

Wine Spectator

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**BREATHTAKING
BEAUTY**

**CHÂTEAUX AROUND
THE WORLD**

**PLUS TUSCANY
AND NEW ZEALAND
TASTING REPORTS**

**CHAMPAGNE
POMMERY**



SPAIN Sparkling

94 Recaredo Mata Casanovas Brut Nature Vino Espumoso Reserva Particular de Recaredo 2009 \$120 A classy bubbly, with a statuesque frame of well-cut acidity and satiny texture married to appealing flavors of salted almond, dried white cherry and hints of toast point, Grand Marnier liqueur and ground ginger. Long and creamy, expanding on the palate and through the lasting finish. Macabeu and Xarel-lo. Disgorged December 2020. Drink now through 2033.—A.N.

92 Josep Maria Raventós i Blanc Extra Brut Vino Espumoso de la Finca 2020 \$39 Sleek and well-knit, with a fine creamy bead carrying flavors of white raspberry, preserved lemon, white blossoms and Marcona almond. Shows linear focus and definition, but expands nicely through the midpalate and finish. Xarel-lo, Macabeo and Parellada. Disgorged April 2023. Drink now through 2028. 3,500 cases made, 800 cases imported.—A.N.

92 Recaredo Mata Casanovas Brut Nature Vino Espumoso Rosat Intens 2018 \$40 Finely meshed and creamy, this has an up-front delicacy to the flavors—strawberry preserves, soft cherry, mandarin orange peel, peach skin and grilled herbs—that belies the overall intensity of the profile. The aromas and flavors expand on the plush palate, extending through the focused, fresh and well-spiced finish. Monastrell and Garnacha. Disgorged March 2022. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.



TON MATA
Owner & Winemaker

92 Recaredo Mata Casanovas Brut Nature Vino Espumoso Terrers 2017 \$40 A plush, creamy sparkler, with hints of clove, spices and tea rose on the nose joining flavors of dried cherry and strawberry, roasted almond and graphite. Rich and focused, yet shows fine equilibrium, thanks to lively citrus peel acidity. Xarel-lo, Parellada and Macabeu. Disgorged April 2022. Drink now through 2028.—A.N.

91 Roger Goulart Extra Brut Cava Gran Reserva 2019 \$27 An elegant version, harmonious and well-knit, with a soft succulence to the acidity that enlivens flavors of yellow apple, preserved lemon, baked apricot and beeswax. Shows a fine, quietly sparkling mousse, which carries the pinprick tang of fleur de sel on the finish. Xarel-lo, Macabeu and Parellada. Drink now through 2026. 2,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—A.N.

91 Recaredo Mata Casanovas Brut Nature Vino Espumoso Corpinnat Serral del Vell 2015 \$67 A tightly meshed version, with the fine mousse and sleek, vibrant acidity enmeshed with notes of poached quince, grapefruit granita, apple peel and graphite. Chalky on the finish, with the weight and structure to recommend this to food pairing; try with grilled seafood. Xarel-lo and Macabeu. Disgorged September 2021. Drink now through 2028.—A.N.

90 Roger Goulart Brut Cava Reserva 2020 \$25 An appealing sparkler, exuding flavors of ripe peach and star anise, with a frame of vibrant acidity and a lively, creamy bead. Offers details of grapefruit sorbet and spring blossoms as well as a minerally streak of saline and petrol, all joining the fruit and spice profile and lingering on the finish. Macabeu, Parellada and Xarel-lo. Drink now. 2,500 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Josep Maria Raventós i Blanc Brut Rosé Vino Espumoso de Nit 2021 \$26 A firm, focused sparkler, with a pleasingly crisp, lightly chalky texture, this offers a subtle, savory overtone of smoke, stone and grilled herbs and flavors of black cherry, pickled ginger and almond pastry. Fresh finish. Xarel-lo, Macabeo, Parellada and Monastrell. Disgorged March 2023. Drink now through 2026. 17,000 cases made, 9,000 cases imported.—A.N.

90 Josep Maria Raventós i Blanc Extra Brut Vino Espumoso Blanc de Blancs 2021 \$24 See Smart Buys, page 93.

New Wines From Around the World

CALIFORNIA Chardonnay

94 Lynmar Chardonnay Russian River Valley La Sereinité 2020 \$78 Complex, this stunning white showcases ripe pear, peach and salted melon flavors, with hints of lemon verbena and litsea oil that add complexity and aromatics. Smooth and seamless, with fresh acidity highlighting its intensity, while notes of marzipan and orange blossoms linger. Drink now. 253 cases made.—M.W.

