

Wine & Spirits

SPECIAL ISSUE

32nd Annual
BUYING GUIDE

TOP 100 WINERIES

TOP 100 Wines
of 2018



Five of our
Top 100
Wineries



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Wine & Spirits PREMIER CRU

The wineries that
have earned the most
Top 100 awards.

26 Awards

Penfolds (2018)

Benchmarks: South Australia Grange Bin 95,
Bin 707 Cabernet, St. Henri Shiraz, RWT Bin 798

24 Awards

Concha y Toro (2019)

Benchmarks: Casablanca Terrunyo Sauvignon
Blanc, Peumo Terrunyo Carmenère, Carmín de
Peumo, Alto Maipo Don Melchor

22 Awards

Chateau Ste. Michelle (2017)

Benchmarks: Columbia Valley Eroica, Eroica
Gold, Eroica Single Berry Select

21 Awards

Antinori (2019)

Benchmarks: Toscana Solaia, Tignanello,
Guado al Tasso

19 Awards

Ridge (2018)

Benchmarks: Santa Cruz Mountains Monte
Bello, Monte Bello Chardonnay, Lytton Springs

18 Awards

Boutari (2019)

Benchmarks: Naoussa Grande Reserve,
Santorini (classic and Kallisti Reserve)

17 Awards

Shafer (2015)

Benchmarks: Stags Leap District Hillside
Select, One Point Five Cabernet

Iron Horse (2019)

Benchmarks: Green Valley Brut LD, Joy! (in
magnum), Classic Vintage Brut

16 Awards

Louis Jadot (2018)

Benchmarks: Chevalier-Montrachet Les
Demoiselles, Bâtard-Montrachet, Meursault
1er Cru Gouttes d'Or and Charmes, Beaune
1er Cru Clos des Ursules, Bonnes Mares,
Grands Echezeaux

Louis Roederer (2019)

Benchmarks: Champagne Brut Cristal, Cristal
Rosé, Vintage Brut, Vintage Rosé, Brut Nature
Philippe Starck

Bouchard Père & Fils (2019)

Benchmarks: Chevalier-Montrachet, Beaune
Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus, Chapelle-Chambertin,
Corton-Charlemagne

15 Awards

Diamond Creek (2019)

Benchmarks: Diamond Mountain District Cab-
ernets from Volcanic Hill, Red Rock
Terrace, Gravelly Meadow

14 Awards

Von Strasser (2018)

Benchmarks: Diamond Mountain District
Reserve, Estate Vineyard Cabernet, Post
Vineyard Cabernet

Qupé (2015)

Benchmarks: Santa Maria Bien Nacido
Hillside Estate and X-Block Syrahs, Bien
Nacido Block 11 Chardonnay, Sawyer
Lindquist Vineyard Syrah and Grenache

Joseph Phelps (2017)

Benchmarks: Napa Valley Insignia, Napa
Valley Merlot, Sonoma Coast Freestone
Chardonnay

Catena Zapata's Adrianna
Vineyard in Argentina

L'Ecole No 41 (2016)

Benchmarks: Walla Walla Valley Pepper Bridge Vineyard Apogee, Seven Hills Perigee, Ferguson Vineyard

Krug (2018)

Benchmarks: Champagne Vintage Brut, Brut Rosé, Clos du Mesnil, Grande Cuvée

Storybook Mountain (2019)

Benchmarks: Napa Valley Estate Reserve Zinfandel, Eastern Exposures Zinfandel

Williams Selyem (2019)

Benchmarks: Sonoma Coast Pinot Noirs from Hirsch, Precious Mountain and Russian River Valley Rochioli Riverblock

13 Awards

Andrew Will (2018)

Benchmarks: Horse Heaven Hills Sorella, Champoux Vineyard, Red Mountain Ciel du Cheval Vineyard

C. von Schubert (2018)

Benchmarks: Mosel Maximin Grünhauser Rieslings from Herrenberg and Abtsberg

Flowers (2015)

Benchmarks: Sonoma Coast Chardonnay, Camp Meeting Ridge Chardonnay, Sea View Ridge Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

12 Awards

Niepoort (2016)

Benchmarks: Douro Charme and Batuta, Vintage Port, Colheita Port

E. Guigal (2017)

Benchmarks: Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Côte Rôtie Château d'Ampuis, Condrieu La Doriane

De Loach (2013)

Benchmarks: Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, OFS Zinfandel

CVNE (2017)

