

Great <\$25 Wines

Selections by R. C. Brusca. 92+ point wines (under \$25) culled from the Brusca/Moore wine database. Point scores will vary plus/minus a point or two depending on vintage year.

RED WINES

CABERNET SAUVIGNONS

Alexander Valley Vineyards (Wetzel Family Estate or Winemaker's Reserve). 92-94 pts. \$17
Angeline, Stags Leap vintages. 93 pts. \$20-\$25
Anselmo, Viogne Stags Leap. 95 pts. \$25
Anselmo, Veloce, Napa Valley. 93.5 pts. \$25
Beringer, Knight's Valley. 92 pts. \$20-\$30
Cannonball (Napa). 92 pts. <\$20
Cobblestone, Napa Valley. 94 pts. \$25-\$30
Desert Wind, Wahluke Slope, Columbia Valley. 93.5 pts. \$20
Double Canyon, Horse Heaven Hills (WA). 93 pts. \$20
Duckhorn, Decoy Cab. 92 pts. \$18-\$20
Dry Creek, Napa Valley. 91-95 pts. \$16-\$22
Franciscan Estate, Napa Valley (not the "Magnificent"). 93. Note the 2017 received 93-94 pts from the professional winos. \$14-\$18
Hook & Ladder, Russian River Valley. 94 pts. \$25
Kendall-Jackson, Jackson Estate (Alexander Valley). 93 pts. \$25
Lapostolle, Cuvée Alexandre (Apalta, Chile). 93 pts. \$20-\$25
Montes Alpha, Apalta Vineyard (Chile). 93 pts. \$20
Newton, Skyside (Sonoma, CA). 90-93 pts. <\$20
Raymond, The Inaugural. 92 pts. <\$20
Ravenswood, any vintage. 93-95 pts. \$25-\$40
Rodney Strong, Alexander Valley. 93 pts. \$20
Schroeder Estate Cab, Patagonia Argentina. 92-94 pts. \$15-\$20
Starmont. 93 pts. ~\$20
Stratton Loomis, Napa Valley. 92-94 pts. \$25
Susana Balbo, Signature Cab (Argentina). 93 pts. \$20-\$25
Stanza, Lodi (CA). 93 pts. \$17
Twenty Bench. 93-94 pts. \$18-\$21
Vigilance (Red Hills, Lake County, CA). 93 pts. \$13
Vin Robles, Paso Robles. 94 pts. \$21

NEW WORLD ZINFANDELS

Castoro Cellars, Paso Robles. 93-94 pts. \$20
Cosentino, Cigarzin. 93-94 pts. \$20
Courtney Benham, Dry Creek, CA. 94 pts. \$20
Dry Creek Heritage Vines, CA 91-94 pts (a tad sweet & fruit-forward). \$20
Earthquake, Lodi Appellation. 94 pts. \$20

Oak Ridge, Old Vine Zin. 90-93 pts. \$25
Opolo. 92-93 pts. \$20
Parducci, Small Lot Blend Zin. 93-94 pts. \$15
Sobon, Rezerva, Paul's Vineyard. 95 pts. \$25
Sobon, Fiddletown. 93-94 pts. \$20-\$25
Tobin James, Ballistic. 93 pts. \$18
Truett Hurst, Three Vineyards Zin (Sonoma Co.). 92 pts. <\$25

OLD WORLD ZINFANDELS

Pillastro, Primitivo Negro Amaro, Selezione d'Oro (Puglia, Italy). 95 pts. 20-\$25
Torrevento, Barbuto MMXIX, Primativo (Puglia, Italy). 93 pts. \$15

MALBECS

Ascencion (Salta, Argentina). 92.5-93 pts. \$15
Colomé (Salta, Argentina). 91-94 pts. \$20-\$25
Finca Adalgisa, Lujan de Cuvo (Mendoza). 94 pts. \$25
Fabre Montmayou, Viñas Viejas Reserva (Argentina). 92-93 pts. \$13
Piattelli Vineyards, Grand Reserve (Mendoza), 2018. 95 pts. \$15-\$20
Schroeder Estate Malbec (Neuquen River Valley, Patagonia, Argentina). 92 pts. ~\$16

PINOT NOIRS

Coppola. 92 pts. \$15
DeLoach Vineyards, Russian River Valley. 93.5 pts. \$20
Lange, Classique (Willamette Vally). 93 pts. ~\$24
Moshin Vineyards, Russian River Valley. 95-97 pts. \$25
Oregon Territory. 93 pts. \$25
Scott Paul, La Patulée (Dundee Hills, OR). 94.5 pts. \$20-\$25

SHIRAZ/SYRAHS

Jip Jip Rocks, Oz. 93-94 pts. \$20
Rubus, Oz. 92.5-93.5 pts. \$20
Seaward (Spier, South Africa). 90-92. ~\$17
Step Road, Oz. 94 pts. \$20
Tobin James, Rock n Roll, Paso Robles, CA. 93.5 pts. \$20

