

# BUYINGGUIDE

thyme and cracked pepper pair with tart strawberry and red plum flavors on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$57

**90 Jamie Slone Wines 2021 PI Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Intense blackberry, oregano, pepper and cedar aromas show on the nose of this blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Syrah. The palate is viscous in texture yet bolstered by acidity, offering flavors of baked red fruit and pepper spices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$57

**90 Marco Lucchesi 2020 L'Attesa Terry Evans Vineyards Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Wild and tart aromas of black plum, pencil shavings and light herb show on the nose of this blend of 70% Sangiovese and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is rich with plummy flavors that are spiced by oak and candied pecan, with a tartness arising on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**90 Octopoda 2022 Opulent Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Paraduxx 2021 Rector Creek Block 4 Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Smoked pine, black cherries, candied plum and cracked pepper sweep across textural tannins of raw silk balanced by mouthwatering acidity for a full-flavored finish and pleasing pungency. —E.C.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**90 Paraduxx 2021 X2 Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Graphite, tobacco and resin, cracked pine and dark flavors carry this intense and generous red blend. A palate of sticky tannins carrying into a persistent finish fulfills a wine of dense aroma and flavor. —E.C.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**90 Rutherford Ranch 2019 Torcia Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This Merlot-based red blend includes enough Cabernet Sauvignon for additional structure. Flavors of red and black currants, mixed plums, and fleshy stone fruits intertwine with sweet tobacco and spice. Ripe, persistent and approachable. —E.C.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$120

**90 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Dal Prato Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dark plum aromas are lightly tart on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense in texture, framing baking spices and rich baked fruit flavors, with an inky iodine kick on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**89 Allan Hancock 2022 Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Earthy and toasted wood aromas meet with tart elderberry and blackberry on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers baked strawberry flavors that are lifted by sandalwood spices. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$17

**89 Asuncion Ridge 2021 Olivia Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Baked blackberry aromas are jammy on the nose of this blend of 75% Cabernet Franc and 25% Petit Verdot, which also offers wood spice and pepper scents. The palate lands with tart plum skin flavors that are dusted in thyme and wrapped in sticky tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**89 Caliza 2021 End of the Day ZM Cuvée Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Blackberry jam aromas are sprinkled in earthy loam and savory charcoal scents on the nose of this bottling. There's a fluffy texture to the palate, where rounded strawberry, licorice and cinnamon flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

**89 Clos de Napa 2022 Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Bursting flavors are both bright and savory. Tart cherry, red plum and blackberries and a tobacco finish are mouthwatering and persistent, offering a succulent mouthfeel and pleasurable length. —E.C.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Paraduxx 2021 Rector Creek Block 5 Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Plum pudding and dark chocolate, tobacco, pine tar and bay leaf with an almost minty finish carry this red blend over taffeta-textured tannins and a surprisingly persistent finish. —E.C.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**88 Paraduxx 2021 Proprietary Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Graphite and pencil shavings emerge alongside warmed savory spices and dark flavors. A very long finish of palate-coating tannins sticks to the palate for a lingering red blend. —E.C.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$56

**88 Wild Hogge 2021 Moongate Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Very juicy aromas of frozen strawberry and Luxardo cherry are spiced by cola on the bold nose of this blend of 80% Primitivo, 14% Zinfandel and 6% Malbec. The palate is thick and noticeably sweet, full of roasted strawberry and black pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**87 Asuncion Ridge 2020 Benton Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Paso Robles).** Extracted aromas of dried fruit show on the nose of this blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Syrah from a hot vintage. The palate is ripe, rich and nearly sweet with prune and fig flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$50

**86 Asuncion Ridge 2020 3 Sum Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This is a very extracted and caramelized blend of 60% Zinfandel, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Syrah. The sip is both slightly sour and extremely extracted. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$42

## DESSERT WINE

**92 New Clairvaux NV Abbey Angelica Lot 11 Muscat Blanc (California).** This wine is supple and lively, with aromas of peach, baked yellow plum, cinnamon and orange blossom honey on the nose. The flavors on the palate are soaked spiced yellow apple, nectarine and candied white grapefruit zest, with a sweet, juicy finish. Pair with fruit cake. —T.P.  
**abv:** 18.1% **Price:** \$23

## OREGON

### CHARDONNAY

**98 The Eyrie Vineyards 2022 The Eyrie Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Prepare to sip history. The Eyrie Chardonnay represents a vintage's best barrels, made with fruit from some of the last Draper field selections to be found anywhere. The Eyrie is a mineral-driven affair, with aromas and flavors of saline, rosemary, jasmine, yellow apples and lemon brioche. It is marked by a mildly fleshy texture and brilliant acidity. Enjoy now until the mid-2040s. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$96

**97 Holocene 2023 Aureolin Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The brilliant yellow hue of Aureolin is a bat signal to alert the world to the existence of another fantastic Eola-Amity Hills Chardonnay. The wine feels lithe and nimble as it dances across the palate, spurred on by brisk acidity. Aromas and flavors of tart lemon, marzipan, honeysuckle, wet stones and green tea make a lasting impression. Enjoy for the next 15 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$100

**96 Day 2021 Belle Pente Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** Always one of the valley's best Chardonnays, the 2021 is epic. Green apple slices drizzled with lime juice define an aromatic set that includes wisps of jasmine and butter. The wine's crisp, clean texture is the backdrop for lemon-lime, mineral water and juniper berry flavors. Then there's the acidity, which is like sheet lightning. Enjoy as many bottles as possible until 2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**94 Day 2021 Eola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Fruit from one the Willamette Valley's oldest vineyards is transformed into a modern era Chardonnay with blazing acidity. Comforting aromas of lemon tarts and passion fruit are punctuated by notes of Thai basil and mineral. The flavors of Meyer lemons and saltine cracker-like salinity remind me of an Atlantic beach pie, which is a very good thing. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$54