



## Wine List

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A wine list is like a little collection, a private stash, a treasure one can't resist sharing. Wine, our most social beverage, pours out of a bottle like the stories that went into it, the tender but vigilant winemaker, the storied family home, be it a ranch, a bodega or a chateau, the very stones and earth that host the vines and give them reason to struggle. Every bottle is a little museum unto itself, and the bottles that fill a list carry their own stamp of selection, of having been intentionally collected and curated.

Abreo is the right size in the right place, with the perfect level of distinction, to warrant a wine list that feels like that favored spot you want to return to, the place where quality, considerate hospitality, and a friendly geekishness about food and wine prevail, with a list that's big but not huge, generous in its range but still idiosyncratic in its focus.

That reflects me. I really do geek out about wine, cheese, charcuterie, anything that reflects the uniqueness of place and a personal approach. I've collected matchbook covers and matchbox cars as a kid, glass and ceramics as an adult, and rocks I like all through my life. I've farmed, I cook, I explore the things that grow and get eaten or drunk. Here at Abreo, I'm pleased to offer you a collection of wines I care about, and I hope your choice adds pleasure to your table!

Dan Scroggins – Abreo Wine Curator

## Wines by the Glass

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### Sparkling and Rosés

**2015 Centorri Moscato, Italy**

8 | 28

Bright and silky, with lingering flavors of sweet honeycomb and hints of spring blossoms.

**Rivarose Brut Rose, n.v., Provence**

9 | 32

Made from Grenache and Cinsault grapes, it boasts wonderful integration of fruit and acid.

This will pair with virtually all of the plates, and with your best moods too.

**Maschio Prosecco, n.v., Italy**

9 \*6oz mini bottle

Lightly toasted almond and peach on the nose, racy citrus on the palate with a clean finish.

**2018 Rustenberg Petit Verdot Rosé, Stellenbosch, South Africa**

12 | 36

New World Wines can be so exciting, with experimentation and innovation building on skill and insight! In this delicious rosé, Petit Verdot takes a star turn, no longer the background blending grape. Salted minerality greets the nose and whets the appetite for the balanced play of expected flavors and unexpected nuances.

### Whites

**2017 Noble House Reisling, Mosel**

9 | 36

Aromas of crisp green apple and almond blossoms mark this very clean and poised Reisling.

The fruit and acid sit in relaxed balance, letting the sweet flavors feel more elegant than insistent.

**2018 Portlandia Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley**

10 | 40

Wine Spectator calls it festive! Bright zest jostles with juicy lemon meringue on crisp and playful acidity. The finish is lengthy and smooth, slowly drawing deeper citrus and tropical flavors.

**2016 Dry Creek Valley Fume (Sauvignon) Blanc, California**

10 | 40

A beautifully complex, layered wine that is nonetheless instantly refreshing and friendly!

Great balance of fruit to acid, with a warm and round finish that doesn't lose its satisfying minerality.

**2016 Broadside Wild Ferment Chardonnay, Paso Robles**

12 | 48

Buoyant and brimming with fresh life by virtue of wild fermentation, this Chardonnay sings, zings, and brings the vitality of summer to the table with you.

### Reds

**2016 Albertoni Merlot, California**

7 | 28

Floral and fruit aromas match to bright cherry flavor with touches of baking spices.

**2018 Cycles Gladiator Pinot Noir, California**

9 | 36

Exquisite balance and beautiful aromatics on lush and sweet notes of black cherry, mulled strawberry and a little hint of pomegranate. Mouth filling without being mouth coating, velvety but not smothering.

**2016 J. Dusi Model M, Paso Robles**

9 | 32

Named after the trusty tractor that works their fields, the Model M is driven by Zinfandel, lush and full in the Paso Robles style. Spice and full texture come with the addition of Syrah and Petite Sirah.

**2014 Printers Alley Red Blend, Paso Robles**

12 | 48

This Bordeaux-style blend unites classic varietals and a definite European winemaking sensibility with the terroir and climate of Paso Robles. Its palate yields rounded berry and cherry flavors.

