wine Co, The Solent Cellar, The Surrey Wine Centre, WoodWinters

Dom Pérignon is named after 17th-century Benedictine monk Dom Pierre Pérignon (1638-1715), who is said to have invented sparkling wine while cellarmaster at the Abbey of Hautvillers. In truth, his task was to find a way to prevent a second fermentation in the bottle as the bottles were exploding. Dom Pérignon is a vintage Champagne made using an approximate blend of 50/50 Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. It is one of the highest-rated and most desirable Champagnes on the market.

Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW Brioche, almonds and red apples on the nose and palate. Great balance with dosage and acidity. Excellent combination of fruit and bottle age.

Stefan Neumann MS Top-notch salty, mineral, iodine-like aromas. Showing a wonderful sourdough-like character with delicate roasted nuts. Depth and drive, elegance and power.

Matt Walls Deep, intense, full-bodied style of Champagne, voluminous, generous, very powerful and thunderous. Very long – this is a great wine. So harmonious.

Drink 2022-2040 Alc 12.5%

Nominated by Jane Anson



Cantina Terlano, Primo Terlaner I Grande Cuvée, Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy 2018 Classic

MC-K 98 SN 98 MW 98

£191.75 Field & Fawcett, Sociovino

Cantina Terlano in Alto Adige is arguably Italy’s top white wine cooperative. Founded in 1893, today 143 members cultivate some 190ha of vines northwest of Bolzano. From low-yielding vineyards (35hl/ha), Primo Grande Cuvée is mainly made up of Pinot Bianco, with up to one third Chardonnay plus Sauvignon Blanc (around 3% in the 2018 vintage). Fermented and matured in oak where it spends 12 months on its lees before bottling, the wine more than lives up to its billing. MC-K This has loads of different aromatic characters: fruit, almonds, honey... And the palate is backed with all of it, fresh acidity, lingering finish. Super wine.

SN A superb nose, grabbing your attention, wonderful creamy note with hints of yellow apples and pear, sweet quince and ripe peach. Good mineral backbone giving it a wonderful vibrancy.

MW Very lean, very flinty, very smoky. Then driving intensity and focus on the palate. A cleansing alpine style.

Drink 2022-2055 Alc 13.5%

Nominated by Michael Garner



Henschke, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, South Australia 2016 Classic

MC-K 98 SN 100 MW 99

£550-£595 Harvey Nichols, Honest Grapes, KWM, Lay & Wheeler, Liberty Wines, Mother Vine, Noble Grape, Philglas & Swiggot, Vinoteca

Stephen and Prue Henschke are the fifth generation in charge of Henschke’s highly regarded wines, with a focus on purity and terroir, using traditional winemaking techniques. Hill of Grace is Henschke’s most renowned vineyard, producing wonderful Shiraz from just 4 hectares, with the first vines planted here in 1860.

MC-K Lots of black fruit with a hint of dried herbs. Oak spice gently wraps around the fruit, tannins firm but fine grained. Lovely wine.

SN Elevated dark fruit with spice, chocolate and dried flowers.

So inviting. Perfect execution of aromas and flavours. Perfection in a glass. This is heaven on earth.

MW Polished leather and menthol, this has a sense of measure and elegance. Generous, silky, rounded. Fruity but not sweet. A very long finish, it’s almost endless.

Drink 2022-2035 Alc 14.5%

Nominated by Huon Hooke



Cape Landing, Blackwood Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia 2019 Value

MC-K 98 SN 97 MW 98

N/A UK capelanding.com.au

Cape Landing is an independent, family-owned winery making classic Margaret River wines. Single-vineyard wines are made in order to reflect the style of each plot, integrating biodiversity, restoration and the maintenance of native species in the vineyards. The finest parcels of fruit from each vintage are selected for Blackwood Cabernet Sauvignon, and production is generally restricted to 1,800 bottles per year.

MC-K Fragrant with notes of dill and rosemary. Loads of blackcurrant mixed with woodsmoke and spice. Acidity adds an element of freshness.

SN This is a highly perfumed style. Shows ripeness of dark fruit

but it’s not too fruity or intense. Has a remarkable balance of power and concentration yet elegance.

MW A perfumed, pure Cabernet Sauvignon that feels very Margaret River; elegant, refined, pure. Very silky, velvety, plush, but still fresh and harmonious. Very seductive.

