

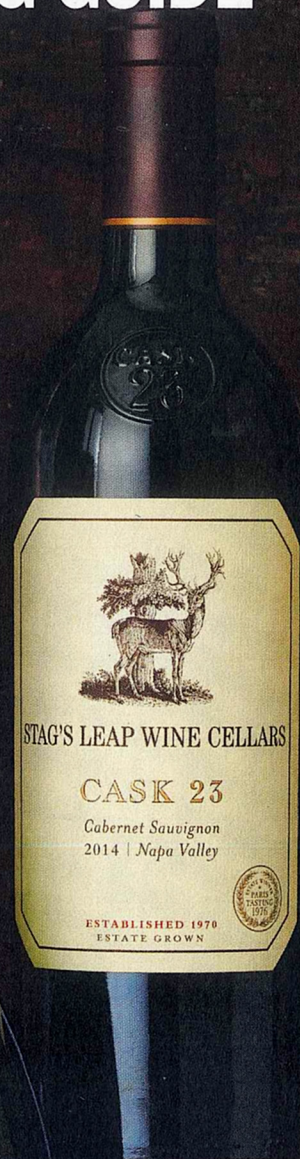
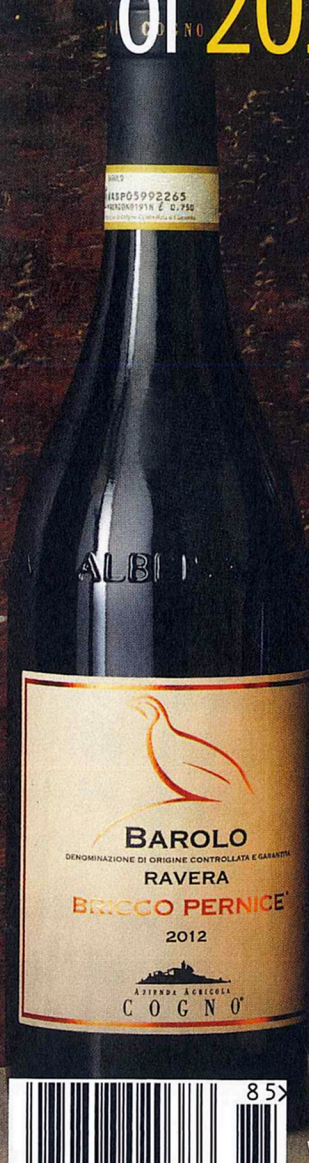
Wine & Spirits

SPECIAL ISSUE

32nd Annual
BUYING GUIDE

TOP 100 WINERIES

TOP 100 Wines
of 2018



Five of our
Top 100
Wineries



WINTER 2018

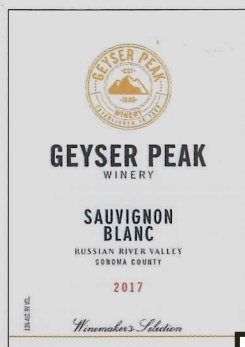
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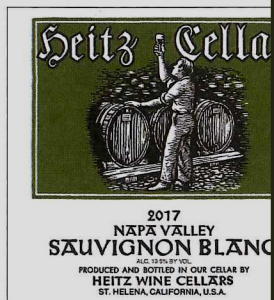
Display until December 31, 2018

package of wheat, Meyer lemon and lime flavor delivered with remarkable focus and freshness. It's a tense, leesy and crisp riesling for contemplating, or pouring with herb-roasted halibut. (W&S 2/18; 125 cases)

BEST SAUVIGNON BLANCS



93 | Geysler Peak
2017 Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc This grows at a block at the Ranch, all Clone 1 sauvignon, in stainless steel. It's sexy sauvignon with plenty of fresh tropical fruit to counter acidity, tart and mouthwatering. A sip might make you hungry. The wine gets better with a day of air, integrating a supple textural pleasure, lasting of green melon and river stones. (W&S 12/18; 125 cases)

