

California GRAPEVINE



Volume 45

May 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Tasting Notes on New Releases

Chardonnay	Page 33
Cabernet Sauvignon	35
Pinot Noir	37
Zinfandel	39
Rosé of Pinot Noir	39
Summary of Wines Reviewed in this Issue	40

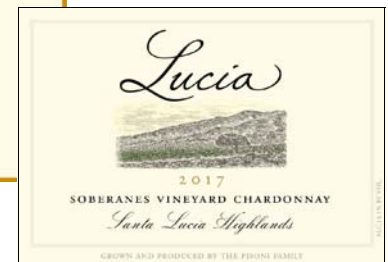
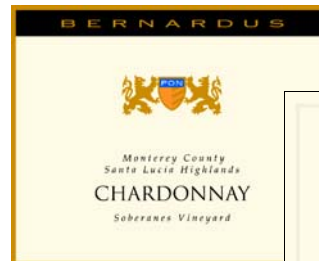
CHARDONNAY New Releases

1. **2017 Lucia**, “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$65) – Medium-light to medium golden yellow color; very attractive, deep, rich, intense, spicy, baked apple and stone fruit aroma with tropical and mineral notes, and hints of honeysuckle and orange blossom; medium-full body; deep, rich, fleshy, apple, white peach, and citrus flavors with bright acidity, well integrated oak, and a plush, slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to taste now though worthy of several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 199 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% barrel fermented (BF); 100% malolactic fermentation (ML); released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.8 of 20 points, 2 of 8 first-place votes/1 second/1 third; My Score: 17.5 [93 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2017 Lucia**, Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, deep, apple and white peach aroma with tropical notes and hints of honeysuckle, orange blossom, lemon curd, and baking spices; medium-full body; rich, supple, fleshy, nicely balanced, apple and stone fruit flavors with bright acidity, and a plush, slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 512 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6, 1/1/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)

3. **2017 Bernardus**, “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium-light to medium golden yellow; attractive, tangerine, white peach, and baked apple aroma with hints of baking spice; medium to medium-full body; forward, rich, ripe, stone fruit, baked apple, and lemon/lime flavors that are nicely balanced and have a pleasing, plush mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14% alcohol; 322 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/2/0; My Score: 17 [92/100], fourth place)

4. **2017 Three Sticks**, “Gap’s Crown Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$55) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, spicy, lemony, green apple and white peach aroma with tropical notes and a hint of brioche; medium to medium-full body; crisp, nicely balanced, green apple and white peach



flavors with mineral notes, bright acidity, and a buttery richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 250 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/0/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], third place)

5. **2017 Three Sticks**, “One Sky,” Sonoma Mountain (\$55) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, deep, intense, baked apple and tropical fruit aroma with buttery notes and a hint of crème brûlée; medium to medium-full body; spicy, lemony, rich, ripe, nicely balanced, apple and mandarin orange flavors with a hint of butterscotch, bright acidity, and some richness in the slightly creamy, plush mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 440 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/0/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], fifth place)

6. **2017 Rivers-Marie**, “Platt Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$50) – Medium-light to medium golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, slightly honeyed, baked apple and poached pear aroma with tropical notes, and hints of honeysuckle, butterscotch, and lime zest; medium to medium-full body; fleshy, rich, nicely balanced, apple, pear, and citrus flavors with crisp acidity; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 120 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/3/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], sixth place)

7. **2017 Rivers-Marie**, “Bearwallow Vineyard,” Anderson Valley (\$50) – Medium-light to medium-golden yellow; attractive, toasty, citrus, apple, and white peach aroma with hints of vanilla, hazelnut, and lemon curd; medium to medium-full body; rounded, fleshy, apple and stone fruit flavors with oaky undertones, a hint of toffee, and some richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.6% alcohol; 210 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/0/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], seventh place)

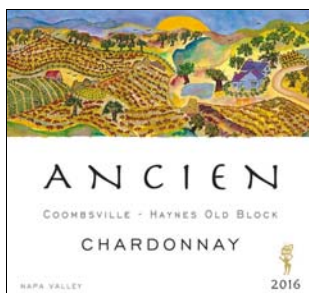
8. **2017 Bernardus**, “Rosella’s Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium-light to medium golden yellow;

Continued on Next Page

attractive, ripe, peach and apple aroma with floral and tropical notes, and hints of honeysuckle and baking spice; medium to medium-full body; forward, tropical, apple, and stone fruit flavors with honeyed notes, undertones of toasty oak, and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14% alcohol; 407 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] [7, 8]