Benchmarks: Rioja Imperial Gran Reserva, Viña Real Gran Reserva and Real de Asúa

M. Chapoutier (2007)

Benchmarks: Ermitage L'Ermité, Côte Rôtie La Mordorée, Ermitage Blanc Le Méal

Beringer (2014)

Benchmarks: cabernets including Napa Valley Private Reserve and Knights Valley

Robert Mondavi (2019)

Benchmarks: Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet, Oakville To Kalon Fumé Blanc

Ravenswood (2019)

Benchmarks: Sonoma Valley Old Hill Vineyard Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley Teldeschi Vineyard Zinfandel, Sonoma Mountain Pickberry Vineyard

Catena Zapata (2019)

Benchmarks: Mendoza Alta Malbec, Gualtallary Adrianna Malbec

11 Awards

Dr. Loosen (2016)

Benchmarks: Mosel Prädikat rieslings from Wehlener Sonnenuhr and Urziger Würzgarten, Gold Capsule Erdener Prälät

Henschke (2017)

Benchmarks: Eden Valley Hill of Grace, Cyril Henschke Cabernet, Mount Edystone Shiraz, Julius Riesling

Gary Farrell (2008)

Benchmarks: Russian River Valley Rochioli Vineyard Pinot Noir and Chardonnay

Aveleda (2012)

Benchmarks: Quinta da Aveleda Vinho Verde and Alvarinho

King Estate (2019)

Benchmark: Willamette Valley Domaine Pinot Gris

10 Awards

Santa Rita (2011)

Benchmarks: Maipo Valley Casa Real Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo Valley Triple C

Kendall-Jackson (2012)

Benchmarks: Alexander Valley Hawkeye Mountain Cabernet, Knights Valley Trace Ridge Cabernet

Frog's Leap (2018)

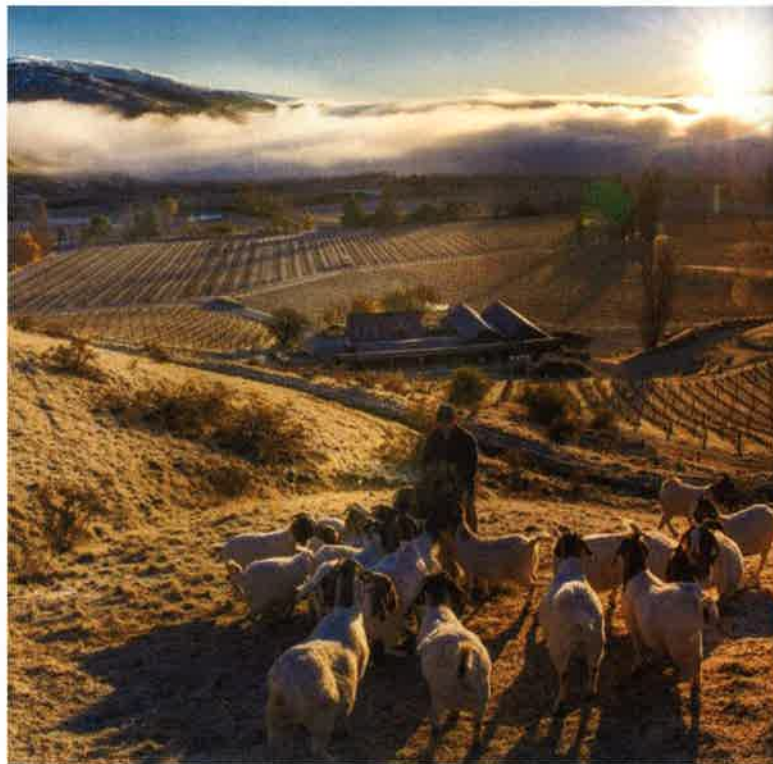
Benchmarks: Rutherford Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc, Rutherford Cabernet, Napa Valley Zinfandel

Yalumba (2019)

Benchmarks: The Vigilius Viognier, Barossa Old Bush Vine Grenache, The Octavius Shiraz

Each winery appears with the number of *Top 100* awards earned since the 1988 Buying Guide, the first, to this issue, 2019. The year of the most recent award appears in parentheses.

To view a complete list of awards for each winery, visit wineandspiritsmagazine.com.