**2015 Susana Balbo Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendoza**

12 | 48

A delicious value on high mountainside Cabernet! The high elevation fruit sings with flavor on well-defined but elegant and simple structure. Blueberry and blackberry ring out, and the background holds soft leather, floral bouquet and bracken notes that frame the fruit charmingly.

## Bubbles by the Bottle

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**Graham Beck Brut (NV), Robertson Valley, Western Cape** 32 (375 ml) | 56 (750 ml)

Dances in on aromas of brioche, apricot and mango, twirls with a lemon-lime zip and curtsies to a finish when the creamy mousse broadens and relaxes. A fine bubble structure with enduring effervescence, and classic notes of toast and pale almond complementing the glistening fruit. Choose your bottle size and start toasting!

**Dom Ruinart Blanc de Blanc (NV), Champagne** 116

Seamlessly structured with fine effervescence evoking citrus, almond and brioche. Very steady and nimble on the palate, speaking of both refinement and contained energy. There's a LOT of things you could toast with this bottle!

**Perrier Jouet Blason Rose, n.v., Champagne** 130

Mouthwatering and complete, with vigorous fruit, a touch of creaminess, and a depth most sparkling roses can't lay claim to. Expect crushed strawberry and delicate red apple tones on the nose.

## "OLD WORLD" Whites by the Bottle

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**2016 Gilet Vouvray, Loire Valley, France** 39

This is a delightful sipping wine that easily moves to dinner with you! Beginning just barely tart with spring apples, juicy and lively stone fruit then flows across the palate for a round and bright finish.

**2019 Brotte Viognier, Pays D'oc** 32

Great aromatics are the first thing to notice, and you're not wrong to spend an extra few seconds sniffing this wine. Tangerine and honeysuckle stand out to entice, backed by a broad range of fruit and floral notes. The Brotte drinks with verve and charge, giving seriousness to the pretty aromatics and layered fruit. A refreshing and clean mouthfeel recommend it even more as a wine that really delivers satisfaction.

**2017 Villa Raiano Bosco Satrano Fiano d'Avellino, Naples** 47

Rich texture and medium acidity mark this refreshing Fiano from a 2.5 acre plot outside of Naples. Melon, pear and marzipan dominate the bouquet, with added flavors of citrus and light pine on the palate. A year of aging on the fine lees adds a touch of creaminess that rides through the zesty finish. Great alone or with seafood, charcuterie and cheeses.

**2014 Domaine Stéphane Brocard, Pouilly-Fuissé, Burgundy** 58

Glossy, pale stone fruit, almost like flinty crystals of flavor, races across the palate in this exceedingly clean, exceedingly dry Chardonnay from Burgundy. It's got a refreshing edge you can just about teeter on, but you'll keep your balance and so will the wine.

**2016 Le Ferme du Mont "La Truffiere", Côtes du Rhône** 58

Don't let the reference to truffles pull you off course from this lively and delicious French blend. It shows straw, spring flowers and stone fruits on the nose, and drinks very generously with flavors of yellow apple touched by lavender and white pepper.

**2017 Domaine Latour-Giraud Chardonnay, Bourgogne** 106

Vineyards just outside of Meursault bring affordable class to the table. Both mellow and dry, the wine shows supple balance with a direct but delicate texture. A soft nuttiness pervades the lean and crisp profile. Barrel aging includes old and new oak, with the new oak defining the mellow aspect and tracing the thread of nuttiness. A great dinner wine.

