

California GRAPEVINE



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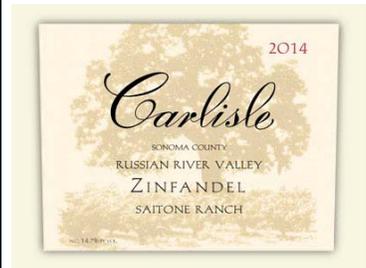
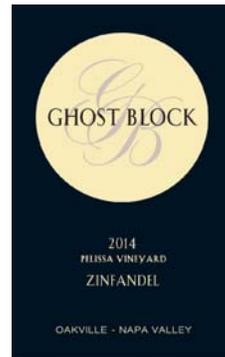
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ZINFANDEL

New Releases

1. **2014 Ghost Block**, “Pelissa Vineyard,” Oakville, Napa Valley (\$36) – Medium to medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, intense, ripe, spicy, toasty, black raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dill, black pepper, bacon fat, and vanilla custard; full body; rich, plummy, peppery, cedary, red and black berry fruit flavors with good depth and concentration, and a plush mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Rich and ripe, and very appealing to drink now, though worthy of a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15% alcohol; 891 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points; 2 of 10 first-place votes/2 seconds/1 third; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], fourth place)
2. **2014 Carlisle**, “Saitone Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$47) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, cedary, black raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of licorice and black pepper; full body; rich, ripe, peppery, jammy, red and black fruit flavors with some plushness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable now, though deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 300 cases; blended with 3% mix of Alicante Bouschet, Grand Noir, and Petit Bouschet; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5, 2/2/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)
3. **2014 Carlisle**, “Monte Rosso Vineyard,” Sonoma Valley (\$47) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, intense, ripe, jammy, red fruit aroma with herbal and spicy notes, and hints of saffras and white pepper; full body; big, deep, extracted, brambly, rustic, raspberry and blackberry fruit flavors that are firmly balanced and structured to support further bottle aging; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *15.1% alcohol; 265 cases; blended with 9% Grand Noir; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)
4. **2014 Ridge**, “East Bench,” Dry Creek Valley (\$30) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, earthy, cedary, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of brown sugar, baking spices, and black pepper; full body; rich, ripe, briary, red and black fruit flavors with spicy and herbal notes, oaky under-



- tones, and a textured, slightly rough mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Appealing to taste now, though deserves a few more years of bottle aging. *14.9% alcohol; 5,750 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 2/0/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)
5. **2014 Scherrer**, “Old & Mature Vines, Scherrer Vineyard,” Alexander Valley (\$38) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, spicy, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma; medium-full body; rich, plummy, red and black fruit flavors with some suppleness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 495 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/2/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)
 6. **2014 Ridge**, “Benito Dusi Ranch,” Paso Robles (\$32) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, briary, slightly jammy, dark cherry and black raspberry fruit aroma with hints of black olive, dill, and other dried herbs; full body; rich, herbal, textured, slightly jammy, red and black fruit flavors with good depth and acid balance full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Rich, ripe fruit makes the wine very appealing to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 4,250 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)
 7. **2014 Saldo**, California (\$30) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, intense, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of clove and black pepper; full body; big, deep, extracted, red and black berry fruit flavors with notes of vanilla and crack pepper, oaky overtones, and some roughness in the full mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Could use a few more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *15.9% alcohol; 16,000 cases; blended with 15% mix of Petite Sirah and Syrah; released December 2015.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)
 8. **2014 Rombauer Vineyards**, California (\$30) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, intense, rich, ripe, spicy, briary, black cherry and boysenberry fruit aroma with notes of licorice and charred oak; full body; rich, jammy, dark berry fruit flavors with a plush mouthfeel and a trace of residual sugar; medium

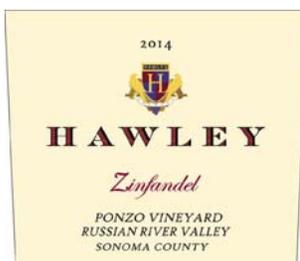
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to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Tending to a late harvest style. Highly recommended in that style. *15.9% alcohol; 25,000 cases; blended with 8% Petite Sirah; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 15.7, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] [8]

ZINFANDEL

More New Releases



1. **2014 Hawley**, “Ponzo Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$30) – Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, deep, brambly, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with a hint of clove and oaky overtones; full body; big, deep, firmly structured, mouth-filling, blackberry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 575 cases; blended with 3% Petite Sirah (PS); released February 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 3 of 7 first-place votes/0 seconds/2 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2013 Edmeades**, “Gianoli Vineyard,” Mendocino Ridge (\$35) – Medium ruby; attractive, fragrant, briary, ripe raspberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of cinnamon and vanilla bean; full body; rich, ripe, slightly jammy, briary, red fruit flavors with hints of black pepper and dark chocolate, and a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 250 cases; 100% Zinfandel; to be released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/2/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], second place)