CHARDONNAY More New Releases



1. **2016 Ancien**, “Haynes Old Block,” Coombsville, Napa Valley (\$62) – Medium-light golden yellow color; attractive, fragrant, spicy, citrus, apple, and stone fruit aroma with tropical notes and hints of honeysuckle and lychee; medium to medium-full body; rich, ripe, rounded, buttery, lemony, baked apple and white peach flavors with nice acid balance and a plush mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; only 45 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% barrel fermented (BF); 60% malolactic fermentation (ML); released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 4 of 9 first-place votes/2 seconds/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2016 DuMOL**, “Wester Reach,” Russian River Valley (\$56) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, deep, intense, apple and stone fruit aroma with a hint of orange zest; medium to medium-full body; deep, rich, green apple, stone fruit, and lemon curd flavors with bright acidity and undertones of toasty oak; lingering aftertaste. Deserving of another year or two of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 2,950 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released June 2018.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/3/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], first place)

3. **2017 Sarah’s Vineyard**, Santa Clara Valley (\$24) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, floral, apple and melon aroma with hints of honeysuckle, baking spice, and lemon zest; medium body; crisp, apple and citrus flavors with good acid balance, a touch of vanilla, and a slightly creamy, plush mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 532 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

4. **2017 V. Sattui Winery**, “Collina d’Oro,” Russian River Valley (\$48) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, toasty, tropical fruit aroma with a hint of butter-scotch; medium body; moderately rich, citrus, green apple, and tropical fruit flavors with hints of baking spice and crisp acidity; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 311 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)

5. **2017 J. Lohr**, “Arroyo Vista,” Arroyo Seco, Monterey (\$25) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, spicy, floral, buttery, baked apple and stone fruit aroma with hints of brioche and hazelnut; medium to medium-full body; lemony, apple and pear flavors with crisp acidity and a rich, silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 8,076 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released December 2018.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

6. **2016 Pine Ridge Vineyards**, “Carneros Collines Vineyard,” Napa Valley (\$48) – Medium-light golden yellow; assertive, buttery, citrus, pear, and apple aroma with tropical notes; medium to medium-full body; rich, buttery, pear and mango flavors with hints of hazelnut and a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 2,640 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released July 2018.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

7. **2016 Ancien**, Carneros (\$38) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, floral, citrus, apple and honeydew melon aroma with hints of baking spice; medium body; nicely balanced, elegant, green apple and lime flavors with a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 622 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 50% ML; released April 2018.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)

8. **2016 Davis Bynum**, “River West Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$25) – Medium-light yellow; fragrant, toasty, pear and baked apple aroma; medium to medium-full body; crisp, citrus, pear, and green apple flavors with hints of hazelnut and baking spice, and a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 14,241 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released November 2018.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

9. **2016 Rodney Strong Vineyards**, “Blue Wing Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$25) – Medium-light yellow; fragrant, spicy, green apple and pear aroma with spicy notes and a hint of vanilla; medium body; crisp, lemony, pear and apple flavors with a plush, slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.5% alcohol; 4,042 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 45% BF; 100% ML; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], ninth place)

10. **2017 Morgan**, “Highland,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$28) – Medium-light golden yellow; pear, green apple, and lemon/lime aroma with a hint of honeysuckle; medium body; crisp, lemony, fleshy, citrus, apple, and stone fruit flavors with bright acidity and some richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 9,337 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 75% ML; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], tenth place)

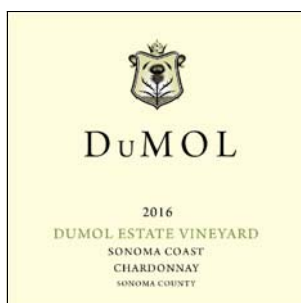
11. **2017 Davis Bynum**, “Dijon Clone 809,” Russian River Valley (\$38) – Medium-light yellow; fragrant, floral, candied, citrus, apple, and tropical fruit aroma with a hint of butter-scotch; medium body; moderately rich, citrus, green apple, and tropical fruit flavors with hints of baking spice and crisp acidity; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 298 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eleventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] [9, 10, 11]

CHARDONNAY

More New Releases

THE FOLLOWING TASTING NOTES on new Chardonnays are from editor Nick Ponomareff. These wines were the best tasted during the past month outside of the normal *Grapevine* tasting panel format.