PETIT SYRAHS

Bogle (California). 92 pts. ~\$10
Earthquake, Lodi. 93-94 pts. \$24
Kaleidoscope (by Mondavi Family). 92 pts. \$15

MERLOTS

Tobin James. 93.5 pts. \$16
D'Autrefois Merlot (France). 92 pts. \$14
Gundlach Bundschu, Sonoma County Mountain Cuvée. 92 pts. ~\$18
Stags' Leap, Napa Merlot. 95 pts. \$25-\$30

ITALIAN REDS

Antinori, Santa Cristina Chianti Superiore. 92-93 pts. \$15
Antinori, Villa Antinori, Tuscany. 90-93 pts. \$15
Argiano NC Rosso, Tuscany. 93-94 pts. \$20
Casanova, Brunello di Montalcino, Nero. 92-93 pts. \$25
Casisano-Colombaio, Rosso di Montalcino. 93.5 pts. \$17
Casone Toscana (Tenuta Poggio al Casone, Famiglia Castellani), Tuscan Red. 93.5 pts. \$13
Col di Lamo di Giovanni Neri, Rosso di Montalcino. 94 pts. \$25
Damilano "Marghe," Nebbiolo/Barolo (Langhe). 93.5 pts. \$20-\$25
Dezzani Nebbiolo (Langhe). 94 pts. \$15-\$20
Fortazzo, Appassite, Rosso Terre, Sicily. (give 5 years in the bottle before opening). 94 pts. \$20
Fratelli Tedeschi, Valpolicella, Capitel dei Nicala. 94 pts. ~\$20
Frattoria La Massa Rosso (Tuscany). 93-94 pts. \$20-\$25
Gabbiano, Chianti Classico. 93-93.5 pts. \$13
Grifone Sangiovese (2011 and later). 93-94 pts. <\$10
Le Castellina, Chianti Classico. 91-92 pts. \$24
Le Volte, Dell'Ornellaia, Tuscany. 93-94 pts. \$25-\$30
Massaro del Fondo, Rosso, Puglia. 91 pts. ~\$15
Mauro Sebaste, Contessa Rosalia Barbera d'Alba. 93 pts. \$20
Monsanto, Chianti Classico Riserva. 93-94.5 pts (Suckling rated the 2018 96 pts). \$25
Pietro Rinaldi, Monpiano Barbera. 94 pts. \$25
Quercia, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. 94 pts. \$21
Querceto, L'aura, Chianti Classico. 93-94 pts. \$20
Saladini Pilastris, Rosso Piceno Superiore, Vigna Monteprandone. 93.5 pts. \$17
Saracosa, Governo (Tuscany). 94 pts. <\$20
Tenuta di Reniera, Chianti Classico. 90-92 pts (Reserva is a solid 92-93). <\$20
Vignafanra, Barba, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. 93.5 pts. \$16
Vitiano, Rosso Italia (by Falesco) 92 pts. \$12

FRANCE, COTES DU RHÔNE & PROVENCE

Benjmin Darnault, Côtes du Rhône. 93 pts. <\$20
Domaine Grand Veneur, Les Champavins, Cotes du Rhone Villages. 93-94 pts. \$24
Domaine Lafage Baside Miraflores, Syrah/Grenache blend. 95 pts. \$20
Buti Nages, Costières de Nimes, Ch. De Nages, Vin Rouge (Vin de la Valle du Rhone). 93.5 pts.
\$12
Cave de Rasteau, Rasteur de Rasteau. 94 pts. \$20
Le Prince de Courthézon, Prestige. Côtes-du-Rhône. 94 pts. <\$20
La Révélation, 100% Rouissanne. 93 pts. <\$20

Les Halos de Jupiter, Nimes Rouge (Costieres de Nimes, Provence). 92.5 pts. \$13
Les Halos de Jupiter, Côtes du Rhône. 90-93 pts. <\$20
Mas de Gourgonnier. 93 pts. \$25
Terres Brulles, Cornas Region. 95 pts. \$25

FRANCE, BORDEAUX

Ch. De Colombe, Sainte-Colome, Castillon. 91-92 pts. <\$20
Ch. Féret Lambert, Grand Vin de Bordeaux, Superieur. 93 pts. \$20-\$25
Ch. Tour Bayard, St-Emilion. 94 pts. \$25
Ch. La Croix du Casse. 93-95 pts. \$25
Ch. Mangot, St-Emilion. 93-94. \$25
Ch. Sociando-Mallet, Haut-Medoc. 94-96 pts. \$25
Ch. Yon Figaec, St-Emilion. 95-98 pts. \$25
Saintyme, Grand Cru, St-Emilion. 93 pts. \$20