3. **2014 Old Zin Vines**, “OZV,” Lodi (\$13) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, spicy, jammy, ripe raspberry fruit aroma with a floral note and a hint of bacon fat; full body; forward, plush, plummy, red fruit flavors with a supple mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.95% alcohol; 40,000 cases; blended with 15% PS; released October 2015.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], fourth place)

4. **2013 Frank Family Vineyards**, Napa Valley (\$37) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, briary, plummy, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of vanilla and black pepper; full body; deep, rich, extracted, jammy, ripe red fruit flavors with some creaminess in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 5,000 cases; blended with 14% PS and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], third place)

5. **2013 Edmeades**, “Perli Vineyards,” Mendocino Ridge (\$31) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, ripe, cedary, spicy, blackberry fruit aroma with notes of vanilla and black pepper; full body; textured, cedary, meaty, currant and blackberry fruit flavors with firm acidity and a bit rough in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 750 cases; blended with 3%*

Syrah; released February 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], fifth place)

6. **2014 Dashe**, Dry Creek Valley (\$26) – Medium-dark ruby; deep, spicy, cedary, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with a touch of vanilla; full body; rich, deep, textured, berry fruit flavors with prominent oak and some roughness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 4,682 cases; blended with 5% PS; released December 2015.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], sixth place)

7. **2014 Scherrer**, “Shale Terrace, Scherrer Vineyard,” Alexander Valley (\$38) – Medium ruby; attractive, spicy, fragrant, red berry fruit aroma; medium-full to full body; moderately rich, spicy, well balanced, red berry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. A lighter, ready to drink now style that also tends to be a bit lean on the finish. Highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 190 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], seventh place)

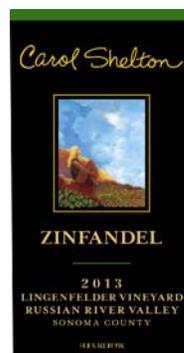
8. **2013 Edmeades**, “Shamrock Vineyard,” Mendocino County (\$31) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; briary, raspberry fruit aroma with toasty notes and hints of dried herbs; full body; briary, raspberry and blackberry fruit favor with moderate depth and firm acidity; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy to drink now. Highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 250 cases; blended with 3% Syrah; to be released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

9. **2013 Dashe**, “Todd Brothers Ranch, Old Vine,” Alexander Valley (\$35) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, deep, intense, framboise aroma with hints of cracked pepper and bacon fat; full body; briary, red and black fruit flavors with a note of black pepper; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 116 cases; blended with 2% PS; released November 2015.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], ninth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] [9]

ZINFANDEL

More New Releases



1. **2013 Carol Shelton**, “Lingenfelder Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$33) – Medium ruby color; attractive, forward, fragrant, spicy, red currant and blackberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of cocoa and black pepper; medium-full to full body; rich, fleshy, red and black fruit flavors with a touch of vanilla; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now and over the near term. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 200 cases; blended with 4% Petite Sirah (PS); released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3 of 20 points, 3 of 10 first-place votes/3 seconds/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [90 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2012 Grgich Hills Estate**, Napa Valley (\$36) – Medium ruby; fragrant, spicy, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with herbal notes (and some tasters noting a trace of sulfur); medium-full to full body; rich, textured, brambly, dark berry fruit flavors with well integrated oak and hints of toffee and black pepper; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced,

and easy and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 8,304 cases; blended with 2% PS; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 2/2/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], second place)

3. **2013 Navarro Vineyards**, “Old Vine Cuvée,” Mendocino (\$29) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, deep, intense, cedary, ripe, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with a hint of black pepper; full body; rich, textured, peppery, red and black fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 249 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/1/3; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], third place)

4. **2013 Sobon Estate**, “Cougar Hill,” Amador County (\$18) Medium ruby; attractive, forward, smoky, cedary, spicy, briary, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dill and back pepper; full body; rich, textured, brambly, red and black fruit flavors with hints of mocha and smoked meat; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed with airing in the glass and ready to drink and enjoy now. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,293 cases; blended with 5% PS; released October 2015.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/3/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)

5. **2013 Easton**, “E,” Fiddletown (\$25) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, cedary, spicy, blackberry and boysenberry fruit aroma; full body; forward, rich, textured, cedary, brambly, dark berry fruit flavors with good depth and concentration; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 400 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

6. **2013 Ancient Peaks**, “Santa Margarita Ranch,” Paso Robles (\$18) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, briary, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of tobacco, saffras, and bacon fat; full body; forward, rich, briary, jammy, mouth-filling, red and black fruit flavors with oaky undertones and a plush mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *15% alcohol; 2,342 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 2/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

7. **2013 Mettler Family Vineyards**, “Epicenter, Old Vine,” Lodi (\$20) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, intense, ripe, cedary, blackberry fruit aroma with overtone of bacon fat; full body; big, rich, extracted, cedary, black fruit flavors with a thick mouthfeel and a note of smoked meat; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 7,186 cases; blended with 10% PS, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon; released October 2015.* (Group Score: 15.4, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [87/100], seventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] [7]

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our July 2016 issue will be mailed out during the week of July 18th. Our August 2016 issue will also be a week or two late. We hope to be back on our beginning of the month schedule with the September 2016 issue.