2016 DuMOL, “DuMOL Estate Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$69) – Medium-light golden yellow color; attractive, fragrant, floral, pear and baked apple aroma with hints of jasmine, hazelnut, and brioche; medium-full body; fleshy, lemon-lime and green apple flavors with bright acidity, notes of mineral and baking spice, undertones of toasty oak, and good depth and richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Firmly structured and nicely balanced for drinking now or over the next three to five years. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 620 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% barrel fermented (BF); 100% malolactic fermentation (ML); released September 2018.* (My Score: 93 of 100 points)

2017 Bernardus, “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, buttery, baked apple and ripe stone fruit aroma with hints of honeysuckle, baking spice, and crème brûlée; medium to medium-full body; rich, fleshy, apple and ripe peach flavors with undertones of toasty oak, crisp acidity, and a plus, slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14% alcohol; 472 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released April 2019.* (My Score: 92)

2017 Ridge, “Montebello Estate Vineyard,” Santa Cruz Mountains (\$55) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, melon, green apple, and white peach aroma with hints of mineral and toasty oak; medium to medium-full body; crisp, nicely balanced, green apple flavors with mineral notes and bright acidity; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 2,750 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released April 2019.* (My Score: 91)

2017 Three Sticks, “Origin, Durell Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$50) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, earthy, green apple and white peach aroma; medium to medium-full body; crisp, citrusy, green apple flavors with herbal and mineral notes, bright acidity, and some richness in the pleasing mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 181 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 0% BF; 0% ML; released February 2019.* (My Score: 91)

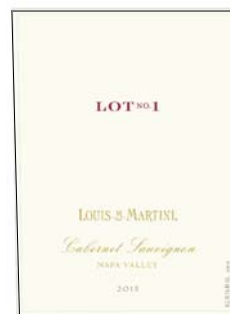
2017 Rivers-Marie, Sonoma Coast (\$30) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, green apple, tangerine, and white peach aroma with a light buttery note and hints of honeysuckle, wet stone, and lemon curd; medium to medium-full body; crisp, lemony, green apple flavors with bright acidity and some richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 210 cases; 100%*

Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Spring 2019. (My Score: 90)

2017 Kendall-Jackson, “Grand Reserve,” Santa Barbara County (\$22) – Medium-light to medium golden yellow; baked apple and tropical fruit aroma with floral and buttery notes and hints of vanilla and Meyer lemon; medium-full body; fleshy, apple and stone fruit flavors with oaky undertones and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; over 50,000 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Spring 2018.* (My Score: 89)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

New Releases



1. **2015 Louis M. Martini**, “Lot 1,” Napa Valley (\$210) – Medium-dark purplish ruby color; very attractive, forward, deep, intense, spicy, blackberry and dark cherry fruit aroma with notes of dried herbs, cassis, and cigar box; full body; big, deep, very rich, red and dark fruit flavors with a plush mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very enjoyable to taste now, though best to bottle age for three to five more years. Very highly recommended. *15.7% alcohol; 945 cases; 100% Cabernet Sauvignon (CS); released October 2018.* (Group Score: 17.1 of 20 points, 6 of 8 first-place votes/1 second/1 third; My Score: 17.5 [93 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2015 ZD**, “Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$230) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, fragrant, deep, intense, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of dill, mint, clove, cassis, and mocha; full body; big, deep, rich, ripe, textured, red and black fruit flavors with spicy overtones of American oak, and a hint of dark chocolate; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to taste now, though deserving a good five more years of aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 550 cases; 100% CS; released October 2018.* (Group Score: 16.8, 2/2/4; My Score: 17.5 [93/100], second place)

3. **2015 Beringer**, “Private Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$175) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, intense, ripe, spicy, dark cherry, cassis, and black berry fruit aroma with hints of vanilla, licorice, graphite, and tobacco leaf; full body; big, rich, deep, cedary, dark berry fruit flavors with oaky undertones and a hint of dark chocolate; full tannin; a bit rough on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Best to give three to five more

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years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.2% alcohol; 7,716 cases; blended with 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot; released Fall 2018.* (Group Score: 16.8, 0/3/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], third place)

