

The world's best wine magazine

February 2021 £5.50

# Decanter

## Burgundy 2019: a stellar year

Don't buy until you've read  
our expert verdict and top picks

### TASTED & RATED

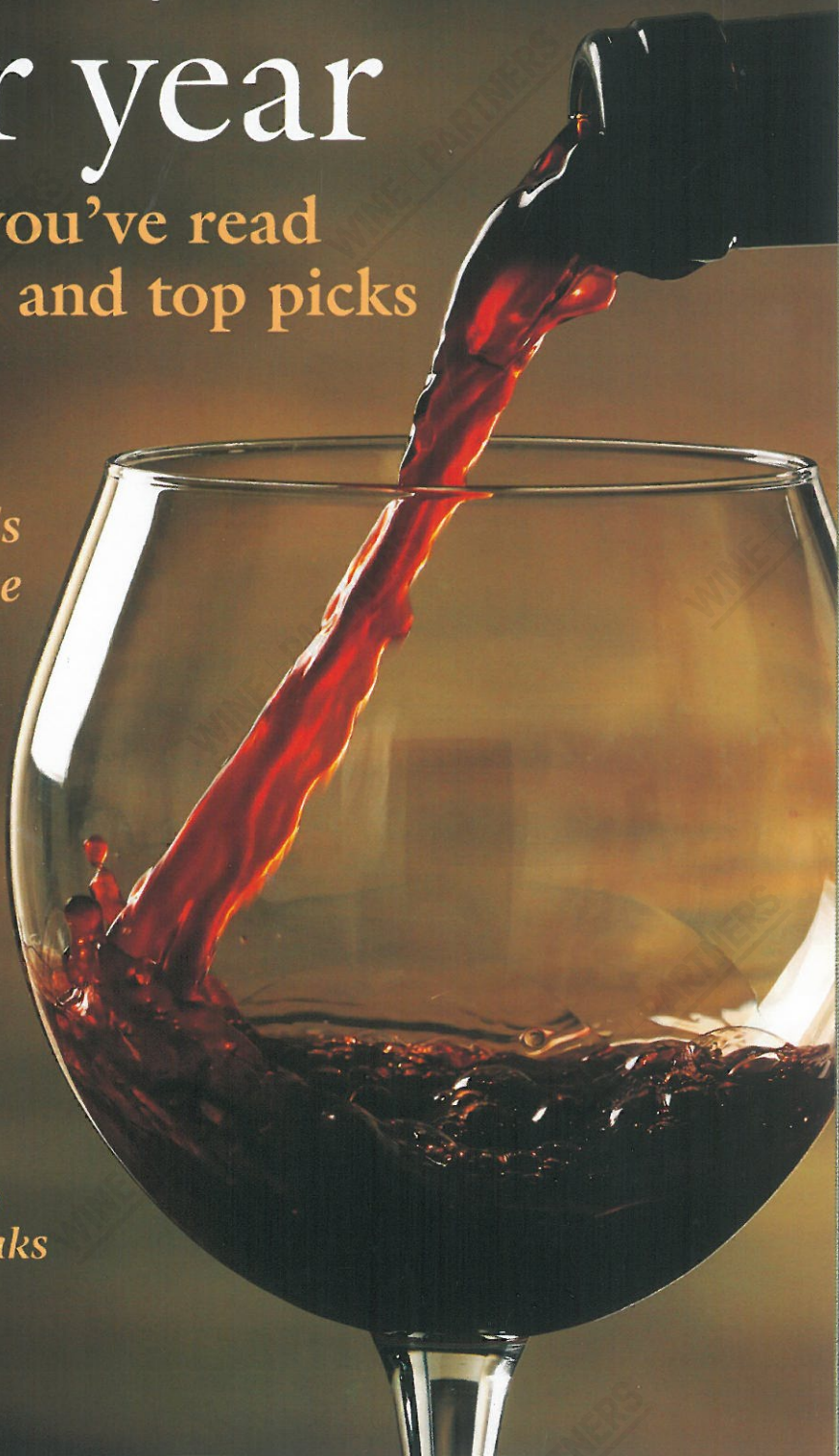
*Affordable California reds*  
*Viognier beyond the Rhône*  
*Oregon Pinot Noir*

### Wines of the Year

43 sparkling,  
white, sweet  
& fortified

### PLUS

- *Southern star: Pic St-Loup*
- *Low- and no-alcohol spirits*
- *4 great European wine breaks*



FEBRUARY 2021

PRINTED IN THE UK

£5.50

FUTURE



# WINES OF THE YEAR 2020: white, rosé, sweet & fortified

We asked our experts from around the world, and the *Decanter* team, to nominate the classic, offbeat and value wines that impressed them most in 2020. Our trio of judges blind-tasted and ranked them, and here we reveal the second half of the results, as **Tina Gellie** reports

**F**ollowing on from last month's look at the 64 sparkling and red wines that our experts most enjoyed over the past 12 months, here we present their 33 whites, four sweets, three rosés, two fortifieds and one orange wine. (For the full Wines of the Year coverage, visit [www.decanter.com/top-wines-of-the-year](http://www.decanter.com/top-wines-of-the-year))

Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chairs, key contributors and staff nominated them in the categories of Classic (a premium, textbook wine style), Offbeat (unusual grape, winemaking method, region or unearthed gem) and Value (£25 or under).