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CABERNET SAUVIGNON New Releases



1. **2012 The Farm Winery**, “Cardinal,” Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$90) – Medium to medium-dark ruby color; attractive, deep, intense, cedary, ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of cassis, dried herbs, and vanilla; full body; rich, deep, nicely balanced, red and black fruit flavors with well integrated oak; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows both power and elegance, along with some developing complexity that makes it very easy to appreciate and enjoy now, though best to age for several more years. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 270 cases; 100% Cabernet Sauvignon (CS); released to their wine club members in Spring 2016.* (Group Score: 16.7 of 20 points, 3 of 8 first-place votes/3 seconds/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2012 The Farm Winery**, “LPF,” Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$65) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, fragrant, spicy, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma with toasty notes and a hint of vanilla; full body; forward, rich, ripe, textured, bright Cabernet fruit flavors with a hint of mocha; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Styled similarly to their “Cardinal” bottling, and very appealing and enjoyable to drink now, though deserving a few more years of bottle aging. The “LPF” designation esoterically refers to Liquidity Preference Function meaning to save or to consume (i.e., drink now or drink later). Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 118 cases; blended with 12% Petit Verdot (PV); released to their wine club members in Spring 2016.* (Group Score: 16.6, 3/1/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

3. **2012 Scherrer**, “Scherrer Vineyard,” Alexander Valley (\$55) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, spicy, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma with a hint of sage; full body; textured, cedary, black cherry and blackberry fruit flavors with herbal notes and a hint of mocha; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Appealing to drink now though deserving another three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 160 cases; 100% CS; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/2/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

4. **2013 Ridge**, “Estate, Monte Bello Vineyard,” Santa Cruz Mountains (\$55) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dill and green olive; full body; rich, deep, textured, concentrated, currant and dark berry fruit flavors with mineral notes and hints of cola and tobacco; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 3,250 cases; blended with 20% Merlot, 3% PV, and 2% Cabernet Franc (CF); released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

5. **2013 ZD**, Napa Valley (\$70) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, spicy, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of cassis, cocoa, green olive, and dried herbs; full body; full, rich, plummy, red and black fruit flavors with a hint of dark

chocolate; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable now, though best to age for several more years. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 4,000 cases; blended with 14% PV; released February 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/0/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

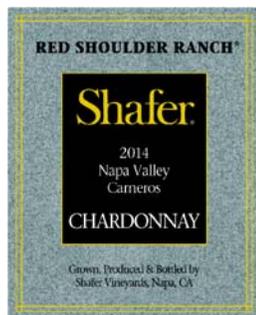
6. **2013 Frei Brothers**, “Reserve,” Alexander Valley (\$27) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; restrained, cedary, black fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of tobacco and graphite; full body; textured, cedary, blackberry fruit flavors with some roughness in the mouthfeel and finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 45,000 cases; blended with 8% Petite Sirah and 1% Merlot; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], sixth place)

7. **2013 Jackson Estate**, Alexander Valley (\$38) – Medium-dark ruby; deep, intense, cedary, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of cassis and green olive; full body; big, textured, cedary, dark fruit flavors with some roughness in the mouthfeel and a bit drying on the finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 8,123 cases; blended with 2% Malbec, 2% PV, 1.7% CF, and 0.3% Merlot; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], seventh place)

8. **2013 VENN**, Napa Valley (\$50) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; fragrant, ripe, spicy, sweet red and black berry fruit aroma with a hint of vanilla; full body; forward, approachable, rounded, cedary, blackberry and cassis flavors that are nicely balanced; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Second label from Young Inglewood Vineyards. Highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 209 cases; blended with 4% CF and 1% PV; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] [6, 7, 8]

CHARDONNAY New Releases



1. **2014 Shafer**, “Red Shoulder Ranch,” Carneros, Napa Valley (\$52) – Medium-light golden yellow color; attractive, deep, intense, apple, melon, and stone fruit aroma with tropical notes and hints of lemon zest and honeysuckle; medium-full body; nicely balanced, fleshy, apple and apricot flavors with bright acidity, mineral notes, well integrated oak, and a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Shows good richness and depth and deserving another year or two of bottle aging Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 6,700 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 75% barrel fermented (BF); 0% malolactic fermentation (ML); released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 2 of 7 first-place votes/1 second/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2014 Hawley**, “Hopkins River Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$30) – Medium-light yellow; attractive, citrusy, green apple and pear aroma with light floral notes and a touch of toasty oak; medium to medium-full body; crisp, lemony, green apple flavors with bright acidity and some richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 360 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released December 2015.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

3. **2014 Frank Family Vineyards**, Carneros (\$35) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, tropical, ripe apricot and mandarin orange aroma with a note of sweet oak and a hint of honeysuckle; medium-full body; forward, ripe, rounded, pear and stone fruit flavors with a plush, slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 25,000 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released June 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/2/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

