

THE ENTHUSIAST 100 OF 2019



THE BEST WINES OF THE YEAR

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST

It isn't easy tasting more than 24,000 wines in a year, but someone's gotta do it. Well, O.K., we really can't complain: We here at *Wine Enthusiast* love the job and are happy to take on the burden of providing resources to aid your vinous adventures.

Each year, we recap a full calendar's worth of wine tasting with our three Top 100 lists. In the November issue, we share our Top 100 Best Buys, a roster of wines that provide the most bang for your buck. Then, in the December 1 issue, our Top 100 Cellar Selections list showcases a compilation of stand-out wines with serious long-term potential.

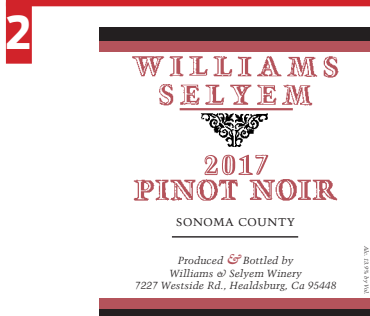
Now comes the ultimate: The Enthusiast 100.

This best-of-the-best list is a showstopper in its own right and exemplifies a dazzling variety of wines available to consumers today. With selections from 16 countries and nearly every wine style—dry whites and reds, rosés, bubbles and beyond—there's truly something for everyone. Boasting an average score of 93 points and an average price of \$33, this is a list of the top wines to crack open and revel in right now.

The selections here are not to be missed and are sure to be snapped up fast, so find your favorites, grab a glass and enjoy!



94 Nino Franco NV Rustico Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of white spring flower, Bartlett pear and citrus waft out of the glass. The racy, refreshing palate is full of energy, offering crisp yellow-apple, lemon drop and orange zest flavors balanced by vibrant acidity. A perlage of small, refined and continuous bubbles provides the silky backdrop. Terlato Wines International. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20



98 Williams Selyem 2017 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This is a perfumed and seductive wine made from a range of sites across the county. Fresh acidity is seamlessly integrated between textured layers of black cherry, forest floor and cardamom. The overall experience is balanced and undeniably beautiful. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

99 Domaine de la Janasse 2016 Vieilles Vignes Red (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Buxom and heady, this is a delightfully rich, hedonistic blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Sun-drenched mulberry and black cherry flavors are explosive on the palate yet it's an elegantly extracted, surprisingly charming wine edged with nuances of violet, dried thyme and earth. The tannins are soft in feel, making it hard to resist young, but there's plenty of time for improvement here too. European Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$114

96 Grosset 2018 Polish Hill Riesling (Clare Valley). This is a downright beautiful, textured and highly focused expression of Riesling. The nose is more open and fruit forward than the previous vintage, bursting with freshly sliced lime, guava, flowers and streaks of stony minerals. The palate is bone dry, slippery and fresh, with bright limey fruit and an endlessly long mouthwatering finish. Drink now–2039. Hudson Wine Brokers. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$52

97 CVNE 2011 Imperial Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is a fabulous gran reserva from a very good but lightly heralded vintage. Aromas of spiced plum, black olive, fig, tobacco and cassis come together like a puzzle. A deep, pure palate shows near-perfect balance, while this tastes of plum, berry fruits and earthy spice. Smooth, elegant and chocolaty on the finish, this delivers all one can ask for from Rioja. Drink through 2035. Arano LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$88

96 Adriano Marco & Vittorio 2016 Basarin (Barbaresco). Spearmint, black-skinned berry, blue flower and new leather aromas lead the way along with a whiff of menthol. Tight and taut, the elegant, structured palate delivers juicy black cherry, crushed raspberry, wild herbs and white pepper alongside assertive, close-grained tannins. Bright acidity provides balance. Best 2024–2036. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

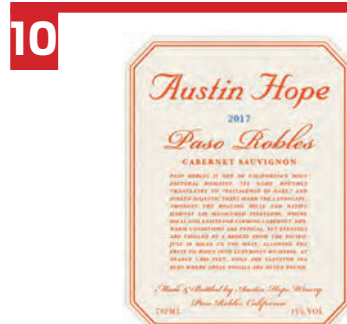


97 Massican 2018 Annia White (Napa Valley). Made from 48% Tocai Friulano, 41% Ribolla Gialla and 11% Chardonnay, this wine is fresh and floral in tones of lemon rind, white flower and green apple. Fermented in both French oak and stainless steel, it is structured yet vibrant, gorgeously aromatic and remarkably long-lasting on the palate. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$30



98 Quinta do Vale Meão 2016 Red (Douro). This is a major, impressive wine. Its power and tannins are matched by its style, rich dark-fruit flavors and dense structure. The potential of this wine, with its poise between juicy acidity and structure, is enormous. A mineral texture provides the essential connection with the terroir of the Douro Superior. It comes from one of the top Douro estates, the last to be created by Dona Antonia Ferreira and one that is still in the hands of her descendants. Drink from 2024. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$99

97 Fritz Haag 2017 Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese Grosse Lage (Mosel). Intensely ripe aromas of pineapple and blossom perfume this exuberantly sweet auslese. It's a stunningly concentrated, intoxicating wine, laden with sweet honey and stone-fruit flavors balanced by zippy lime acidity. Fresh and primary now, it is nuanced enough to gain complexity for decades to come. Loosen Bros. USA. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$44



95 Austin Hope 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This bottling remains as impressive and delicious as it did upon debut two vintages ago. Aromas of black cherry, hickory smoke and vanilla cookie lead into a palate of brown sugar, sea salt, caramel and black-cherry foam, all framed by polished tannins and just enough acidity. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50