



A

WORLD



POSSIBILITY

NEW WORLD REGIONS ABOUND WITH VALUES—NOT ALWAYS FROM THE GRAPES YOU EXPECT / BY KEITH NEWTON

The question of which grapes will produce the best value wines from which regions is not always easy to answer. That means wine lovers looking for affordable options often simply fall back on their assumptions. Some

grape varieties, you think, are too high-end to yield well-priced versions, while others, though typically less expensive, don't seem to deliver high-enough quality to qualify as real values. Across the New World, however, producers have found innovative ways to do both at the same time: Keep prices down while raising quality.

We don't intuitively associate international superstars such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay with value, but as the New World has expanded the map for these grapes, producers around the globe have crafted value bottlings from these powerhouse varieties. Likewise, less familiar grapes are increasingly making their mark with distinctive examples that offer exciting alternatives to the major categories. Carmenère from Chile and Grenache and GSM blends from California are notable examples.

This changing landscape can be challenging to navigate, which is why we've selected these 100 great values to steer you in the right direction, all of them rated 88 points or higher and priced at \$25 or less. They come from every corner of the New World, from California, Oregon, Washington and New York to the major wine countries of the Southern Hemisphere: Argentina, Chile, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Although each of these regions has its signature wines, they all produce a broad range of other bottlings worth exploring. From Argentina, for example, you'll find a host of ripe Malbecs, but also rich Cabernets and elegant Pinot Noirs. Let the diversity of these offerings be an inspiration to look beyond old standbys and try something new.

Reds

Among red wines, a big story in recent years has been the move toward balance. This doesn't mean winemakers have given up on the ripeness, richness and fruitiness that have long driven the success of many New World reds—not by a long shot. But the goal of greater balance, elegance and polish, now broadly shared by many producers, has pushed vintners to recalibrate their grapegrowing and winemaking practices and refine their wine styles.

The result is an array of wines that deliver expressive, complex flavors while maintaining freshness and vibrancy. California offers a compelling example, encompassing a range of different styles—from delicate Pinot Noir to opulent Zindandel—that all manage to deliver ripe fruit in a structured package.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON & BLENDS

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- 91 | \$22 | FINCA DECERO** | Cabernet Sauvignon Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2015 | ARGENTINA | Full of zesty acidity behind its dark plum, blackberry and dark currant flavors, this red is big and rich, showing chocolate nib notes midpalate, with creamy accents filling the pure and fruity finish. (K.M.)
- 89 | \$14 | ODFJELL** | Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Armador 2016 | CHILE | Big, rich flavors of dark plum, green olive and dark currant feature hints of bacon and smoke, followed by a sinewy finish filled with dried savory accents. (K.M.)
- 89 | \$20 | PIATELLI** | Cabernet Sauvignon Luján de Cuyo Grand Reserve 2016 | ARGENTINA | Dense dark plum, dried raspberry and red currant flavors show ripe touches, with focused minerality and green herbal notes on the finish. (K.M.)
- 89 | \$20 | LOS VASCOS** | Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Grande Reserve 2016 | CHILE | This is focused and mineral, offering red plum, cherry and raspberry flavors, supported by fresh acidity. Ends with green herbal and leafy notes on the zesty finish. (K.M.)
- 89 | \$23 | CHATEAU TANUNDA** | Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Grand Barossa 2017 | AUSTRALIA | Dense, with sink-your-teeth-into-them tannins and a juicy subtext to wild blackberry, blueberry and huckleberry flavors, showing matcha green tea, cedar and campfire details on the finish. (M.W.)