4. **2014 Morgan**, “Double L Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$42) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, baked apple and stone fruit aroma with a note of toasty oak; medium to medium-full body; rich, fleshy, apple and stone fruit flavors with notes of citrus and toast oak, and a supple mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 689 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released January 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

5. **2014 ZD**, “Reserve,” Carneros (\$72) – Medium-light golden yellow; forward, ripe, toasty, pear, stone fruit, and citrus aroma with tropical notes and a hint of coconut; medium-full body; buttery, pear and apricot flavors with crisp acidity and a rich, plush mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 700 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 0% ML; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2014 Trione Vineyards & Winery**, “River Road Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$34) – Medium-light yellow; forward, toasty, baked apple and citrus aroma with hints of almond and vanilla; medium to medium-full body; crisp, lemony, baked apple flavors; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 836 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released March 2016.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/1/2; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)

7. **2014 Morgan**, “Highland,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$28) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, baked apple and nectarine aroma with a hint of roasted hazelnut; medium to medium-full body; fleshy, apple, pear, and stone fruit flavors that are nicely balanced and supported by firm acidity; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 10,931 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 75% ML; released November 2015.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

8. **2014 Pride Mountain Vineyards**, “Vintner Select Cuvée,” Sonoma County (\$50) – Medium-light golden yellow; forward, ripe, pear and baked apple aroma with a note of charred oak, and hints of vanilla, lemon curd, and wet stone; medium-full body; crisp, toasty, pear, baked apple, and lemon zest flavors with a tight, hard edge on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 352 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released January 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] [6, 7, 8]

PINOT NOIR

New Releases



1. **2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir**, “La Encantada Vineyard,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$45) – Medium-light to medium ruby color; attractive, rich, deep, black cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of clove and cinnamon; medium body; rich, supple, layered, red fruit flavors with good depth and balance, and a hint of cola; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to drink now (as are the other Furthermore Pinots in this tasting). Very highly recommended. *14.5%*

alcohol; 126 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released May 2016. (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 3 of 7 first-place votes/1 second/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir**, “Keefer Ranch Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$55) – Medium-light ruby with slightly brickish edges; attractive, bright, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma; medium body; forward, well balanced, red fruit flavors with good depth and a velvety mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 204 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5, 0/1/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

3. **2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir**, “Gloria Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, forward, cherry fruit aroma with hints of cinnamon and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; supple, herbal, black cherry fruit flavors with a touch of cola and a velvety mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 181 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/1/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

4. **2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir**, “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, forward, plummy, cherry fruit aroma; medium to medium-full body; deep, plush, herbal, cherry and raspberry fruit flavors with a velvety mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 202 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/1/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

5. **2013 Dutton Estate**, “Karmen Isabella - Dutton Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$44) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, earthy, Bing cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with a floral note and a hint of vanilla; medium to medium-full body; tight, herbal, red fruit flavors with bright acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Appealing to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 1,186 cases; 100% PN; released June 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2013 Hawley**, “Estines Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$42) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, spicy, cherry fruit aroma with hints of cinnamon and forest floor; medium body; herbal, slightly plummy, cherry and cranberry fruit flavors with oaky undertones; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 500 cases; 100% PN; released June 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

7. **2013 Champ de Rêves**, Anderson Valley (\$45) – Medium-light to medium ruby; spicy, earthy, black cherry and straw-

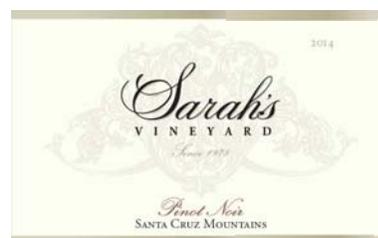
berry fruit aroma with hints of cola and baking spices; medium to medium-full body; spicy, black cherry flavors with a hint of cocoa, and finishing a bit on the dry side; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 4,995 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)

8. **2013 Blair Estate**, Arroyo Seco (\$75) – Light brickish ruby; fragrant, spicy, black cherry fruit aroma with a hint of saffras and a floral note; medium body; light, elegant, cherry fruit flavors with a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows some maturity in a lighter, elegant style. Highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 125 cases; 100% PN; to be released Summer 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] [7, 8]

PINOT NOIR

More New Releases



1. **2014 Sarah's Vineyard**, Santa Cruz Mountains (\$38) – Medium-ruby color; attractive, forward, ripe, strawberry and black cherry fruit aroma with a floral notes and hints of Asian spices; medium to medium-full body; forward, rich, deep, ripe, red cherry and red berry fruit flavors with very good balance, bright acidity, and some suppleness in the silky mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Showed very appealing richness and some complexity as it developed with airing in the glass. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 345 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 2 of 10 first-place votes/2 seconds/1 third; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2014 Lazy Creek Vineyards**, “Estate,” Anderson Valley (\$60) – Medium ruby; attractive, forward, deep, black cherry and dark berry fruit aroma with hints of clove, mint, and cola; medium-full body; forward, textured, layered, herbal, red and black fruit flavors; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good depth and concentration as it developed with airing in the glass, and deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 422 cases; 100% PN; to be released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5, 2/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

