

# WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

### THIS MONTH

|     |                     |     |                     |     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 2   | RHÔNE VALLEY        | 104 | OTHER ITALY         | 128 | CALIFORNIA          |
| 44  | PROVENCE            | 106 | SWITZERLAND         | 164 | OREGON              |
| 57  | SOUTHWEST FRANCE    | 107 | GERMANY             | 180 | WASHINGTON          |
| 61  | BORDEAUX            | 109 | HUNGARY             | 193 | IDAHO               |
| 71  | BURGUNDY            | 110 | KOSOVO              | 193 | MICHIGAN            |
| 73  | OTHER FRANCE        | 110 | ROMANIA             | 194 | NEW JERSEY          |
| 76  | PORTUGAL            | 110 | ISRAEL              | 195 | OTHER UNITED STATES |
| 79  | SPAIN               | 114 | SOUTH AFRICA        | 195 | CANADA              |
| 84  | PIEDMONT            | 117 | AUSTRALIA           | 197 | SPIRITS             |
| 93  | NORTHEAST ITALY     | 120 | NEW ZEALAND         | 201 | BEER                |
| 97  | LOMBARDY            | 122 | ARGENTINA           |     |                     |
| 98  | ABRUZZO             | 124 | CHILE               |     |                     |
| 102 | OTHER CENTRAL ITALY | 128 | OTHER INTERNATIONAL |     |                     |

Cherry-hued Tavel in the glass

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**93 Abeja 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Aromas of fresh black cherry, barrel spice, dark chocolate and blackberry are followed by lush, ripe black cherry flavors. The tannins are polished to a fine sheen, and it shows a compelling texture. The finish carries. This is an outright delicious offering of the variety, with lots of pure hedonism but no shortage of class. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$60

**92 Abeja 2018 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Reserved raspberry, black currant and mocha aromas are followed by seamless red and black fruit flavors. It offers a lot of direct appeal but with plenty of complexity beyond that. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Abeja 2019 Chardonnay (Washington).** The aromas offer notes of burnt toast, pumpkin and peach, with the oak not having fully integrated yet. There's a lovely balance and texture to the reserved but still full-feeling fruit flavors. Toast notes linger on the finish. Give it a few years in the cellar to see it at its best. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**91 Abeja 2017 Heather Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas of this 100% varietal bring notes of cherry cordial, coffee, blackberry, anise, dried orange rind and spice. The palate is flavorful and soft. The concentration wavers a bit in the middle initially but fleshes out over time. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68