



Handy Hint: Cut out these notes and tape them to your bottle

Cellar Notes

February 2022

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2019 Leviathan Red Blend, California - \$49.00 - Renowned winemaker Andy Erickson began making Leviathan in 2004, with a goal to create a top-quality red wine, this one crafted from Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petite Verdot. Dense, broad, supple, and very tasty, we found generous aromas and flavors suggesting cocoa powder, nutmeg, boysenberry, black cherry and plum. Wow! It will match well today with braised meats, firm cheeses, roasted vegetables, and polenta. Enjoy today through 2030. **93pts *Jeb Dunnuck*** - *"Always a value, the 2019 California Red Wine is a juicy, up-front, undeniably delicious red with plenty of red, black, and blue fruits as well as graphite, leafy herbs, and chalky mineral nuances. Medium to full-bodied, pure, balanced, and seamless, it's a no-brainer purchase to enjoy over the coming 8-10 years at a minimum. Best After 2022"*, **95pts *James Suckling*, 92pts *Vinous***

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - Devison Vintners "GPR" Red Blend - \$29.95 - Peter and Kelsey Devison say, "Our marker for this Rhône-inspired everyday drinker was GPR, short for Glass Pour Rhône or Glass Pour Red. GPR - simply and clearly a red wine to have in your glass every day!" It's immediately enjoyable showing raspberry and darker fruits, is beautifully balanced. It will keep for a decade. Enjoy today - 2028. **92pts & "Editors' Choice" *Wine Enthusiast*** *"This is a blend of 56% Syrah, 40% Grenache and 4% Mourvèdre... Aromas of berry, pipe tobacco, ground pepper and fresh herbs lead to fruit flavors that are full feeling but still light on their feet. There's plenty of structure behind it all."* **93 Pts & "Best Buy" *International Wine Report*** - *"The wine sees 16 months in 20% new French oak... driven by aromas and flavors of black cherry, espresso, tangerine pith, black pepper, smoked brisket, bay leaf and green olive this is a phenomenal wine... I'm floored by how good this wine is."*

WHITE - 2019 Domaine des Forges, Savennières - \$29.95 Savennières is the Loire Valley's equivalent to Chablis in character, floral and lean with spirited minerality, respected for its high quality in an age-worthy style. Unusual for the area, 100% of Savennières production is dry white wine made from Chenin Blanc, here showing its crisp acidity and aromas of white flowers, beeswax, and lemons along with a creamy texture. With age you can expect a distinctive pale amber color to develop with flavors of walnuts and a touch of honey. All of us were very impressed with its long citrusy finish, Tom says, "It just keeps going!" This beautifully complex white will match well with white meats and rich fish dishes such as seared scallops or grilled halibut. Enjoy today - 2030.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2018 Clos de los Siete Red Blend, Mendoza, Argentina - \$19.95 - Managed by famed winemaker Michel Rolland, Clos de la Siete is a Malbec-dominated blend of 55% Malbec, 19% Merlot, 12% Syrah, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% each Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It is more restrained and elegant than many of the wines for which Rolland consults and exhibits finesse as well as power. Serve this fine red with red meat dishes, particularly beef and lamb, or with stews and hearty bean soups, charcuterie, and cheeses. Enjoy today - 2025. **90pts *Wine Spectator TOP 100*** - *"Dense and powerful, with plenty of loamy notes to the dark cherry and roasted plum flavors that show creamy accents. Ends with dark chocolate on the finish. Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc."* **91+pts *W. Advocate*, 94 Pts *J. Suckling***

WHITE - 2020 Fattoria La Valentina Pecorino, Abruzzo, Italy - \$17.95 - Fattoria La Valentina operates in Italy's central Abruzzo region. Pecorino, an indigenous white grape variety, produces a pristine white wine admired for mineral flavors with a combination of high acidity and a rich mouthfeel. Made entirely in stainless steel, with no acid-softening malolactic conversion, its 2-month lees contact adds an almond-like complexity. You'll note citrus, sage and a stony minerality, plus a very slight spritz impression as green apple and lemony flavors show very good concentration. Try with crisp, cheesy Gougères, Pecorino cheese (*honest!*), or other hard white cheeses. Enjoy today - 2026. **91 Pts *Wine Review Online***

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2019 Castillo De Aresan Tempranillo Toro, La Mancha, Spain - \$14.95 - We found this classic Spanish Tempranillo to be darker than most, with very dark complex fruit expressions of black raspberry and spice. With deeply fruited concentration and lots of richness along with dusty tannins you'll find it ideal with roasted turkey or chicken, or even a meaty beef brisket. Enjoy today - 2025.

WHITE - 2019 Domaine Jean Aubron Sauvignon Blanc, "Vielles Vignes", Val de Loire, France - \$14.95 - Imported by a company championing smaller French producers, this white from the Loire Valley delivers quintessential Sauvignon Blanc, showing notes of citrusy lime and characteristic minerality with a delightfully creamy texture. Great Sauvignon Blanc food pairings include fish, tart vinaigrettes, briny sauces, spicy dishes, and herbal fare. Enjoy today - 2023.

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