Unlike the reds and sparklings which, in general, were very classic examples, more than 40% of these nominated wines fell under the Offbeat category, making for a very exciting and eclectic tasting for our three experts.

## Unusual grapes and styles

'A tasting of wines chosen by wine experts could end up a little geeky, with people choosing niche wines that only their trade peers would like,' commented Beth Willard. 'But what I really enjoyed about all these wines is that, with a couple of exceptions, all have fairly broad appeal.'

'Hopefully, in us selecting a hierarchy among what are all excellent wines, we can encourage people who might normally buy something quite safe to try something a little bit different.'

'The unfamiliar wines aren't actually so unusual in terms of flavour profile – they are excellent wines worth trying even if they're not what you might expect from the label.'

Willard and Andy Howard MW singled out the skin-contact Malvasia from Colares in Portugal, which Howard described as 'a real eye-opener', also praising the Verdicchio (*both* p23). 'It was a very individualistic, late-harvest but dry style, which is not what you normally expect from that grape variety.'

Ronan Sayburn MS highlighted the 'intriguing and complex' white blend from Friuli, the 'fantastic' Vidiano-Assyrtiko blend from Greece and the 'amazing' Trousseau Gris from California. 'There are so many less-familiar grapes out there that people might not have tried – or think they don't like,' he said. 'Give them a go!'

However, it was a very classic style that took the crown for top white – the Flametree Chardonnay from Margaret River in Western Australia (*see* p22). 'It was my wine of the day,' asserted Sayburn, who compared it to Meursault's most-lauded producer Domaine Coche-Dury. 'It was a benchmark example of top-quality Chardonnay, with that very reductive, struck-match character on the nose, beautifully elegant fruit purity on the palate and a very saline, limestone minerality.'

Willard's favourite wine of the day – and the top fortified – was the solera-aged Verdejo from Rueda in Spain (*see* p22). 'It's a wine style that goes back to the traditional roots of the region but refreshed in a modern way, making something spectacular that stands out.'

Howard admitted he had been hoping for a 'benchmark Sancerre or Bordeaux Blanc', but came away fascinated by the array of memorable wines from 'less obvious' corners of the globe. 'It did make me think that while there are some great wines in classic regions, there are also some really intriguing wines from places more off the beaten track.'

Speaking for all three judges, he said not knowing the prices (and the categories in which wines were entered) was complicated in many ways – particularly with such an eclectic range of styles – but there was a silver lining. 'It means you judge solely on taste, quality and the "do I want another glass of this?" factor.'

*Decanter's* Wines of the Year 2020 certainly offer plenty of opportunity to say yes to that. ➤



**Andy Howard MW** is a *Decanter* contributing editor and was formerly a wine buyer in the UK retail sector for 30 years



**Ronan Sayburn MS** is head of wine at 67 Pall Mall private members' club and CEO of the Court of Master Sommeliers Europe



**Beth Willard** is buying manager for Direct Wines and was Joint Chair for North, Central & Eastern Europe at DWAA 2020

**Thank you to the following people who contributed their recommendations:** Sarah Ahmed, Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW, Amanda Barnes, Richard Baudains, Laura Bianco, Jim Budd, James Button, Bob Campbell MW, Alistair Cooper MW, Charles Curtis MW, Michael Garner, Tina Gellie, Rosemary George MW, Caroline Gilby MW, Huon Hooke, Matthew Luczy, Nico Manassis, Caro Maurer MW, Fiona McDonald, Michela Nassiz, Barbara Philip MW, Anthony Rose, Ronan Sayburn MS, Julie Sheppard, Greg Sherwood MW, Matt Walls, Amy Wislocki, Sylvia Wu



**MUST-TRY**  
**white**

**Flametree Wines,  
Chardonnay, Margaret  
River, Western Australia**

**2019 96**

**Andy Howard MW 95 Ronan Sayburn MS 98 Beth Willard 95**

**£16.99-£18.50** Appellation Nation, Bottles Wine Merchants, Cambridge Wine Merchants, Define Food & Wine, Grapesmith, Hercules Wine, Mr & Mrs Fine Wine, Museum Wines, NY Wines of Cambridge, Park Vintners, Reserve Wines, Tasting House, Taurus Wines, The Dorset Wine Co, Trelawney Wines, Vindependents, WoodWinters

Flametree was established in 2007 by the Towner family, and the winery is located on the shores of Geographe Bay. Grapes for the 2019 Chardonnay are sourced from four vineyards; two from the Wallcliffe sub-region, one from Karridale and one from Treeton. The wine is aged for nine months in barrel before final blending,

and 15% of that blend sees malolactic fermentation, with lees stirring every four to six weeks.

