

Welcome to The 2019 Top 50 Tasting, and thank you for coming.

There are many wines at today's tasting and we do not expect or recommend that you taste them all. We encourage spitting. It is the simplest and most efficient way to professionally taste wine. If tasting in this fashion (spitting) is new to you, please do not hesitate to ask one of our staff to demonstrate it for you. Done properly, it will provide your olfactory senses with the most memorable experience of the wine.

Table 1 AHD Vintners

Alpha Omega II 2015 Chardonnay

Alluring aromas of pears, apple and mineral with touches of persimmon and mango that fill your glass. On the palate, it is wonderfully balanced with rich, bright fruit flavors of lemon, grapefruit, pear and peach alongside layers of baking spice, quince and minerals followed by a long, creamy finish. Opulent in a very good way!

\$28.00 reg **\$24.65 sale** **\$21.55 case** **AHD1**

Cantina Paltrinieri 2018 Solco Lambrusco dell'Emilia IGT

A well-made Lambrusco is a joy to drink with just about any type of food, yet as a wine type in America, it still languishes from the many drinkers that associate Lambrusco solely with the sweet, fizzy, purple wine-drink that was popular in the 70s. But there is so much more to this wine from Emilia-Romagna — a region known for its robust, singular cuisine. 100% Lambrusco salamino with refermentation using Metodo Martinotti. A semi-dry, purple-tinged red wine with intense cherry/pomegranate fruit. Tart entry with some richness mid-palate and good acidity all the way through. A pleasant accompaniment to spicy food or when you crave a touch of sweetness. Excellent as an aperitif, or paired with salami, tagliatelle with ragù, or pastries such as sour cherry tart. An aha moment!

\$16.95 reg **\$14.95 sale** **\$13.10 case** **AHD2**

Cantine Lenotti 2017 Bardolino Classico

From red grapes corvina (65%), rondinella (25%) and mix of different red grapes (10%). System of growing: traditional with espalier. Dry red wine, fresh and lighter, suitable for every occasion. Bursts with the cherry and spice characters of these local varieties. Perfetto for early courses, antipasti, for fiery food, in hot weather and even in place of a white.

\$14.99 reg **\$13.20 sale** **\$11.55 case** **AHD3**

Cave de Bourgueil 2017 Lieu-de-Beauregard

Superb cabernet franc from the Loire Valley. Opens with a hint of cocoa dust and plump juicy cherries. Medium body, can easily be served at cellar temperature. Round and inviting ~ almost too easy!

\$17.50 reg **\$15.40 sale** **\$13.50 case** **AHD4**

Domaine Sainte-Anne 2016 Côtes-Du-Rhône Village Rouge

The Rhône enjoyed near-perfect wine-making weather conditions throughout the 2016 growing season. This small production wine is a blend of grenache, syrah and mourvèdre and is one of the most concentrated and full-bodied examples of this appellation to be found today. Low acidity, soft, succulent, sensuous with gobs of dense berry fruit. It is delicious when young but can improve for up to 5 years.

\$18.95 reg **\$16.75 sale** **\$14.65 case** **AHD5**

Illaha NV Capitol Fizz

Capitol Fizz is dry, with a strawberry note, and tree fruit aromas of pear and apple. The blend of grapes was picked early at harvest, resulting in lively acid and a pretty aroma enhanced by its sparkle. A limited release, Illaha chose the silhouette of the Oregon Capitol and the Gold Man as a way to signify "the pioneering spirit [that] has always been strong throughout the state of Oregon." Fun in a bottle from Willamette Valley!!

\$25.00 reg **\$22.00 sale** **\$19.25 case** **AHD6**

Klaus Lentsch 2017 Pinot Bianco

Klaus Lentsch is committed to low yields and high quality. the vineyards are situated at 400-600 m above sea level on sunny steep terraces, and planted in clay and gravelly soils. These conditions along with commitment to sustainable farming and production methods make for enjoyable, high quality wines of delicious freshness and fruitiness. The color is luminous pale yellow with a greenish glow. The perfumed nose is fresh and racy, reminiscent of green apples and meadow blossoms. On the palate it is full, clean, refreshing and lively with a surprising and impressive body with floral notes and exotic fruit nuances (star fruit?). Recommended with fish dishes or as a good aperitif.