4. **2015 Corison**, “Kronos Vineyard,” Napa Valley (\$195) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, ripe, fragrant, cassis, dark cherry and boysenberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, baking spice, and dark chocolate; full body; intense, textured, cedary, red and dark fruit flavors that are elegantly styled, and nicely balanced and structured to support a good five more year of bottle aging; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.2% alcohol; 300 cases; 100% CS; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6, 0/2/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], fourth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4]

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

More New Releases



1. **2016 ZD**, Napa Valley (\$75) – Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, ripe, spicy, dark cherry, cassis, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, cedar, and vanilla; full body; deep, intense, nicely balanced, red and black fruit flavors with undertones of toasty American oak, and a rich, velvety mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable and enjoyable to drink now, though it should benefit from three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 6,287 cases; blended with 12% Petit Verdot (PV); released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 4 of 11 first-place votes/0 seconds/2 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2016 Louis M. Martini**, Napa Valley (\$43) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, fragrant, intense, spicy, dark cherry, red currant, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of mocha, dried herbs, and tobacco leaf; full body; nicely balanced, somewhat elegant, red and black fruit flavors with herbal notes, and a rich, velvety mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very enjoyable to drink now, though should continue to develop with some bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.1% alcohol; 38,000 cases; blended with; 9% Petite Sirah, 5% PV, 1% Merlot, 1% Malbec, and 1% Merlot; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6, 3/4/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

3. **2015 Jordan**, Alexander Valley (\$57) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, spicy, dark cherry, red currant, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs and graphite; full body; rich, nicely balanced, red and black fruit flavors with herbal notes, bright acidity, well integrated oak, and a hint of vanilla; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows some elegance and is very enjoyable to drink now or over the next three to five years. Very highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 65,044 cases; blended with 15%*

Merlot, 6% PV, 2% Malbec, and 0.3% Cabernet Franc (CF); released May 2019. (Group Score: 16.6, 1/2/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fifth place)

4. **2015 Rodney Strong**, “Rockaway,” Alexander Valley (\$75) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, intense, dark cherry, cassis, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs and mocha; full body; forward, deep, ripe, red and black fruit flavors with hints of dark chocolate and baking spice, well integrated oak, and plummy richness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable and drinkable now, though best to bottle age for several more years. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 1,600 cases; blended with 4% Merlot and 2% PV; released December 2018.* (Group Score: 16.6, 0/4/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)

5. **2015 Rodney Strong**, “Brothers,” Alexander Valley (\$75) Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, ripe, spicy, lush, blackberry and cassis aroma with hints of dried herbs and mocha; full body; big, deep, intense, concentrated, dark cherry and berry fruit flavors with hints of chocolate, undertones of toasty oak, and appealing richness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable and drinkable now, though best to bottle age for several more years. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 1,171 cases; 100% Cabernet Sauvignon (CS); released December 2018.* (Group Score: 16.6, 0/0/3; My Score: 17 [92/100], third place)

6. **2015 Sutro**, “Warnecke Ranch,” Alexander Valley (\$50) Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of black olive, tobacco leaf, sandalwood, and mocha; full body; herbal, red and dark fruit flavors with good depth and concentration, and a bit tight and drying on the finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Should benefit from several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 390 cases; blended with 7% Merlot; to be released Fall 2019.* (Group Score: 16.5, 2/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], eighth place)

7. **2016 Ridge**, “Estate, Monte Bello Vineyard,” Santa Cruz Mountains (\$65) – Medium-dark ruby; fragrant, deep, spicy, cedary, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, green olive, vanilla, and tobacco leaf; full body; tight, herbal, cedary, dark cherry and blackberry flavors that are well balanced and firmly structured to support a good three to five more years of bottle aging; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 5,900 cases; blended with 19% Merlot, 2% CF, and 2% PV; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], sixth place)

8. **2016 Corison**, St. Helena, Napa Valley (\$95) – Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma with earthy notes and hints of mocha and baking spice; full body; rich, ripe, cedary, textured, red and black fruit flavors with notes of dried herbs; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Currently a bit tight relative to most of the other wines in this group, though shows good potential and deserves a good three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *13.1% alcohol; 2,200 cases; 100% CS; to be released September 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], seventh place)

True Ranking: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

PINOT NOIR
New Releases



1. **2017 Kosta Browne**, Santa Lucia Highlands (\$72) – Medium-light to medium ruby color; attractive, deep, intense, dark cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with a floral note, and hints of forest floor and baking spice; medium-full body; dark cherry and red currant flavors with good depth and concentration, notes of mineral and spice, and a pleasing, silky mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable and enjoyable to drink now, though deserving three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 2,400 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 3 of 11 first-place votes/0 seconds/5 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], third place)