Chateau Tanunda in Australia's Barossa Valley

- 88 | \$12 | VIÑA MONTES** | Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Classic Series 2016 | CHILE | Plush, with flavors of raspberry preserves backed by lively acidity and crisp, spicy accents. Notes of currant and dried green herbs show on the finish. (K.M.)
- 88 | \$15 | VIÑA ESTAMPA** | Cabernet Sauvignon-Petit Verdot Colchagua Valley Reserva 2016 | CHILE | Dark plum and blackberry flavors dominate this ripe style, followed by baker's chocolate and spice details on the finish, with medium-grained tannins. (K.M.)
- 88 | \$17 | CASAS DEL BOSQUE** | Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Gran Reserva 2017 | CHILE | Dried berry and cherry flavors are firmly tannic in this red, with lots of dark olive notes. Ends with hints of tarragon and dark chocolate on the finish. (K.M.)
- 88 | \$18 | GEMTREE** | Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale Dragon's Blood 2017 | AUSTRALIA | Accents of freshly clipped herbs add an appealing green note to the core of cassis, plum and black cherry flavors. The tannins are firm but not too dense, leaving space for the spice and tobacco details to mingle. (M.W.)
- 88 | \$18 | VIÑA SAN PEDRO** | Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley 1865 Selected Vineyards 2017 | CHILE | Dark cherry and red plum flavors show lots of minty overtones in this version, ending with notes of green olive and spice on the crisp finish. (K.M.)
- 88 | \$20 | SPOKEN BARREL** | Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2015 | WASHINGTON | This is a gutsy version of Cabernet Sauvignon, featuring low-key flavors of black cherry and bay leaf. (T.F.)
- 88 | \$25 | ROUTESTOCK** | Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 29 2016 | CALIFORNIA | A flash of sage leads off, followed by ripe plum and raspberry fruit flavors. The finish is sleek and polished, showing a kiss of toast. (J.M.)

GRENACHE & BLENDS

- 92 | \$20 | MCPRICE MYERS** | High On The Hog Central Coast 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Lively and generous, offering zesty black raspberry, savory dried sage and peppercorn flavors that build richness toward refined tannins. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Graciano. (T.F.)
- 90 | \$22 | LE P'TIT PAYSAN** | Le P'tit Pape Central Coast 2016 | CALIFORNIA | This lanky red is laced with an appealing gamy quality, offering sleek and lean flavors of cherry, smoky anise and spice. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Counoise. (T.F.)
- 90 | \$25 | 689 CELLARS** | Killer Drop California 2015 | CALIFORNIA | Broad and expressive, this red features sturdy black cherry, licorice and mocha flavors, with peppery notes. Grenache, Petite Sirah, Syrah and Merlot. (T.F.)
- 89 | \$20 | BONNY DOON** | Grenache Central Coast The Wine Formerly Known as Clos de Gilroy 2017 | CALIFORNIA | This version is sleek and vibrant, delivering snappy cherry, smoky cinnamon and pepper flavors that glide along an easygoing finish. (T.F.)
- 88 | \$20 | MORGAN** | Cotes du Crow's Monterey 2017 | CALIFORNIA | Discreetly zesty, this red offers floral raspberry and spicy vanilla flavors. Grenache, Syrah and Tempranillo. (T.F.)

MALBEC & BLENDS

92 | \$20 | ANKO | Malbec Salta 2017 | ARGENTINA | A pure and mineraly red, showing concentrated flavors of dark plum, boysenberry and macerated cherry. Creamy midpalate, with a long, intense finish filled with dark chocolate and Asian spice notes. (K.M.)

91 | \$22 | FINCA DECERO | Malbec Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2017 | ARGENTINA | A rich red, with a plush array of dark plum and cherry tart flavors that are creamy and richly spiced. The open-textured finish shows plenty of savoriness, accented by dark chocolate hints. (K.M.)

90 | \$19 | CUVELIER LOS ANDES | Malbec Uco Valley 2015 | ARGENTINA | This is pure and refreshing, with snappy red fruit and spice flavors that show plenty of minerality, followed by notes of pencil shavings and slate on the finish. (K.M.)

90 | \$20 | PIATTELLI | Malbec Cafayate Valley Grand Reserve 2016 | ARGENTINA | Fresh and lively acidity supports the intense dark fruit, spice and cream flavors in this version. Ends with a fruity finish that's long and rich, with flint and white pepper accents and plenty of tannins. (K.M.)

89 | \$15 | VIÑA DOÑA PAULA | Black Edition Luján de Cuyo 2017 | ARGENTINA | Firm and focused, with notes of graphite to the dark currant and plum tart flavors. Slate and white pepper hints come in on the taut finish, with some green herbal edges. Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. (K.M.)

88 | \$19 | BODEGAS SALENTEIN | Malbec Uco Valley Reserve 2017 | ARGENTINA | A crisp version, with fresh-crushed red fruit flavors supported by crunchy acidity, ending with notes of cranberry zest on the finish. (K.M.)

