



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

Cellar Notes

May 2022

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2018 Cadence "Ciel du Cheval Vineyard" Bordeaux-style Red Blend, Red Mountain, WA - \$49.00 - Our VINO! team came up with tons of descriptors: supple, deep dark fruits, super refined, notes of black cherry, cassis, coffee, blackberry pie, cedar, and with great balance and texture. Give this a few more years in the bottle and you will be richly rewarded over the next 15 years or so. We would choose a Ribeye steak in the first ten years of aging and a leaner Filet in the last 10. Critics agree: **95 points Jeb Dunnuck** *"Lots of classic Red Mountain tannins and minerality as well as notes of cassis, currants, dried herbs, graphite, and loamy soil define this beauty, and it's medium to full-bodied and wonderfully balanced, with a round, expansive mouthfeel and a great finish. Well worth seeking out, it's going to deliver the goods for a solid two decades. Ciel Du Cheval is based on 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Cabernet Franc, 19% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot. It comes from unquestionably one of the top vineyards on Red Mountain and spent 18 months in French oak."* Plus: **94 points Int'l Wine Reports. 93 points & "Cellar Selection", Wine Enthusiast**

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2018 Covington Cellars "Ma Belle" Rhône-style Red Blend, Olsen Vineyard, Yakima Valley, WA - \$29.95 - Our VINO! tasters were wow'd by this wine's rich perfume and supple flavors showing red and blue fruits mixed with woody herbs and elegant spice. It's a beauty, at 75% Grenache, rounded out by 20% Syrah, with 5% Cinsault. The wine drinks well now and will only improve through 2025 with preparations of game and tame red meats, charcuterie and hard cheeses. **90 Points Wine Advocate** - *"The 2018 Ma Belle Olsen Vineyard Artisan Series offers a balanced expression of red florals, crunchy red fruit and spiced nuances. Medium to full-bodied, the Grenache drives the experience with notions of dried herbs, cinnamon, and a touch of black and red peppercorn medley before concluding with a bright, fresh and enjoyable finish."*

WHITE - 2020 Garzon Albariño 'Reserva', Uruguay - \$29.95 Vivid and bracing, this racy Albarino from Uruguay surprised all of us. Spain's native Albarino enjoys Uruguay's climate and careful handling by the country's most esteemed winery. Enjoy through 2025 with mussels, oysters, clams, scallops and shrimp in creamy pasta preparations. **94 Points, James Suckling** - *"A medium-bodied white with aromas of fresh pineapple, lemon zest, chamomile, sea salt and crushed stones. Pretty layers of stone fruit and stones, accompanied by bright, tangy acidity throughout. Oily for an Albarino. Very solid and phenolic with tannic framing."*

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2016 Baron de Ley Rioja 'Reserva', Rioja, Spain - \$19.95 This predominantly Tempranillo-based red was produced from grapes grown in their 'estate' vineyards in the vicinity of Spain's Rioja Alta. It's 'Reserva' designation came from 20 months ageing in new American oak casks and another 24 months spent in bottle before release. With super smooth textures and showing flavors of dried cherry, cedar, and red berries, we were impressed with its friendly, spicy tannins. This will pair best with grilled or roasted meat dishes such as beef tenderloin, lamb chops, venison stew, or veal chops. Enjoy today through 2026.

92 Points, James Suckling - *"A red with lovely sweet-berry, crushed-stone and chocolate aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, firm tannins and a creamy, polished finish."*

WHITE - 2020 Pierre Sparr Pinot Blanc 'Grande Réserve', Alsace, France - \$19.95 - This light, bright, and fresh vivacious white exhibits a spirited personality bringing perfumed suggestions of nectarine and honeysuckle. Arriving smooth and creamy with dense texture and in a rich dry style, the flavors are deep and juicy with rounded flavors suggesting lightly tangy citrus with a touch of pear, balanced and generous. This Pinot Blanc pair perfectly with roast chicken, salad, and other light meats. Mild cheeses, seafood, pasta, and creamy sauces are also excellent choices. Enjoy today through 2025.

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2017 Bergevin Lane 'Linen' Red Blend, Walla Walla Valley, WA \$14.95 - Consisting of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 11% Syrah, 8% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Malbec our tasters said "Yummers!" Smooth and fruity in a typical Washington State blend tradition, it delivers rich berry fruit in a lush and richly textured package. We noted red and black cherries and loads of boysenberry fruit. Fresh and juicy, this lively wine shows coffee and floral notes on the finish. With good freshness and a clean finish, it should pair well with absolutely any barbecued red meat and we also recommend dark-meat fowl, venison, and bison for something a bit more unusual. Enjoy today through 2024.

WHITE - 2020 Marqués de Cáceres Verdejo, Rueda, Spain - \$13.95 One of Spain's most widely grown grapes, this young Verdejo made us wish it was already summer! Zesty and zingy showing light pink grapefruit notes and a creamy mouthfeel, it leads effortlessly to a long, crisp finish. Enjoy before 2024 as a good match for summery food such as seafood and salads. Unlike many other wines they're not fazed by tomatoes, asparagus or sharp vinaigrettes. **92 Points, Wine & Spirits** - *"...Its dynamic contrast of rich and fresh, its brisk flavors of apples and turmeric, its leesy depths and lasting refreshment all set the bar for affordable pleasure in verdejo. Chill it for shellfish, particularly grilled oysters with spicy garlic butter."* **90 Points, The Tasting Panel** - *"Fermentation on the lees with no barrel aging brings out aromas of peach, pine nut, and lemon sorbet. Stark acidity creates liveliness on the palate around a mineral core. Vibrant notes of lemon chiffon, meringue, and honeyed pineapple demonstrate an inner freshness."*

May 2022

May 2022

May 2022

May 2022

May 2022

May 2022

May 2022