2. **2016 Ancien**, “Fiddlestix Vineyard,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$55) Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, earthy, floral, red cherry and cranberry fruit aroma with hints of mushroom and cinnamon stick; medium body; elegant, supple, spicy, red fruit flavors that are nicely balanced and have a velvety mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now though will benefit from several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 207 cases; 100% PN; released March 2018.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/4/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

3. **2016 Ancien**, “Haynes Old Block,” Coombsville, Napa Valley (\$68) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, spicy, black cherry fruit aroma with hints of forest floor, mocha, sandalwood, and red licorice; medium to medium-full body; rich, ripe, nicely balanced, elegantly styled, cherry fruit flavors with light mineral notes and pleasing richness in the silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to taste now, though worthy of several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; only 78 cases; 100% PN; released March 2018.* (Group Score: 16.5, 1/2/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

4. **2017 J. Lohr**, “Fog’s Reach,” Arroyo Seco (\$35) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, fragrant, floral, strawberry and red cherry fruit aroma with hints of sage and baking spice; medium body; cherry and red berry fruit flavors with light spice and mineral notes, bright acidity, and some richness in the mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 1,172 cases; 100% PN; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

5. **2017 Kosta Browne**, Russian River Valley (\$72) – Medium ruby; attractive, ripe, fragrant, cherry and cranberry fruit aroma with light floral notes and hints of clove and cinnamon; medium to medium-full body; rich, ripe, textured, red fruit flavors that are nicely balanced and structured for

drinking now or bottle aging for three to five more years; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 8,500 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

6. **2017 Sarah’s Vineyard**, Santa Clara Valley (\$30) – Medium-light ruby; pleasant, floral, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of forest floor and tobacco leaf; medium body; nicely balanced, moderately rich, red fruit flavors with a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now and over the near term. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 1,790 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

7. **2016 J. Lohr**, “Highlands Bench,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$35) – Medium ruby; attractive, ripe, spicy, bright, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs and tobacco leaf, and a light note of charred oak; medium to medium-full body; red fruit flavors with good depth and richness, and bright acidity; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now and over the near term. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 584 cases; 100% PN; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.3 [90/100], seventh place)

8. **2017 Mansfield-Dunne**, Santa Lucia Highlands (\$38) – Medium-light ruby; fragrant, spicy, floral, dark cherry fruit aroma with hints of rose petal and Asian spices, and a light peppery note; medium to medium-full body; crisp, earthy, red fruit flavors with firm acidity and undertones of toasty oak; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 600 cases; 100% PN; released May 2019.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], ninth place)

9. **2017 Frank Family Vineyards**, “Lewis Vineyard, Reserve,” Carneros, Napa Valley (\$70) – Medium ruby; rich, deep, earthy, dark cherry fruit aroma with notes of charred oak, cola, and baking spice; medium-full body; deep, dark cherry fruit flavors with undertones of toasty oak, and hints of cola and espresso; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Currently a bit tight and rough on the finish, though should benefit from a few more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,000 cases; 100% PN; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 15.9, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

10. **2017 Mansfield-Dunne**, “Cortada Alta Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$58) – Medium-light to medium ruby; earthy, cherry, and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of forest floor and tobacco leaf; medium body; earthy, red fruit flavors with moderate richness, some spice, a light note of charred oak, and a slight softness on the finish; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy to drink now. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 300 cases; 100% PN; released May 2019.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], tenth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] [8, 9, 10]



PINOT NOIR More New Releases



1. **2017 Peacock Cellars**, “Peacock Farms,” Arroyo Grande (\$30) – Medium-light to medium ruby color; attractive, fragrant, cherry and red currant aroma with herbal notes and a hint of baking spice; medium body; elegant and nicely balanced, red fruit flavors with bright acidity and a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very enjoyable to drink now or over the next two to four years. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 300 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released October 2018.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 1 of 7 first-place votes/4 seconds/1 third; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2017 Peacock Cellars**, “Reserve, Peacock Farms,” Arroyo Grande (\$55) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with earthy notes and hints of clove and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; nicely balanced, elegant, red fruit flavors with bright acidity and a rich, slightly plush mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed with airing in the glass and deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 125 cases; 100% PN; released October 2018.* (Group Score: 16.6, 2/1/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], first place)