88 | \$20 | ALTA VISTA | Malbec Mendoza 2017 | ARGENTINA | An interesting mix of slate, flint and spice notes accent the dark fruit flavors, with firm tannins on the slightly peppery finish. (K.M.)

MERLOT & BLENDS

90 | \$25 | LUKE | Merlot Wahluke Slope 2016 | WASHINGTON | This is zesty and approachable, with well-built cherry, coffee bean and spice flavors that finish with polished tannins. (T.F.)

89 | \$16 | KENWOOD | Merlot Sonoma County 2015 | CALIFORNIA | A broad and finely textured version, with forward raspberry flavors, dried green elements and hints of licorice. Ends with a supple finish. (K.M.)



Yealands in New Zealand's Marlborough region

89 | \$18 | CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE | Merlot Columbia Valley Indian Wells 2016 | WASHINGTON | A lively version, offering zesty fruit, with appealing flavors of black currant, espresso and spice that finish with refined tannins. (T.F.)

89 | \$25 | DECOY | Red Sonoma County 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Rich acidity backs the dried cherry, plum and bramble flavors in this fruity red, which shows notes of iodine midpalate, with Asian spice and green herbal accents on the finish. Merlot, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah and Petit Verdot. (K.M.)

88 | \$18 | THE FEDERALIST | Honest Red Blend Mendocino County 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Dried cherry and plum tart flavors are matched to savory notes of wild herbs and spice, with hot stone details emerging on the finish. Merlot, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. (K.M.)

PINOT NOIR

90 | \$13 | BODEGA MALMA | Pinot Noir Patagonia Finca La Papay 2018 | ARGENTINA | Elegant, with well-defined cedar and spice notes to the bright cherry, raspberry and currant flavors. The creamy finish lingers, with an interesting mix of cocoa and juniper berry accents. (K.M.)

90 | \$19 | ERATH | Pinot Noir Oregon 2016 | OREGON | This sleek version is easy to sip, with floral cherry and spice flavors that linger on the long, snappy finish. (T.F.)

90 | \$23 | BROOKS | Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Runaway Red 2017 | OREGON | This plush Pinot is plump with fruit, offering supple flavors of raspberry and spiced cinnamon that glide on the vibrant finish. (T.F.)

90 | \$25 | BUENA VISTA | Pinot Noir Carneros 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Finely structured and delicate, with bright minerality to the dried cherry and berry flavors. Peppery hints show on the rich finish. (K.M.)

90 | \$25 | PANTHER CREEK | Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Winemaker's Cuvée 2017 | OREGON | A fresh and lithe version, delivering vibrant raspberry, orange zest and tea flavors that persist toward taut yet refined tannins. (T.F.)

89 | \$19 | YEALANDS | Pinot Noir Marlborough Peter Yealands 2017 | NEW ZEALAND | An aromatic version, with plenty of black pepper and violet accents to the raspberry and wild strawberry core. Herb and spice notes, with a dash of tobacco, linger on the finish. (M.W.)

89 | \$20 | FOLIE À DEUX | Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2017 | CALIFORNIA | Offers raspberry, cherry and crushed plum flavors that are fresh and focused, with a backbone of zesty acidity. Ends with savory and spicy accents on the long, mineraly finish. (K.M.)

89 | \$22 | SEAN MINOR | Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Fresh-tasting cherry, currant and mulled berry flavors are supported by sinewy acidity in this focused version, with hot stone notes on the finish. (K.M.)

89 | \$23 | CHERRY PIE | Pinot Noir Monterey-Sonoma-Santa Barbara Counties 2016 | CALIFORNIA | There's an engaging freshness to the dried cherry, currant and roasted plum flavors, backed by medium-grained tannins. Well-structured, with a mineraly finish. (K.M.)

89 | \$24 | CARDWELL HILL | Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2015 | OREGON | A tart and lively version, with appealing rose petal and black cherry flavors that finish with sleek tannins. (T.F.)

88 | \$14 | CASTLE ROCK | Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2017 | OREGON | This is lively and plump, offering easygoing fruit, with raspberry and toasted spice flavors. (T.F.)

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SYRAH & BLENDS

92 | \$25 | SPARKMAN | Wilderness Columbia Valley 2015 | WASHINGTON | An eclectic blend of grapes, this has personality but remains balanced and focused, offering currant, licorice, tar, espresso and pepper flavors that end with snappy but polished tannins. Syrah, Tempranillo, Grenache, Petite Sirah, Souzão and Touriga Nacional. (T.F.)