Wine & Spirits

TOP 100 WINERIES

of 2018

Our Top 100 Wineries are playing at the top of their game: They astonished our tasting panels and critics any number of times this year. It's not easy to do in the midst of more than 15,000 wines. They come from all around the world, from Napa Valley and New York State, from the Andes and remote corners of northwest Spain. You may already know some of the Top 100, such as Marchesi Antinori, which marks its 21st appearance on the list, or Concha y Toro, on its 24th. Others are joining the list for the first time, like Rose & Arrow, a new Oregon venture from Mark Tarlov, or Rotem & Mounir Saouma, a young winery in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. We present the US wineries first, followed by the winners from Europe, then the Southern Hemisphere. Their consistency across a range of wines makes them great producers to explore, whether on wine lists, in specialty shops, or in your own private cellar.

Reported by Patrick J. Comiskey, Joshua Greene, Stephanie Johnson, Karen Money maker, Patricio Tapia, Rachel DelRocco Terrazas and Tara Q. Thomas.

Clockwise from top left: Buena Vista Winery, Laurence Féraud (Domaine du Pégau), Domaine de la Vougeraie, Felton Road, Steve James (Voyager Estate) and Cathy Corison (Corison Wines).

Boutari

NAOUSSA | SANTORINI | MANTINIA

Boutari puts out a portfolio of wines that highlights Greece's best varieties and appellations.

This is the 18th time that Boutari has ranked among the *W&S* Top 100 Wineries of the Year, an outstanding achievement for a winery anywhere, let alone in a country with a modern wine industry as young as that of Greece. The majority of the credit for this falls to Constantine and Yiannis Boutari, who set out in the 1980s to elevate their family winery in Naoussa while assembling a team to canvass Greece for other promising terroirs. The company's investment in Santorini in the late eighties kicked off a revival that put Greece on the modern-day wine map; and the team revived Goumenissa, a small area northeast of Naoussa nearly forgotten by then. Today, Constantine Boutari runs the company with the help of his daughters, and CEO/winemaker Yannis Voyatzis, who has worked with the family since 1984. That team continues to prove the potential of Greece's vineyards in both classic wines and fascinating explorations of native grapes. —T.Q.T.



Dr. Yannis Voyatzis



2011 Naoussa Grande Reserve (\$32, 95 points) This is Boutari's flagship wine, made from xinomavro culled from the vineyards surrounding its main winery in northern Greece. It's not superconcentrated, like many versions of Naoussa today; nor is it leafy and thin. Rather, the Grande Reserve transmits its power in its truffled scent and spicy fruit, the tangy, earthy flavors evoking the region's fog-covered hill-sides in autumn. Those flavors last, along with firm, ferrous tannins that promise to hold the wine strong for the next decade.

2017 Santorini Assyrtiko (\$35, 90 points) Boutari's work on Santorini in the late 1980s and early 1990s spurred the renaissance of winemaking on the island. The winery still puts out a defining Santorini, less severe than many stainless steel-fermented versions, yet with plenty of saline minerality.

2017 Mantinia Oropedio (\$16, 90 points) The Boutaris hoped moschofilero might replace pinot grigio as a go-to aperitif in the new millennium, promoting the floral grape's charms with a floral-patterned bottle. Meanwhile, their research department was experimenting with other variations, from oaked versions to late-harvest styles. Oropedio proves moschofilero's ability to make a serious, savory white. Half the blend fermented in stainless steel, half in old oak barrels, combining in a firm, dry and mineral white with the variety's floral scents and notes of lemon oil, lime zest and cumin spice.

Founded: 1879 • **Owner:** The Boutari family • **Winemakers:** Dr. Yannis Voyatzis, Vasilis Georgiou, Alexandros Tzachristas • **Viticulturists:** Dimitris Taskos, Paraskeas Evaggeiou, Petros Vamvakousis
Acres owned: 125 • **Annual production:** 260,000 cases • **Estate grown:** 17% • **Importer:** Terlato Wines Int'l, Lake Bluff, IL



Matthew Argyros makes some of Santorini's finest modern white wines while upholding a tradition for long-lived Vinsantos.

Argyros is a revered name on Santorini. Yiorgos Argyros established his winery in 1903, and his son expanded the estate, collecting vineyards abandoned after the earthquake of 1956. His son, Yiannis Argyros, took over in 1974, and continued to amass vineyards in an effort to preserve the old vines; in the island's phylloxera-free sandy soils, some vines have root systems that may well be more than 300 years old. Today, Yiannis's son Matthew oversees 300 acres of vines, 129 of those estate-owned. He uses that fruit to craft a range of wines, from Atlantis, a gently-priced assyrtiko-based blend, to a rare single-variety aidani and a barrel-fermented, estate-grown Santorini. He's also the guardian of his father's legacy with Vinsanto, the island's sweet wine. Yiannis Argyros was a perfectionist when it came to clean fruit, and a virtuoso in blending parcels to build complexity. After a long, slow fermentation with ambient yeasts followed by years of mellowing in small wooden barrels, his Vinsantos last for decades. Matthew works in the same vein, tending wines that have been aging in barrel since 1974, releasing them when he finds fit. This year, those releases included a 2001 and a 1992, stunning wines that speak to the distinctive character of this island's terroir, as well as the talent and devotion of those who spend their lives working with it. —T.Q.T.