3. **2017 Roar**, “Garys’ Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$62) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, assertive, raspberry and cranberry fruit aroma with hints of clove, forest floor, and cinnamon; medium-full body; rich, ripe, textured, red fruit flavors with good depth and structure, and hints of vanilla and cola; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 756 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

4. **2017 Three Sticks**, “Price Family Estates,” Sonoma Coast (\$65) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, ripe, cherry fruit aroma with earthy notes and hints of forest floor, sandalwood and mocha; medium to medium-full body; rich, textured, earthy, cherry fruit flavors with herbal notes, nice acid balance, and showing a slight roughness on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Should benefit from a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 865 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.6, 2/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

5. **2017 Three Sticks**, Russian River Valley (\$65) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, fragrant, earthy, floral, cherry and pomegranate aroma with hints of Asian spices and rose petal; medium to medium-full body; rich, fleshy, elegant, red and dark fruit flavors with good acid balance; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now, though will benefit from several more years of bottle aging. Very

highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 378 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 0/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2017 Roar**, “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$58) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, ripe, earthy, raspberry and red cherry fruit aroma with hints of cardamon, vanilla, and baking spice; medium to medium-full body; plush, spicy, red fruit flavors with earthy notes and a slight tartness on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 686 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

7. **2017 Benovia**, Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, black cherry and boysenberry fruit aroma with hints of mocha and baking spice; medium to medium-full body; deep, rich, ripe, spicy, fleshy, red and dark fruit flavors with bright acidity and well integrated oak; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now, though will benefit from a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 1,450 cases; 100% PN; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 0/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], seventh place)

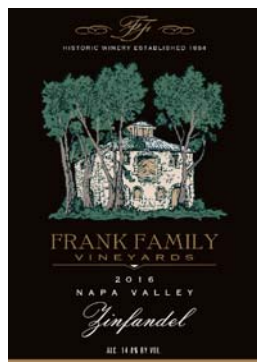
8. **2017 Frank Family Vineyards**, Carneros (\$38) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, fragrant, floral, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of Asian spices; medium to medium-full body; nicely balanced, elegant, red fruit flavors with a note of vanilla and a slight creaminess in the supple mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable for drinking now or over the next year or two. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 5,000 cases; 100% PN; released November 2018.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/3; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

9. **2017 Roar**, Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45) – Medium-light ruby; fragrant, earthy, raspberry, red currant, and cherry fruit aroma with a hint of rhubarb; medium to medium-full body; rich, earthy, red fruit flavors with a hint of mocha, though a bit rough on the finish; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Should benefit from several more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 1,670 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], ninth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] [8, 9]



ZINFANDEL New Releases



1. **2016 Frank Family Vineyards**, Napa Valley (\$38) – Medium to medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, deep, intense, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with briary and spicy notes, and hints of chocolate, tobacco leaf, espresso, and cinnamon; full body; forward, ripe, briary, savory, red and black fruit flavors with jammy richness and notes of pepper, vanilla, and baking spice; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 5,000 cases; blended with 9% Petite Sirah (PS); released September 2018.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 4 of 8 first-place votes/1 second/1 third; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2016 Peacock Cellars**, Paso Robles (\$38) – Dark ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, intense, perfumed, blueberry, dark cherry, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of cassis, cinnamon, and bacon fat; full body; big, ripe, concentrated, red and dark berry fruit flavors with jammy richness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Leaning to a late harvest style, though also shows good balance and structure, and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 200 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released April 2018.* (Group Score: 16.6, 1/4/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

3. **2016 Carol Shelton**, “Wild Thing, Old Vine,” Mendocino County (\$19) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, ripe, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of cigar box and baking spice; full body; rich, ripe, slightly jammy, red and dark berry fruit flavors with a slightly creamy, plush mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 8,221 cases; blended with 14% Carignane and 8% PS; released Fall 2018.* (Group Score: 16.5, 2/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

3. **2016 Frank Family Vineyards**, “Reserve,” Chiles Valley (\$60) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, spicy, brambly, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma; full body; deep, rich, ripe, red and black berry fruit flavors with notes of vanilla and white pepper; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Forward, rich fruit makes this wine enjoyable to drink now or over the next near or two. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 1,000 cases; blended with 9% PS; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.5, 0/2/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