93 Martinelli Chardonnay Russian River Valley Lolita Ranch Vineyard 2020 \$62 This has terrific presence, with cardamom, nutmeg and vanilla bean accents that are aromatic, smooth and melt into a core of mango and dried apricot flavors, swinging back around to toast and spice notes on the finish. Reveals candied ginger, rooibos tea and honeysuckle notes that linger. Drink now. 226 cases made.—M.W.

93 Martinelli Chardonnay Russian River Valley Martinelli Road Vineyard 2020 \$62 Complex and seamless, with a core of honeyed pineapple, mango and lemon meringue flavors that mingle with notes of toasted coconut, toffee and spices. Plump and smooth, ending with accents of toasted brioche and roasted, salted hazelnut. Drink now. 295 cases made.—M.W.

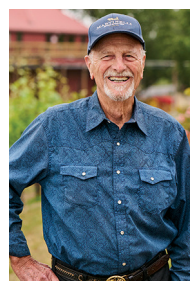
92 Blue Farm Chardonnay Russian River Valley Laceroni Vineyard 2020 \$75 Delivers juicy pineapple, peach and lemon curd flavors that are generous and plump, with details of lemon basil, orange blossoms, marmalade and candied ginger. Shows fresh acidity, with a long, lingering finish. Drink now. 245 cases made.—M.W.

92 Bohème Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Taylor Ridge Vineyard 2020 \$49 Distinctive and aromatic, with an appealing plumpness to the peach cobbler, apricot and melon flavors. Gains complexity from spice, honey and buttered pastry notes, while vibrant, mouthwatering acidity keeps all the flavors bright and focused. Drink now. 229 cases made.—M.W.

92 Kosta Browne Chardonnay Russian River Valley Bootlegger's Hill 2020 \$170 Balances bold notes with a more delicate touch, showing snappy peach, citrus and apple flavors married to rich salted butterscotch, buttery pastry and baking spices, along with a touch of vanilla custard. Drink now. 222 cases made.—M.W.

92 Lynmar Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Susanna's Vineyard 2020 \$68 Highly detailed, offering notes of nutmeg, cardamom and pastry cream to complement the apricot, fig and pear flavors at the core. Reveals a rich, toasty note, but also fresh, vibrant acidity and hints of fresh herbs and green tea on the finish. Drink now. 269 cases made.—M.W.

92 Martinelli Chardonnay Fort Ross-Seaview Charles Ranch Vineyard 2020 \$62 Complex and rich, but not shy on the influence of oak, adding toasted brioche, nutmeg and butterscotch overtones to the core of poached pear, grilled peach and lemon curd. Reveals salted butter and pastry cream notes, while a thread of acidity keeps everything light on its feet. Drink now. 169 cases made.—M.W.



LEE MARTINELLI SR.
Owner

91 Tongue Dancer Chardonnay Russian River Valley Pratt Vine Hill Vineyard 2020 \$45 Aromatic and rich, with apricot pastry, candied citrus peel and mango puree notes that are smooth and round, while a fresh thread of acidity and details of white flower blossoms and preserved lemon come through on the finish. Drink now. 100 cases made.—M.W.

90 Gary Farrell Chardonnay Russian River Valley Rochioli-Allen Vineyards 2020 \$70 A vibrant offering, with lemon meringue, orange sherbet and fresh lime zest notes that mingle with candied ginger, pear pastry and spices. Packs generous spices on the finish, along with a fresh thread of acidity. Drink now. 404 cases made.—M.W.

CALIFORNIA Zinfandel & Blends

95 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Dina's Vineyard Old Vine 2021 \$60 See Highly Recommended, page 91.

94 Baca Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Home Base 2021 \$40 A winning combination of zesty and vibrant elements, this Zinfandel offers handsomely layered black raspberry and cherry flavors highlighted by cracked pepper, mocha and a hint of licorice as it finishes with refined tannins. Drink now through 2032. 2,148 cases made.—T.F.

94 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Hartford Vineyard Old Vine 2021 \$60 This red is vibrant and handsomely structured, with expressive raspberry and cherry flavors that are highlighted by notes of roasted sage and cracked pepper as this builds richness toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 200 cases made.—T.F.

94 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Highwire Vineyard Old Vine 2021 \$60 A sleek and racy Zin, with briary wild berry, licorice and brown baking spice flavors that build richness and structure toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2032. 325 cases made.—T.F.