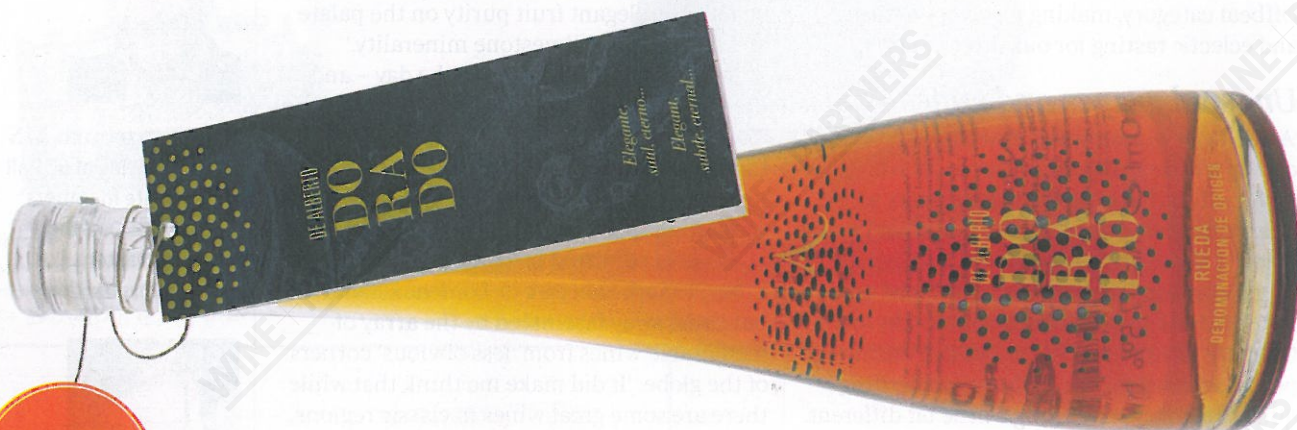
**Andy Howard MW** Cool, slightly smoky example of Chardonnay. A fine line of acidity, purity of fruit. Fleshy, good concentration, but not a blockbuster style. Refined, elegant, very good potential for ageing. Zesty, refined, long and succulent on the finish.

**Ronan Sayburn MS** Great nose of smoky struck-match reductiveness, Coche-like complexity and fleshiness. Saline and mineral, tight acidity but plush, ripe citrus fruit.

**Beth Willard** Caramel and mocha notes on the nose. Creamy with elegant balance between oak, fruit and acidity. Very typical Margaret River fruit with lovely, lifted lemon and slightly honeyed spicy notes on palate.

**Drink 2021-2026 Alcohol 13.2%**

**Nominated by Huon Hooke**



**MUST-TRY**  
**fortified**

**Bodegas de Alberto,  
Dorado, Rueda, Spain NV**

**97** **AH 98 RS 95 BW 98**

**N/A UK** [www.dealberto.com](http://www.dealberto.com)

A highly individual and multi-award-winning producer in northern Spain, Bodegas de Alberto has been run by the Gutiérrez family since the 1940s. Initially the wine undergoes oxidative ageing in 16-litre glass bottles known as 'damajuanas' and is later transferred to a solera system akin to those found in Jerez.

**AH** Intriguing, complex, evolved aromas of raisined fruits, lovely oak and a warm sweetness on the nose. The palate is surprising. Doesn't have the extra weight and depth expected. Very crisp, clean and pure on the palate, there is a lovely linearity here. Warm

and spicy on the finish, yet the overriding impression is one of bright acidity. Amazing for a wine from a 78-year-old solera.

**RS** Honeyed and caramel-like aromas, full and rich, Sherried and Madeira-like, demerara sugar and honeycomb.

**BW** Deep golden-light brown in colour. Such a sweet, luscious nose of caramel and honeyed notes coupled with citrus aromas. Palate is silky, velvety, mouth-coating. While this is dry, the wine is indulgently sweet in its flavours, with rich coffee and almost-chocolate notes. Long and lively finish. This is a modern interpretation of one of Spain's great traditional wine riches.

