

ANCIENT WINE & FOODWAYS IN CRETE, POMPEII & PERU

Wine & Spirits

W&S ALL-STARS

\$20

OR

LESS

Summer 2022
WINEANDSPIRITSMAGAZINE.COM
\$11.99 US & CANADA
DISPLAY UNTIL SEPT. 21, 2022



0 74820 02038 8

22

Eguren Ugarte \$15
2016 Rioja Cincuenta (92 points) The Eguren family farms 320 acres of vines in Rioja Alavesa, this wine a selection of their tempranillo aged in new American oak casks. It's inky-black and concentrated, yet it holds itself with graceful power. With air, pretty notes of strawberry and pomegranate emerge, vivid red fruit with a sunny character over the blackness. This would deliver satisfaction at twice the price. —J.G. *Monsieur Touton Selection, NY*

Bela \$19
2020 Ribera del Duero Bela (92 points) Bela is CVNE's project in Ribera del Duero, based on 182 acres of vines in the sand and clay-loam soils of Villalba and another 22 acres in small parcels in the highlands around Moradillo de Roa (at an altitude of 3,280 feet), where the ground is packed with stones. The wine is dark and satisfying, a black robe of fruit cloaking the gentle tannins. There's black currant jam and lingonberry flavor in a completely dry, savory structure, giving the wine an austere impression at first. As it settles in, there's plenty of room for grilled lamb, or coffee-rubbed barbecue. —J.G. *Arano, Miami, FL*

García Carrión \$9
2018 Rioja Pata Negra Vendimia Seleccionada (88 points) One taster described this wine as umeboshi plums, another as rosemary, thyme and Dr. Pepper. They both liked it, especially for \$9. It's heady with fruit, a little baked, and pleasantly sweet in the cedary finish. For brisket. —J.G. *CIV USA, Miami, FL*

TURKEY

Pasaeli \$12
2019 Aegean Karasakiz Cabernet Sauvignon Çalkarasi (90 points) A blend of two local varieties with cabernet sauvignon, this drinks like an Aegean bistro wine. Light cherry-red, it's bright and lively, with a green-herb crunch to the red-berry flavors; underneath, there's an incense-like spice giving it dimension, and the weight to take on a grilled lamb chop. —T.Q.T. *Skurnik Wines, NY*

Garzón \$20
2020 Maldonado Reserva Tannat (93 points) This wine sets the bar for the coastal vineyards of Uruguay with its dark-skinned beauty, its fresh purple plum and lively red berry flavors over the pencil-shaving notes of the tannins. Grown in the coastal hills, in decomposed granite, this is a New-World floral essence of a French-Atlantic grape.

There's a thin, high wall of tannins to surround all the bright fruit. It's not often that you find such a satisfying wine for \$20. —J.G. *Pacific Highway Wines, Greensboro, NC*

CALIFORNIA



Girasole \$16
2019 Mendocino County Charlie's Blend (92 points) Charlie's Blend combines merlot, cabernet sauvignon and petite sirah, and for now the petite leads the charge, spicy, sanguine, darkly luminous, with scents of berries and mocha taking on a red tinge with air. The flavors are dominated by spice—mocha, clove, olive and chocolate—with a cedary note that reminds you where this wine is coming from—Mendocino forest-adjacent. —P.J.C.

Bonterra \$18
2019 Mendocino County Pinot Noir (91 points) A wine that smells of place, starting with the coniferous scent supporting black-cherry flavors, the texture polished by firm but unobtrusive oak; it feels cool and collected, and it's a steal for the price. —J.G.

Mina Mesa \$15
2019 Paso Robles Hazeline Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (90 points) Compact and firm when first poured, this wine leads with a scent of mocha and black grapes, then opens into red fruits. Starting out plush, it finishes lean and concentrated, with a spicy finish for barbecue. (3,671 cases) —J.G.

NEW YORK

Keuka Spring \$20
2020 Finger Lakes Cabernet Franc (92 points) Youthful and bright, with wild-strawberry and red-cherry scents grounded with a green-olive verve, this grows more fruit-forward with a few swirls in the glass. Its youth is its best feature: Like a plump Chinon, it leads with berry fruit, cut grass and tobacco. Still a baby, it's well priced to cellar and uncork throughout the year. —P.J.C. (321 cases)

OREGON

Ransom \$19
2019 Willamette Valley Jigsaw Pinot Noir (91 points) A steal for the price, this leads with wood spice and violets, tobacco leaf and dark cherry. It's a touch stodgy, with a lean texture and not all that much acidity at play in the wine, but it does have the solid grip for something rich, like duck confit. —P.J.C.

WASHINGTON

Columbia Crest \$12
2018 Columbia Valley Grand Estates Cabernet Sauvignon (92 points) This surprisingly complex cabernet completely overdelivers, more vinous and layered than most \$12 wines, flaunting Washington's climatic synergies with cabernet. It's foresty and dark, showing an ash and olive scent before dark caramel and mocha flavors emerge. The texture is creamy and suave, its stolid structure approachable, with tannins as soft and pliant as brown sugar. —P.J.C.

Boomtown \$19
2019 Columbia Valley Syrah (92 points) Dark and plummy, with a youthful vibrancy and modest peppery bite, this wine isn't so much powerful as focused with deep juicy flavors, good concentration and light tannins. It's not complex, but it's thoroughly satisfying—nothing fancy here—well-made, well-priced juice, delicious and straight-ahead for ribs. —P.J.C. (2,397 cases)

Waterbrook \$15
2019 Columbia Valley Melange Founder's Red Blend (91 points) A blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, petit verdot and syrah, this is often one of Washington's best values, and in 2019 it delivers a wine reminiscent of Bordeaux in structure and frame. From the vinous scents of forest and tanbark to the sleekly oaked flavors, this is a thoroughly satisfying, straight-ahead blend for steak. —P.J.C. (1,500 cases)

Columbia Crest \$12
2018 Columbia Valley Syrah (90 points) A steal of a syrah, this doesn't skimp on dark, plummy fruit and oak: The glass seems filled with a smoky savor. Pour early and often for barbecue. —P.J.C.

Kirkland Signature \$9
2019 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (88 points) This wine's green flavors hint at the high yields of its sources, and yet there's a juicy core of dark red-cherry fruit