94 Limerick Lane Squatter's Hill Russian River Valley 2021 \$54 Jammed with flavor and intensity, this offers deep blackberry, licorice and savory black pepper flavors that build richness and texture toward broad-shouldered tannins. Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. Drink now through 2033. 343 cases made.—T.F.

94 Limerick Lane Zinfandel Moon Mountain District Monte Rosso Vineyard 2021 \$72 Concentrated yet retains a sense of detail and refinement, with rich black raspberry, orange zest and licorice flavors that build polish toward medium-grained tannins. Best from 2024 through 2032. 156 cases made.—T.F.

94 Seghesio Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Cortina 2021 \$50 Old-school meets modern polish with this Zin, with tiers of black raspberry, garrigue and spicy mocha flavors that build complexity and finesse on the savory finish. Drink now through 2032. 4,720 cases made.—T.F.

94 Seghesio Zinfandel Sonoma County Old Vine 2021 \$40 See Smart Buys, page 92.

93 Green & Red Zinfandel Napa Valley Chiles Canyon Vineyards 2021 \$32 Refined and elegant yet zesty, this Zin has detail and presence, with layered raspberry and cherry flavors accented by tarragon and white pepper. Ends with fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 750 cases made.—T.F.

93 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard Old Vine 2021 \$60 Broad-shouldered and potent yet polished, with deeply structured blackberry and raspberry flavors accented by fresh sage and green peppercorn. Drink now through 2032. 250 cases made.—T.F.

93 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Old Vine 2021 \$42 Brambly and vibrant yet elegantly structured, with detailed blueberry and raspberry flavors accented by mineral, sandalwood and pepper notes that build toward zesty tannins. Drink now through 2032. 2,044 cases made.—T.F.

93 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Winberrie Knolls Old Vine 2021 \$60 A compact and densely structured Zin, this version opens slowly to reveal cherry and blueberry flavors, which take on highlights of stony mineral and white pepper. Ends with medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 60 cases made.—T.F.

93 Limerick Lane 1910 Block Russian River Valley 2021 \$68 This gutsy version is built in an old-school style that's appealingly rustic and briary, this is laced with blackberry, underbrush and white pepper flavors that finish with tannic grip. Hands off for now. Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. Best from 2024 through 2032. 277 cases made.—T.F.

93 Limerick Lane Estate Cuvée Russian River Valley 2021 \$88 A handsome wine, briary yet refined in structure, with deep blackberry and cherry flavors that draw in roasted sage and cracked pepper as this builds tension toward medium-grained tannins. Zinfandel, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Petite Syrah. Best from 2024 through 2031. 216 cases made.—T.F.

93 Limerick Lane Zinfandel Russian River Valley Banfield Vineyard 2021 \$64 This version is powerfully built yet retains a sense of style and finesse, with blueberry and dark plum flavors laced with crushed stone and savory sage as this builds tension toward broad-shouldered tannins. Best from 2024 through 2032. 100 cases made.—T.F.

93 Limerick Lane Zinfandel Russian River Valley Maffei Vineyard 2021 \$64 Racy and briary, with an array of raspberry and blueberry flavors laced with savory anise and cracked pepper. Builds tension toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 172 cases made.—T.F.

93 Limerick Lane Zinfandel Russian River Valley Rocky Knoll 2021 \$68 This Zin is gutsy yet refined in focus, with dense blueberry and cherry flavors accented by crushed stone and green peppercorn. Builds toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 181 cases made.—T.F.

93 Martinelli Zinfandel Russian River Valley Vellutini Ranch Vineyard 2021 \$62 A plump and polished version, with rich ripe black cherry flavors layered with supple mocha and spice tones as this glides on the long, savory, jammy finish. Drink now through 2031. 209 cases made.—T.F.

93 San Lorenzo Rock Garden Hillside Red Alexander Valley 2021 \$48 Plush and jammy, with generous and layered blackberry, mocha and pepper flavors that unfold on the long, supple finish. Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2031. 350 cases made.—T.F.

93 Seghesio Zinfandel Alexander Valley Home Ranch Vineyard Estate 2021 \$65 Plump and richly structured, with blackberry cobbler, licorice and brown baking spice flavors that slowly take on structure and focus toward jammy tannins. Drink now through 2032. 2,218 cases made.—T.F.