\$20.00 reg **\$17.60 sale** **\$15.40 case** **AHD7**

Luli 2016 Syrah

In all truth, it is hard to imagine a better syrah for the money than this deep and defined effort from Luli and, at no point, from its concentrated aromas of blackberries and spice to its flavors and structural solidity does the wine disappoint. It is full-bodied with a blast of dark fruit and a hint of peppery gaminess. Its slightly elevated acidity pushes its nominal tannins to the fore. If you fancy good syrah, take this one seriously, its modest price notwithstanding, and expect it to repay three to five of cellaring with handsome dividends. BTW, the wine is the result of teamwork between renowned winemaker Jeff Pisoni and Master Sommelier Sara Floyd.

\$24.50 reg \$21.60 sale \$18.90 case AHD8

Vinca Minor 2017 Carignane

Old vine and dry farmed with native yeast fermentation and 100% destemmed. Pressed dry into neutral French oak. Bottled un-fined and unfiltered. Lovely, with bright red fruits (sour cherry), with notes of fennel and sage. Just 750 cases produced.

\$26.00 reg \$22.90 sale \$20.00 case AHD9

Weingut Brennfleck, 2017 Anna-Lena, Silvaner Kabinett

This is a dry Franconian wine in the Bocksbeutel Clear with light green reflections, this wine presents itself in the glass. Its scent of flowers, apple and citrus fruits is incomparable. The bright fresh fruity taste displays an engaging texture punctuated with mineral traces and a hint of honeysuckle/orange blossom pops up mid-palate. A fine balance characterizes this wine as one of the best. A great 'entertainer' - but also harmonizes perfectly with light meat, vegetables, as well as classic asparagus dishes.

\$24.00 reg \$21.15 sale \$18.50 case AHD10

Table 2 Dreyfus Ashby & Company

Boomtown 2016 Pinot Gris

This appealing white wine from Walla Walla-based Dusted Valley Vintners is packed with mouth-watering pear and Fuji apple flavors along with a touch of citrus and bracing acidity on the finish". Crisp and refreshing flavors makes this your go to white wine that's absolutely right for any occasion.

\$17.95 reg **\$15.80 sale** **\$13.85 case** **DA1**

Domaine de la Solitude 2016 Cotes du Rhône Rouge

Ripe and direct, with a tasty core of fresh plum, cassis and raspberry purée flavors laced with black tea and anise notes, offering a silky-edged feel through the finish. The blend is 60% grenache, 30% syrah and 10% mourvèdre, with malolactic fermentation occurring soon after the completion of alcoholic fermentation. Aging was in vats for a period of 8 months, with wines from the different vineyard parcels and different grape varieties kept separate, and blending completed after the aging period. Named by the Wine Spectator as one of their 11 Exciting French Reds for Under \$30

\$19.50 reg **\$17.15 sale** **\$15.00 case** **DA2**

Domaine de la Solitude 2017 Cotes du Rhône Blanc

The blend is grenache blanc, clairette, roussanne, and viognier. Rounded and open, with friendly peach and honeysuckle notes and a breezy, almond-accented finish. The malolactic fermentation is blocked for this wine resulting in its crisp balance. Aging occurs in stainless steel for a period of 8 months before bottling. Drink now.

\$18.95 reg **\$16.75 sale** **\$14.65 case** **DA3**

Joseph Drouhin 2017 St Véran

A textbook style, this displays crisp apple, lemon and lemon pith and subtle mineral flavors. Balanced, leaving a fresh, cleansing impression on the finish. This offering is one of the best and most traditional of the region. Picked by hand, the Chardonnay grapes are gently pressed then fermented in stainless steel so as not to hide the pure fruit flavors. Stylistically close to Pouilly-Fuissé, with its golden hue, its greenish reflection and its refreshing taste. Drink now through 2021

\$25.00 reg **\$22.00 sale** **\$19.25 case** **DA4**

Marlborough Estate Reserve 2017 Sauvignon Blanc

Plump and juicy, this offers a vibrant mix of passion fruit, lime and ruby grapefruit flavors. Bright and appealing, especially with the mouthwatering acidity on the finish. Drink now. 6,000 cases made.