Drink 2022-2040 Alc 14.2%

Nominated by Rupert Owen

For a further 72 high-scoring wines from this outstanding tasting, with full tasting notes, plus prices and stockists, visit [decanter.com/premium](https://decanter.com/premium)





**5 Louis Roederer, Collection 242 Brut, Champagne, France NV 97** ©

**MC-K 98 SN 95 MW 97**  
£47-£53.95 Fortnum & Mason, Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Haynes Hanson & Clark, Hedonism, JN Wine, Lay & Wheeler, Les Caves de Pyrene, Majestic, Philglas & Swiggot, Selfridges, Tanners, The Finest Bubble, Virgin Wines, Waitrose  
Fresh, vibrant nose displaying aromas of orange, lime peel, almond, honey and brioche with ripe quince and sweet pear undertones. Great focus and length on the palate, seriously harmonious, joyful and unforced. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 12% *Simon Field MW*

**6 Bruno Paillard, Assemblage Extra Brut, Champagne, France 2012 96** ©

**MC-K 97 SN 97 MW 94**  
£65-£75 Champagne Direct, Hedonism, Millésima  
Mature aromas of nuts, honey, brioche, pine nuts and lovely creamy notes with ricotta undertones and nuances of lemons and apples. Very refined, soft and luxurious, generous yet showing freshness. Wonderfully persistent. **Drink** 2022-2045 **Alc** 12% *Amy Wislocki*



**7 Mas del Serral, Brut Nature, Conca del Riu Anoia, Catalonia, Spain 2009 96** ©

**MC-K 97 SN 95 MW 95**  
£275/magnum The Finest Bubble  
This has a distinctive aromatic character of apples, honey and biscuits with ripe lychees and fresh melon scents. There's a soft fizz on the palate accompanied by

a crisp vibrant acidity. Serious depth and complexity here, with layers of flavour. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 12.5% *Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW*

**8 Taittinger, Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne, France 2008 96** ©

**MC-K 98 SN 96 MW 95**  
£154-£195 Amps, Champagne Direct, Harrods, Hedonism, Jeroboams, KWM, Tannin & Oak, Taurus Wines, The Champagne Co, The Solent Cellar, Wimbledon Wine Cellar, WoodWinters  
Wonderful, intriguing nose with ripe orchard fruits of conference pear and pink lady apples, seasoned with brioche and roasted cashew nuts. It's rich on the palate with lovely layers of citrusy, silky tones and a touch of honey. **Drink** 2022-2045 **Alc** 12.5% *Charlotte Hale*

**9 Masottina, Contrada Granda Extra Dry, Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy NV 95** ©

**MC-K 97 SN 93 MW 94**  
POA Bancroft  
Fragrant aromas of lemon curd with dried petals, bubblegum and jelly sweet notes over chalky undertones. Silky and seductive on the palate with a floral character and zesty acidity, ending in a steely finish. **Drink** 2022-2025 **Alc** 11.5% *Stephen Hopley*



**10 Billecart-Salmon, Elisabeth Salmon Rosé Brut, Champagne, France 2008 97** ©

**MC-K 97 SN 96 MW 97**  
£149.99-£174.99 Hedonism, Highbury Vintners, Honest Grapes, JN Wine, The Finest Bubble, The Whisky Exchange, The Wine Reserve, Wanderlust Wine  
Ripe berries on the nose with red apple, peach and tangerine notes over hazelnut and pastry nuances. Fresh and compact on the palate with zesty acidity, showing finesse. **Drink** 2022-2045 **Alc** 12.5% *Charlotte Hale*

**11 Barón de Ley, Tres Viñas Reserva Blanco, Rioja, Spain 2018 97** ①

**MC-K 97 SN 97 MW 96**  
N/A UK barondeley.com  
A very expressive nose of clarified butter, vanilla, toasty nuts and peaches, with hints of red apples. Creamy on the palate with a fresh acidity which adds lift and liveliness. Has great energy, with a savoury edge. **Drink** 2022-2045 **Alc** 12.5% *Sonja van Praag*

**12 Estate Argyros, Cuvée Monsignori, Santorini, Greece 2018 97** ©

**MC-K 97 SN 99 MW 95**  
£37.95 Philglas & Swiggot, The Wright Wine Co  
Fresh, intense aromas of grapefruit peel,

lime, oyster shells and a touch of Brie rind on the nose. Has great depth and drive with an ethereal lightness and deep mineral energy. It shows a little tension on the gently smoky finish. **Drink** 2022-2055 **Alc** 13.9% *Yiannis Karakasis MW & Justin Knock MW*