## "NEW WORLD" Whites by the Bottle

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- 2019 Lamoreaux Landing Gewürztraminer, Finger Lakes** 43  
Sunny vineyards in a cool climate bring this Gewürztraminer to beautiful expression, with a very dry chiseled character carrying abundant perfume. It is seductively sweet on the palate, but almost in retrospect, so finely textured is the body. Flavors include ginger, grapefruit and rose. Bone dry, then sweet = beguilingly complex. Brilliant with spicy food.
- 2018 Hedges Family Estate CMS Sauvignon Blanc, Columbia Valley** 40  
What a great blend this is! A dose of Chardonnay and a dash of Marsanne temper Sauvignon Blanc's natural tension, adding a superb grace note to the wine's play on the palate. Aromas of apricot, white peach and marmalade give over to zippy lemon and fresh peach on sipping. This wine can be fittingly described as 'joyful', a pleasure to drink!
- 2018 Fleur Vermentino, Carneros** 46  
An Italian varietal brought to beautiful expression in Carneros, this wine opens like a friend's door, offering supple and broad notes of citrus and green apple in a very easy drinking wine. A background of stony minerals never dominates but keeps the fruit bright and buoyant.
- 2018 Jim Barry The Lodge Hill Riesling (DRY), Clare Valley, Australia** 45  
You can't fall in love without a first date. So, pick this up and get ready to tumble. What a sweet Riesling brings in fruit, a dry Riesling sublimates to precise expression and a near-magical gift for pairings. You don't lose fruit, you gain a structure to showcase it. It's nimble and always a step ahead, like Fred Astaire with a cane and a boater! Jim Barry pioneered the style in Clare Valley's high altitude extremes, and it's become a global hallmark for dry Riesling from new world vineyards.
- 2015 Au Bon Climat Pinot Gris/Pinot Blanc, Santa Barbara Country** 38  
"A well-exposed vineyard..." Au Bon Climat proves it here but deserves further plaudits for decades-long excellence in winemaking. Ripe nectarine dances on the floral bouquet. In the mouth, it beguiles like pranking twins, clean but with rich texture, nectar against racy acidity, confident in its contrasts and charm.
- 2018 Carol Shelton Coquille Blanc, Paso Robles** 60  
Here's a not-so-mad scientist at work in the cellar! Shelton is an acknowledged master with a scientific background and an intuitive sense about wine. This complex Rhône-style blend is classy and voluptuous, truly a red-wine-lover's white. Your nose will take in spiced pear, almond paste and honeysuckle, with the almond and pear flavors riding through a long journey across the palate. Full of nuance, and very definitely a Curator's Pick!
- 2016 Left Coast Truffle Hill Chardonnay, Willamette Valley** 54  
Simply elegant and expansive, unfurling flavors of apple, pear, spice and sweet hay after showcasing aromas of fig, cream and wildflowers. While rich, it stays vibrant and alluring, classy but flirtatious. Whether you just drink, dine, or even dance, here's a playful partner for your fun.
- 2013 Bouchaine Chardonnay, Carneros** 45  
From the first scents of buttercream, peach and wax, it's clear the Bouchaine is a relaxed styling of Chardonnay, but it holds its own in stately composition. Well-integrated acids thread through peach, pineapple and apple Danish flavors, keeping the wine lively and playful above its fuller body.
- 2014 Poseidon's Vineyard Chardonnay, Russian River** 48  
A full-bodied wine that benefits from delicate treatment of the oak. The care given in the winemaking gives the fruit and acid great nuance and a deep, enduring finish of generous warmth.
- 2016 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas Blanc, Paso Robles** 52  
Tablas Creek is highly regarded for Rhone-style bottlings of Paso Robles fruit, with delicate, invigorating nuances. The blend is white, with Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Rousanne, Marsanne and Clairette Blanche. This stately wine delivers apple and pear riddled with citrus, spices backed by cream, tropical notes, wet stone and a round ripe finish.