**Drink 2021-2030 Alc 17.5%**

**Nominated by Laura Bianco**

③ **Diamantakis, Diamantopetra Vidiano-Assyrtiko, Crete, Greece 2019**

95 **C** AH 95 RS 95 BW 95

£16.95-£19.99 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Eynsham Cellars, Mr & Mrs Fine Wine, Museum Wines, NY Wines of Cambridge, Old Chapel Cellars, Planet of the Grapes, Taurus Wines, The Dorset Wine Co, The Secret Cellar, The Salusbury Winestore, The Vineking, Trelawney Wines, Vindependents, WoodWinters

A rich, powerful, distinctive Greek blend with lovely ripeness of stone fruits, saline minerality and an underlying smokiness. Very good use of oak here – subtle, but it adds to the complexity on the palate. Long, distinctive and smoky on the finish. **Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13.5% Nico Manessis**

④ **Jolie-Laide, Fanucchi Wood Road Vineyard Trousseau Gris, Sonoma County, California, USA 2019**

95 **O** AH 94 RS 95 BW 96

£37 Roberson

Ripe fraises de bois and juicy raspberry fruit on the nose. Great purity on the palate, with an appealing freshness and vitality. Balanced acidity which leads to a long, refreshing finish. **Drink 2021-2026 Alc 12.4% Matthew Luczy**

⑤ **Ramilo, Malvasia, Colares, Portugal 2017** 95 **O** AH 95 RS 95 BW 96

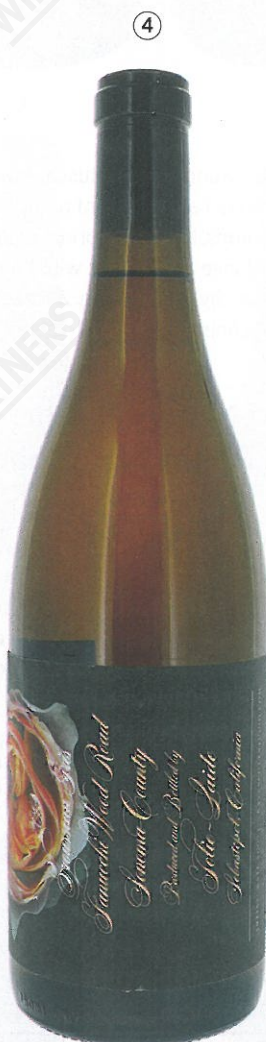
N/A UK [www.ramilowines.com](http://www.ramilowines.com)

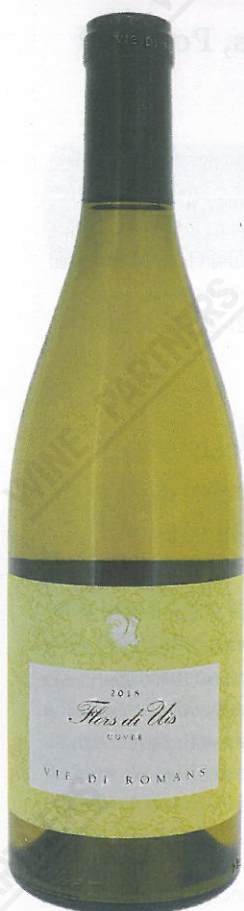
A highly distinctive white wine with exciting aromas of caramelised sugar, floral notes and some intriguing umami character. Velvety texture, and a great balance of acidity and fruit, with peach and apricot flavours as well as candied fruit. A touch of tannin adds to the complexity and structure of this wine, which is great to drink now but will age well. **Drink 2021-2027 Alc 13.5% Sarah Ahmed**

⑥ **Sartarelli, Balciana, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore, Marche, Italy 2017** 95 **O** AH 95 RS 93 BW 96

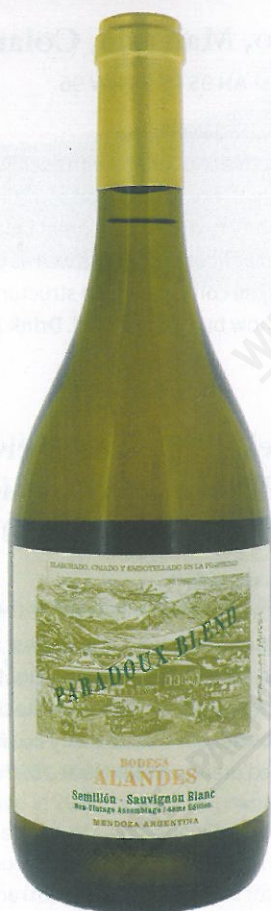
NA/UK [www.sartarelli.it](http://www.sartarelli.it)

The nose has lovely purity, with honeyed notes allied to apricot conserve and baked banana. Late-harvest style, but there is lovely freshness here to keep all the weight and ripeness in check. Acidity and a salinity underpin the palate, with lovely texture and mouthfeel. Finishes fruity but fresh, with attractive notes of candied orange. **Drink 2021-2027 Alc 15.5% Michael Garner >**





⑦



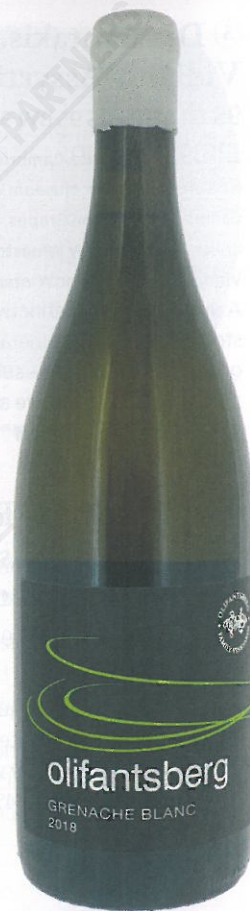
⑧



⑨



⑩



⑪

**⑦ Vie di Romans, Flors di Uis, Friuli Isonzo, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy 2018** 95 AH 94 RS 96 BW 95

