



Wines from Around the World

Unique Wines Hand-selected with High Quality Ratings

2013 Yangarra Estate McLaren Vale Vineyard - 96 points

Yangarra Estate is a biodynamic wine farm in the McLaren Vale region in South Australia. Yangarra's combination of rare geologies, moderate altitude, abundant sunshine and cool evening breezes make it perfect for growing varieties that thrive in these moderate maritime environments. This Shiraz is certified organic and is sourced from 14-18 year old vines with maturation taking place in French oak for a period of 13 months of which 25% was new.

Tasting notes - Displaying outstanding color it possesses an inky black heart with a very deep dark purple black hue. Nosing yields aromas of licorice, black cherries and peppered meats with a hint of black olive and some vanillin cedar also present. Rich but tightly wound and chewy in structure this is going to require some patience before we see its full potential. Flavors of blackberries, black cherries and licorice are followed by vanillin cedar, meaty characters and pepper. Dry finish with a firm assertive tannin structure. Long aftertaste of licorice, blackberries, black cherries, black olives, vanillin cedar and pepper.

Retails for \$22

Idelwild 'The Bird' 2015 Mendocino County California - 90 points

For 2015, The Bird is comprised of roughly 35% Dolcetto, 35% Barbera, and 30% Nebbiolo. While the wine is designated as Mendocino County, the majority of the fruit in fact comes from Fox Hill Vineyard. Located southeast of Ukiah on Mendocino's Talmage Bench, the soils are well drained with high concentrations of gravel and sandstone. In contrast to the varietal bottling of these wines, these grapes are from sections of the vineyard that yield softer structure and are handled with this early to bottle style in mind.

Tasting notes – The whole cluster fermentation process used before blending helps bring out the earthier, more savory fruit character without making it too tannic or astringent. The aromas are definitely old school with lots of dark cherry skin and herbal tones behind the red fruit aromas. On the palate the texture is impressively rich for the varieties used but not thick, mostly plum and savory spice with a bit of chewy tannins on the finish.

Retails for \$25

Sidebar "Rhôneish" 2014 Redwood County, California - 92 pts

Sidebar Cellars is a new venture by David Ramey, one of California's finest winemakers. Ramey Wine Cellars is best known for its outstanding hand-crafted premium wines.

Tasting notes - With an aroma like sweet vermouth and rich, chocolaty, smoky flavors, this Rhône-style blend exerts an exotic influence on the palate. The mouthfeel is smooth and graceful, with mild tannins, while the lingering finish echoes opulent fruit and spice notes. The winemaker used 48% Mourvèdre and lesser amounts of Grenache and Syrah." –

"This blend comes from a densely planted vineyard overlooking Lake Mendocino at 1,200 feet. With 50°F diurnal swings, the fruit develops density and balance from extended hang time before fermenting with native yeasts and aging seven months in neutral oak barrels." – David Ramey

Retails for \$34

Jonata Todas 2012 Santa Ynez, California – 93 points

Jonata is dedicated to expressing a range of red—and a handful of white—wines from its estate in the Central Coast of California's Ballard Canyon appellation within Santa Ynez Valley. Jonata is one of a new breed of producers throughout the world who are thriving with a non-traditional amalgam of varieties and blends.

Tasting notes - A great wine, the 2012 Todos Proprietary Red Wine offers terrific notes of black and red raspberry fruits, toasted bread and spice. Defined by exuberant fruit, both red and black. Medium to full-bodied, juicy, mouth filling and loaded with sweet fruit, it doesn't skimp on structure and will have at least a decade of longevity. Think of this as a mini-La Sangre. The blend here is 75% Syrah with 7% each of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, and the balance a mix of varieties. Also shaped by familiar Jonata notes of smoked sausage, black pepper and black plum skin. Fruit sweetness and power also mixed with fennel and Indian spices. Plush fruit on the attack. Tremendous depth from the seemingly endless 2012 summer. Pure fruit throughout the attack and mid-palate. Truly a pleasure to drink today. Perfectly balanced and evolved tannins. By no means a shrinking violet, but manages to retain exceptional overall balance. Syrah sexiness with cabernet sauvignon focus and structure.

Retails for \$53

The Hill Pinot Noir 2014 Sta. Rita Hills, California – 92 points

The Hill is the new venture by the family that owns Jonata and Screaming Eagle. Black pepper spice aromas hit you right away followed by a touch of smoke and cherry. These extreme-west vineyards give the wine unique flavors like cherry tart, smoke, spice and even more flavors unveil themselves as you sit with the glass for a while. The complexity of this wine is stunning and will continue to evolve for many years to come.

Tasting note - Dark and seductive. Nose full of vibrant herbs, black pepper and chocolate covered cherries. The fresh red fruit on the palate jumps out with subtle notes of black tea and savory smoked meats. Soft and fragrant fruit lingers on the acid-driven finish alongside gentle, chalky tannins. A beautiful and pure pinot noir right out of the gates. -Matt Dees, Winemaker

Retail \$55

Arterberry Maresh Chardonnay 2012 Willamette Valley, Oregon – 91 points

From among the oldest Pinot noir and Chardonnay vines in the country, Martha Maresh farms non-irrigated vines organically. Aged between 12-26 months in old barrels and never adjusted, these unfiltered wines are a reflection of the land and growing season.