3. **2014 Morgan**, “Double L Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$60) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, ripe, spicy, red berry and black cherry fruit aroma with a plummy note and a hint of clove; medium to medium-full body; rich, textured, ripe, plummy, red fruit flavors with cedary and herbal notes, a hint of cola, and a slight tartness on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Appealing to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 720 cases; 100% PN; released January 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/1/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

4. **2014 Gary Farrell**, “Toboni Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$55) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, ripe,

black cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of cocoa and forest floor; medium body; spicy, moderately rich, nicely balanced, cranberry and black cherry fruit flavors with bright acidity and a touch of toasty oak; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 907 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/2/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

5. **2014 Gary Farrell**, “Hallberg Vineyard - Dijon Clone,” Russian River Valley (\$60) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with floral and earthy notes, and hints of cola and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; rich, slightly plush, cranberry and cherry fruit flavors with toasty notes and bright acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Opened and developed with airing in the glass. Very highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 937 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

6. **2014 Francis Coppola Reserve**, “Dutton Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$40) – Medium-light to medium ruby; deep, ripe, raspberry and strawberry fruit aroma with hints of clove, cinnamon, and cola; medium body; tight, herbal, red fruit flavors with bright acidity, light toasty notes, and tending to be a bit lean on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 3,875 cases; 100% PN; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 2/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], seventh place)

7. **2014 ZD**, “Founder’s Reserve,” Carneros (\$77) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, fragrant, ripe, bright cherry fruit aroma with light smoky notes and hints of mocha and black pepper; medium to medium-full body; rich, fleshy, cherry fruit flavors with earthy notes and a velvety mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 800 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

8. **2014 Morgan**, “Twelve Clones,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$34) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, bright cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of vanilla, cedar, and dried herbs; medium to medium-full body; ripe, elegant, cherry fruit flavors with a slight plushness in the mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy to drink and enjoy now. Highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 14,076 cases; 100% PN; released November 2015.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

9. **2014 Gary Farrell**, “Bien Nacido Vineyard, Q Block,” Santa Maria Valley (\$65) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, spicy, red fruit aroma with hints of clove and cinnamon; medium body; tight, crisp, cranberry and cherry fruit flavors with bright acidity and stylistically a bit lean and slightly tart on the finish; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.3% alcohol; 466 cases; 100% PN; released May 2016.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], ninth place)

10. **2014 Gehricke**, Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium-light to medium ruby; deep, red cherry fruit aroma with spicy notes; medium to medium-full body; sharp, nicely balanced, red fruit flavors with a hint of vanilla; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Highly recommended. *14% alcohol; 948 cases; 100% PN; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], tenth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] [10]

RHÔNE-STYLE RED BLENDS New Releases



1. **2014 Tablas Creek Vineyard**, “Côtes de Tablas,” Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$35) – Medium to medium-dark ruby color; attractive, spicy, cherry and boysenberry fruit aroma with hints of licorice and white pepper; medium-full body; textured, red and black fruit flavors with good depth, firm acidity, hints of mint and dark chocolate, and some richness in the mouthfeel; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 1,600 cases; blend of 44% Grenache, 36% Syrah, 12% Counoise and 8% Mourvèdre; released Spring 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 3 of 12 first-place votes/4 seconds/3 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2013 Pomar Junction**, “Crossing, GSM,” Paso Robles (\$48) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; very appealing, forward, deep, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with a hint of cocoa; full body; rich, deep, spicy, red and black fruit flavors with a plush mouthfeel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 245 cases; blend of 42% Syrah, 32% Mourvèdre, and 26% Grenache; released June 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 4/2/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

3. **2013 Sans Liege**, “The Offering,” Santa Barbara County (\$29) – Medium-dark ruby; deep, ripe, wild berry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of saddle leather, tobacco, and dark chocolate; full body; big, forward, cedary, red and black fruit flavors with good depth and concentration, and showing hints of baking spices; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *15.4% alcohol; 1,800 cases; blend of 45% Grenache, 36% Syrah, 18% Mourvèdre, and 1% Viognier; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/3/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

4. **2013 Big Basin Vineyards**, “Homestead,” California (\$35) Dark purplish ruby; deep, intense, earthy, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with spicy and herbal notes; full body; big, deep, extracted, herbal, meaty, red and black fruit flavors with hints of licorice and black pepper; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 645 cases; blend of 30% Syrah, 26% Carignane, 22% Grenache, 19% Mourvèdre, and 3% Cabernet; released Fall 2015.* (Group Score: 16.3, 3/1/3; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

5. **2013 Terre Rouge**, “L’Autre,” Sierra Foothills (\$30) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, earthy, smoky, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma; full body; forward, layered, cedary, red and black fruit flavors with notes of dark chocolate and charred oak, and some roughness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 765 cases; blend of 72% Grenache, 19% Syrah, 9% Mourvèdre; to be released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

6. **2014 Tablas Creek Vineyard**, “Patelin de Tablas,” Paso Robles (\$25) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; pleasant, earthy, cedary, dark cherry fruit aroma with hints of mineral and tobacco leaf; medium-full body; rich, silky, cherry and blackberry fruit flavors; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste.