£29.95-£38.99 Exel, Hedonism, Liberty Wines

An intriguing blend of floral, perfumed Malvasia and Friulano with steely Riesling results in an aromatic nose with grape, lime and salty sea air. There are bright, fresh stone-fruit characters with some plumpness and ripeness here, balanced by lively acidity and grip. Layered lanolin and beeswax on the finish. **Drink** 2021-2026 **Alc** 13.5% **Richard Baudains**

**⑧ Bodega Alandes, Paradox Blanc de Blancs, La Consulta & Chacayes, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina NV** 94 AH 94 RS 96 BW 92

£21.99-£28.80 Banstead Vintners, Nickolls & Perks, South Downs Cellars, Taste Argentina, The Oxford Wine Co, Weavers

Interesting, complex, evolving white wine with a fine balance between lemon acidity and some intriguing tree-fruit character on the palate. Fresh acidity, very elegant and balanced. The gentle use of oak adds complexity. **Drink** 2021-2028 **Alc** 14% **Amanda Barnes**

**⑨ Clos du Gravillas, A Fleur de Peau, Vin de France 2019** 94 AH 94 RS 90 BW 97

£24.50-£24.95 Exel, Les Caves de Pyrene

An 'orange' 100% Muscat from Minervois made with 15 days of skin contact and frequent pumpovers. Rich on the nose: jasmine and lemons, like early spring. Clear varietal definition. Beautiful balance and texture with tannic grip. Fresh acidity, orange and crunchy green apple. Zesty orange and a touch of cinnamon on the finish. **Drink** 2021-2024 **Alc** 13.5% **Rosemary George MW**

**⑩ Notary Public, Jurassic Park Vineyard Chenin Blanc, Santa Ynez, Central Coast, USA 2017** 94 AH 93 RS 94 BW 94

N/A UK [www.notarypublicwine.com](http://www.notarypublicwine.com)

Attractive perfumed and floral notes on the nose, with typical fresh lemon aromas. Subtle toasty notes combine with ripe fruit to produce a moreish, attractive Chenin with great typicity. Fresh and lively on the finish. **Drink** 2021-2026 **Alc** 13% **Matthew Luczy**

**⑪ Olifantsberg, Grenache Blanc, Breedekloof, Western Cape, South Africa 2018** 94 AH 94 RS 94 BW 95

£14.95-£16.49 Exel, Hallgarten Wines, North & South Wines, Tring Winery

Fresh, lifted nose with an attractive saline character and lemony sherbet notes. Bright acidity and great texture with a flinty, steely backbone. Subtle oak adds an extra layer of complexity. Pristine acidity and a fruity finish. **Drink** 2021-2026 **Alc** 14% **Tina Gellie**

**12 T-Oinos, Clos Stegasta Assyrtiko, Cyclades, Aegean Islands, Greece 2018**

94 **AH** 93 RS 94 BW 94

£59.99 Handford Wines

Fresh, saline and mineral nose with smoky pine, typical of the variety. Rounded palate with liquorice hints and oyster-shell salinity. A lovely herbal character comes through, with bright citrus fruit on the refreshing finish. **Drink 2021-2026 Alc 14%**

Ronan Sayburn MS

**13 Cape Winemakers Guild, Leeu Passant Radicales Libres, Klein Karoo, Franschhoek, South Africa 2014**

93 **AH** 94 RS 93 BW 92

N/A UK [www.capewinemakersguild.com](http://www.capewinemakersguild.com)

A highly individual wine with a fino-Sherry edge to the nose. Smoky toast and butter, with oak maturation evident but balanced and not overly dominant. Rich, full and fleshy on the palate, with rich pineapple and mango fruit. White pepper on the finish, and lots of ripe yellow fruit. **Drink 2021-2026 Alc 15% Greg Sherwood MW**

**14 Dog Point Vineyard, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019**

93 **AH** 93 RS 94 BW 93

£14.95-£18.50 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Fortnum & Mason, Philglas & Swiggot, Roberson, Specialist Cellars, The Good Wine Shop, The Vinorium, The Wine Society, Uncorked, Vin Cognito, WoodWinters  
Herbaceous on the nose, with notes of bell pepper and peashoots along with lime, guava and passion fruit. There are some spices and exotic fruits on the palate, as well as a smoky character that adds roundness. An elegant and balanced wine with a long finish. **Drink 2021-2024 Alc 13.5% Bob Campbell MW**

