

775+ WINES
REVIEWED

2018 WINE STAR WINNERS REVEALED

BEST OF YEAR 2018

WINE ENTHUSIAST

THE TOP

100

#1
WINE
OF THE
YEAR

wines OF 2018

Winemag.com

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#BXNDJGHJ *****CAR-RT LOT**R-036 MIX COMAIL
#0047100075951197# 1813 NOV19
NV3T WINOOL BEST18 4799 P534 B132162 6/1837005
DAVE KROC
282 OAK COMMON AVE
ST AUGUSTINE FL 32095-6805

PLUS:
TOP 100 SPIRITS
& TOP 25 BEERS

VINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

BEST OF YEAR 2018

THIS MONTH

- CALIFORNIA
- WASHINGTON
- TEXAS
- VIRGINIA
- OTHER UNITED STATES
- CHILE
- NEW ZEALAND
- SPAIN
- BURGUNDY
- RHÔNE VALLEY
- VENETO
- EMILIA-ROMAGNA
- SICILY
- BULGARIA
- OTHER EUROPE
- SPIRITS
- BEER

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

BARGAIN BORDEAUX REDS

More than 180 reviews from Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur, with 36 Best Buys.

GLOBAL CHARDONNAY

Explore a full range of examples from California, Virginia, France, New Zealand, Chile and beyond.

NORTHERN ITALIAN FIZZ

More than 75 reviews of sparkling wines from Piedmont, Lombardy and Veneto.

Pinot Noir growing in Monterey County.

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90 Calcaeus 2016 Arcuria (Etna). Eucalyptus, dark spice and crushed aromatic herb aromas form the nose. Reflecting the aromas, the polished palate offers juicy cherry, orange zest, white pepper, clove and a saline-like mineral note. Taut, fine-grained tannins offer lithe support. Drink through 2026. Robert Mackin. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

90 Pietradolce 2017 Rosso (Etna). This has inviting aromas of wild berry that mingle with whiffs of wet stone and Mediterranean scrub. The full-bodied, polished palate offers Marasca cherry, ground clove, cured meat and a smoky note alongside a hint of iron. Drink through 2023. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2016 Santo Spirito (Etna). Aromas of dark spice, menthol, wild berry and French oak slowly appear in the glass. The taut, linear palate evokes cranberry, raw strawberry, star anise and blood orange set against vibrant acidity and tight, fine-grained tannins that need a few more years to unwind. Drink 2021–2026. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Tenuta di Fessina 2016 Erse (Etna). Earthy aromas evoking wild red berry, brimstone and a whiff of underbrush shape the nose. Vibrant and linear, the palate offers sour cherry, pomegranate, white pepper and a saline-like mineral note alongside bright acidity and lithe tannins. Drink through 2026. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Tenuta di Fessina 2012 Musmeci Riserva (Etna). Blue flower, eucalyptus, oak-driven spice and dark-skinned berry aromas mingle with a whiff of pipe tobacco. The linear palate delivers Morello cherry, blood orange, licorice, espresso and a salty note. Close-grained tannins give it a firm, drying finish. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Vivera 2013 Martinella (Etna). This opens with aromas of blue flower, dark spice, toasted hazelnut and a whiff of flint. On the svelte palate, fine-grained tannins give lithe support to red cherry, strawberry and ground clove. It's fresh, with lively acidity. Drink through 2022. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Biondi 2016 Contrada San Nicolò (Etna). Made with Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio, this offers subtle, earthy aromas evoking red berry, moist soil, exotic spice and a whiff of white pepper. The ethereal palate is a bit on the lean side, offering pomegranate and a hint of clove alongside firm acidity and lithe tannins. Drink 2020–2024. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Cottanera 2014 Zottorinotto Riserva (Etna). Aromas of French oak, espresso and underbrush lead the nose along with a whiff of eucalyptus. Mirroring the nose, the tight palate offers ripe black-skinned fruit, oak-driven spice and roasted coffee bean alongside close-grained tannins that leave a firm, drying finish. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

89 Firriato 2016 Le Sabbie dell'Etna (Etna). This has rather unusual but intriguing aromas of charcuterie, crushed rock, and dark, exotic spice. The linear palate is a bit on the slender side, offering raw strawberry, clove and a hint of espresso alongside lithe, dusty tannins and bright acidity. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Nicosia 2017 Fondo Filara (Etna). Made with organically farmed grapes, this has pretty scents of wild berry, blue flower and aromatic herb. Savory and easygoing, the palate doles out juicy black cherry, clove and star anise, while a salty note backs up the close. Smooth tannins provide light support. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Tenuta di Fessina 2015 Erse (Etna). Aromas of scorched earth, leather, *garrigue* and dark culinary spice lead the way. The bright palate is rather lean, offering dried cherry, raw cranberry, a hint of star anise and a salty note alongside dusty tannins and surprisingly lively acidity. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Terra Costantino 2016 De Aetna (Etna). Made with organically cultivated grapes, this has aromas of dark-skinned berry, blue flower, Mediterranean brush and baking spice. It's straightforward and savory, doling out juicy Marasca cherry, raspberry, star anise and clove alongside lively acidity and taut, polished tannins that give it a drying finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Al-Cantàra 2015 Lu Veru Piaciri (Etna). Aromas of toast, red berry and Mediterranean herb lead the nose. The bright, easygoing palate offers red cherry, wild strawberry and star anise alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. Wines LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Antichi Vinai 1877 2013 Pietralava (Etna). Smooth and easygoing, this juicy blend of Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio doles out crushed raspberry and ripe black cherry flavors accented with notes of dark baking spice. Polished tannins provide lithe support. Drink through 2021. Siena Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Antichi Vinai 1877 2012 Koinè Riserva (Etna). Aromas of underbrush, scorched earth, toast and Mediterranean scrub lead the nose alongside a whiff of prune. The firm, lean palate evokes dried black cherry, raisin, powdered sage and star anise alongside grainy tannins that leave a drying finish. Drink sooner rather than later. Siena Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Calcaeus 2016 Feudo di Mezzo (Etna). Aromas of toasted oak, oak-driven spice and menthol lead the nose. The tight palate offers sour cherry, clove and white pepper alongside close-grained tannins that give it a drying finish. Robert Mackin. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

88 Nicosia 2017 Vulkà (Etna). A blend of 80% Nerello Mascalese and 20% Nerello Cappuccio, this has inviting aromas of dark-skinned berry, culinary spice, blue flower and a whiff of charred earth. It's smooth, easygoing and juicy, offering fleshy black cherry, blackberry and a hint of clove alongside pliant, fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2020. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Nicosia 2012 Contrada Monte Gorna (Etna). Ripe black-skinned fruit, baking spice, French oak and camphor aromas take shape in the glass. The linear, lean-bodied palate reflects the nose, offering vanilla, oak-driven spice and strawberry compote alongside close-grained, drying tannins. Drink through 2022. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Cantine Russo 2012 Rampante (Etna). This opens with aromas of stewed prune, dark baking spice and a whiff of nail polish. It's rather lean-bodied, evoking dried black cherry, clove and orange zest alongside firm, close-grained tannins that leave a somewhat abrupt, drying finish. Chatham Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Gambino 2015 Tifeo (Etna). For full review see page 196.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Tenuta Rapitalà 2016 Rosso (Etna). French oak, coconut and mature plum aromas carry over to the rather light-bodied, astringent palate along with hints of clove, coffee bean and a note of powdered sage. Raspy, grainy tannins dry out the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25