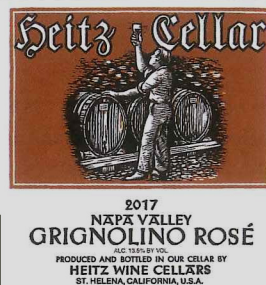


93 | Heitz Cellar
2017 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc Locally farmed at an estate vineyard on Howell Mountain, this sauvignon blanc from the lower elevations, in rocky, alluvial soil at 750 feet. The freshness of the wine comes through in citrus scents of grapefruit and tangerine, the full-bodied ripeness of Napa Valley fruit presented here in a clean, crisp style. Its acidity integrated into a green and spicy freshness that races through the palate. Pour it with seafood sausage. (W&S 2/18; 2,700 cases)

BEST WHITE BLEND

93 | Donkey & Goat \$42
2016 El Dorado County Eliza Barsotti Vineyard Working with Ron Mansfield, the Brandts planted a range of white Rhône varieties in 2010, using cuttings from Tablas Creek. They make this blend from clairette, picpoul, vermentino, roussanne and grenache blanc, allowing it to ferment without additions, then aging it in neutral French oak barrels. Initially focused on earthiness, this develops complex layers of flavor that keep giving nuances of pear skin, ramen broth and smoke. The texture feels supple, the flavors clean and rich. This is a fascinating wine to drink now with a trotter terrine, or to cellar and see what it might become. (W&S 8/18; 265 cases)

import and plant a range of Rhône varieties, helping to populate California's vineyards with well-bred vines. This rosé is mostly grenache and mourvedre; it captures the cool side of Paso in its freshness, with bright flavors that could substitute for strawberries and cream at a Sunday morning tennis final. Fragrant, smooth and gracious, it's a rosé that feels complete on its own, and completely integrated. (W&S 10/18)



Heitz Cellar \$25
Napa Valley Grignolino Rosé "The wine's nose reminds me of Bugey-Cerdagne," said LA panelist Dana Farnier. The wine is intensely aromatic, with scents of hibiscus, plums, but the flavors are tart and bring to mind ruby-red grapefruit and red meats. Joe Heitz started making rosé when he and his wife, Alice, purchased their first vineyard, eight acres in St. Helena, planted solely to the variety. Farmed organically, it produces a wine that's more than a rosé, built to chill for character. (W&S 8/18; 700 cases)

BEST ROSÉS



93 | Tablas Creek \$25
2017 Paso Robles Patelin de Tablas Rosé This grows at the Haas family's Rhône refuge in western Paso Robles, where they partnered with the Perrins of Château Beaucastel to import and plant a range of Rhône varieties, helping to populate California's vineyards with well-bred vines. This rosé is mostly grenache and mourvedre; it captures the cool side of Paso in its freshness, with bright flavors that could substitute for strawberries and cream at a Sunday morning tennis final. Fragrant, smooth and gracious, it's a rosé that feels complete on its own, and completely integrated. (W&S 10/18)

T ZINFANDEL

Clayton Kiewit \$60
Sonoma County Old Hill Vineyard Zinfandel In 1981, when Otto Teller cleared his parcel of oak and blackberries at his parcel on McPherson Hill's original ranch, and vines that were nearly 100 years old survived on St. George rootstock. When he decided to rip them out, he found an interloper for the fruit in Joel Peterson, who made a single-vineyard wine from Old Hill in 1983. Will Bucklin, the current owner, conducted a census of those vines and identified at least 14 varieties—mostly zinfandel, along with grenache, petite sirah, syrah and alicante bouschet. He continued to plant zinfandel grapes to Peterson, who produced the 2015 from the mix. It's bright and zesty on cherry freshness, with earthy undertones adding spice to the succulent fruit. A delicious California classic, remarkably easy to drink. (W&S 6/18; 900 cases)