Spectator – 90 Points/Best value.

\$17.95 reg **\$15.80 sale** **\$13.85 case** **DA5**

Row 503 Pinot Noir 2016

In the glass, Row 503 clearly conveys its Oregon roots. The color is a dark ruby red, the nose is layered and complex, and on the palate, one enjoys dark berry fruits, blue fruits, cola notes and a touch of spice. Shows good energy and lift to the subtle raspberry and floral pastille flavors; a hint of bitter orange zest adds back-end cut. Closes taut, spicy and long, with fine-grained tannins adding shape and grip. Santé!

There's real value here.

\$23.00 reg **\$20.25 sale** **\$17.75 case** **DA6**

Table 3 Woodberry Wines

Domaine Haut Bridau 2017 Picpoul de Pinet

This truly is summer in a bottle from the south of France. The wine is bright crisp, and clear with a citrus and floral nose reminiscent of hawthorn and lime tree fragrances. It has a medium weight, with a lively and very fresh citrusy mouth, harmonious acidity, plus roundness with a cleansing effect. From the Languedoc, France.

\$11.99 reg **\$10.60 sale** **\$9.25 case** **WW1**

Ensédune 2016 Muscat Sec

I especially love the aromatics on this wine. It has an explosive nose dominated by bergamot and lemon, lime, floral, plus citrus notes, with a hint of spiciness and vanilla in the finish. Very fresh, elegant, and delicious on the palate with a complex finish of candied citrus fruits, peony, eucalyptus, and lilac. From Southwestern France, this one has a lot going on!!

\$17.95 reg **\$15.80 sale** **\$13.85 case** **WW2**

Isaac Fernandez Selections 2016 Acentor Garnacha

From the Calatayud D.O. in Spain, the garnacha is from 50+ year-old, bush vines at an altitude of 750-900 meters in iron-rich red clay soil with abundant surface stones. Destemmed grapes are fermented in cement tanks and aged for 5 months in used, 50% French and 50% American oak barrels. It has that wonderful nose of warm earth followed by a richly textured, lushly fruited palate. Fairly low acidity and so, so easy to drink.

\$17.50 reg **\$15.40 sale** **\$13.50 case** **WW3**

Desert Wind Winery 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, Wahluke Slope

A cabernet under \$25?? Unbelievable. The blend is 86% cabernet sauvignon, 14% merlot. The wine is fermented in stainless steel tanks, aged for 14-16 months, with time on French oak to add additional complexity and enhance the mouthfeel. Notes of dark cherry, blackberry, black currant and vanilla punctuated with a bit of spice, medium acidity and moderate tannins. It has a silky, but structured finish. Just 5,000 cases produced. Double Gold Medal - 2018 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. From Washington State.

\$21.50 reg **\$18.95 sale** **\$16.55 case** **WW4**

Luccarelli 2017 Primitivo

Here we have a cracking Italian primitivo that comes from Puglia which is in southern Italy, located in the heel portion of the country. This wine has black cherry, plum and spice aromas on the nose. Semi-opaque with a palate which is dry, medium bodied and has ripe black fruit flavors with a bit of spice plus balanced acidity and fresh finish. Overall this is a very drinkable wine with great character.

\$15.95 reg \$14.10 sale \$12.35 case WW5

The Meeker Vineyard NV Roller Coaster Red Lot #10

This wonderful blend is made from surplus juice after bottling: mostly merlot, cabernet sauvignon, petite sirah, and zinfandel. It opens up with a nose of berries, coffee, cola and earth. On the palate, black cherry, blackberry cobbler and spice are surrounded by toasty French oak and notes of vanilla. It is full bodied with a long lingering finish that lasts way after the ride is over. Only 300 cases produced. From Dry Creek, Sonoma, California at an amazing price.

