

The most exciting wines of 2017

Decanter experts around the world named the five bottles under £55 that had impressed them most this year. After tasting and rating the 173 nominated wines, assessing them on harmony, complexity and wow factor, our panel of three judges compiled the ultimate top 75 across all styles. Christelle Guibert sums up the results

TO FINISH THE year in style, our ‘stellar buys of the year’ is back by popular demand. The equivalent tasting last year was so memorable we decided to follow the same format, asking our contributors, DWWA Regional Chairs and the *Decanter* editorial team to share with us the wines they have most enjoyed drinking during the last 12 months. We stipulated a price limit of £55 per bottle, to ensure the list includes something delicious for every budget.

This tasting is a snapshot of the wines from around the world that our experts loved most. With wines from more than 20 countries, the selection showed real diversity geographically and stylistically. The nominations also illustrated the trends of the past year. Last year we had a surprisingly large number of orange and amphora wines, while this year sees a good number of unusual grape varieties from emerging countries, alongside the usual suspects. Andy Howard MW commented: ‘In the world of wine, we all love classics, we all love fantastic white Burgundy, but we also strive to find the new thing that is up and coming or that we haven’t heard of. This tasting gave us both of those things at the same time.’

It was certainly a great educational experience for the three of us as we sniffed, swirled and sipped 173 wines over two very enjoyable days. We discovered grapes that none of us had ever heard of, and as Oz Clarke said: ‘I was

completely delighted that we had such a fantastic array. Even if they are wines that I’m not so familiar with, these are the wines that the *Decanter* experts love and believe in. It was a learning process for me – absolutely delightful.’

The wines were tasted blind and only the grape variety and vintage were disclosed. They were scored out of 100 points, and also given a score out of 15 for their harmony, complexity and wow factor. They were then ranked according to their overall scores, also taking value into

consideration at this point. We particularly wanted to reward wines which showed a real wow factor, so we were looking for the most individual, fascinating and harmonious wines, but also the most enjoyable.

With 84% of wines hitting the Highly Recommended (90-94pts/100) mark, it was definitely among our most memorable tastings. Unfortunately, such

was the number of great wines that the list is too long to feature all of them on these pages, so we have selected the top 75 wines, and a wider selection can be found online at www.decanter.com/best-wines

We hope you have a fantastic time going through the list, perhaps recognising old favourites and making new discoveries, and we are confident that some of these wines will feature in your own list of top wines over the next year – assuming you stock up before it’s too late to find them!

‘Such a fantastic array – these are the wines the *Decanter* experts love and believe in’

Oz Clarke

The tasters

Oz Clarke



is a multiple award-winning wine writer and broadcaster. In 2010, he was made an officer of the Ordre du Mérite Agricole in France

Christelle Guibert



is *Decanter’s* international tastings director, with more than 21 years’ experience in the wine industry in France and the UK

Andy Howard MW



is a wine consultant who writes and judges regularly for *Decanter*. He has 30 years’ experience as a buyer for retailer Marks & Spencer

1 Kaapzicht, The 1947 Chenin Blanc, Bottelary, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2016

96 OC 97 CG 95 AH 95

£36.24-£41.75 Dunells, Georges Barbier, Harrogate Fine Wines, Noel Young, Seckford Agencies, The Halifax Wine Co, Waples Wines
Luxurious and warm, with enveloping notes of honey, lemon and pineapple jumping out of the glass. Creamy and complex, this is bursting with flavour and life and indulgent good humour. Sweet exotic fruit married with nutty apple and citrus are wrapped up with a crisp acidity.
Drink 2018-2023 **Alcohol** 13.5%

2 Vasse Felix, Heytesbury Chardonnay, Margaret River, Australia 2014

96 OC 97 CG 95 AH 95

£38 Christopher Piper, Exel, Fine & Rare, Harrods, Negociants UK
An expressive, reductive style revealing aromas of buttery ripe apple and melon, intense with a wisp of autumnal smoke. Oatmeal and lemon pith meld with orange box characters, lemon oil and roasted almond notes. There is persistence here, which will see it through for some years to come. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 13%

3 Muga, Prado Enea Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2010

95 OC 97 CG 94 AH 95

£45 Berry Bros & Rudd, Majestic, Waitrose
Warm Christmas spices and dark berry and strawberry fruit come through in this dense but tender wine. There are layers of plush cherries mixed with touches of chocolate, cedar and graphite. This is refined as well as intense and driven. Delicious. **Drink** 2018-2030 **Alc** 14% ➤