1992 Santorini Vinsanto 20 Years Barrel Aged (\$150, 100 points) With 255 grams per liter of residual sugar, this Vinsanto is technically off the charts in sweetness. But in the midst of the cathedral of rich flavors—dark, figgy fruit building into notes of dried cherries, salt, herbs and candied orange peel—a beam of acidity brings light and openness to the wine's structure. Argyros's best Vinsantos can age for 30 years or more: This is one of them.

2001 Santorini Vinsanto 12 Years Barrel Aged (\$100, 96 points) With less time in barrel, the 12 Years is brighter in flavor but no less hedonistic than the 1992. It's as creamy and dense as a warm salted caramel, with a similarly luxurious texture, and it's packed with flavors, from fresh apricot to notes of burnt orange, cinnamon, leather and citrus zest, that take the edge off the sweetness. It, too, will age well for decades.

2016 Santorini Estate Argyros Assyrtiko (\$28, 90 points) Matthew Argyros crafts this wine from his oldest vines and vinifies about ten percent in old oak barrels. The acidity gives the lemony fruit a brightness and crisp snap, while any richness from the oak reads only in the wine's warm embrace. It's ready now, for a grilled whole fish.

Founded: 1903 • **Owner/winemaker/viticulturist:** Matthew Argyros
Acres owned: 129 • **Annual production:** 42,679 cases • **Estate grown:** N/A • **Importer:** Craft + Estate/The Winebow Group, NY

Wine & Spirits

TOP 100 WINES

of 2018

Some people think it's only the big, bold wines that stand out in panel tastings. That's not how it works out at *W&S*. We find even subtle great wines have the power to silence a table of tasters and compel us to slow down and take a closer look. Often, these wines are the ones that encourage the most conversation as well: They capture our imagination, excite us, and make us want to share them with others.

We devote this section to the wines that brought the most excitement to our tastings over the last 12 months, the ones that stood out among the 15,000-plus that landed on our tasting tables in NYC and LA. **Patrick J. Comiskey** and **Joshua Greene** review the US wines; **Greene** also covers imported wines along with critics **Stephanie Johnson**, **Patricio Tapia** and **Tara Q. Thomas**. We've listed our respective territories on page 12.

peppercorns and chalk; the acidity whisks through it like a cool breeze, ruffling those gauzy layers and sending them soaring. For lift and elegance, this is hard to beat, especially if there's Dungeness crab or sashimi to match. (W&S 2/18) *Massanois Imports, NY*

BEST RHEINHESSEN RIESLING

96 | Dreissigacker \$60
2013 Rheinhessen Bechthimer Geyersberg QbA Trocken After working with Rheinhessen star winemaker Klaus-Peter Keller, Jochen Dreissigacker returned to his family's estate in 2001 and set about converting its 51 acres to organic viticulture. Working in the winery with ambient yeasts, gentle pressings and old, large casks, he turned out a trocken riesling in 2013 that feels like it might last for 20 years or more. While it shows its maturity in its rich yellow hue and warm grilled-fruit flavors, it tastes tangy and alive, a lean, stony wine with a mouthwatering salinity. That briny note seems to propel the flavors like water over river stones, a constant, steady flow with clarity and direction, ever-refreshing. (W&S 2/18) *Schatzi Wines, NY*

BEST RHEINGAU RIESLING



97 | Robert Weil \$320
2016 Rheingau Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Beerenauslese The spring of 2016 didn't start out auspiciously: It rained from mid-May through June. But the berries that made it through enjoyed a warm, sunny spell that lasted through August, followed by the warmest September Wilhelm Weil can remember. That weather allowed him to wait for a prodigiously ripe BA. What's most impressive, however, is how this wine delivers that sweetness: in a shimmery stream of satin-textured, multihued flavor. That flavor soars, the mineral tones magnifying and enhancing the fruit like a shower of sea salt. Everything is so perfectly balanced that the wine doesn't actually register as sweet; it's sumptuous, seamless, a thing of beauty. (W&S 2/18) *Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR*

