



Handy Hint: Cut out these notes and tape them to your bottle(s)!

# Cellar Notes

July 2022

## Cellar Selection - Under \$100

**RED - 2017 Catena Zapata "Nicholas" Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendoza, Argentina - \$99.00** - Regarded among Argentina's most esteemed producers, Catena wines are a blend of single varietal lots from their family's vineyards. Each vineyard is divided into lots that are harvested separately, and the "Nicholas" is their top blend. Enjoy today - 2035. **97pts James Suckling** - "Sweet tobacco, walnuts, blackberries and dried flowers on the nose. Full body, yet ultra-fine tannins and a super long finish. Superb finesse and polish. Drink after 2023, but already fabulous." **95pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate** - "The approachable 2017 Nicolás Catena Zapata has a little more Cabernet Franc in the blend, even if the majority is Cabernet Sauvignon and there is some Malbec. It has a touch of ripeness in the nose but without excess; it's balsamic, with the Cabernet dominating the aromatics. The palate comes through as really balanced and perhaps a little lighter. It has very fine tannins and a clean, focused finish."

## Prestige Red - Under \$50

**RED - 2017 Kitzke "Upside Down Malbec", Washington - \$47.00** - The Kitzke's Malbec vineyards in the Yakima Valley face northwest and receive limited direct sun making for a longer growing season and fuller ripening. The Malbec grape enjoys great success in Argentina, as well as being one of the major 5 grapes used for blending in Bordeaux, France. Typically rich with dark spicy fruit, this one expresses deep blue and black berry flavors along with notions of black cherry, mocha, pipe tobacco, and suggestions of cedar. Our tasters loved it, his one is the bomb, finishing with chocolaty, velvety tannins. Enjoy today - 2030, alongside steak, pork, or lamb, as well as poultry dark meat.

## Collector Series - Under \$30

**RED - 2017 Reininger Cabernet Sauvignon, Walla Walla Valley, WA - \$29.95** - Our tasters found this beautiful red from Walla Walla-grown fruit impressively delicious for its black cherry, boysenberry and bittersweet chocolate character, along with an ultra-smooth mouthfeel carrying suggestions of vanilla and toasted coconut. Raised in 100% French oak, (33% new) gives a high polish to the finish. Enjoy today - 2028 with nearly any red meat, including prime rib, New York strip or filet mignon. **92pts James Suckling** - "Fresh coffee, blackberries and roasted herbs on the nose. Full-bodied with chewy tannins. Lush black and red berries mix with cedar and allspice. 97% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Malbec"

**WHITE - 2021 Prospice Viognier, Gamache Vineyard, WA - \$29.95** - This newer Walla Walla winery continues to impress with balanced, distinctive wines across the board. This Viognier displays some boldness in its fruit, sprightly for the variety, expressing flavors of tangerine, honeysuckle, and peach. It has a clean and crisp focus that develops into a pleasingly long, lingering finish. Bright aromas of lemon zest, mineral and ripe peach make it well suited to lighter meats or white fish dishes. Enjoy today - 2026.

## Classic Series - Under \$20

**RED - 2018 Casa Brancaia TRE, Toscana IGT, Italy - \$19.95** - This Tuscan three-part (*tre*) blend comes from a family making wine in Castellina in Chianti since 1981. Comprised of 80% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, it delivers medium-bodied, complex depth beyond the typical Chianti genre from the two Bordeaux varietals. Bright and fruity dried cherry aromas lead into a seamlessly smooth texture, an excellent example of Tuscan innovation meeting our "new-world" palates. Try with grilled meats or roasted veggies on the grill. Enjoy today - 2025.

**WHITE - 2020 Casa Magoni Chardonnay-Vermentino, Val de Guadalupe, Baja, Mexico - \$19.95** - From 100% estate-grown fruit, this unusual combination brightened our day with its racy mouthfeel reflecting the green apple tartness from Chardonnay plus a vibrant grapefruit/lime citrus note from the Vermentino. The vineyards lie south of the California border in the Baja, where newer wineries continue to experiment with a wide variety of grape types to see what works well there. Enjoy today - 2025, alongside most seafood dishes, and with many vegetables.

## Award Series - Under \$15

**RED - 2019 Shannon Ridge Petite Sirah, Lake County, CA - \$14.95** - Used as a blending grape in the south of France (*aka "Durif"*), it is loved for its deep color, rich black fruit flavors, and bold tannins. Try with roast red meats, bold, creamy sauces, Blue cheese, root vegetables, and mushrooms. Enjoy today - 2026. **90pts Wine Enthusiast** - "Quite ripe and jammy, this deeply colored wine also sports nicely integrated tannins that balance the intense blueberry and blackberry flavors. Being relatively smooth and polished for the varietal, it's ready to drink through 2026."

**WHITE - 2020 Nortico Alvarinho, Minho, Portugal - \$14.95** - This light-bodied, crisp white wine is grown in northern Portugal's cooler areas close to the sea where it attains briny flavors and makes a great alternative to Sauvignon Blanc. Notes of sea breezes, grapefruit and lemon blossoms tantalize the taste buds! Tart and zesty, it delivers touches of salinity and minerality making it a fine companion with white fish, lighter meats, leafy green herbs, or alone as an aperitif. Try with oysters, clams, or crab! Enjoy today - 2025.

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