Highly recommended. 13.7% alcohol; 3,500 cases; blend of 55% Syrah, 29% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, and 10% Counoise; released Spring 2016. (Group Score: 16.1, 0/2/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)
True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

ROSÉ
New Releases



1. **2015 Benovia**, “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$24) – Light reddish salmon color; attractive, fragrant, cranberry and cherry fruit aroma with floral notes; medium body; slightly fleshy, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with bright acidity and a slightly rich, silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.1% alcohol; 325 cases; 100% Pinot Noir; released March 2016. (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 7 of 12 first-place votes/0 seconds/3 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2015 Tablas Creek Vineyards**, “Dianthus,” Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$30) – Light pinkish salmon color; attractive, fragrant, strawberry and watermelon aroma with a light floral note; medium body; crisp, red fruit flavors with firm acidity and some richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.3% alcohol; 5,000 cases; blend of 49% Mourvèdre, 37% Grenache, and 14% Counoise; released Spring 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 3/2/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], second place)

3. **2015 Kaena**, “Grenache Rosé,” Santa Ynez Valley (\$24) Light salmon color; attractive, perfumed, earthy, strawberry aroma with mineral notes and a hint of peach; medium-light to medium body; fairly rich, red fruit flavors with a touch of citrus and a slight softness in the pleasing mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 13.9% alcohol; other stats not available in time for publication. (Group Score: 16.3, 2/2/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

4. **2015 Beckmen Vineyards**, “Grenache Rosé, Purisima Mountain Vineyard,” Ballard Canyon (\$25) – Light to medium-light pinkish salmon color; attractive, cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with floral and spicy notes; medium body; tight, sharp, red berry fruit flavors with a lemony note; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14% alcohol; 1,000 cases; blend of 75% Grenache, 10% Counoise, 10% Mourvèdre, and 5% Syrah; released March 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/4/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

5. **2015 Tablas Creek Vineyards**, “Patelin de Tablas Rosé,” Paso Robles (\$25) – Light peach color; medium-light, floral, strawberry fruit aroma with mineral notes and hints of jasmine and Asian spices; medium body; crisp, lean, red fruit flavors; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 13.0% alcohol; 2,150 cases; blend of 68% Grenache, 13% Counoise, 11% Mourvèdre, and 8% Syrah; released Spring 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/4/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

6. **2015 Stolpman Vineyards**, “Rosé Wine,” Ballard Canyon (\$19) – Medium-light pinkish coral color; earthy, floral, strawberry fruit aroma with hints of white peach and wet

stone; medium-light body; crisp, citrusy flavors with a slightly tart finish; slightly lingering aftertaste. 11% alcohol; 780 cases; 100% Grenache; released April 2016. (Group Score: 15.5, 0/0/1; My Score: 16 [85/100], sixth place)
True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] [6]

In the Wine Library
by Bob Foster

A Glass Full of Miracles, Miljenko “Mike” Grgich, Violetti Press, Rutherford, California, 417 pages, hardback, \$40. What an amazing story! It begins in 1923 in a remote town in Croatia when Grgich was born. The tradition was to name a child after a member of the family but instead Grgich was named after the postman because that man would annually bring a letter from one of the daughters who had immigrated to America containing cash to help alleviate the poverty that plagued the family. Growing up in a family of eleven Grgich had to endure occupation by Italian and then German troops in World War Two. The tales of the needless use of force and brutality are startling. After these two regimes came the Communists who were also heavy handed and authoritarian. How Grgich and the family survived is inspiring.

Grgich decided to become a winemaker, studying at the University of Zagreb. When one of his professors returned from a trip to California he described California as a paradise. This instilled in Grgich a desire to reach this Promised Land. Just before graduating from the university he managed to be granted a work permit to go to Germany. From there he went to Canada ostensibly to be a lumberjack. Finally he was able to reach California.

Grgich arrived in California with just \$32 which had been sown inside his shoes to prevent discovery by the Communist border guards. He managed to obtain work at a number of noted California wineries including Souverain Winery, Christian Brothers Cellars (with Brother Timothy), Beaulieu Vineyard (working alongside André Tchelistcheff), and Robert Mondavi. Grgich then became the winemaker and limited partner at Chateau Montelena. His 1973 Chardonnay was selected to compete in the historic Paris Wine Tasting of 1976, where it was ranked the number one white wine and the highest scoring wine of the entire competition.