4 **Marisa Cuomo, Furore Bianco Fiorduva, Costa d'Amalfi, Campania, Italy 2015** 95 OC 92 CG 95 AH 97

£14 **Annessa**
A complex mix of unusual grape varieties that gives expressive, exotic fruit and ripe apricot impressions. Herbal tones come through on the palate, complemented by a flicker of spice and cake dough. Crisp acidity balances the sunny fruit ripeness. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Aic** 14%

5 **Domaine Guy Farge, Vania, St-Joseph, Rhône, France 2016** 95 OC 96 CG 96 AH 92

£25 **Chez Stephan**
Sophistication lingers around the glass in this blend of 80% Marsanne and 20% Roussanne. Honeysuckle and golden pear skins mingle with white jasmine flowers and tropical fruit. The palate is full and ripe, bursting with richness and creaminess from the oak. An upfront and crowd-pleasing style, yet also serious and delightful. **Drink** 2018-2025 **Aic** 13.5%

6 **González Byass, Tres Palmas Fino, Sherry, Spain** 95 OC 97 CG 91 AH 98

£30-£40/50cl **Cambridge Wine Merchants, Carruthers & Kent, Lunya, Soho Wine Supply, The Whisky Exchange**
Amazingly intense nutty aromas combined with burnt orange and white flowers unfold beautifully onto a gloriously dry, balanced palate. All the sinew of youth is still there, but there are also layers of honey. A very individual and memorable wine. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Aic** 16%

10 **Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, St-Aubin 1er Cru La Chatenière, Burgundy, France 2010** 94 OC 92 CG 96 AH 95

POA **A&B Vintners**
Youthful ripe apples and apricots are complemented by subtle creamy, buttery characters, giving a beautiful weight to this very precise, pure wine. An undertow of minerality suggests this will age for many years. **Drink** 2018-2025 **Aic** 12.5%

11 **Nikos Douloufakis, Aspros Lagos, Crete, Greece 2016** 94 OC 93 CG 93 AH 95

£20 **Maltby & Greek**
Inviting aromatics of apricot, peach and ripe apple lead onto a weighty, rich palate supported by exotic pineapple and guava and direct acidity. An individual, robust wine showing some earthy, yeasty flavours underneath the Golden Gage syrup. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Aic** 14%

12 **Querciabella, Chianti Classico Riserva, Tuscany, Italy 2013** 94 OC 92 CG 94 AH 95

£24-£26 **Armit, Fine & Rare, Millésima, Oddbins, Vini Italiani**
Violets and herbs meld with tomato acidity and a flick of basil, mint and salt. Tight structure and firm tannins but plenty of vibrant cherry fruit characters. A fine example with finesse, power and complexity. **Drink** 2019-2027 **Aic** 14%



7 **Julien Sunier, Fleurie, Beaujolais, France 2015** 95 OC 93 CG 95 AH 97

£19.95-£23 **Berry Bros & Rudd, Roberson**
A very fine example of a Gamay that blends the natural exuberance of the grape with great complexity and a warm, sunny character. Dusky blueberries and cherries and a melange of spice and nuttiness. Drinking beautifully but will age easily. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Aic** 13.5%

8 **Corte Aura, Satèn Brut, Franciacorta, Lombardy, Italy 2010** 95 OC 96 CG 95 AH 95

N/A UK **www.corteaure.it**
Elegant, creamy, come-hither aromas of fresh yeast and ripe apple come through, leading onto a stylish palate full of bright citrus fruit, honey and heather floral notes. There is a fine, persistent mousse and a drying, mineral edge on the finish. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Aic** 12.5%

9 **Trinity Hill, Syrah, Gimblett Gravels, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand 2014** 95 OC 94 CG 96 AH 94

£19.95-£22.99 **Banstead Vintners, Carruthers & Kent, Eynsham Cellars, Exel, Harvey Nichols, Liberty, The NZ Cellar**
Red cherry perfume and intense peppery notes show this is a generous, elegant style of Syrah. There is a whisper of menthol and bright acidity underpinning a concentrated palate and a firm tannic structure. Great balance and persistence. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Aic** 13.5%