## "OLD WORLD" Reds by the Bottle

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- 2016 Collemattoni Rosso di Montalcino** 48  
Pretty, playful, and ready when the cork pops! Lingering aromas of black cherry and violet blossom wind around a firm palate that sails on a nice edge of subdued acids. Warm, soft, fruity and dry in the mouth, this wine is a winner with risotto, pasta, poultry and simple red meats.
- 2013 Prunotto Monferrato Mompertone, Langhe** 45  
Blending Barbera and Syrah, Prunotto has made a winning match! Barbera's light floral character binds to Syrah's racier structure and flavor profile, resulting in poise and tension that keep the wine focused. Nice extraction is met by steady grip, leading to a firm finish on strong fruit.
- 2013 August Kessler Pinot Noir, Rheingau** 60  
The pandemic brought a few strange gems out of storage as supply chains became disrupted, and here's an amazing bargain. This is definitely cool-climate Pinot Noir, heralded by smooth flavors of strawberry and pomegranate vying with Pinot's natural cherry expression. The satiny texture will keep you sipping, but don't miss the opportunity to pair this with pork, duck, chicken, mushrooms or pasta!
- 2018 Fattori Col de la Bastia Valpolicella Superiore, Veneto** 47  
A wine of long tradition that drinks with fresh energy and rounded detailing. Valpolicella's are a centuries-old Italian blend of indigenous grapes including Corvina, Rondinella and a handful of varieties even more obscure. Chocolate and cherry aromas open to tart cherry flanked by peppercorn and baking spice. This is 'daily' wine in the Veneto, perfect for burgers and grilled sammies, roasted chicken and pork, and most pasta preparations.
- 2016 Can Blau, Montsant** 47  
This charming Spanish blend simply over-delivers. Sometimes a wine feels like it is always about to happen, or already has, but the Can Blau 'happens' on every sip – fruit and flowers, a little graphite, teasing tannins, movement on the palate. This wine is dynamic!
- 2017 Vall Llach Embruix (Vi-yok-awm-broozh), Priorat** 68  
Richly textured blackberry courses with incisive notes of licorice, balsamic, cracked pepper and wild herbs. Wines from Priorat can marry an almost brutal intensity with a bequiling grace and velvety allure. This one from the austere vineyards of Porrera adds luster to that reputation, blending Garnaxta, Merlot, Syrah, Carignan and Cabernet Sauvignon into an assertive beauty that merited a 91 from Wine Spectator. This is the kind of wine I would choose if you asked me what I want with dinner.
- 2016 Louis Bernard Vacqueyras, Rhone Valley** 72  
Grenache leads in this flirty/romantic blend, offering its inviting aromas along with friendly candied cherry and raspberry flavors punched playfully by notes of warm baking spices. The wine is structured with a generous, languid balance but so fun to drink you probably won't notice. But you might notice smiles forming around the table, including your own!
- 2018 Famille Perrin Vinsobres Les Cornuds, Rhône Valley** 54  
A very complex nose presents notes of crunchy black fruit, warm pebbles, cocoa, toast and sweet spices. A mineral tension lends persistence and smooths the tannins through length. Vinsobres sits at the top of the southern Rhône, and shares characteristics with its neighbor Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Grenache dominates this blend, but high-altitude Syrah asserts fresh and incisive edging.
- 2016 Quinta do Crasto Reserva Vinha Velhas, Douro, Portugal** 88  
From precipitous slopes where the vines average over 70 years old, this intriguing and resonant blend rewards your attention. Full bodied with aromas of slate, fruit leather, blackberry and prune, tasting highlights dark berry compote with the length of a good fruit reduction as the wine gently but commandingly fades from the palate.
- 2016 Casaloste Chianti Classico Riserva, Chianti Classico** 85  
100% Sangiovese, aged 2 years, and a classic in presentation: a medium to deep cherry in color, it settles against the glass with confidence. Cherry, red currant and whiffs of tomato leaf on the nose lead into more currant, raspberry and cherry on the tasting. There's also black pepper, thyme and hints of roasted nuts on the drawn finish. Pleasant to drink, brilliant to pair.

## **"OLD WORLD" Reds by the Bottle**

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### **2014 Fleur de Roc, Saint-Émilion, Bordeaux**

**74**

Incredible freshness abounds the minute you open this bottle. Like the air after a thunderstorm, this Merlot driven blend is charged with freshness, offering aromas of windfall cherries and the yummy juice at the bottom of a pie pan. The cherry flavors gain great depth and roundness on the palate while the acid and mellow tannins keep it sitting light and ebullient. The finish even remains bright, coupling the acid and fruit in a double curtsy.