**13 J Hofstätter, Konrad Oberhofer, Vigna Pirchschrait Gewürztraminer, Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy 2008 97** ©

**MC-K 99 SN 95 MW 97**  
N/A UK hofstatter.com  
Perfumed nose of rose petals, dried mango, passion fruit, Turkish delight, beeswax and brioche. Rounded, soft palate with cumin and curry. **Drink** 2022-2030 **Alc** 14.5% *Markus Del Monego MW*

**14 Oldenburg Vineyards, Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2020 97** ①

**MC-K 97 SN 97 MW 96**  
£15.95 Jeroboams, Wine&Something, Winoship  
Expressive nose with citrus fruit, yellow plum, ripe pear, red apple and hints of wax and honey with vanilla and clove. Precise, tight acidity and lovely concentration. **Drink** 2022-2045 **Alc** 13.5% *Georgina Hindle*

**15 Stellenrust, Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2020 96** ©

**MC-K 93 SN 98 MW 98**  
£10.99-£11.95 Exel, Globe Wines, NY Wines, Simply Wines Direct  
Inviting nose with touches of lime skin, oyster shell, green fruit, wax, candied rose petals and hints of curry. This is very classic and seriously focused, intense with a vibrant and perfectly integrated freshness. **Drink** 2022-2045 **Alc** 13.6% *Fiona McDonald*





16

**16 Walter Scott, X Novo Vineyard Chardonnay, Eola-Amity Hills, Willamette Valley, USA 2019** 96 ©

**MC-K 96 SN 96 MW 95**

POA Justerini & Brooks

Lots of citrus notes layered with delicate spices, nuts, gunpowder and cumin. Full-bodied, quite rich and expressive, with a broad palate supported by a searing acidity and a very persistent stony finish. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13% Charles Curtis MW



12

**17 Coffele, Ca' Visco, Soave Classico, Veneto, Italy 2020** 95 ①

**MC-K 96 SN 95 MW 93**

£13.50-£17.99 Fortyfive10°, Frazier's, The Wine Society

Lovely freshness with mineral undertones, delicate yellow plum, ripe citrusy notes and hints of exotic fruits under peach and pear aromas. Peppery and crisp palate with freshness and elegance. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 12.5% Michael Garner



12

**18 Domaine de la Taille aux Loups, Remus, Montlouis sur Loire, France 2019** 95 ©

**MC-K 96 SN 95 MW 95**

£22.27-£24.95 Justerini & Brooks, Vin Cognito

**19 Flowstone, Queen of the Earth Sauvignon Blanc, Margaret River, Western Australia 2018** 95 ©

**MC-K 95 SN 95 MW 95**

£29.95 The Vinorium

Aromatic nose with grassy notes, punchy gooseberry followed by hints of green tea, gunpowder and lemongrass. Highly distinctive with passion fruit flavours on the palate and a lengthy, austere finish. **Drink** 2022-2025 **Alc** 13.5% Rupert Owen

**20 Kumeu River, Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay, Kumeu, Auckland, New Zealand 2020** 95 ©

**MC-K 96 SN 95 MW 95**

£43.75 (ib)-£55 Bordeaux Index, Cambridge

Wine Merchants, Christopher Keiller, Claret-e, DBM Wines, The Secret Cellar

Expressive style with notes of apple and peach, fairly toasty with nuts, hints of smoke and cream. Creamy palate with layers of flavours and an impressive length. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13% Andy Howard MW

**21 Tokaj Nobilis, Hárs Barakonyi dúlő, Tokaj, Hungary 2018** 95 ①

**MC-K 93 SN 96 MW 95**

N/A UK tokajnobilis.hu

Lovely toasty nose with tangerine peel, ripe red apple, spiced quince, cloves and oolong tea over nuances of lime marmalade. Very pleasant refreshing acidity with a slightly bitter backbone. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13.5% Caroline Gilby MW



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**22 Vigneti Massa, Montecitorio Derthona, Piedmont, Italy 2017** 95 ©

**MC-K 95 SN 96 MW 95**

£45 Winetraders UK

Lots of character on the nose, displaying scents of ripe apricots, mango, honeydew melon, pear, croissant and citrus notes with nutty nuances. Lovely weight balanced by citrus energy. Saline finish. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13.5% Alessandra Piubello