89 | \$14 | JACOB'S CREEK | Shiraz Barossa Reserve 2016 | AUSTRALIA | Elegant and fresh, this version offers a juicy core of raspberry, pomegranate and maraschino cherry flavors that show Earl Grey tea, white pepper and rosemary accents. (M.W.)

89 | \$17 | HEARTLAND | Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon Langhorne Creek Spice Trader 2015 | AUSTRALIA | Tasty blueberry and huckleberry flavors have plenty of toasted herb accents and a touch of cumin on a smooth and juicy body. The herbal notes create a savory thread that gains momentum on the finish. Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. (M.W.)

89 | \$23 | LAFOND | Syrah Sta. Rita Hills SRH 2014 | CALIFORNIA | Tightly wound but well-structured, with dense blackberry, river stone and garrigue accents that finish with firm yet refined tannins. (T.F.)

88 | \$13 | CLINE | Syrah Sonoma Coast 2017 | CALIFORNIA | This version is dark and chunky, featuring medium-bodied flavors of huckleberry, smoky meat and licorice that end with perky tannins. (T.F.)

88 | \$17 | NINE STONES | Shiraz Barossa Valley 2016 | AUSTRALIA | Vivid blueberry and black licorice notes are pure and intense, with dense tannins that offer an appealing bit of chew. (M.W.)

ZINFANDEL

93 | \$25 | BEDROCK | Zinfandel California Old Vine 2017 | CALIFORNIA | Old school meets new, with just enough polish and plumpness to match the briary rusticity, showing expressive black cherry, smoky anise and white pepper flavors. (T.F.)

92 | \$19 | CAROL SHELTON | Zinfandel Mendocino County Wild Thing Old Vine 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Spirited and zesty, with lively cherry and smoky cracked pepper flavors that frolic on the long finish toward well-groomed tannins. (T.F.)

91 | \$25 | TURLEY | Zinfandel California Old Vines 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Offers supple fruit, with zesty yet polished black cherry, licorice and toasty spice flavors that glide along the finish. (T.F.)

89 | \$20 | ANCIENT PEAKS | Zinfandel Santa Margarita Ranch 2016 | CALIFORNIA | Ultraripe and jammy, yet appealing for the bold blackberry and licorice flavors that end on a jammy note. (T.F.)

OTHER REDS

91 | \$20 | BODEGA GARZÓN | Tannat Uruguay Reserve 2017 | URUGUAY | An intensely juicy version, with raspberry and plum flavors that show pepper and slate accents. Features grippy tannins on the finish, with crunchy minerality. (K.M.)

90 | \$17 | CONCHA Y TORO | Carmenère Peumo Serie Riberas Gran Reserva 2017 | CHILE | Concentrated flavors of raspberry, plum and wild cherry show mineral snap in this version, followed by crushed green herb notes on the suave finish. (K.M.)

89 | \$17 | LAMBERT ESTATE | Black Sheep Barossa Valley 2015 | AUSTRALIA | Notes of aromatic bitters give way to sarsaparilla-laced berry and plum flavors, with black licorice and fresh herbs lingering on the finish. Fresh and light, with plenty of harmony. Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Tempranillo, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Mataro. (M.W.)

89 | \$18 | VIÑA SAN PEDRO | Carmenère Maule Valley 1865 Selected Vineyards 2017 | CHILE | Finely textured, with concentrated dark plum, currant and Asian spice flavors that glide across the palate, with savory richness on the finish. (K.M.)

89 | \$18 | VIÑA TARAPACÁ | Carmenère Maipo Valley Gran Reserva 2017 | CHILE | There's good cut to the plum and red currant flavors in this version, accented by dried mint and sage notes, with juicy spiciness on the finish. (K.M.)

88 | \$17 | KANONKOP | Kadette Stellenbosch 2017 | SOUTH AFRICA | This shows some density, with medium tannins and blood orange acidity that enlivens the flavors of dried cherry and rose hip. A touch of mineral adds to the complexity as this comes together on the lengthy finish. Pinotage, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. (J.M.)



Kanonkop in Stellenbosch, South Africa