### **2016 Chateau Blaignan, Medoc, Bordeaux**

**68**

Fill your glass with classic style and abundantly expressive flavor from this Cabernet dominated blend. Merlot is its partner, and the tug between them is the beauty of the wine, with Cab establishing structure and the deeper range of flavors, leaving Merlot to swirl trails of brighter fruit alongside. The nose brings plum, leather, violet and graphite, while a sip presents cassis and blackberry with soft baking spice coming into focus on a cushioned finish.

### **2010 Nittardi Chianti Classico Riserva, Chianti**

**144**

Expressive, pure and refined. From the heart of Chianti and the honored traditions of Nittardi, this Riserva shows a polished structure ready to carry the lightly sour cherry thread of flavor around accents of dried oregano and leather. Gorgeously pale and reflective in the glass, this Chianti both looks and tastes like a top shelf choice.

### **2016 Quinta do Crasto Touriga Nacional, Douro, Portugal**

**155**

Portugal's most elevated grape gets detailed attention from the bud to the bottle with this distinctive wine. The deep color accompanies persuasive aromas of berry cobbler, the thick and rich juice at the bottom of a pie, and a little tar. It may beguile you, though. It drinks much lighter with a broad play of lively fruit, oak and tannins coming to softness. Unexpected herbaceous notes ride the measured finish. This wine is drinking in its prime. If you want something worth a little extra, here it is.

### **2012 Franco Rocca Barbaresco, Barbaresco**

**112**

Grab an exceptional vintage of an exceptional wine! 100% Nebbiolo at the sweet spot Barbaresco is known for, tempering the grape's power with brightly plush red fruit spiked by hints of rose and pomander. A firm grip leads into the finish, where the fruit softens along with the acids, and the tannins frame a fading flavor of cherry syrup.

A beautiful wine to study, but with a classic pairing profile as well.

### **2010 Famille Perrin, Les Chapouins, Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

**165**

A single vineyard CDP with eleven years in the bottle already! We bought the last of this vintage available and are proud to present it to you in limited supply. Deep ruby edging on purple, it's a round and powerful wine with fruit-drenched tannins that have relaxed through many years. Red and black fruit flavors ride rich framing into a detailed and lengthy finish. Let us decant this for you. A few extra minutes will be well worth your pleasure in the tasting.

### **2015 Christophe Semaska Côte Rôtie Lancement, Northern Rhone Valley**

**288**

This is French Syrah at its finest – incisive, full, imposing and lingering. The nose offers sun-baked currant with chocolate and charcoal. The very full body opens on deep black raspberry detailed by olive, bacon fat and grill flavors along with white pepper. This is a bold wine that sits rather proudly on the palate, and yet taste further and you might catch notes of the humble and seared clay soils that produce these singular vines.