**15 El Porvenir de Cafayate, Laborum de Parcela Torrontés, Cafayate Valley, Salta, Argentina 2018**

93 **AH** 89 RS 95 BW 95

POA Hispamerchants

This has fine, aromatic tangerine and orange citrus aromas, along with floral, grapey notes. On the palate, there's an attractive herbaceous character with balanced, refreshing, grippy acidity. Long, tropical finish. **Drink 2021-2026 Alc 12.5% Amanda Barnes**

**16 Gut Hermannsberg, Vom Vulkan Riesling Trocken, Nahe, Germany 2018**

93 **AH** 92 RS 93 BW 95

N/A UK [www.gut-hermannsberg.de](http://www.gut-hermannsberg.de)

Lime and smoky flint on the nose. Lean and racy, with a pristine crispness resulting from the vibrant acidity. Refreshing and cleansing on the finish. **Drink 2021-2029 Alc 12.5% Anthony Rose**





17

**17 Jean-Baptiste Ponsot, Molesme, Rully 1er Cru, Burgundy, France 2017**

93 **C** AH 92 RS 93 BW 94

£26.55 Stannary Wine

A classic nose, with some wood spice and ripe stone fruit. On the palate, cinnamon spice and smoky vanilla oak meet pineapple, peach and some intriguing zesty, baked-apricot flavours.

Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13% *Amy Wislocki*



18

**18 Luis Seabra Vinhos, Xisto Cru Branco, Douro, Portugal 2017**

93 **C** AH 93 RS 94 BW 92

£35-£36.75 Christopher Keiller, Corking Wines

Macadamia, hay and yellow-fruit aromas. Weighty but fresh, rich but elegant, with wood influence adding to the complexity and concentration. Fresh and sappy, with a touch of savouriness on the finish. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 12.5% *Jim Budd*



19

**19 Ornellaia, Poggio alle Gazze dell'Ornellaia, Tuscany, Italy 2018**

93 **C** AH 91 RS 94 BW 95

£49.99-£53.50 Maisons Marques et Domaines, Waud Wines



20

Ripe nose of peach, apricot, tropical pineapple and some orchard fruit: yellow apple and quince. Rich and multi-layered, with very good ripeness on the palate allied to fresh acidity and some intriguing herbal characters. Drink 2021-2023 Alc 13% *James Button*

**20 Tony Bish, Zen, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand 2018**

93 **C** AH 94 RS 92 BW 93

POA The Antipodean Sommelier

Deep and smoky, with bacon fat, ripe pineapple, mango and banana. On the palate, a fine balance between a ripe stone-fruit Chardonnay character and lively acidity. Well balanced, with some intriguing aged characters. Fresh on the long finish.

Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13.5% *Bob Campbell MW*



21

**21 Xavier Gérard, Côte Châtillon, Condrieu, Rhône, France 2018**

93 **C** AH 91 RS 94 BW 94

£44.99 Cambridge Wine Merchants

Creamy ripe apricot and peach yoghurt with toasted nuts and granola. Plenty of weight here, with a soft and luxurious texture on the palate. There is also an appealing savoury, slightly mineral edge which keeps the alcohol and oak in check. Spice on the finish.

Drink 2021-2028 Alc 14.5% *Matt Walls*

②② **Edetària, Selecció, Terra Alta, Catalonia, Spain 2016** 92  AH 92 RS 91 BW 92


£33.80 Hedonism

Saline and stony, this is fresh and ripe on the nose, with ripe, fleshy, warm peachy fruit on the palate and fresh acidity to balance. Good freshness, but also warmth and generosity of fruit. Drink 2021-2024 Alc 14% *Laura Bianco*

②③ **Naudé Family Wines, A Naudé Chenin Blanc, Swartland, Western Cape, South Africa 2018** 92  AH 92 RS 90 BW 93

£14.95-£15.99 Handford, VINO SA

There's a touch of smoke here, with apple fruit. Great acidity balances the intensity of ripe tree-fruit on the very concentrated, precise palate. This has a delicious mineral edge – a long and elegant example of South African Chenin Blanc. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 13% *Greg Sherwood MW*

②④ **Uva Mira Mountain Vineyards, Chardonnay, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2017** 92  AH 90 RS 91 BW 94

£79.99 Museum Wines, Waud Wines

A ripe and creamy Chardonnay, typical of the region, but with a bright, fresh, salty character on nose. The palate is mineral, almost slaty, without losing any of its ripe apple fruit. Drink 2021-2024 Alc 13.5% *Michela Nassiz*

②⑤ **Blackbook, Controversy Pinot Meunier, Sussex, England 2019**

91  AH 88 RS 94 BW 90

£18-£19.50 Blackbook Winery, Dvine Cellars

Fresh, youthful and vibrant, with delicate redcurrant aromas. The palate offers sweet red berries, sour cherries and balanced acidity. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 11% *Amy Wislocki*

②⑥ **Familia Torres, Viña Sol, Catalunya, Spain 2019** 91  AH 92 RS 92 BW 90

£7.50 Co-op, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose

Bright, fresh and highly appealing, with lovely ripeness of fruit and a light floral aroma. The palate shows crisp acidity and a Mediterranean style, with further intrigue from the floral notes. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 12% *Jim Budd* >