\$17.95 reg \$15.80 sale \$13.85 case WW6

Château Le Bordeaux de Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc 2017, Pessac-Léognan

Classic white Bordeaux is 80% sauvignon blanc, 20% sémillon grown in soils of sand and clay-limestone. It has a moderately expressive nose, and is crisp and evenly balanced and medium weight. Delicate, fresh and delightful. A perfect aperitif and excellent paired with seafood or mature cheeses.

\$18.95 reg \$16.75 sale \$14.65 case WW7

Les Amours d’Haut Gleon Rosé 2018 – IGP Pays d’Oc

This enchanting rosé is a blend of syrah and grenache with touch of malbec. Delicate with a fresh nose of berries and citrus notes with a floral touch. Dry with a bit of richness, so it is not totally austere, but inviting. Elegant with nicely balanced acidity and a long finish. This will be perfect with any tapas, appetizers, salads and grilled fish, or nothing at all. Exclusive @ The Wine Sellers in Harbor Country. From Southwest France

\$15.00 reg \$13.20 sale \$11.55 case WW8

Table 4 Great Lakes Wine & Spirits

Castello Di Luzzano 2017 Tasto di Seta

Giovannella Fugazza's Colli Piacentini Malvasia Tasto di Seta is a bright and luminous white wine that offers fragrant aromas of field flower and peach blossom. There are drying mineral notes on the close with exotic fruit and honeydew melon. This is an easy-drinking white with just enough aromatic power to pair with dishes based on fresh basil leaf or cilantro. The bouquet on the nose is intense, aromatic, floral with hints of acacia, cypress and mint. On the palate it is soft, well balanced, with a pleasant aromatic long finish. This wine is excellent as an aperitif; pairs well with risottos, fresh pasta dishes, egg and vegetables, fish, cold cuts and white meats.

\$24.50 reg \$21.60 sale \$18.90 case GL1

Cline 2016 Mourvèdre, Ancient Vines

This wine offers distinct chocolate characteristics, luscious deep plum, and concentrated cherry. This scrumptious and unusually delightful wine has a substantial mouth-feel followed by soft tannins. The fruit is sourced from some of Cline's oldest, most historic and shyest-bearing vineyards. These blocks produce fruit of stunning concentration. This concentration is a result of sensitive farming practices, the singular Oakley terroir, and a unique cooling band of air that flows in from the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. These grapes hold characteristics of dark, dusty berry fruit.

\$18.95 reg \$16.75 sale \$14.65 case GL2

Erath Winery 2017 Rosé of Pinot Noir

The epitome of freshness, this peppery rosé titillates the senses with aromas of nectarine, rose petal and ripe, juicy Casaba melon. Buoyant acidity provides long-lasting flavors of apricot, tangelo and Fuji apple. Food pairings: a variety of artisan charcuterie and cheeses; wild, simply-grilled Pacific Northwest salmon. Oregon

\$16.95 reg \$14.95 sale \$13.10 case GL3

Tenet Le Fervent 2014

The blend is 87% syrah, 10% grenache, 32% mourvèdre, 3% viognier (co-fermented with syrah). Produced in the Costières de Nîmes AOC (the southern-most appellation in the Rhône Valley) on some of the coolest spots of the Southern Rhône, thanks to the influence from the Mediterranean Sea, syrah and a bit of viognier are co-fermented and accompanied by whole cluster (stem inclusion) maceration. These techniques highlight the mineral nature of the fruit, while increasing the overall impression of freshness. On palate, rich with plump dark berry fruit, some leathery/gamey notes. Very French. Yum.

\$24.50 reg \$21.60 sale \$18.90 case GL4

Loveblock 2018 Sauvignon Blanc

Winemaker Notes: The Loveblock Farm is perched on top of the hills overlooking Marlborough's Awatere Valley, far removed from the agricultural bustle below. They are the custodians of this wild, rugged piece of land. Their responsibility is to respect its rhythm, making wines sustainably with love of the land. This wine has lifted aromatics of lychee, white peach, pineapple, and elderflower on the nose. An elegant and contemplative palate follows on with the cantaloupe, Cape gooseberry and crushed, sweet meadow grass. It has a lovely, viscous texture and tingly acidity. It's a highly likable, mouthwatering drop. Match with oysters, seafood, pasta and chicken...or sip all by itself. Critical Acclaim: WE90Wine Enthusiast