5. **2016 Cline Family Cellars**, “Big Break Vineyard,” Contra Costa County (\$37) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; ripe, spicy, briary, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of eucalyptus, mint, cedar, black pepper, and orange zest; full body; forward, rich, ripe, brambly, red and black

fruit flavors with undertones of toasty oak; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 612 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released Spring 2018.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2016 Sobon Estate**, “ReZerve, Paul’s Vineyard,” Amador County (\$24) – Medium ruby; ripe, spicy, blueberry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of white pepper, dill, and dark chocolate, and undertones of charred oak; full body; ripe, fleshy, dark berry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Drink now and over the near term. Highly recommended. *15.2% alcohol; 448 cases; blended with 10% PS; released April 2018.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] [6]

ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR New Releases



1. **2018 Lucy**, “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$19) – Light pinkish coral color; attractive, fragrant, floral, cherry, strawberry, and cranberry fruit aroma with hints of rose petal and baking spice; medium body; crisp, red berry, watermelon, and citrus flavors with bright acidity and some richness in the elegant mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. Very highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 1,041 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.4 of 20 points, 4 of 9 first-place votes/4 seconds/ 0 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2018 Dehlinger**, “Pinot Noir Rosé,” Russian River Valley (\$22) – Medium-light pinkish salmon color; attractive, fragrant, floral, raspberry and red cherry fruit aroma with earthy notes and a hint of rose petal; medium body; red cherry and white peach flavors with bright acidity and some richness in the silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 550 cases; 100% PN; released April 2019.* (Group Score: 16.3, 2/1/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

3. **2018 Benovia**, “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$32) – Light pinkish salmon color; attractive, fragrant, cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with light spicy notes; medium body; crisp, bright, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with a slight richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 446 cases; 100% PN; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/3/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

4. **2018 Rodney Strong**, “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$25) – Light to medium-light pinkish salmon color; attractive, fragrant, cherry, strawberry, and watermelon aroma

ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR *(continued from Page 39)*

with a hint of rose petal; medium body; crisp, citrus, cherry, and red berry fruit flavors with bright acidity and a fresh, slightly zesty mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *12.5% alcohol; 30,000 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 16.1, 2/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)

5. **2018 Hartford Court**, “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$29) – Pale salmon color; floral, citrus, white peach, and cherry fruit aroma with light spicy notes; medium body; slightly rich, delicate, spicy, citrus and red berry flavors with a mineral note and good acid balance; slightly lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.4% alcohol; 400 cases; 100% PN; released March 2019.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], fifth place)

6. **2018 Toad Hollow Vineyards**, “Eye of the Toad, Dry Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Sonoma County (\$14) – Medium-light pinkish salmon color; fragrant, cherry, strawberry, and white peach aroma with light spicy notes; medium body; cherry, strawberry, and watermelon flavors with good acid balance and a slight plushness in the mouthfeel; slightly lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *11.5% alcohol; 5,000 cases; 100% PN; released February 2019.* (Group Score: 15.8, 1/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], sixth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4] [5, 6]

ABOUT OUR TASTING NOTES

OUR TASTING NOTES are the result of weekly double-blind tastings held in San Diego. Our scoring system at these tastings is based on the traditional 20-point Davis scale for wine evaluation. I also include a score using the currently more popular 100-point scale.

The group score and the number of first, second, and third-place votes appear, along with my (editor Nick Ponomareff’s) own scores and relative ranking, in parentheses after the comments on each wine. A “True Ranking” based on a statistical analysis of the results appears at the end of each set of tasting notes. Wines that do not differ significantly are enclosed within brackets.

Please also note that many of the wines we taste are only available direct from the winery through their mailing list or wine club. Prices quoted are the retail price set by the winery, though many of the wines can be found discounted.

WINES TASTED FOR THIS ISSUE

Wine	My Score*
CABERNET SAUVIGNON	
2015 Beringer “Private Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$175)	92
2015 Corison “Kronos Vineyard,” Napa Valley (\$195)	92
2016 Corison St. Helena, Napa Valley (\$95)	91
2015 Jordan Alexander Valley (\$57)	91
2015 Louis M. Martini “Lot 1,” Napa Valley (\$210)	93
2016 Louis M. Martini Napa Valley (\$43)	91
2016 Ridge “Estate, Monte Bello Vineyard,” Santa Cruz Mountains (\$65)	91
2015 Rodney Strong “Brothers,” Alexander Valley (\$75)	92
2015 Rodney Strong “Rockaway,” Alexander Valley (\$75)	92
2015 Sutro “Warnecke Ranch,” Alexander Valley (\$50)	90
2015 ZD “Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$230)	93
2016 ZD Napa Valley (\$75)	92
CHARDONNAY	
2016 Ancien Carneros (\$38)	89
2016 Ancien “Haynes Old Block,” Coombsville, Napa Valley (\$62)	92