The book goes on to describe the founding of the Grgich Hills winery in conjunction with Austin Hills (part of the Hill Brothers Coffee company). Even after the start of this winery Grgich continued to excel. He helped begin the study that discovered that Zinfandel was the same as Crljenak Kaštelanski, a Croatian grape. After Croatia had become independent Grgich helped build a winery there to stimulate the nation’s wine industry. Additionally he was very active in the campaign to remove thousands of land mines that had been buried in his native country during the civil war that ravaged the nation in the 1990s.

It is a fascinating tale, well told. The only story I wish had been included was an explanation of why Grgich was omitted from the movie “Bottle Shock.” I have heard several different claims.

By the way, the title of the book stems from Grgich’s deep Catholic faith and thus many of the positive events in his life are perceived as miracles.

The book is filled with over 150 photographs (and a map of Croatia since most readers have little knowledge of the geography of that region).

On a technical level I have two criticisms. First there is no index. As a result it is impossible to find specific points in the

work. Want to know where Carole Meredith the DNA grape expert comes into the story? Keep flipping pages. Second, the book is printed on thick glossy paper making the reader often think he or she has turned two pages instead of just one.

But these issues aside, the book is fascinating. Grgich's life is an inspiration. Highly recommended.

Terroir and Other Myths of Wine Growing, Mark A. Matthews, University of California Press, Oakland, California, 308 pages, hardback, \$34.95. Matthews, a professor at the University of California, Davis, has written a very technical, scientific work attacking three major beliefs in the wine world. He first goes after the idea that low yield and small berries determine wine quality. The correlating concept is that high yields mean low quality. While Matthew presents a wealth of scientific data on grape composition, I wish there had been tasting notes on the flavors in wines testing this hypothesis.

Secondly Matthews examines the idea that a vine must be stressed to produce great wine grapes. He contends instead that the time of harvesting (early versus late) is the key factor.

Finally he turns to the concept of terroir. It is used, by many, to describe the particular taste of a wine grown in a particular place. The terroir is said to be what gives rise to great grapes which make great wine. But Matthews proves that the vine does not absorb specific molecules from the ground so the composition of the soil in the vineyard may not play the role that terroir implies.

While the term dates back to the early 1900s, it became quite common in the 1980s. But in my readings the use of that term seems to have declined as many wine lovers find it little more than a marketing ploy.

This is a complex, highly scientific work replete with charts and graphs. There is a detailed index and bibliography. It demands a slow and careful read. It is not a book to take to the beach. Nevertheless it is thought provoking. Highly recommended.

ABOUT OUR TASTING NOTES

OUR TASTING NOTES are the result of weekly double-blind tastings held in San Diego. Our scoring system at these tastings is based on the traditional 20-point Davis scale for wine evaluation. I also include a score using the currently more popular 100-point scale.

The group score and the number of first, second, and third-place votes appear, along with my (editor Nick Ponomareff's) own scores and relative ranking, in parentheses after the comments on each wine. A "True Ranking" based on a statistical analysis of the results appears at the end of each set of tasting notes. Wines that do not differ significantly are enclosed within brackets.

Please also note that many of the wines we taste are only available direct from the winery through their mailing list or wine club. Prices quoted are the retail price set by the winery, though many of the wines can be found discounted.

WINES TASTED FOR THIS ISSUE

| Wine | My Score* |
|--|-----------|
| CABERNET SAUVIGNON | |
| 2013 Frei Brothers "Reserve," Alexander Valley (\$27) | 88 |
| 2013 Jackson Estate Alexander Valley (\$38) | 88 |
| 2013 Ridge "Estate, Monte Bello Vineyard," Santa Cruz Mountains (\$55) | 90 |
| 2012 Scherrer "Scherrer Vineyard," Alexander Valley (\$55) | 91 |
| 2012 The Farm Winery "Cardinal," Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$90) | 92 |
| 2012 The Farm Winery "LPF," Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$65) | 91 |

