



Faustino 1 2010 Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain (\$40) This blend of 86% Tempranillo, 9% Graciano, and 5% Mazuelo makes a regal entry. Coffee-kissed oak and deep blue and black berries offer intensity and density as churned soil demonstrates terroir, unmasking the wine's earthy nature. Slate and sage partner up on the finish. **94**

PACIFIC HIGHWAY WINE & SPIRITS



Flora Springs 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$50) Fruit sourced from two vineyards—one in Rutherford and one in Oakville—contributes prestigious terroir to this red, which aged 18 months in 70% French and 30% American oak. Notes of cigar leaf, black pepper, and bittersweet dark chocolate lead the way on the palate as black fruit weaves throughout with hints of cola and black coffee. The dry, dusty finish has a cedar twist. **92**



Signaterra by Benziger 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sunny Slope Vineyard, Sonoma Valley (\$59) Made with Demeter-certified Biodynamic grapes, the lushness of this wine is made up of peppered and spiced black fruit atop velvety tannins. What a glorious mouthfeel: Profound layers of tar, licorice, and black tea are sweetened by a glide of mocha and cedar. **94**



THE WINE GROUP



Notre Vue 2019 GSM, Chalk Hill, Sonoma County (\$69) Co-fermented in stainless steel, this blend of 51% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 29% Mourvèdre offers up wild strawberry and tart cherry on the nose and palate. White pepper surrounds notes of milk chocolate. Bright and lit from within, it's a beautifully crafted red that displays delicate jasmine and cigar leaf on the finish. **93**



Y. Rousseau 2018 The Musketeer Tannat, Napa Valley (\$75) Embodying the cheerful pun "all for wine and wine for all," Yannick Rousseau's interpretation of this swashbuckling variety intrigues. Built with blocks of concentrated red cherry, new leather, violets, and licorice-bathed slate, it demands attention. *En garde!* **93**



Acumen 2018 Mountain-side Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$65) Bright blue fruit and tart dark cherry engage lavishly with spiced cedar and a hint of ginger and orange peel. The wine is youthful but easy drinking, with tannins that dry the tongue—a testament to an inherent minerality with a brushy heather note. **94**



Round Pond Estate 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$75) From the winery's Rutherford and Oakville vineyards, this sturdy 90% Cabernet Sauvignon with Malbec, Petit Verdot, and Cab Franc showcases opulent black fruit and bright pomegranate. Espresso and a pop of black pepper weave through the curvaceous body. Jasmine-kissed cocoa pervades, leaving a persistent floral perfume and flavor. Aged 20 months in (65% new) tight-grain French oak. **96**



Lorenzi Estate Vineyards 2017 The Swale Petite Sirah, Temecula Valley (\$75) A depth of darkness shadows this big, bold red, in which wildflowers and plum are accented by a dash of black pepper. The fruit creates a chewy texture, and the tannins are sturdy and drying. A hint of tobacco leaf and cedar adds to the savory quality of this gorgeous wine, which saw the addition of 8% Zinfandel and spent 28 months in 100% French oak. **94**



Rodney Strong Vineyards 2016 Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County (\$75) The vineyard this wine hails from reaches elevations up to 1,030 feet above sea level. Scents of dried blackberry, black tea, mocha, and sandalwood lead to an impossibly satiny mouthfeel: It's dense and powerful yet opulent. Licorice and espresso make a fine pair with cherry-pith tannins. Aged for 26 months in French oak, the wine is round, not wound up. **95**



Grieve Family Winery 2018 Double Eagle Red, Napa Valley (\$89) Winemaker Philippe Melka composed this powerful, elegant blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Petit Verdot, aged 18 months in 67% new French oak. It's tightly wound in its youth, with chalky tannins, black pepper, and spiced cedar defining its textured entry. On the palate, the fruit ripens and becomes more balanced as it's joined by melt-in-your-mouth chocolate. **94**



Guarachi Family Wines 2017 G by Alex Guarachi Cabernet Sauvignon, Meadowrock Estate, Napa Valley (\$95) Spice, graphite, and dark, dense berries permeate this teeth-gripping, seductive 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from Guarachi's new high-elevation estate. Dried violets, crushed gravel, and boysenberry caress the plate, while red volcanic soils heighten the intensity of the wine's acidity as well as its tannic complexity. **98**



Vina Almagiva Winery 2018, Puente Alto, Chile (\$150) A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carménère, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot, this Franco-Chilean icon spent 18 months in new French oak and exhibits broad strokes of chocolate that melt across the palate, where they're spiced with cigar leaf and dried lavender. Elegant on all fronts: texture, balance, and luxury. **93**

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