Wine	My Score*
2017 Bernardus “Rosella’s Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	91
2017 Bernardus “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	92
2017 Bernardus “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	92
2016 Davis Bynum “River West Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$25)	89
2017 Davis Bynum “Dijon Clone 809,” Russian River Valley (\$38)	89
2016 DuMOL, “DuMOL Estate Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$69)	93
2016 DuMOL “Wester Reach,” Russian River Valley (\$56)	92
2017 J. Lohr “Arroyo Vista,” Arroyo Seco, Monterey (\$25)	89
2017 Kendall-Jackson “Grand Reserve,” Santa Barbara County (\$22)	89
2017 Lucia Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45)	92
2017 Lucia “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$65)	93
2017 Morgan “Highland,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$28)	89
2016 Pine Ridge Vineyards “Carneros Collines Vineyard,” Napa Valley (\$48)	89
2017 Ridge “Montebello Estate Vineyard,” Santa Cruz Mountains (\$55)	91
2017 Rivers-Marie “Bearwallow Vineyard,” Anderson Valley (\$50)	91
2017 Rivers-Marie “Platt Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$50)	91
2017 Rivers-Marie Sonoma Coast (\$30)	90
2016 Rodney Strong Vineyards “Blue Wing Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$25)	89
2017 Sarah’s Vineyard Santa Clara Valley (\$24)	90
2017 Three Sticks “One Sky,” Sonoma Mountain (\$55)	92
2017 Three Sticks “Gap’s Crown Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$55)	92
2017 Three Sticks “Origin, Durell Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$50)	91
2017 V. Sattui Winery “Collina d’Oro,” Russian River Valley (\$48)	89
PINOT NOIR	
2016 Ancien “Fiddlestix Vineyard,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$55)	90
2016 Ancien “Haynes Old Block,” Coombsville, Napa Valley (\$68)	91
2017 Benovia Russian River Valley (\$45)	90
2017 Frank Family Vineyards “Lewis Vineyard, Reserve,” Carneros (\$70)	89
2017 Frank Family Vineyards Carneros (\$38)	89
2017 J. Lohr “Fog’s Reach,” Arroyo Seco (\$35)	90
2016 J. Lohr “Highlands Bench,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$35)	90
2017 Kosta Browne Russian River Valley (\$72)	91
2017 Kosta Browne Santa Lucia Highlands (\$72)	91
2017 Mansfield-Dunne “Cortada Alta Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$58)	88
2017 Mansfield-Dunne Santa Lucia Highlands (\$38)	88
2017 Peacock Cellars “Peacock Farms,” Arroyo Grande (\$30)	91
2017 Peacock Cellars “Reserve, Peacock Farms,” Arroyo Grande (\$55)	92
2017 Roar “Garys’ Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$62)	91
2017 Roar Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45)	89
2017 Roar “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$58)	90
2017 Sarah’s Vineyard Santa Clara Valley (\$30)	90
2017 Three Sticks “Price Family Estates,” Sonoma Coast (\$65)	91
2017 Three Sticks Russian River Valley (\$65)	90
ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR	
2018 Benovia “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$32)	90
2018 Dehlinger “Pinot Noir Rosé,” Russian River Valley (\$22)	91
2018 Hartford Court “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$29)	88
2018 Lucy “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$19)	91
2018 Rodney Strong “Rosé of Pinot Noir,” Russian River Valley (\$25)	89
2018 Toad Hollow Vineyards “Eye of the Toad,” Sonoma County (\$14)	88
ZINFANDEL	
2016 Carol Shelton “Wild Thing, Old Vine,” Mendocino County (\$19)	90
2016 Cline Family Cellars “Big Break Vineyard,” Contra Costa County (\$37)	90
2016 Frank Family Vineyards Napa Valley (\$38)	91
2016 Frank Family Vineyards “Reserve,” Chiles Valley (\$60)	90
2016 Peacock Cellars Paso Robles (\$38)	91
2016 Sobon Estate “ReZerve, Paul’s Vineyard,” Amador County (\$24)	89

* Editor Nick Ponomareff’s scores based on the 100-points scoring system.