13 **Zidarich, Malvasija, Venezia Giulia, Italy 2015** 94 OC 93 CG 95 AH 95

£29.45-£34.49 **Exel, Les Caves de Pyrene**
Myriad exotic flavours on show here. Grapey, floral pot-pourri with some nuttiness and bruised apple notes, and spice from the oak. Assertive acidity balances the richness, alongside hints of pear skin and clean fungus. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Aic** 12.5%

14 **Warre's, Bottle Aged Late Bottled Vintage Port, Portugal 2004** 94 OC 96 CG 93 AH 94

£19.99-£24.59 **Banstead Vintners, Cambridge Wine Merchants, Fortnum & Mason, Hoult's, Ocado, Roberson, Waitrose**
Vivid damsons and blackcurrants with liniment and spice, giving a luxuriously sweet, soft mouthful. The rich chocolate notes are kept in check by ripe enveloping tannins, beautifully integrated wood and fresh acidity. **Drink** 2018-2029 **Aic** 20%

15 **Ramos Pinto, RP 20 Quinta do Bom Retiro, 20 Year Old Tawny Port, Portugal** 94 OC 97 CG 93 AH 92

£30/50cl-£57.50/75cl **Widely available via UK agent Maisons Marques & Domaines**
A powerful and expressive perfume of honey, tar and burnt orange flows from the glass, with a macerated cherry and nutty complexity on the palate. It still has chew to it alongside freshness and nice vivacity. **Drink** 2018-2027 **Aic** 20% ➤

16 Freixenet, Can Sala
Gran Reserva,
Cava, Spain 2007

94 OC 94 CG 93 AH 94
£45 Freixenet UK, Soho Wine Supply
Bright, complex and beautifully made, this seems much more youthful than its 2007 vintage. Grilled almonds and honey show on the rich palate, and there's a warm earth and lemon pith element to the palate. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

17 Edoardo Miroglio,
EM Brut Rosé, Nova
Zagora, Thracian
Valley, Bulgaria 2011

94 OC 95 CG 96 AH 92
£19.50 Swig
A pretty partridge-eye colour in the glass, this is a delicate and expressive sparkling wine with a soft mousse, summer berry fruit characters and great freshness. The ripe style is well-married with apple acidity and balanced creamy richness. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Alc** 12%

18 Marqués de
Murrieta,
Capellania, Rioja,
Spain 2013 94 OC 92 CG 94 AH 97

£24.99-£26.49 Widely available via UK agent Maisons Marques & Domaines
A rich nose full of orange peel, vanilla and a touch of melon heralds a complex, layered wine that boasts an underlying energy and driving acidity. On the palate, nutty tertiary components combine with wax and stone fruit; this is certainly a foodie wine. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 13.5%

22 Taittinger, Brut,
Champagne,
France 2006

94 OC 93 CG 93 AH 95
POA Champagne Direct, The Finest Bubble
Lovely aromas of struck match on the nose with a hint of pineapple and crème brûlée. It is elegant and gentle with pristine acidity and a creamy soft mousse. A fleeting white floral scent lifts the finish. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Alc** 12%

23 Wiston Estate,
Cuvée Brut,
South Downs,
Sussex, England 2013

94 OC 97 CG 93 AH 92
£32.95 Widely available via UK distributor Corney & Barrow
Ripe red apples and warm brioche showing on the nose, then stone fruit richness balanced by energy and acidity. There is a tremendous umami savouriness and an almost chocolatey yeast character. This needs time and will be very good. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Alc** 12%

24 Marjan Simčič,
Rebula Opoka,
Goriška Brda,
Primorska, Slovenia 2013

94 OC 97 CG 93 AH 93
£44.95 Orbit Wines
A deep amber colour and subtle tannin structure suggest extended skin contact here. A savoury, earthy style of wine that is underpinned by quince, toffee and honey in a very moreish style that will age well. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 12.5%



19 Dönnhoff,
Roxheimer
Höllenpfad Riesling
Trocken, Nahe, Germany
2016 94 OC 94 CG 97 AH 91

£28 ABS, Armit, Averys, Berry Bros & Rudd, Bottle Apostle, Clarion, Philglas & Swigot, Swig, The Sampler, The Wine Society
A harmonious and delightful Riesling with a fruit salad of peach and apricot with lemony intensity. It is slightly sappy with a good dose of minerality and pristine, zesty acidity. A pretty and elegant example. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 13%

20 Greystone, Pinot
Gris, Waipara
Valley, North
Canterbury, New Zealand
2016 94 OC 94 CG 93 AH 95

£18.90 The NZ Cellar
Floral hints and lemon oil intensity on the nose unfold onto rich autumnal fruit, ripe apricot and honey-coated baked apple on the palate. Youthful now, this nonetheless shows plenty of complexity and promise. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Alc** 13.5%