27



28



29



30



31

**27 Casal Figueira, António, Lisboa, Portugal 2017** 90 AH 89 RS 91 BW 91

£24.99 Corks, Drinkmonger, Field & Fawcett, The Good Wine Shop, The Oxford Wine Co

A bright, lively wine with lemon-sherbet aromas. Quite fleshy on the palate, with stone-fruit flavours and some nutty character. Drink 2021-2023 Alc 12% *Sarah Ahmed*

**28 J Bouchon, País Salvaje Blanco, Maule Valley, Chile 2019** 90 AH 90 RS 90 BW 89

£15-£18.95 Connolly's, Dronfield Wine World, South Downs Cellars, Talking Wines, The Wine Box

An interesting potpourri on the nose of wild flowers, a touch of sage, blossom and honey. Pristine flavours on the palate, with fresh acidity. Drink 2021-2022 Alc 12% *Alistair Cooper MW*

**29 Jim Barry, The Lodge Hill Riesling, Clare Valley, South Australia 2020** 90 AH 88 RS 92 BW 89

£13.99 Majestic

A very floral, lime- and mint-scented Riesling. Very dry on the palate with plenty of acidity and elegant lime-fruit notes. Long

and elegant, with acidity leading on the finish. Drink 2021-2029 Alc 12.5% *Ronan Sayburn MS*

**30 Kleine Zalze, Cellar Selection Bush Vines Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2019** 90 AH 91 RS 88 BW 92

£8.99-£9.59 Bonafide Wines, Cheers Wine Merchants, Gwin Llyn Wines, Temple Wines, The Shenfield Wine Co, Waitrose

An ultra-precise Chenin Blanc with great purity of fruit. There are some appealing hints of apple fruit here, plus a touch of peach and plenty of drive. Drink 2021-2024 Alc 13% *Fiona McDonald*

**31 Naudé Family Wines, Langpad Old Vines Colombar, Western Cape, South Africa 2020** 90 AH 90 RS 92 BW 89

N/A UK [www.naudewines.co.za](http://www.naudewines.co.za)

This wine has good purity, making it a very appealing, early-drinking example of Colombar from the Western Cape. It boasts clean and fresh flavours of lemon, green cucumber skin and fresh mint, along with strident acidity and a long finish. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 12% *Fiona McDonald*

**32 Quinta do Vallado, Prima, Douro, Portugal 2019** 90 AH 89 RS 92 BW 89

£13.91-£15 Bibendum Wine, Buy Great Wine

100% Moscatel Galego Branco, fermented for nearly a month in stainless steel with no skin contact. It has a ripe and grapey-sweet nose that's floral, with orange-skin and tangerine notes, but it's dry on the palate and rounded, with fresh acidity and good length.

Drink 2021-2024 Alc 12.5% *Julie Sheppard*

**33 Fazi Battaglia, San Sisto, Castelli di Jesi Verdicchio Classico Riserva, Marche, Italy 2016** 89 AH 89 RS 89 BW 90

£24 The Great Wine Co

This wine is delicate on the nose, with fresh citrus aromas and an attractive, vegetal, green-asparagus and green-pea character.

Drink 2021-2023 Alc 13% *James Button*

**34 Dr Konstantin Frank, Amber Rkatsiteli, Finger Lakes, New York, USA 2018** 88 AH 89 RS 89 BW 86

N/A UK [www.drfrankwines.com](http://www.drfrankwines.com)

An interesting wine with herbal aromas, ripe tropical fruit and

floral notes. Fleshy, with plenty of acidity on the palate. Drink 2021-2025 Alc 12% *Charles Curtis MW*

**35 Chamlija, Natural Orange Narince, Strandja Mountain, Turkey 2018**

87 AH 88 RS 86 BW 88

£18 The Wine House Warwick

Strident and punchy, there are notes of clementine, orange and zesty lemon here, with grippy and balanced acidity on the palate.

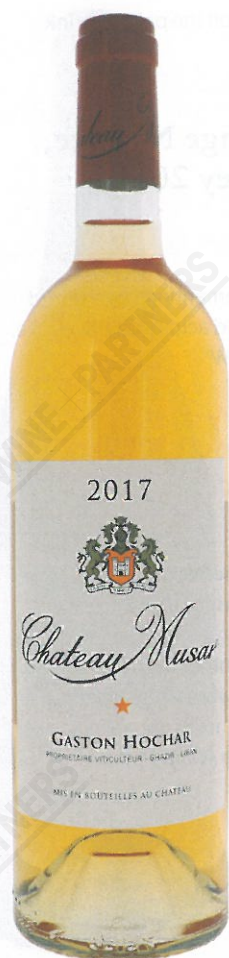
Drink 2021-2023 Alc 12.5% *Caro Maurer MW*

