

SAVVY SHOPPER

SUPER SANGIOVESE

The Black Rooster, the symbol of the historic Chianti Classico zone, crowed during the back-to-back vintages of 2015 and 2016. Both were ideal growing seasons for Chianti Classico, the former resulting in rich, concentrated reds, the latter in vibrant, elegant versions.

- CARPINETO** Chianti Classico Riserva 2015 (94, \$28) Firm, balanced; black currant, cherry, cedar, thyme, iron, sanguine
- ROCCA DELLE MACIE** Chianti Classico Famiglia Zingarelli Riserva 2015 (94, \$26) Blackberry, black cherry, spice, tar; intense
- LANCIOLA** Chianti Classico Le Masse di Greve 2015 (93, \$22) Bold, expressive; cherry pie, currant, leather, tobacco, earth, iron
- CASTELLO DI MONSANTO** Chianti Classico 2016 (93, \$20) Black currant, black cherry, violet, earth; supple, vibrant
- ISOLE & OLENA** Chianti Classico 2015 (92, \$29) Ripe, harmonious; black currant, blackberry, iron, tar
- IL MOLINO DI GRACE** Chianti Classico 2015 (92, \$22) Fluid, vibrant, harmonious; cherry, leather, earth, iron
- ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI** Chianti Classico 2016 (92, \$23) Linear, expressive; violet, black cherry, black currant, mineral
- ROCCA DELLE MACIE** Chianti Classico Famiglia Zingarelli 2016 (91, \$16) Firm; black cherry, blueberry, bittersweet chocolate, bitter almond, earth
- TENUTA BORGO SCOPETO** Chianti Classico 2015 (90, \$21) Cherry, strawberry, floral, earth; firm, elegant

AMERICA'S CUP

This group of wines represents four regions doing what they do best: A California Chardonnay, a Bordeaux blend from Washington with a touch of Syrah, an Oregon Pinot Noir and a Malbec from Argentina.

- LANDMARK** Chardonnay Sonoma County Overlook 2016 (91, \$25) Rich, spicy, creamy; apple pastry, fig, guava, nutmeg, clove
- SPARKMAN** Kindred Columbia Valley 2016 (91, \$25) Black cherry, mocha espresso, spice; complex, polished
- PIATTELLI** Malbec Cafayate Valley Reserve 2016 (90, \$16) Brooding, ripe; dark fruit, raspberry tart, espresso, tea, spice
- THREE DEGREES** Pinot Noir McMinnville 2016 (90, \$20) Violet, raspberry, spice; lively, sleek, pretty

RHÔNE TRIP

The Southern Rhône excelled in the 2015 and 2016 vintages—and the proof is in this selection of wines from around the region. All are 90 points or higher and \$25 or less. The Lirac white is a blend of Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Picpoul.

- BROTTE** Gigondas La Marasque 2015 (92, \$25) Solid, taut; red currant, damson plum, raspberry coulis, apple wood, alder
- OGIER** Gigondas Dentellis 2016 (92, \$25) Cherry, red currant, chalk, violet; pure, savory
- MICHEL GASSIER** Syrah Costières de Nîmes Les Piliers 2016 (91, \$17) Ripe, sleek; plum, cassis, white pepper, sage, leather
- DOMAINE MABY** Lirac White La Fermade 2017 (91, \$18) Yellow apple, white peach, jasmine, honeysuckle; juicy, focused
- CHÂTEAU DE MANISSY** Côtes du Rhône Oracle 2016 (91, \$12) Dark plum, blackberry, singed mesquite, tobacco, dried lavender
- CLOS DU MONT-OLIVET** Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes 2016 (90, \$20) Fleshy; cherry paste, plum preserves, violet, incense, lavender
- HALOS DE JUPITER** Costières de Nîmes 2016 (90, \$15) Cherry, plum, blackberry compote, licorice, graphite; plump
- GUY MOUSSET & FILS** Côtes du Rhône 2016 (90, \$13) Ripe, racy; blackberry, boysenberry confiture, black tea, anise, graphite
- CHÂTEAU PESQUIÉ** Ventoux Terrasses 2016 (89, \$15) Plum, cherry puree, lavender, violet; silky, charming



CASTELLO DI MONSANTO Chianti Classico Riserva 2015 (94, \$25) **SMART BUY** Firm; cherry, black currant, leather, iron, tar

RED HOT

The Etna appellation in Sicily is one of the hottest areas in Italy right now, with wines erupting almost daily, it seems, from the slopes of its volcano. I've paired two examples with a duo of whites from Campania, where the Falanghina grape makes refreshing, juicy wines with mineral undertones.

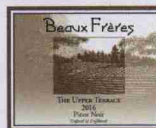
- PLANETA** Etna White 2017 (91, \$24) Plump, creamy, mouthwatering; baked quince, grated ginger, stone, nectarine
- BENANTI** Etna 2016 (90, \$22) Cherry, pomegranate, thyme, smoky mineral; tangy, supple
- DONNACHIARA** Falanghina Beneventano 2017 (90, \$15) Bright, lacy; green melon, peach skin, ground ginger, star fruit, mineral
- LA CAPRANERA** Falanghina Campania 2017 (89, \$16) Fresh; nectarine, wet stone, pastry cream, lemon curd

—Bruce Sanderson

SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

96 Beaux Frères Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge The Upper Terrace 2016 \$110



OREGON This red combines structure with harmony and a silky texture, offering vivid black raspberry, rose petal and mocha espresso flavors.

COLLECTIBLE

96 Colgin Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Tychson Hill Vineyard 2015 \$600



CALIFORNIA Amazingly complex and hard to resist, as the mix of dark berry, spice, loamy earth, licorice and cedar are all in harmony.

SMART BUY

91 Canoe Ridge The Explorer Red Blend Horse Heaven Hills 2015 \$22



WASHINGTON Expressive and well-built, with lively blackberry, smoky pepper and anise flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.

BEST VALUE

90 Jean Perrier & Fils Savoie Apremont Cuvée Gastronomie 2017 \$15



FRANCE Fresh acidity carries honeysuckle, white peach and chamomile notes along in this bright white, ending with a zesty finish.

IN THIS ISSUE'S BUYING GUIDE

You'll find **29 classic wines** and more than **425 outstanding wines** from among reviews of **600 new releases**. Tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with **hundreds of additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, can be found at WineSpectator.com using the Wine Ratings search, a members-only service.