## "NEW WORLD" Reds by the Bottle

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- 2018 Thistledown Gorgeous Grenache, South Australia** 54  
Juicy but structured, and brimming with charm. It might be cheeky to call your own wine Gorgeous, but if you're on the mark, you get bragging rights, don't you? Your nose will almost rejoice in aromas of strawberry, fruit blossom and violet. Ripening red plum captures the heart of the palate, but there are lots of nuances to discover in this charmer. It might even take one bottle just to get through the flirting.
- 2017 Verdad Tempranillo, Sawyer Lindquist Vineyard, Edna Valley** 55  
Verdad's 2017 Tempranillo, sourced from the Sawyer Lindquist Vineyard in Edna Valley, is the kind of niche, micro-project wine I love finding and sharing. Using only biodynamically grown fruit, Bob Lindquist set out to see how much of Spain he could conjure up in California's Edna Valley. Well done, Bob! More generous than most Spanish Tempranillos from Rioja, the Verdad still provokes with aromas of dill, fig, cedar and sour cherry. The palate is backlit by pepper and spotlighted by crushed cherries and red plum, with notes of cranberry. Merlot drinkers, give this medium weight beauty a try.
- 2018 Goldschmidt Chelsea Merlot, Alexander Valley, Sonoma** 52  
The days of widespread lousy Merlot are past (Yaay!), but really good Merlot is still a bit of a hunt (Harrumph). Goldschmidt brings a great bottle to the fore with this single vineyard offering. Good Merlot is a diplomatic wine that doesn't cede its own personality in getting along. The Chelsea is that kind of wine, really well made and evocative on its own – a pleasant sipping wine – but great in the background too, ready to play harmony.
- 2018 Carol Shelton Coquille Rouge, Central Coast** 59  
Singed strawberry and black cherry are accented by leather and sweet oak in this big blend. Savory meets delicate detailing with layered perfection. Shelton's homage to rustic French blends is fascinating, and all California even if it sports an accent. It's got backbone and rich fruit, resolving to soft berry compote flavors on the leather-and-oak texture. Rich and spicy, or fruity and languid? Keep drinking.
- 2017 Kiona Vineyards Lemberger, Red Mountain, Washington** 34  
Lemberger, aka Blaufränkisch, is a grape not found many places, especially on Red Mountain in Washington! Kiona cultivates this eastern European grape in the desert sun, bringing amplitude and robust evocations of dark chocolate, peppery black fruit and notes of blackberry and allspice. Despite a stout flavor profile, the wine remains medium-weight and very food friendly – sausage, peppers and potatoes, pastas – go for it.
- 2016 Belasco De Baquedano Llama Old Vine Malbec, Argentina** 40  
A Malbec that pulls off rich flavor while remaining broader on the palate, permitting room for the judicious oak to add mild toasty character to the cherry, blackberry and plum fruit.
- 2017 Left Coast Cellars Cali's Cuvée Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley** 50  
Composed of fruit from every single block on the Left Coast Estate, Cali's Cuvée speaks volumes about the quality and finesse of Left Coast wines. Expect black cherry, forest floor and black tea aromas preceding dark raspberry, bitter chocolate and spice on the palate. The tannins are mild and pliant. A yummy sipping Pinot that goes to the table too – perfect with roasted fare, pork chops, salmon and juicy burgers. Fresh and inviting.
- 2016 Siduri Pinot Noir, Santa Rita Hills** 78  
Siduri was the Babylonian Goddess whose wine held the secrets of eternal life. This homage to her comes from a husband and wife team who relentlessly scout, and only purchase, choice Pinot Noir grapes from throughout California. Their approach yields fascinating wines, this one showcasing the beautiful diversity of fruit (blackberry, boysenberry, cranberry), texture and roundness hailing from Santa Rita vineyards. This valley is the only valley running east-to-west on the entire coast of California, and the resulting access to ocean breezes brings amplitude and finesse that lie on the wine like a silken layer of fog lies over the vineyards.
- 2016 Left Coast Cellars Latitude 45° Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley** 78  
This single vineyard Pinot is focused, with a more robust expression offering black tea, dark plum, espresso and spice notes in a velvety package. Grown at the same latitude as many classic French Pinots, the Latitude 45° evokes the European sense of polished but terroir-driven wines. It's direct, flavorful and solidly built, pairing naturally to braises, root vegetables and red meat pasta platings.
- 2014 Poseidon Vineyard Pinot Noir, Carneros** 67  
An alluring wine full of nuance, this Pinot offers hints of cola, leather and plum on the nose. The silky texture swells with rich black cherry and subtle vanilla that lingers on balanced tannins.