21 Domaine Chevrot,
Sur le Chêne,
Maranges,
Burgundy, France 2015 94 OC 94 CG 95 AH 92

£24.95 Private Cellar
A closed but ripe, brooding nose unfolds onto heaps of vibrant red cherry and ripe cranberries in the mouth. Lively tannins and juicy intensity. There is a soothing promise of spicy depth to come with age. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 12.5%

25 Silverado
Vineyards, Estate
Grown Cabernet
Sauvignon, Napa Valley,
USA 2013 94 OC 94 CG 92 AH 96

£42 Jeroboams, Laytons
A refined and memorable nose shows layers of blackcurrant, damson and black cherry fruit in a powerful and forward style. A massive wine, but it is all in harmony and well integrated. Delightful. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 14.5%

26 GD Vajra, Bricco
delle Viole,
Barolo, Piedmont,
Italy 2012 94 OC 95 CG 93 AH 93

£51.30-£65 Widely available via UK agent Liberty Wines
Coffee beans, violets and cold tea leaf aromas are followed swiftly by an expressive palate with spice notes and ripe tannins. Still very youthful, this is drinking nicely now but will age for many years in bottle. **Drink** 2018-2027 **Alc** 14%

27 Domaine Parigot,
Clos de la Perrière,
Hautes-Côtes de
Beaune, Burgundy, France
2011 93 OC 90 CG 94 AH 94

£15.99 Degrees Plato
An evolved style that is holding onto an attractive balsam perfume, sweet cherry and savouriness. Ripe tannin and red plum beginning to dry. With a richness on the finish, this is fleshy, classy and distinctive. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

28 Drew, Valenti Ranch Syrah, Mendocino, USA 2014 93 OC 94 CG 93 AH 92
£45.10 **Stannary St Wine Co**
Reminiscent of the Rhône, this is a little closed at first but then elegant black cherry characters are lifted by floral notes and a savoury edge. There's lily spice, loganberry fruit and refreshing acidity.
Drink 2019-2024 **Alc** 13%

29 Castello di Albola, Chianti Classico Riserva, Tuscany, Italy 2013 93 OC 90 CG 95 AH 93
£19.30 **Zonin UK**
Hints of almond and sour cherry add to the complex pot-pourri of aromas, alongside fruit cake and spice. The oak is present but well integrated, and it adds complexity; this is a serious style of wine. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 13.5%

30 Antonio Madeira, Vinhas Velhas, Serra da Estrela, Dão, Portugal 2014 93 OC 93 CG 94 AH 91
£24.50 **Indigo Wine, Vin Cognito**
A fascinating and restrained style displaying lovely floral elements with pretty wild strawberry and raspberry leaf characters. Elegant tannins are a surprise from this warm country. Certainly an interesting, delightful surprise.
Drink 2018-2024 **Alc** 12.5%

31 Felton Road, Block 1 Riesling, Central Otago, New Zealand 2016 93 OC 91 CG 95 AH 94
£27.50-£28.99 **Exel, Justerini & Brooks, NZ House of Wine**
Classic Riesling aromas of white flowers, a touch of lime and a hint of machine oil. It is zesty and refreshing, with some dried apricot and peachy fruit characters, driving acidity and just enough sweetness to balance. Very quaffable too.
Drink 2018-2024 **Alc** 9%



32 Domaine Eden, Cabernet Sauvignon, Santa Cruz Mountains, California, USA 2014 93 OC 94 CG 92 AH 94
£39 **Roberson**
Juicy and attractive, this has herbal notes on the nose to complement the dark black fruit characters. Appetising chewy tannin and expressive red and black cherry fruit. Refined now, this will improve.
Drink 2018-2025 **Alc** 14%

33 Luca Ferraris, Vigna del Parroco, Ruchè di Castagnole Monferrato, Piedmont, Italy 2016 93 OC 92 CG 94 AH 94
N/A UK www.ferrarisagricola.com
Primary fruit on the nose is driven by notable hints of strawberry and rose petal. Quite muscular but refreshing and very much alive. Sweet fruit, smooth tannins and purity in this rare variety.
Drink 2018-2021 **Alc** 14.5%