| Wine | My Score* |
|--|-----------|
| 2013 VENN Napa Valley (\$50) | 88 |
| 2013 ZD Napa Valley (\$70) | 90 |
| CHARDONNAY | |
| 2013 Frank Family Vineyards Carneros (\$35) | 91 |
| 2014 Hawley "Hopkins River Ranch," Russian River Valley (\$30) | 90 |
| 2014 Morgan "Double L Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$42) | 91 |
| 2014 Morgan "Highland," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$28) | 89 |
| 2014 Pride Mountain Vineyards "Vintner Select Cuvée," Sonoma (\$50) | 89 |
| 2014 Shafer "Red Shoulder Ranch," Carneros, Napa Valley (\$52) | 92 |
| 2014 Trione "River Road Ranch," Russian River Valley (\$34) | 89 |
| 2014 ZD "Reserve," Carneros (\$72) | 90 |
| PINOT NOIR | |
| 2013 Blair Estate Arroyo Seco (\$75) | 88 |
| 2013 Champ de Réves Anderson Valley (\$45) | 89 |
| 2013 Dutton Estate "Karmen Isabell, Dutton Ranch," Russian River Vly (\$44) | 90 |
| 2014 Francis Coppola Reserve "Dutton Ranch," Russian River Valley (\$40) | 90 |
| 2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir "Gloria Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$45) | 91 |
| 2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir "Keefer Ranch Vyrd," Russian River Vly (\$55) | 91 |
| 2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir "La Encantada Vineyard," Sta. Rita Hills (\$45) | 91 |
| 2013 Furthermore Pinot Noir "Sierra Mar Vyrd," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45) | 91 |
| 2014 Gary Farrell "Bien Nacido Vineyard, Q Block," Santa Maria Valley (\$65) | 89 |
| 2014 Gary Farrell "Hallberg Vyrd - Dijon Clone," Russian River Valley (\$60) | 90 |
| 2014 Gary Farrell "Toboni Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$55) | 91 |
| 2014 Gehricke Russian River Valley (\$45) | 88 |
| 2013 Hawley "Estines Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$42) | 89 |
| 2014 Lazy Creek Vineyards "Estate," Anderson Valley (\$60) | 91 |
| 2014 Morgan "Double L Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$60) | 91 |
| 2014 Morgan "Twelve Clones," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$34) | 89 |
| 2014 Sarah's Vineyard Santa Cruz Mountains (\$38) | 91 |
| 2014 ZD "Founder's Reserve," Carneros (\$77) | 90 |
| RHÔNE-STYLE RED BLENDS | |
| 2013 Big Basin Vineyards "Homestead," California (\$35) | 89 |
| 2013 Pomar Junction "Crossing, GSM," Paso Robles (\$48) | 91 |
| 2013 Sans Liege "The Offering," Santa Barbara County (\$29) | 90 |
| 2014 Tablas Creek Vineyard "Côtes de Tablas," Paso Robles (\$35) | 91 |
| 2014 Tablas Creek Vineyard "Patelin de Tablas," Paso Robles (\$25) | 89 |
| 2013 Terre Rouge "L'Autre," Sierra Foothills (\$30) | 89 |
| ROSÉ | |
| 2015 Beckmen Vineyards "Grenache Rosé, PMV," Ballard Canyon (\$25) | 90 |
| 2015 Benovia "Rosé of Pinot Noir," Russian River Valley (\$24) | 91 |
| 2015 Kaena "Grenache Rosé," Santa Ynez Valley (\$24) | 90 |
| 2015 Stolpman Vineyards "Rosé Wine," Ballard Canyon (\$19) | 85 |
| 2015 Tablas Creek Vineyards "Dianthus," Paso Robles (\$30) | 90 |
| 2015 Tablas Creek Vineyards "Patelin de Tablas Rosé," Paso Robles (\$25) | 89 |
| ZINFANDEL | |
| 2013 Ancient Peaks "Santa Margarita Ranch," Paso Robles (\$18) | 89 |
| 2014 Carlisle "Monte Rosso Vineyard," Sonoma Valley (\$47) | 91 |
| 2014 Carlisle "Saitone Ranch," Russian River Valley (\$47) | 91 |
| 2013 Carol Shelton "Lingenfelder Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$33) | 90 |
| 2013 Dashe "Todd Brothers Ranch Old Vine," Alexander Valley (\$35) | 88 |
| 2014 Dashe Dry Creek Valley (\$26) | 88 |
| 2013 Easton "E," Fiddletown (\$25) | 89 |
| 2013 Edmeades "Gianoli Vineyard," Mendocino Ridge (\$35) | 90 |
| 2013 Edmeades "Perli Vineyards," Mendocino Ridge (\$31) | 88 |
| 2013 Edmeades "Shamrock Vineyard," Mendocino County (\$31) | 88 |
| 2013 Frank Family Vineyards Napa Valley (\$37) | 89 |
| 2014 Ghost Block "Pelissa Vineyard," Oakville, Napa Valley (\$36) | 91 |
| 2012 Grgich Hills Estate Napa Valley (\$36) | 90 |
| 2014 Hawley "Ponzo Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$30) | 91 |
| 2013 Mettler Family Vineyards "Epicenter, Old Vine," Lodi (\$20) | 87 |
| 2013 Navarro Vineyards "Old Vine Cuvée," Mendocino (\$29) | 89 |
| 2014 Old Zin Vines "OZV," Lodi (\$13) | 88 |
| 2014 Ridge "Benito Dusi Ranch," Paso Robles (\$32) | 90 |
| 2014 Ridge "East Bench," Dry Creek Valley (\$30) | 90 |
| 2014 Rombauer Vineyards California (\$30) | 88 |
| 2014 Saldo California (\$30) | 89 |
| 2014 Scherrer "Old & Mature Vines, Scherrer Vyrd," Alexander Valley (\$38) | 91 |
| 2014 Scherrer "Shale Terrace, Scherrer Vineyard," Alexander Valley (\$38) | 88 |
| 2013 Sobon Estate "Cougar Hill," Amador County (\$18) | 89 |

* Editor Nick Ponomareff's scores based on the 100-point scoring system.