## "NEW WORLD" Reds by the Bottle

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- 2018 Melville Estate Pinot Noir, Anna's Block, Sta. Rita Hills** 124  
Savory and captivating, washed in cool breezes in the Sta. Rita Hills, and grown for small berries with darker fruit flavorings, Pinot from Anna's Block is an 8-acre bit of specialness, a winemaker's special project guided by intuition and experience with the terroir. Melville crafts this lovely bottle with marked flavors of cranberry compote, grilled red beets, peppercorns and rhubarb. Just following, you'll pick up forest floor, black tea leaves, sandalwood and gentle spice. It drinks deeply, with a firm grip preceding a full, lengthy finish.
- 2017 Sbragia Gino's Old Vine Zinfandel, Sonoma** 70  
Rich and full, confident in its own opulent style, and crafted by Ed Sbragia, the only winemaker to ever win Winemaker of the Year twice! The jammy fruit flows unabashed, but lovingly framed by Ed's master hand, delivering plumpness without being tired and overblown. A showy and tasty bottle of wine!
- 2015 Kiona Vineyards Red Mountain Syrah, Washington** 51  
It's said that "syrah loves a view", and these vineyards at the very top of Red Mountain bear it out. Deep color and profound concentration mark the entry to gorgeous plum fruit, backed by blueberry and pulsating notes of chocolate and tobacco roiling the wine's play on the palate. The lengthy and flavorful finish lands with a graceful manner that invites a return to the glass. Syrah lovers, catch this one!
- 2016 Miro Cellars Petite Sirah Reserve Rockpile, Sonoma** 94  
Rockpile grapes hold a special magic for every winemaker lucky enough to get some! Here, Petite Sirah presents jubilant liveliness on flavors of deep but naturally extracted dark berries with a winning thread of dark chocolate weaving through. How a wine so lush and tannic can sit so effortlessly on the palate is a wonder, one you need to taste for yourself. Pair with bigger dishes; even though it dances lightly, this is a full body tannic wine.
- 2019 Babylonsteron Babel Red, Simononsberg-Parl, South Africa** 47  
Deeply colored and flavored, swirls around your glass like a ball bearing set loose. Full of contained energy, and brimming with scents of dark chocolate, blackberry, graphite and cherry tobacco. Soft baking spaces and more chocolate frame it on the palate. The finish lingers on supple tannins, and the wine is an almost burly but definitely juicy treat from sip to swallow.
- 2015 Pamplin Family J|R|G Blend, Columbia Valley** 64  
Wine Spectator called it "refined and sleekly built", alongside a 91 rating. It also brims with focused energy, animating it across the whole palate. Mostly Cabernet with some Merlot blended in, but make no mistake – this finely polished presentation is much more than the sum of its parts. Only 220 cases were produced from cossetted vineyards and nuanced cellaring. This is artisan winemaking from people who love doing it.
- 2017 Novelty Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley** 67  
Winemaker Mike Januik describes his own wine beautifully: "Rich and concentrated... full-bodied and aromatic [with] expressive layers of ripe plum, black currant and wild blackberries. Textured, mouth-filling... with a balanced, refined finish." Spot on! The Novelty Hill rivals Napa for rich concentration but adds breadth and detail in a really sumptuous presentation.
- 2017 Miro Pine Mountain Reserve Cabernet, Sonoma** 82  
Perched 2600 feet above the Russian River, bathed in light and balmed by diurnal shifts that cabernet sauvignon loves, Miro's Pine Mountain Reserve is a wine that dances – at once a master of the more demanding steps but also and always smooth, with the aplomb of refinement. The flavor centers on dark berries with richly layered spice notes and sumptuous tannins that keep the mouthfeel warm, generous and gently firmed.
- 2016 Kiona Vineyards Red Mountain Reserve, Washington** 87  
Lush and full with a head-on trajectory of black and blue fruits, Kiona's Reserve packs six different varietals into the bottle, Cab and Merlot leading but punctuated by Petit Verdot, Carmenère, Cab Franc and Malbec. It's a heady mix and a higher alcohol wine, marking it as a partner for rich, fat-laced meat dishes from the grill or the brazier, full body casseroles and rich vegetable treatments. Or relax, seriously, and enjoy it as a bit of an indulgence on its own. It's a wine to make merry with.
- 2013 Ancient Oak Berger Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma** 95  
Deep, full and firm with cigar box, leather and plum on the nose. The raspberry and sweet cherry fruit tastes of oak and spice, with developing and lingering accents of chocolate, anise and sweet tobacco. Velvety and plush upon opening, decanting recommended.