SPANISH REDS

Bodega Fuentespina, Granate (Ribera del Duero). 94 pts. \$10
Bodegas Osborne, Tempra Tantrum. 93 pts. \$20
Campo Viejo Rioja, Gran Reserva Tempranillo. 93-94 pts. \$20
Clos Barenys, Reserva (Cab-Merlot blend). 93 pts. \$24
El Andén de la Estación, Rioja. 93 pts. \$25
Evohé Garnacha, Bajo Aragón. 94 pts. \$20
Lomas del Marqués, Rioja. 93 pts. \$12
Montecillo, Rioja Gran Reserva. 94 pts. \$20
Parcela Grande (Merlot, Tintorera, Monastrel blend). 92 pts. \$15
San Gregorio (Las Martas), Garnacha. 92 pts. <\$20
Solar de Castro Rioja, Vendimia Seleccionada. 93 pts. \$15
Tierra Aranda, Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). 93.5 pts. \$18

RED BLENDS & ODDS 'N ENDS

Alexander Valley Vineyards, Homestead Red Blend. 93 pts. \$20
Calcareous, Twisted Sisters Main Squeeze. 92.5 pts. \$20
Courtney Benham Cab Franc (Sonoma Mtn or Diamond Mtn). 94 pts. \$15-\$20
Courtney Benham, Paso Robles "Vin D'Eliza." 93.5 pts. \$20
Finca los Maza, Tonconology Cab-Syrah blend (Argentina). 93 pts. \$14
Fireblock, Old Vine Grenache (Oz). 94.5 pts. \$18
Grochau Cellars, Tinto. 94 pts. \$20
Giguere Family Vineyards, Matchbook Tinto Rey/Red Table Wine (CA). 94 pts. \$16
Hook & Ladder, The Tillerman, Red Table Wine. 93.5 pts. \$16
Owen Roe, Sinister Hand (Columbia Valley). 93.5 pts. \$25
Quinta das Carvalhas, Red Blend (Douro, Portugal). 92.5 pts. <\$15
Saracina Winery, Atrea "The Choir" (CA). 93.5 pts. \$20
The Black Stump, Petit Syrah-Shiraz Blend (SE Australia). 91.5b pts. \$15-\$20

Veranda, Cab-Carmenere blend, Estate Bottled, Single Vineyard (Chile). 93 pts. \$20

WHITE WINES

CHARDONNAYS (dry and “elegant” style only)

Balletto, Teresa’s Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). 92 pts. \$20-\$25

Blue Wing Vineyards (Monterey, CA). 92 pts. <\$20

Cambria, Katherine’s Vineyard. 94-95 pts. \$15

Chalk Hill, Sonoma. 95-97 pts <\$20

Clos Pegase, Mitsuko’s Vineyard, Carneros, Napa. 94 pts. \$23

Courtney Benham, Napa Reserve. 92-94 pts. \$15-\$20

Courtney Benham, Unoaked. 92-94 pts. \$15-\$20

Craggy Range, Kidnappers Vineyard. 94 pts. ~\$20

DeLoach, Unoaked California Chardonnay. 92-93 pts. <\$20

Domaine Faivelley Montagny (Burgundy, France). 93.5 pts. \$25

Domaine St. Germain, Terroir des Grottes, Bourgogne (France). 92-93 \$17

El Enemigo (Mendoza, Argentina). 94.5 pts. \$25-\$30

Famille Bougrier Chardonnay (Loire Valley, France). 92-93 pts. <\$20

Franciscan, Napa Valley. 91/92 pts. \$12

Isabel Mondavi, Carneros Chardonnay. 95 pts. \$25

Kendall-Jackson Estates Collection, Santa Maria Valley. 94 pts. \$22

Kendall-Jackson, Winemaker’s Block (Monterey, CA). 93.5 \$20

Lange, Willamette Valley Chardonnay. 92 pts. ~\$20

Le Champ des Etoiles (Bordeaux, France) 94 pts. <\$20

Luc Pirlet Classique, Unoaked Chardonnay. 93 pts. ~\$12

Luc Pirlet Reserve, Oaked Chardonnay. 93 pts. ~\$12

Martin Ray, Napa. 93.5 pts. \$18

Martin Ray, Sonoma Coast. 93-94.5 pts. \$25

Mount Baker, Barrel Select Chardonnay. 93.5 pts. \$15

Paul Hobbs, CrossBarn (Sonoma). 95 pts. \$25-\$30

Rock View, Mendocino. 92 pts. ~\$20

Rodney Strong, Chalk Hill. 94 pts. \$18

Ropiteau, Les Plants Nobles (Burgandy, France). 92-93 pts. \$12

Ropiteau, Unoaked Chardonnay (Burgandy, France). 93. <\$20

Scaia (Chardonnay-Garganega blend). Italy. 95 pts. \$15-\$20

The Calling, Dutton Vineyards. 94-95 pts. >\$25-\$30

SAUVIGNON BLANCS (Exclusive of New Zealand)