34 Il Passo, Alberi in Piano, Aglianico del Vulture, Basilicata, Italy 2013 93 OC 93 CG 90 AH 95
N/A UK www.cantinailpasso.com
Glorious aromas of rose petals are combined with ripe dark fruits – cherry, plum and blackberry with a dash of raisins on the finish. Lots of tannin and oak structure to promote long ageing here.
Drink 2018-2026 **Alc** 14%

35 Gizella, Barát Hárslevelű, Tokaj, Hungary 2016 93 OC 91 CG 92 AH 95
£26 **Champagne Warehouse, ThirtyNine 10, Wine Rascals**
Enticing nose of white flowers and a slightly herbal edge. Creamy hazelnut fruit contrasts with minty and leafy characters. The acidity is prominent but well balanced, keeping the wine fresh, with great potential for ageing.
Drink 2018-2023 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

36 Lafran-Veyrolles, Bandol, Provence, France 2011
93 OC 92 CG 91 AH 95
£29.50 Boutinot, D Byrne & Co, Eden Fine Wines, London Wine Shippers, Wine & The Vine
A brooding and intense nose of dark red fruits, raspberry conserve and a touch of mint. There is a hint of brett giving a meaty, farmyard complexity with chewy plum and peach skin and ripe tannic structure. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 14.5%

37 Foradori, Sgarzon, Vigneti delle Dolomiti, Trentino, Italy 2015
93 OC 92 CG 95 AH 91
£29.20-£35.49 AG Wines, Exel, Le Chevalier, Les Caves de Pyrene, Noble Fine Liquor, P Franco
Bitter black cherries emanate from an expressive nose. There is a mineral intensity here; it is complex but also lean, revealing enjoyable layers of chewy fruit, a spicy twist and refreshing acidity. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** 12.5%

38 Antoine Olivier, Les Charmes, Santenay, Burgundy, France 2015
93 OC 93 CG 93 AH 92
£30-£33 Exel, Hallgarten, Noel Young
A Pinot with finesse allied to lovely fruit sweetness and a raspberry and strawberry fruit profile. Some mild but lush vanilla and an encouraging friendly acidity running alongside the expressive fruit. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 13.5%

39 Jean Collet, Chablis Grand Cru Valmur, Burgundy, France 2014
93 OC 91 CG 95 AH 92
POA Bibendum PLB
Generous and mouthfilling, with ripe stone fruit in evidence but also bright lemon minerality and a touch of sourness. Nice weight and good balance despite the levels of extract. It may age, but its austere charms make it a great choice for drinking now. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Alc** 13%

44 Louis Michel & Fils, Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre, Burgundy, France 2015
93 OC 92 CG 93 AH 93
£27-£30 Enotria&Coe, Great Western Wine, The Wine Society
A delicate herbal and lemony style with crisp apple and a mineral mint character to the fore. Vibrant and vivid yet maintains a lean, restrained nature. Lots of persistence, so more complexity will come. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 13%

45 Shaw & Smith, Lenswood Vineyard Chardonnay, Adelaide Hills, South Australia 2015
93 OC 93 CG 94 AH 91
£38.75-£54.99 Exel, Liberty
Some reductive notes at first, which transform into smoky lime and orange characters. It is a focused, elegant style with no excess weight, high acidity and a coffee bean and croissant savouriness. Serious, modern Chardonnay. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 13%

46 De Martino, Viejas Tinajas Cinsault, Itata Valley, Chile 2016
93 OC 93 CG 92 AH 93
£15.10-£20 Buonvino, Eurovines, Exel, Handford, Les Caves de Pyrene, Museum Wine, The Wine Butler, Theatre of Wine, Whole Foods Market
Complex spiced fruit, elegant cherry blossom and leather notes with some sweet sultana thrown in. Plenty of freshness and thirst-quenching vibrancy. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

47 Rogue Vine, Super Itata, Itata Valley, Chile 2015
93 OC 92 CG 94 AH 92
£21 Harvey Nichols
Warm and inviting, this blend of Carignan, Malbec and Syrah shows youthful dark cherries, a notion of mint and kitchen spices. Crisp tannins and lifted acidity give a tight structure and a sweet fruit finish. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 14.5%



40 Tenuta Sant'Antonio, Campo dei Gigli, Amarone della Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy 2012
93 OC 95 CG 92 AH 92
POA Carson & Carnevale
A powerful style. Stewed plum and cherry depth seasoned with pepper and church spices. Grilled nuts and tea leaves come through too, alongside coffee and spices from oak. Finishes surprisingly dry. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 16%