93 Seghesio Zinfandel Rockpile Rockpile 2021 \$60 A big-shouldered red, with rich and multi-layered black cherry, cracked pepper and bay leaf flavors framed by husky tannins. Best from 2024 through 2032. 1,519 cases made.—T.F.

92 Hartford Family Zinfandel Russian River Valley Jolene's Vineyard Old Vine 2021 \$60 Tightly focused, offering a narrow beam of boysenberry, eucalyptus and green peppercorn flavors that draw in tension and structure toward medium-grained tannins. Best from 2024 through 2032. 225 cases made.—T.F.

92 Limerick Lane Zinfandel Sonoma County Marquis 2021 \$72 Tightly focused, showing a tense core of acidity and tannins framed by black cherry, blueberry and green peppercorn flavors. Drink now through 2031. 307 cases made.—T.F.

92 Limerick Lane Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Bedrock Vineyard 2021 \$64 A boldly structured Zin, with concentrated raspberry and plum flavors that take on notes of Asian spices and savory anise as this builds muscular tannins. Best from 2024 through 2032. 60 cases made.—T.F.

92 Martinelli Zinfandel Russian River Valley Lolita Ranch Vineyard 2021 \$62 A jammy and polished version, with dried cherry and wild berry flavors laced with licorice and briary underbrush tones, which build tension toward broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2031. 222 cases made.—T.F.

92 Nalle Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley 2021 \$48 Refined and handsomely built, featuring sleek raspberry, dill and white pepper flavors that glide toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2031.—T.F.

91 MacRostie Zinfandel Moon Mountain District Clockwise Monte Rosso Vineyard 2021 \$62 A zesty briar patch of a Zin, with lively raspberry, grilled anise and white pepper flavors that zip along the snappy finish. Drink now through 2031. 172 cases made.—T.F.

91 San Lorenzo The Pearl Alexander Valley 2021 \$80

Ripe and generous, offering bold raspberry, licorice and brown baking spice flavors that finish with jammy, supple tannins. Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Alicante Bouschet, Carignane, Peloursin and Grand Noir. Drink now through 2031. 147 cases made.—T.F.



PETE SEGHESSIO
Owner & Winemaker

CALIFORNIA

Other

94 Paul Hobbs Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Cleary Estate 2021 \$95 Offers a nice splash of mulberry and boysenberry fruit flavors that spill forth, laced with enticing anise, apple wood, black tea and warm fruitcake threads, while a subtle tug of earth keeps everything grounded through the bright, energetic finish. Drink now through 2031. 270 cases made.—J.M.

94 Paul Hobbs Pinot Noir West Sonoma Coast Goldrock Estate 2021 \$90 Offers a vivid, precise display of mulberry puree, along with light violet, hibiscus, anise and blackberry notes. Sleek, with a slight savory ripple at the very end for contrast. Delightfully pure. Drink now through 2029. 1,494 cases made.—J.M.

93 Domaine Carneros Brut Rosé Carneros 2019 \$46 Fragrant and refined, this blush offers graceful strawberry, watermelon, fresh violet and gingerbread flavors that take on richness and steely acidity on the finish. Drink now. 6,800 cases made.—T.F.

93 Domaine Carneros Brut Rosé Carneros Cuvée de la Pompadour NV \$45 This sumptuous blush is dynamic and sleek, with strawberry and pomegranate flavors highlighted by baked almond tart and spices, building richness on the long finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—T.F.

93 Iron Horse Brut California Stargazing Cuvée 2014 \$195/1.5L Sleek yet luxurious, this bubbly blends maturity with freshness, offering apple and lemon flavors highlighted by roasted nuts, spices and persimmon as it lingers on the palate. Drink now. 250 cases made.—T.F.

93 Iron Horse Joy! Green Valley of Russian River Valley NV \$275/1.5L Elegant and mature, this cuvée has character and detail, with dried lemon, orange peel, marzipan and heavy spices that unfurl on the long finish. Drink now. 60 cases made.—T.F.

93 Kerr Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Silver Eagle Vineyard 2021 \$85 A dark, fruity style, with a core of plum, black cherry and boysenberry fruit melded together with singed apple wood and wood spice notes on the toasty, mouth-filling finish. For the hedonist crowd. Drink now through 2030. 139 cases made.—J.M.

93 Mumm Napa DVX Napa Valley 2015 \$75 This handsome sparkler is refined and expressive, with bright apple and strawberry flavors accented by notes of spiced nuts and yeast roll, plus a touch of petrol, as this fills out and builds richness on the finish. Drink now. 1,688 cases made.—T.F.

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