\$26.00 reg \$22.90 sale \$20.00 case GL5

Michele Chiarlo 2017 Gavi Le Marne

100% cortese grown near the town of Gavi, where calcareous clay, volcanic, iron and chalky limestone soils together with the area's mediating Mediterranean breezes and cool mountain winds create an ideal microclimate for growing this grape to optimal ripeness. The grapes are pressed without crushing, and the must is cold settled before undergoing a low-temperature fermentation. The wine is aged on the lees in stainless steel tanks until bottling. The wine shows citrus and mineral aromas and flavors on a palate of medium body and bright acidity before a lengthy finish. Ideally paired with grilled or roasted white meats, deep sea fish and shellfish.

\$26.00 reg \$22.90 sale \$20.00 case GL6

Mt. Beautiful 2016 Riesling

From the winemaker: the riesling is our baby, in the sense that it was the first wine we produced and launched to the public. It is a purely textural adventure, ripe with off-dry flavors of honeysuckle, lime, and winter sweet flower. The citrus notes meld together with crisp, minerality, and a complex ripe apple character. It finishes with a beautiful, lingering acidity. This is achieved by blending together two distinct blocks of riesling from our vineyard. Limited: just 1100 cases produced. From North Canterbury, New Zealand

\$25.00 reg \$22.00 sale \$19.25 case GL7

Résonance 2016 Pinot Noir

2016 was an exceptional growing season. The nose is very fruity, with both red and black fruit, and has delicate spices—licorice and cinnamon—and floral notes. The palate reveals a balanced wine, with an excellent freshness enhanced by lacy minerality, savory, earthy notes and the delicate flavors of cherries, blackberries, and raspberries. Burgundian styling. Just 4000 cases produced. From Willamette Valley, Oregon

\$39.50 reg**\$34.75 sale****\$30.40 case****GL8****Sterling Vintners Collection 2017 Chardonnay Aluminum Bottle**

On your way to the beach? Picnic-ing? These chillable half bottles could not be more perfect! Light, easy drinking California chardonnay. The fruit for this wine was sourced from multiple Central Coast vineyards, including southern Monterey County, Paso Robles and Edna Valley. Each area bringing its own local terroir to the wine. Tropical and tree fruit on the nose and on the palate, accented with citrus. Although the wine saw a bit of wood aging, it is very subtle and does not interfere with the with the fruit.

\$9.95 reg**\$8.80 sale****\$7.70 case****GL9**

Table 5 Imperial Beverage

Ballentine Estate Grown 2016 Zinfandel

This zinfandel has blueberry/blackberry components and some bright raspberry spiciness. 2016 is an exceptionally floral vintage with classic flavors of black cherry, plums, clove, and fresh rose petals. The palate's nature is silky texture, accented with a bit of smoke and a hint of pepper on the finish. Acclaim: Smart Buys under \$30, 91 points, Wine Spectator | Double Gold, San Francisco Chronicle Wine Tasting

\$28.00 reg **\$24.65 sale** **\$21.55 case** **IB1**

Blackbilly 2017 Pinot Gris

Pinot Gris is an emerging variety in Australia but is famous in other regions of the world. Blackbilly wine is produced using the famous vineyards of McLaren Vale and the Fleurieu Peninsula known for wines of richness and diversity. Using modern winemaking and traditional winemaking techniques these wines have exceptional value and flavor for drinking and enjoyment. This vintage of Blackbilly Pinot Gris is rich and round and beautifully textured with a bit of plump, juicy tree fruit. The wine underwent full malolactic fermentation but is made in a crisp, dry style that develops with bottle age. Very inviting.

\$25.00 reg **\$22.00 sale** **\$19.25 case** **IB2**

Bodegas Naia 2017 Las Brisas

Absolutely summer in this bottle. The blend is 50% verdejo, 40% viura, 10% sauvignon blanc. Nose has aromas of white fruit combined with notes of lime and pineapple. Fresh, suggestive, long and elegant on the palate, the wine is rounded, fresh, and silky with pineapple, broiled grapefruit and limey citrus fruit tones and nuances of peach nectar and ginger. Las Brisas emerges from the origins of Naia, with a verdejo baseline but with an international character. It is a multivarietal wine designed from the vineyard with the aim of capturing the interest of the more international tastes.