GREECE

BEST SANTORINI

93 | Domaine Sigalas \$66
2016 Santorini 7 Villages Vourvoulos Culled from a collection of parcels in Vourvoulos, a warm spot inland from Imerovigli, this is one of the most generous and expansive wines in Sigalas's 7 Villages collection, the fruit tropical in its ripeness and pumped up by ample alcohol (14.4%). It might seem blowsy if it weren't for the salty grip of the acidity, which cinches the wine and holds it tight for several days once the bottle is opened. (W&S 8/18) *Diamond Importers, Chicago, IL*

BEST MALAGOUSIA

94 | Ktima Gerovassiliou \$24
2016 Epanomi Single Vineyard Malagousia "It's the Château Grillet of northern Greece," one taster remarked. Like that famous French viognier, this malagousia stakes its own place among the many in Greece with its satin texture and restrained floral notes. Gerovassiliou has been working with the variety since the 1970s, when he propagated it from an experimental plot at Porto Carras; it's now the leading variety at his 138-acre estate south of Thessaloniki. His 2016 is bright and fresh, with a sea-salt edge that suggests serving it al fresco with grilled fish. (W&S 8/18) *Cava Spiliadis, Astoria, NY*

BEST NAOUSSA

95 | Boutari \$32
2011 Naoussa Grande Reserve "This is like old-school '90s hip-hop," said Dimitrios Manousakis of *Grecia* in NYC. "It's classic—and shows why classics last." Tangy, earthy, spicy and smoky, the wine is filled with flavor yet carries itself with grace. From a long, even-keeled vintage, it feels fresh and fine, its vivid cherry flavors given dimension by notes of cherry pit and leaf, its truffle notes propelled toward freshness by vibrant acidity. The wine lasts on firm, ferrous tannins, the flavors fading slowly towards caramel and roasted nuts, salty and appealing. (W&S 8/18) *Terlato Wines Int'l, Lake Bluff, IL*

BEST DESSERT

100 | Estate Argyros \$150
1992 Santorini Vinsanto 20 Years Barrel Aged The tradition of Vinsanto on Santorini predates the sweet wine of Tuscany by the same name. Yiannis Argyros, who took

over his family's estate in 1974, gave careful consideration to the grapes that went into his Vinsanto, particularly the honeyed aidani and floral athiri, two varieties that play a supporting role to the assyrtiko that forms the wine's base. He also instituted an aging regimen in small, old barrels to create complex Vinsantos. This one, released by his son Mattheos, who now runs the estate, took at least two months to ferment, due to the sweetness of the sun-dried grapes, and then mellowed in barrel for 20 years. With 255 grams per liter of residual sugar, it's technically incredibly sweet. But in the midst of the cathedral of rich flavors—dark, figgy fruit building into notes of dried cherries, salt, herbs and candied orange peel—there's a beam of acidity that brings light and openness to the wine's structure. The wine feels at once fresh and mature—or ageless, really. Argyros's best Vinsantos can age for 30 years or more: This is one of them. (W&S 8/18) *Craft + Estate/The Winebow Group, NY*

ITALY

BEST FRIULI WHITE

96 | Skerk \$33
2015 Venezia Giulia Malvazija Sandi Skerk ferments the malvasia grapes for this wine on the skins for ten days, punching down the cap four or five times a day, to coax an astonishing range of flavors from the fruit while maintaining impeccable clarity and balance. His vines are rooted in a thin layer of red soil over limestone on the terraced hillside below his cellar in Prepotto, a village in Friuli's Carso region that's less than half a mile from the Slovenian border. The warm 2015 growing season produced a wine with ripe flavors of peach, apricot and tangerine that provide a juicy balance to its chewy apricot-skin tannins. The flavors expand with exposure to air, revealing notes of ginger, chamomile and white pepper while maintaining gorgeous scents of orange blossom and honey. Densely concentrated yet graceful and energetic, the wine ends with savory notes that suggest it would match well with cured meats or even foie gras. (W&S 10/18) *T. Edward Wines, NY*

BEST PIEDMONT RED

97 | Sandrone \$170
2013 Barolo Aleste Aleste is the new identity for Luciano Sandrone's Cannubi Boschis Barolo, bottled since 1985 and renamed in 2013 for his grandchildren, Alessia and Stefano. The end of the 2013 growing season