**23 Château Lynch-Moussas, Pauillac 5CC, Bordeaux, France 2016** 97 ©

**MC-K 98 SN 96 MW 96**

£27.08-£62 Bakers & Larners of Holt, Caviste, Christopher Keiller, Cru, Crump Richmond Shaw, Farr Vintners, Four Walls, Millésima, Oddbins Peppery, earthy nose with cedar under mint and blackcurrant. Firm tannins supported by wonderful black fruit concentration, and balancing freshness and precision. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13.5% Natalie Earl

**24 Il Marroneto, Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy 2016** 97 ©

**MC-K 98 SN 96 MW 98**

£61.68 Armit



23



24

Classical nose of red cherries, sweet juicy plums, tea leaves, rose petals and dried mushrooms with a touch of spice and hints of dried herbs. Dense palate with a great impact and precision, assertive tannins and crisp acidity. **Drink** 2022-2038 **Alc** 14% Alessandra Piubello



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**25 La Rioja Alta, 890 Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2005** 97 ©

**MC-K 98 SN 96 MW 96**

£115-£160 Armit, Caviste, Connaught Cellars, Mumbles Fine Wines, The Surrey Wine Cellar Deep and powerful, showing Rioja in its full glory with a surprising amount of fruit on the nose alongside mushroom, spice and vanilla. Serious concentration. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13.5% Sarah Jane Evans MW

**26 La Rioja Alta, 904 Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2011** 97 ©

**MC-K 97 SN 96 MW 97**

£45.68-£64.95 Armit, Hic, Jeroboams, JN Wine, KWM, Lay & Wheeler, Majestic, Slurp, The Oxford Wine Co, The Secret Cellar, The Suffolk Cellar, The Wine Society, Vin Cognito, WineTrust, Yorkshire Vintners Lovely intensity on the nose – smoked meat, thyme and rosemary, and classic red fruit. Smooth tannins. Graceful and elegant. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.5% Laura Bianco

**27 Felton Road, Calvert Pinot Noir, Bannockburn, Central Otago, New Zealand 2019** 96 ©

**MC-K 98 SN 96 MW 93**

£47.95-£50 Highbury Vintners, JN Wine, Love Wine, Raeburn Fine Wines, Reid Wines, Wadebridge Wines Beautifully concentrated nose with ripe strawberries and raspberries, black cherry, hints of star anise and delicate oak spice. Fantastic purity of fruit. **Drink** 2022-2042 **Alc** 13.5% Bob Campbell MW





**28 Pasqua, Mai dire Mai, Amarone della Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy 2012** 96 ©  
**MC-K 97 SN 95 MW 96**  
£95 Jeroboams  
Restrained, classic nose showing notes of red cherry compote, sweet spices, smoky woodfire and nuances of anise and earthy notes. It offers a wealth of concentration on the palate with a balanced bright acidity. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 16.5% **Stephen Holey**

**29 Produttori del Barbaresco, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy 2017** 96 ©  
**MC-K 99 SN 94 MW 94**  
£36.50-£39.25 Bottle Apostle, Beckford Bottle Shop, Field & Fawcett, Noble Green, Raffles, Salisbury Winestore, Sociovino, The Grapesmith  
Aromatic notes of dried sage and rosemary combined with juicy, ripe red cherries, tar and red roses. Silky, ripe, approachable, with a great fine-grained tannic structure. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14% **Justin Knock MW**

**30 Thymiopoulos Vineyards, Vrana Petra, Naoussa, Greece 2017** 96 ©  
**MC-K 96 SN 96 MW 96**  
£81 Theatre of Wine, Wine & Greene



Crunchy red fruits on the nose, with floral notes of dried roses, dried cherry, red plums and aromatic herbs. This has a beautifully integrated tannic structure with a lively freshness, and an earthy, persistent finish. **Drink** 2022-2042 **Alc** 14% **Anthony Rose**



**31 Argento, Single Vineyard Finca Altamira Organic Malbec, Altamira, Mendoza, Argentina 2019** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 94 SN 94 MW 96**  
£14 All About Wine, Bibendum Wine, The Fine Wine Co  
Complex nose displaying ripe blackcurrant, plum, perfumed flowers and herbs. Fresh and drinkable, with firm tannins and elegance. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 14.5% **Amanda Barnes**

**32 Basilica Cafaggio, Villa Cafaggio, Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy 2018** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 95 SN 95 MW 95**  
£13.99 Waitrose  
Aromatic note of dried herbs with liquorice, sweet spices and ripe red fruit. Zesty on the palate with serious depth and drive. Elegant, fresh, harmonious style. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 13.5% **Peter Csizmadia-Honigh**