41 Château Capbern Gasqueton, St-Estèphe, Bordeaux, France 2010
93 OC 95 CG 90 AH 93
£22.50-£23.50 Millésima, Private Cellar
Mature with enveloping dark fruits and lots of menthol, eucalypt and spice. Ultra-ripe fruit dominates the palate, but there is plenty of acidity and tannic grip to provide some good balancing structure. **Drink** 2018-2027 **Alc** 14%

42 Domaine Pierre Luneau-Papin, Excelsior, Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine Goulaine, Loire, France 2014
93 OC 93 CG 94 AH 92
£22.55-£26.49 AG Wines, Exel, Hedonsim, Les Caves de Pyrene, Vino Vero
An intense style with great concentration, notes of iodine and a hint of chèvre. Apple blossom scents, a soft, waxy tinge, then bread crust and lees on a mineral-driven finish. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 12.5%

43 Agnès Paquet, Auxey-Duresses, Burgundy, France 2015
93 OC 94 CG 92 AH 92
£23.50-£28.50 Stannary St Wine Co, Stone Vine & Sun
Refined, crisp and pure Chardonnay with apple fruit characters and lovely fresh, cleansing acidity. There is a nutty flavour alongside the buttery, creamy oak, and a light coating of honey. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Alc** 13% ➤

48 Azores Wine Company, Verdelho O Original, by António Maçanita, Azores, Portugal 2016
93 OC 93 CG 93 AH 92
£35 Red Squirrel, Vinarius
Lively citrus and fresh leather nose, zippy lime fruit along with complex, smoky, iodine notes, a fleeting moment of apple blossom and a touch of salinity on the finish. Will age well but ready to enjoy now. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Alc** 13%

49 Château Guiraud, Sauternes IGCC, Bordeaux, France 2010
93 OC 92 CG 92 AH 95
£18.70-£21.10/37.5cl Berry Bros Exchange, Fine & Rare
Super-ripe tropical fruit and sweet nutmeg and cinnamon spice. Waxy, lanolin wrapped in honey and a hint of barley sugar. Sweetness is kept in check on the palate by great citrus acidity and a finely integrated oak structure. **Drink** 2018-2027 **Alc** 13.5%

50 Sacred Hill, Riflemans Chardonnay, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand 2015
93 OC 96 CG 91 AH 92
£39.95 Inverarity Morton
Tropical pineapple and papaya with a hint of reduction and a smoky edge. Creamy, buttery oak with a streak of kitchen spice and crisp acidity to finish. A warmer climate, modern style of Chardonnay, but it's still very well done. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Alc** 13.5%

51 Speri, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, Veneto, Italy 2012
93 OC 94 CG 92 AH 94
£42 The Tasting Room
Opulent, sweet jammy cherry aromas allied with integrated oak spice and evolved tannins. Some attractive chocolatey bitterness and rich stewed fruit with nut husks thrown in. Still showing freshness despite the richness of the fruit. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 15% ➤

52 **Reichsrat Von Buhl, Reserve Brut, Pfalz, Germany NV 93 OC 92 CG 94 AH 92**
£20-£25 **Averys, Hayward Bros**
Bone dry and youthful in style, this has focus, grip and pristine acidity underlying herbaceous notes and white fruit. Light in body with a fine mousse and a citrus edge.
Drink 2018-2021 **Alc** 12.5%

53 **Santolin, Family Reserve Chardonnay, Yarra Valley, Australia 2015 92 OC 92 CG 92 AH 93**
£18.99 **Naked Wines**
Takes a while to open out but then a biscuity toast appears along with ripe apple and herbaceous notes. A crisp, elegant Chardonnay with streaks of fresh green apple and lemon pith acidity that dances across the palate.
Drink 2018-2022 **Alc** 14%

54 **Seresin Estate, Tatou Pinot Noir, Marlborough, New Zealand 2013 92 OC 90 CG 94 AH 93**
£34.50 **Bordeaux Index, Cheers, Davy's, Hedonism, Louis Latour Agencies, Noble Green Wines, The NZ Cellar**
Enveloping aromas of nuts, wet leaves, red berry and a touch of liniment. A little bitter, but a strong, muscular style with some maturity, concentration and crispness.
Drink 2018-2023 **Alc** 13.5%