**36 Château Barbe Belle, Rosé Fleuri, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence, France 2019** 93 AH 92 RS 93 BW 95

£13-£17.50 Cape Wine TW18, Castelnau Wine Agencies, Platform Wines, Spoonful SW13, Tannin & Oak, Tasting House, Vintage House, Wine Hub Exmouth

On the nose, aromas of ripe stone fruit, summer berries and rose. Raspberry and ripe cherry provide sunny, warm fruits on the palate, sitting alongside balanced acidity and an appealing weight. Drink 2021-2028 Alc 13.5% *Barbara Philip MW* >





37



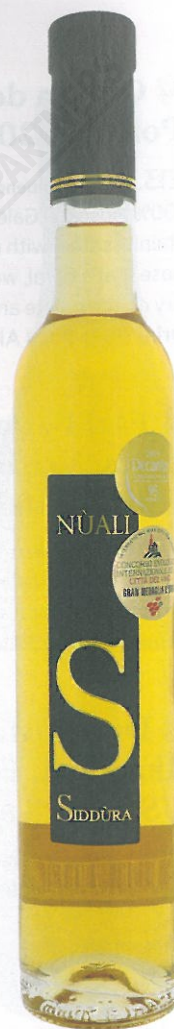
38



39



40



41

**37 Chateau Musar, Rosé, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon 2017** 91 AH 94 RS 89 BW 90

£28-£32.67 VinQuinn, Wadebridge Wines, Wine & Greene  
Intriguing nose with some dusky, autumnal fruit and a touch of leaf. The oak is quite prominent on the palate, and there's a lot of attractive red fruit, plus orange and a slightly tropical character. Drink 2021-2026 Alc 11.5% *Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW*

**38 Akitu, Pinot Noir Blanc, Mt Barker, South Island, New Zealand 2019**

90 AH 88 RS 89 BW 92  
£32-£36 Buy Great Wine, Farthingoe Fine Wine, Harvey Nichols, NY Wines, Specialist Cellars, The Champagne Co, The Wine Reserve  
An attractive floral character on the nose, and zippy acidity with good freshness and lift. Drink 2021-2023 Alc 13% *Tina Gellie*

**39 Balassa, Bomboly, Tokaji Szamorodni, Tokaj, Hungary 2017**

95 AH 93 RS 95 BW 96  
£31.95-£37.95/50cl Best of Hungary, Kask Bristol, Soif Battersea  
Exotic and complex nose with tropical fruit such as mango and

lychee. There's lovely intensity here, but at the same time it's slightly restrained and elegant. Beautifully balanced, with fresh acidity and a very long finish. Very refreshing yet indulgently sweet. Drink 2021-2040 Alc 10% *Caroline Gilby MW*

**40 Marjan Simčič, Leonardo, Goriska Brda, Brda, Slovenia 2013**

95 AH 95 RS 94 BW 97  
£37-£39.99/37.5cl The Salusbury Winestore, WoodWinters  
Burnt orange, caramel and marmalade on the nose. Silky texture, with an intense level of sweetness that's kept in check by acidity. There are honeyed, butterscotch and scorched-cream notes, a touch of woody spice and a super-long, intense finish. Drink 2021-2040 Alc 12% *Michela Nassiz*

**41 Siddùra, Nùali, Moscato di Sardegna Passito, Sardinia, Italy 2016**

94 AH 94 RS 93 BW 95  
£26.98/37.5cl Independent Wine  
Ripe peach and honey meet acacia flower, lanolin and beeswax on the nose. Ultra-ripe and pure on the palate, there is also great



42



43

finesse and lingering acidity here. A very refined wine which balances unctuousness with freshness and vitality on the palate. Drink 2021-2040 Alc 12.8% *Michela Nassiz*

42 **Sanhe Winery, Cailonglin Silver Label Vidal Icewine, Huanren, Liaoning, China 2014** 91  AH 92 RS 92 BW 90

£28.25/37.5cl Panda Fine Wine


The fruit here is quite exotic – lychee – but it's earthy at the same time. This is sweet, rich and dense, with plenty of fresh acidity.

Drink 2021-2030 Alc 11% *Sylvia Wu*

43 **Gonzalez Byass, Tio Pepe Dos Palmas Fino, Jerez, Spain NV** 95  AH 96 RS 93 BW 97

£18.64-£20.50/50cl Master of Malt, Museum Wines, NY Wines of Cambridge, WoodWinters

An eight-year-old fino taken from just a few selected casks. The nose is heady with caramel, coffee and almonds. On the palate it's very vibrant and complex, attractive citrus and candied lemon-peel flavours coupling with layers of nutty, earthy aged notes and a delightful hazelnut finish. Drink 2021-2030 Alc 15.5%

*Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW* 

# Decanter WORLD WINE AWARDS STICKERS



Promote your DWWA winning wines today by purchasing bottle stickers at [shop.decanterawards.com](http://shop.decanterawards.com)