Abbesse de Loire. Val de Loire, France. 94-95 pts. \$16-\$20

Beaucanon Estate, Napa Valley. 94 pts. \$18

Chalk Hill, Estate Bottled (Sonoma). 94 pts. <\$20

Ch. Coucheroy Blanc (Pessac, Bordeaux). 93 pts. \$18

Collezione Privata, Friuli Colli Orientali, Sauvignon Blanc (Italy). 93 pts. <\$20

Elqui River, Elqui Valley, Chile. 95 pts. <\$18

Falernia Reserva, Valle de Elque, Chile. 93 pts. \$12
Famille Bougrier (Loir Valley, France). 93.5 pts. \$15
Franciscan. 93.5 pts. \$14
Joel Gott (CA). 93-94 (rated one of 2020s top 100 wines by Wine Spectator). \$11
Justin (Paso Robles, CA). A good Old World style SB. 91 pts. \$12-\$16
Les Parcelles, Marc Dupas, Sauvignon Blanc (France). 94 pts. \$10
Martin Ray, Russian River Valley. 93 pts. <\$20
Martin Ray, Chalk Hill. 93-95 pts. \$15
Montes (Colchagua Valley, Chile). 94 pts. \$15
Simi, Sonoma, CA. An excellent SB at a terrific price. 94 pts. \$12

OUR FAVORITE 92+ point, <\$25 SAUVIGNON BLANCS FROM New Zealand: Cloudy Bay (95-96 pts), Greywacke (2019 is 100 pts), Brancott, Dog Point, Kia Ora, Long Boat, Loveblock, Oyster Bay (~\$12), Starborough, Vavasour, The Jumper, Allan Scott, Reef Ridge, Kim Crawford.

WHITE BORDEAUX

Beau-Rivage. 93 pts. \$20
Despagne Biface. 93 pts. \$17
Clos des Lunes, Lune d'Argent. 94 pts. \$19

OTHER WHITES

Abbesse de Loire (Val de Loire, France). 94 pts. \$12-\$18
Amancay Winery, Torrontés Reserva (La Rioja, Argentina). 94 pts. ~\$19
Bertani, Due Uve, Italy. 94 pts. ~\$19
Capeto, Montefiascone (Italy). 93 pts. ~\$15
Cass, Viognier (Paso Robles). 92 pts. \$25
Castel del Lago, Garda Bianco (Veneto, Italy). 92.5 pts. ~\$18
Coda di Volpe, by Fratelli Fusco (Beneventano IGT, Italy). 92 pts. ~\$15
Cuvée du Vatican, Réserve de l'Abbé Blanc. Côtes-du-Rhône, France. 93 pts. <\$25
Domaine du Mas Ensoleillé (Aix de Provence, France). Although labeled a "Rose," this blend of Grenache and Syrah tastes like a great white wine (dry, with a perfect touch of fruit). 93 pts. ~\$16
Famille Bougrier, Chenin Blanc Vouvray (dry). 94-95 pts. ~\$15
Famille Guibert, Grande Réserve de Gassac (Languedoc, France). 94 pts. \$15-\$20
Guyendac, Bergerac (60 mi E of Bordeaux), Sec. 94. \$13-\$15
King Estate, Pinot Gris (Willamette, OR). 93 pts. \$15-\$18
Pacific Rim, Dry Riesling (WA) 95 pts. \$12-\$14
Ricella Alta, Gavi (Italy). Dry, crisp, citrus-floral, perfect balance. 94 pts. <\$25
Roma, Bianco. Antonio Federici. 93 pts. <\$20
Schroeder Estate, Blanco (Patagonia, Argentina). 95 pts. ~\$18
Villa Farnia, Ultima Edizione, Italy. 93/94 pts. <\$20
Visionario, Bianco Trevenezie (Italy). 92.5 pts. ~\$15
Yalumba Winery (South Australia), "The Y Series," Viognier. 92 pts. \$15

SOME SUPERB WHITE WINES >\$25

CHARDONNAYS

Moutonne, Chablis Gand Cru, Monopole (Domaine Long-Depquít, France). 95 pts. ~\$100
Pahlmeyer Chardonnay (Napa). 96 pts. \$60-\$70
Kistler "Les Noisetiers" (Sonoma). 95 pts. \$45-\$60
Isabel Mondavi Carneros Chardonnay. 95 pts. ~\$30
Franciscan Chardonnay. 96 pts. \$30
Stags' Leap. 94-99 pts. \$30.

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Spottswood (Napa/Sonoma). 95 pts. ~\$30

ITALIAN WHITES

Roero Arneis (Giovanni Almondo), Bricco della Ciliegie (Monta, Italy). 95.5 pts. ~\$40