\$14.95 reg **\$13.20 sale** **\$11.55 case** **IB3**

Familia Montaña 2017 Blanco

50% viura from vines planted in 1953 and 50% garnacha blanca from vines planted in 1935, both parcels at high elevation in Rioja Alta. Partially aged in new French oak, this wine offers minerality with creamy texture from the old vines and a deft touch of spice from the wood. Mouth-filling, integrated with a hint of white flowers and a splash of lime. Refreshing with good length on the palate.

\$24.00 reg **\$21.15 sale** **\$18.50 case** **IB4**

Familia Montaña 2016 Rioja Crianza

97% tempranillo, 3% graciano, aged 12 months in seasoned French oak. Spice and leather complement the deep blackberry fruit and ferrous minerality of Rioja's red soils. Packed with flavor, mouth-filling yet fresh, with the structure for improving in the bottle for a number of years. Really nicely balanced.

\$18.95 reg **\$16.75 sale** **\$14.65 case** **IB5**

Domaine Faillenc Sainte Marie Noé 2013

An intense and weighty, bold wine balanced by tart acidity. Gobs of rich, dark fruit with some meaty/leathery notes accented by sweet, herbal notes. The fruit is from mostly 100-year-old carignan. Wow! Big finish. From Languedoc Rousillon, Corbières, France

\$18.95 reg **\$16.75 sale** **\$14.65 case** **IB6**

Höepler Pannonica 2014 Red Blend

A light-hearted Austrian blend of 40% blaufränkisch, 35% zweigelt, 25% pinot noir. This wine could not be more fun! Soft, fleshy, juicy black and red cherry and raspberry fruit swishes on nose and fluid palate. Has exciting tinges of white pepper and a squeeze of tangerine. The body is fresh and medium/light, the finish is refreshing. This is a fun red wine, superbly suited for the upcoming festive season. Delicious to drink on its' own but with enough fleshy fruit and spice to pair beautifully with a range of different dishes. Cellar temperature will reward. No. 36 Top 100 BEST BUYS World Wide for 2018 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. From Breitenbrunn, Austria

\$14.95 reg **\$13.20 sale** **\$11.55 case** **IB7**

Luzôn 2017 Monastrell

Intense purple in color, this potent Monastrell is elegant on the nose with aromas reminiscent of dark red fruits such as cherries, strawberries and black plums and a spicy finish. On the palate, it is juicy and fresh and fleshy with dark red fruit throughout, dry from mid-palate through the long and vibrant finish. From Jumilla.

\$11.95 reg **\$10.60 sale** **\$9.25 case** **IB8**

Masciarelli Trebbiano D'Abruzzo

Fresh, flavorful and more serious than nearly all Italian white wines at this price point, Masciarelli has shown the world that the special clone of Trebbiano in Abruzzo can make some of the finest white wine in Italy. This delightfully expressive wine of 100% Trebbiano d'Abruzzo combines stone fruit with a round, concentrated mid-palate due to the clay content of the soil in which it is grown. The long finish displays the minerality of the wine attributed to the lime deposits found throughout Abruzzo.

\$15.00 reg**\$13.20 sale****\$11.55 case****IB9****Rocca di Montegrossi 2016 Chianti Classico**

This is the estate's flagship wine; it is a blend of about 90% sangiovese, with canaiolo and colorino. It ages mainly in large casks and barrels made with Allier oak for 12-14 months. It is unfiltered, and after bottling it ages another 6 months prior to release. In the glass it is lively ruby, with bright violet reflections, and on the nose displays the rich fruity aromas typical of the varietals, particularly forest berry fruit and sour cherries. On the palate it is refined and graceful and well structured, with nice tannins and savory notes. Cool acidity propels the flavors through a long, satisfying finish. From Tuscany, Italy. Critical Acclaim: WS92 Wine Spectator

\$24.00 reg**\$21.15 sale****\$18.50 case****IB10**

ADDITIONAL NOTES