**33 Boekenhouts Kloof, Syrah, Swartland, South Africa 2018** 95 ©  
**MC-K 92 SN 94 MW 98**  
£26.50 (ib)-£52.99 Amathus Drinks, Berry Bros & Rudd, Cellar Door Wines, Cru, Farr Vintners, Handford, Harrogate Wines, It's Wine Time, JN Wine, Lay & Wheeler, Mumbles Fine Wines, North & South, NY Wines, Swig, VIP Bottles, WoodWinters  
Big and bold with barbecue notes and dried blue- and blackberries with aromatic herbs. Smooth and silky with subtle ripe tannins, light in body. Fresh, defined and delicious. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14% **Tina Gellie**



**34 Château Lancyre, Coste d'Aleynac, Pic St-Loup, Languedoc, France 2019** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 94 SN 95 MW 95**  
POA Alliance Wine  
Aromatic and fresh nose with olive notes, tomato tapenade, lavender, plums, camphor and violets over nuances of creamy oak and leather. Rich and full on the palate with plenty of smooth tannins. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.5% **Michael Denton**

**35 Château Smith Haut Lafitte, Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan, Bordeaux, France 2019** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 93 SN 98 MW 94**  
£27-£29 Armit, Berry Bros & Rudd, Bordeaux Index, Corney & Barrow, Cru, Cult Wines, Farr Vintners, Jeroboams, Justerini & Brooks, Lea & Sandeman  
Restrained nose with complex aromas of blackcurrants, dark plums and tobacco. Gentle and plush, with gravelly tannins and a crisp acidity. Seriously wonderful and complex expression of a modern Bordeaux. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.5% **Jane Anson**

**36 Cillar de Silos, Crianza, Ribera del Duero, Spain 2018** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 95 SN 95 MW 94**



£20-£23 Bancroft, Hic, Naked Wines UK  
Highly seductive aromas of refined dark fruit with layers of spice and smoke. Refined elegance on the palate, with a bright acidity and fine-grained tannins, precise in style, fresh and focused. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.5% **Simon Field MW**



**37 Dagaz, Kolwe Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Pumanque, Colchagua Valley, Chile 2019** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 94 SN 95 MW 95**  
£26.99 Condor Wines  
Attractive aromas showing generous blackcurrants, blackberries, mint chocolate and leafy notes. Fine, elegant and fresh, yet showing serious concentration and velvety tannins. Very long finish. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.1% **Alistair Cooper MW**

**38 Diamantakos, Xinomavro, Naoussa, Greece 2018** 95 ⑤  
**MC-K 95 SN 95 MW 95**  
£24-£27 Clark Foyster, Saghi, Tanners  
Delicate nose with crunchy red fruits, spicy cumin, juicy raspberry and peppery cranberry aromas with hints of dried herbs. A good amount of concentration, with herbal freshness. **Drink** 2022-2042 **Alc** 13.5% **Yiannis Karakasis MW**

**39 Don Melchor, Cabernet Sauvignon, Puente Alto, Maipo, Chile 2018** 95 ©  
**MC-K 96 SN 96 MW 94**  
£98-£100 Handford, Harrods, Hedonism, Villeneuve Wines  
Rich and dense with ripe black fruit, gentle oak spices and hints of smoke and savoury notes. Deep, concentrated, bold with smooth tannins and piercing acidity. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.5% **Alistair Cooper MW**





**40 I Fabbri, Chianti Classico Riserva, Tuscany, Italy**

**2016** 95 ©

**MC-K 94 SN 95 MW 97**

£30.50 (2015) Stone Vine & Sun

Energetic, concentrated aromas of dried and pickled cherries, wild strawberries, spices and hints of game. Dense, firm palate with finely textured tannins surrounded by fresh acidity. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13.5% Aldo Fiordelli

**41 Marta's Vineyard, Signature Reserve Cabernet Franc, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina 2016** 95 ©

**MC-K 96 SN 94 MW 95**

£22.50 martasvineyard.com

Fruity nose with generous blackberry and cassis fruit, a dab of wasabi and sweet milk chocolate over spice and smoke. Luxurious and opulent, quite potent with a well-balanced acidity and a long, pure finish. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13.7% Sonja van Praag

**42 Paul Lato, Atticus, John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sta. Rita Hills, California, USA 2017** 95 ©