55 **Château Fontanès, Pic St Loup, Languedoc-Roussillon, France 2016 92 OC 93 CG 91 AH 93**
N/A UK **www.chateau-laroque.fr**
Intense blackcurrant combines with toasty oak to give a nice rich mouthfeel with grippy tannins cut by cleansing acidity and followed by a savoury intensity on the finish. Not a blockbuster style, and it's much the better for it.
Drink 2019-2024 **Alc** 13.5%

60 **Viñedos de Alcohua, Rhu de Alcohua, Paihuano, Elqui Valley, Chile 2012 92 OC 92 CG 93 AH 91**
£40 **Berry Bros & Rudd**
Lashings of dark red fruits on the nose and palate, married with some hefty addition of oak. A strong wine with smoky chocolatey tones, wild herbs and a meaty element. Tannins evident, so will benefit from a little more time to develop.
Drink 2018-2026 **Alc** 13.5%

61 **Alpha Estate, Reserve Vieilles Vignes Single Block Xinomavro, Amyndeon, Greece 2013 92 OC 90 CG 93 AH 92**
£17.30-£21.49 **Exel, Hallgarten, Novel Wines, Strictly Wine, Wineman**
Pleasurable perfumes of red cherry and wild strawberry. There is a note of bitter apple skin beneath the crunchy fruit and chewy tannic structure.
Drink 2019-2025 **Alc** 14.5%

62 **Santa Sofia, Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore, Veneto, Italy 2014 92 OC 90 CG 94 AH 92**
£24.28 **Mondial**
A lifted red cherry and violet scent allied to a pot-pourri of spices, squashy fruit and soft oak. This is generous and mouthfilling, but also fresh and vibrant. A very approachable style.
Drink 2018-2023 **Alc** 14%

63 **Pirie, Brut, Tamar Valley, Tasmania, Australia NV 92 OC 92 CG 92 AH 93**
£24-£34 **ABS, Alexander Wines, Hangingditch, Hannibal Brown, Steep Hill Wines, The Wine Society**
A fresh and lively example bursting with young lemon and apple fruit and floral tones, underpinned by warm brioche and *pain grillé*, and a smoky element. Nice persistence from the mousse.
Drink 2018-2022 **Alc** 12.5%



56 **Domaine Melody, Friandise, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France 2015 92 OC 90 CG 94 AH 93**
£17.60 **Stannary St Wine Co**
Warm and inviting, pungent aromas of cherry, ripe raspberry and violets spill from the glass. A fleshy palate and ripe tannins give a dry mouthfeel with decent length. Powerful, ripe wine with structure for further ageing.
Drink 2018-2024 **Alc** 12.5%

57 **Tabarrini, Adarmando, Umbria, Italy 2015 92 OC 92 CG 90 AH 93**
£20 **Raeburn**
Not a subtle wine! Guava and pineapple interspersed with green peas and a waxy, lemon pith texture. An enjoyable, powerful example of the local Trebbiano Spoletino variety.
Drink 2018-2021 **Alc** 13.5%

58 **Foradori, Vigneti delle Dolomiti, Trentino, Italy 2015 92 OC 90 CG 93 AH 92**
£20-£23.49 **Exel, Les Caves de Pyrene**
Packed with juicy, lively cherries and damsons, sprinkled with almonds and violets. There is a herbal intensity and an appetising savoury spice. An expressive, sonorous Teroldego that shows impressive fruit purity.
Drink 2018-2021 **Alc** 12.5%

59 **Adega Algueira, Merenzao, Ribeira Sacra, Spain 2014 92 OC 91 CG 93 AH 91**
£32.70 **Bibendum PLB, Exel**
Direct and juicy, this individual wine from a rare grape variety displays cherries and earth flecked with chocolate and a balancing freshness of acidity.
Drink 2018-2021 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

64 **Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, Pinot Gris, Heimbou, Alsace, France 2013 92 OC 90 CG 93 AH 94**
£25-£35 **Cambridge Wine Merchants, Farr Vintners, Uncorked**
Rich honey, dried apricot and quince jelly on the nose and palate, perhaps some signs of botrytis. A highly charged Pinot Gris which is still very youthful and will age for many years.
Drink 2018-2022 **Alc** 13.5%

65 **Weingut Okonomierat Rebholz, Weisser Burgunder Trocken, Pfalz, Germany 2016 92 OC 91 CG 93 AH 91**
POA **Justerini & Brooks**
A high-quality example of what Pinot Blanc can do in the right hands. Uplifting lemon and apple blossom, creamy texture and pristine acidity. This is a versatile foodie wine.
Drink 2018-2020 **Alc** 12%