Tasting notes - The 2012 Chardonnay includes some purchased fruit from the Coastal Range, a vineyard at 1,400 feet that is apparently "in the middle of nowhere," where the fruit ripens only once every four years. It contains some fruit from the Weber vineyard, plus Dijon clones from Maresh. Basket-pressed to retain solids, it spends 26 months in used barrel and was bottled unfiltered. It has a very poised bouquet with flint and smoke infusing the lime flower and citrus lemon aromas. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity, slightly waxy in texture with tropical tones coming through on the finish, touches of candied orange peel lingering on the aftertaste. Excellent.

Retail \$42



Francois Diligent Brut NV Reims, France 90 points

François Diligent is a brand owned by the Moutard-Diligent family, a small grower in La Cote des Bar in the far south who has been growing grapes since the 1600s. T

Tasting notes - This very tasty Champagne is a *blanc de noir* made entirely from Pinot Noir harvested from vines of 10 to 20 years old and given three years of ageing on the lees. In the glass it has a pale color with a hint of gold from the Pinot Noir and a slow, spiraling bead. The wine is very savory on the nose, and reminds me of Cotes de Beaune Burgundy with Champagne brioche integrated perfectly into the aroma. On the palate it is full bodied and has plenty of forthright Pinot fruit. It is dosed at an extraordinarily light 1 gram per liter, and finishes dry, refreshing but not at all harsh.

Retail \$50

Avinyo Petillant 2015 Avinyo, Spain

Made in the Penedes region of Catalunya, Vi D'Agulla from the makers of Avinyo Cava is composed of 80% Petit Grain Muscat and 20% Macabeu, fermented to dryness and bottled with a bit of residual effervescence.

Tasting notes - *The rich Muscat scent is present here but the sweetness usually associated with this grape is only barely perceived. In its place are flavors of tart grapefruit and background flintiness. This spritzy, low alcohol white wine makes a unique and distinctive aperitif at the start of a festive gathering.*

Retail \$---

Aalto 2014 Ribero del Duero, Spain 92 points

Aalto is the emblematic wine of a cellar which, within the space of very few years, became a Ribera del Duero reference point. Vintage after vintage, its wines and especially Aalto, at a more affordable price, are on the receiving end of excellent critiques from the experts and highly esteemed by enthusiasts. Rightly so indeed.

Tasting notes - *Aalto is a wine of great balance and complexity, full of powerfulness and personality, which owes its fine qualities to magnificent Tinta Fina (Tempranillo) grapes, the diversity of the soils and the vast experience of Mariano García, the oenologist who for thirty years was in charge of wine production at Vega Sicilia.*

Retail \$52

Beaux Freres Pinot Noir 2013 Willamette Valley, Oregon - 95 points

Willamette Valley cuvée features fruit grown on select vineyard sites in the Northern Willamette Valley. The wines benefit from the same integrity in the winemaking process as Beaux Freres' estate wines. The sites are farmed sustainably and managed to very low yields. The wines are aged in the same French oak barrels used in estate bottling, however the percentage of new oak is intentionally lower. This wine is not fined or filtered.

Tasting notes - *A glowing medium ruby color. Redolent of Juicy strawberry and bright cherry fruit on the nose. Aromatic intrigue is heightened by the slight damp earth and warm spice components. The fruit follows through on the velvety textured palate. A great balance of fruit purity and a hedonistic lushness.*

Retail \$85

Love Hammer Cabernet (SLO Down Wines) 2013 Napa Valley, California

Wildly different from anyone else in the wine industry, SLO down wines started in 2008 with 93 cases. Now, 7 years later their wines have blown up across the country, allowing the release two new wines. SLO down wines had a very humble start and remain humble and grateful for all of their supporters who want to ditch the boring, stuffy, old rules that surround wine and just drink it for pure pleasure and fun. Pristine vineyards, long sun soaked days and the allure of mountain fruit, seduced winemaker Brandon Allen crafts an inaugural vintage of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Love Hammer. Named to provoke and inspire thought, the label represents the extreme of good and evil, and how closely they can exist.

Tasting notes - Dark and inky with intense aromatics of dark cherry, dark chocolate, mocha, baking spices and clove, this wine delights the palate with an array of black and red cherry, cranberry, leather and rum raisin, all wrapped up with lush, plush tannins and a finish that just won't quit.

Extremely limited with less than 300 cases produced, this wine won't last long

Retail \$75

Honig Cabernet Sauvignon 1.5 Liter Bottle 2014 Napa Valley, California – 90 points



The Honig family is leaders in sustainability, both in the vineyard and the winery, and what began as a small "garage" winery has today become a successful family enterprise, with everyone working collaboratively to run an inspiring and socially responsible business.

Tasting notes - This is direct and charming given the size and density, but the supple texture makes the core of currant, blackberry, graphite and licorice easier to warm up to. Features a tannic backbone alongside a measure of grace and finesse.

Retail \$90