**MC-K 98 SN 93 MW 93**

POA Tiger Vines



Inviting perfumed aromas of sage and lavender with ripe red cherries, freshly picked red roses and a hint of sweet oak. Dense and ripe expression, very smooth with plenty of substance. This is pure and easy to like. **Drink** 2022-2032 **Alc** 14.3% Ronan Sayburn MS

**43 Rutini, Apartado Gran Malbec, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2019** 95 ©

**MC-K 96 SN 94 MW 95**

£63 Viñals

Savoury and slightly smoky, with ripe aromas of raspberry, fresh leaves and black fruit. Fine and concentrated with firm yet fine-grained tannins and a lingering finish. **Drink** 2023-2040 **Alc** 14.9% Cesar Soler

**44 San Leonardo, Vigneti delle Dolomiti, Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy 2015** 95 ©

**MC-K 95 SN 95 MW 94**

£65-£68 Hic, Honest Grapes, Jeroboams, Nemo

Wine Cellars, Petersham Cellar, The Solent Cellar

Creamy nose with cedar and plummy fruit. Firm on the palate with fine-grained tannins and a crunchy acidic core.

**Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 13%

Jeannie Cho Lee MW

**45 Tenuta San Guido, Sassicaia, Bolgheri Sassicaia, Tuscany, Italy 2018** 95 ©

**MC-K 98 SN 93 MW 93**

£225-£285 Handford, Harvey Nichols,

Hedonism, Highbury Vintners, Love Wine, Majestic,

Museum Wines, Petersham Cellar, Rise & Vine,

The Surrey Wine Cellar, Waud Wines

Notes of woodsmoke, blackcurrants and a hint of mint. Tobacco and cigar box add complexity. Dark, dense and concentrated.


**Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 13.5% Aldo Fiordelli








**46** **Tinazzi, Feudo Croce Imperio LXXIV, Primitivo di Manduria, Puglia, Italy 2019** 95   
**MC-K 97 SN 95 MW 94**  
 £21 Vivino  
 Full of aromatic lavender, dill, stewed raspberries and concentrated blackberries. Spicy on the palate, with a lovely balance and energy. Very approachable and drinkable, with a lingering fennel finish.  
**Drink 2022-2040 Alc 14.5% Stephen Hobbey**

**47** **Torbreck, Descendant, Barossa Valley, South Australia 2018** 95   
**MC-K 96 SN 95 MW 95**  
 £66 (ib) Berry Bros & Rudd, Farr Vintners, Nickolls & Perks, NY Wines, Turville Valley Wines, VinQuinn  
 Ripe and rich nose of black plums, dark cherries, blackcurrant, fennel and chocolate notes. Very ripe and full-bodied with elegant velvety tannins. Warm, juicy and concentrated, classically powerful.  
**Drink 2022-2035 Alc 15% Sarah Ahmed**

**48** **Benvenuti, San Salvatore Muškat, Istria, Croatia 2015** 97   
**MC-K 96 SN 98 MW 96**  
 N/A UK benvenutivina.com




**49** **Morris, Classic Liqueur Muscat, Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia NV** 96 

**MC-K 97 SN 97 MW 95**  
 £28.99/50cl NY Wines, Oz Wines, The Wine Reserve  
 Perfumed nose, full of caramelised sweet nuts, toffee, succulent dates, prunes and molasses. Silky on the palate with a line of orange zest-like acidity balancing its viscous texture. Never-ending layered finish.  
**Drink 2022-2080 Alc 17.5% Huon Hooke**

**50** **Henriques & Henriques, 20 Year Old Verdelho, Madeira, Portugal NV** 97 

**MC-K 98 SN 98 MW 95**  
 £68.48-£90 Alexander Hadleigh, Fortnum & Mason, Hedonism, Simply Wines Direct, The Wine Reserve  
 Perfumed nose with mango chutney notes and caramel, candied hazelnuts, dates, prunes and figs. Fantastic rapier-like acidity balancing the elegant sweetness. Ample, with a salty finish. **Drink 2022-2030 Alc 20% Michael Hill Smith MW**

**51** **Lustau, VORS 30 Year Old Palo Cortado, Jerez, Spain NV** 96 

**MC-K 96 SN 95 MW 98**  
 £94-£98/50cl Bancroft, Hedonism, Port2Port  
 Complex nuances of candied peel, sultanas, hazelnuts, woodsmoke, cardamom, beeswax, leather and saffron oil. Drive and energy, bone dry with a lingering finish.  
**Drink 2022-2050 Alc 21% Julie Sheppard **