66 **Domaine Clavel, Cascaille, Coteaux du Languedoc, France 2015 92 OC 92 CG 90 AH 95**
N/A UK **www.vins-clavel.fr**
A complex blend of southern French varieties that gives a weighty palate but still has great finesse and lovely acidity. Tropical fruit, melon, baked apple cake and vanilla with some spice on the finish.
Drink 2018-2022 **Alc** 13.5% ➤

67 **Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, Clos Windsbuhl Gewurztraminer, Alsace, France 2015 92 OC 90 CG 94 AH 92**
£50 **Farr Vintners, Uncorked**
A harmonious, enjoyable example of the style. Rose petals and jasmine, spice and florals, it is very expressive. The palate is very sweet with quite low acidity, but there is purity and refinement here.
Drink 2018-2024 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

68 El Escocés Volante, En Sus Trece, Vino Varietal de España, Spain 2013

92 OC 91 CG 911 AH 93

N/A UK www.escocesevolante.es
Big and bold, this wine has legions of voluptuous, jammy blackberries and an attractive, sweaty leather detail and chocolate toffee tones. Old-vine Garnacha fruit sourced from top high-altitude sites around Spain, the wine bottled outside the DO system. **Drink** 2019-2023 **A/c** 14.5%

69 Susana Balbo, Signature Malbec, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2015

92 OC 90 CG 911 AH 95

£28 Corkage, Field & Fawcett, Good Wine Online, Martinez, Starmore Boss, The Secret Cellar
A lavish, powerful Malbec full of baked cherry fruit, spice and a floral touch. Some toast crust to go with the big, rather extractive fruit, but there is a definite freshness here too. **Drink** 2018-2024 **A/c** 14.5%

70 August Kessler, Rudesheim Berg Roseneck Riesling GG, Rheingau, Germany 2012

92 OC 95 CG 901 AH 92

£31 Justerini & Brooks
This is experiencing an orange, lemon peel and overripe tropical fruit maturity that will clearly last for several years. Honey, pastry and lemon curd intertwine with an unexpected, characterfully nutty depth. **Drink** 2018-2024 **A/c** 14%

71 Burn Cottage, Pinot Noir, Central Otago, New Zealand 2015

92 OC 93 CG 91 AH 93

£44.55-£49.99 Exel, GP Brands, Liberty, The NZ Cellar
Beautifully made, managing to blend richness and ripeness of fruit with elegance and finesse from a structure driven by well-crafted, ripe tannins and a spicy finish. Some sappy elements, but worth ageing. **Drink** 2018-2024 **A/c** 12%



72 Louis Jadot, Beaune 1er Cru Aux Cras, Burgundy, France 2015

92 OC 90 CG 94 AH 93

£55 Farr Vintners, Hatch Mansfield, The Finest Bubble, The Wine Society
A pretty, terroir-driven Pinot with a lovely expression of redcurrant fruit. Impressive grip and tension, with crisp tannins and lingering acidity. It's young but will age well. **Drink** 2019-2026 **A/c** 13.5%

73 Domaine de la Noblaie, Pierre de Tuf, Chinon, Loire, France 2014

92 OC 94 CG 91 AH 91

£24.90 Charles Sydney, The Sampler
A classic example of peppery, herbaceous and leafy Cabernet Franc, with ripe blackcurrant and raspberry pip bitterness alongside some green pepper undertones. Lively and pure, this would be an excellent accompaniment to food. **Drink** 2018-2022 **A/c** 13%

74 André Perret, Les Grisières, St-Joseph, Rhône, France 2015

92 OC 91 CG 95 AH 90

POA Justerini & Brooks
A full-bodied wine with peppery intensity, spices, camphor and sour cherries. There is a rasp of tannin too, indicating it will transform with age. Lovely Syrah purity. **Drink** 2018-2026 **A/c** 14%

75 Chateau Xianmiao, Taihang Valley Ice Wine Vidal, Zuoquan, Shanxi, China 2013

92 OC 92 CG 90 AH 93

N/A UK www.xianmiaojiuzhuang.com
There is a breadly, doughy element here alongside ripe apricot jam, ripe tomatoes, grass-skirted Hawaiian pineapple cocktails, quince and leather. Certainly one to try! **Drink** 2018-2025 **A/c** 11%