

**94 Bien Nacido 2015 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Crushed sea shells and chalk meet with lemon blossoms, citrus rinds, baked pears and a touch of butter on the nose of this excellent bottling. Juicy lemon and brisk salinity drive the palate, with judicious acid cutting through the Gravenstein apple and lightly roasted macadamia nut flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**94 Brewer-Clifton 2015 3D Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There is a strong pithy character to the nose of this wine, with aromas of Meyer lemon peel, grapefruit rind, Brie cheese wash, yogurt and wet rock. The palate is really tightly wound and also full of that tight pith character, with ethereal and wispy flavors of clean smoke, chalk and ash. The acidity is soft but penetrating. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**94 Clos du Val 2015 Estate Chardonnay (Carneros).** New management, farming and winemaking practices at this producer, including a focus on smaller production, are remarkably on display in this delicious white. Golden pear and crunchy apple provide an unctuous, delightfully balanced experience that's crisp in underlying acidity and subtle baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**94 Donkey & Goat 2016 Linda Vista Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This vineyard is in the West Oak Knoll area of the valley. The wine was left unfiltered and unfiltered by the winemakers, who employ native yeast for fermentation. Juicy stone fruit and zippy acidity strike a chord of balance and complexity that's low in oak and deliciously crisp in peach. —V.B.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$32

**94 Hertelendy 2014 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$85

**94 Lynmar 2015 Old Vines Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** From older vines planted on the producer's estate Quail Hill Vineyard, this wine is thickly concentrated, with a generosity of oak. Creamy, intense and well made, it features complex layers of golden apple, butter and lemon bar. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**94 Patz & Hall 2015 Hudson Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros).** This is a highly perfumed and floral wine from the famous site, which is tangy and slightly tart within a medium-bodied frame. Lemon and baked apple play off each other with ease, as a metallic edge of stony minerality persists and expands. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**94 Talley 2015 Rosemary's Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Spectacular aromas of sea salt, dried lemon peels, seared mandarins, chamomile, lemongrass, kaffir lime and plumeria make the mouth water simply upon smelling this savory wine.

The sip is loaded with tension and judicious acidity, and yet the flavors are soft, from lemon meringue to crisp pluot and vanilla dust. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$48

**94 Two Sisters 2015 Courtney's Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$55

**93 Chateau Montelena 2014 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This is a dreamy creamy white founded in stony mineral and juicy acidity that shows a mix of baked apple, pineapple and melon. A tease of green olive provides a briny, salty edge to its tense balance. A lingering hint of vanilla oak figures prominently on the lengthy floral finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$58

**93 Longboard 2015 Rochioli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$49

**93 Wild Horse 2014 Cheval Sauvage Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**92 Cambria 2015 West Point Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** This new project focusing on specific blocks of the historic Cambria Vineyard on the Santa Maria Bench starts with very subtle and restrained aromas of nectarine, lemon cream and a hint of sweet chive show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh with lime and toasted coconut flavors, held up by a backbone of strong acid that keeps it from spilling toward overripe qualities. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$36

**92 Foley 2015 Bar Lazy S Ranch Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Clean and easy lines of sea salt, pan-fried nectarine, light honeysuckle and a hint of sweet chive show on the nose of this bottling. The rounded mouthfeel brings forth flavors of buttered apples, salted pear slices and lemon curd, and there is a tannic tension that binds it all together. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**92 Foley 2015 JA Ranch Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** The tang of orange rinds and fresh lemon cake meet with hints of toasted coconut and white flowers on the nose of this solid bottling by Bill Foley's eponymous winery. The texture is crisp but grippy and tense on the sip, with seared orange slices and oak smoke flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**92 Frank Family 2015 Lewis Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros).** This is an invitingly floral, textural and rich white wine that's full bodied and lush on the palate. Tropical pineapple, guava and mango are highlighted in deeper, darker tones

of honey and caramel, with a foundation of present, integrated oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Landmark 2015 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros).** From a well-farmed site, this wine is invitingly floral in apple-blossom notes, followed by fully developed flavors of peach and meringue. Earthy and complete, it offers concentration and balance. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**92 Talley 2015 Rincon Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Plump aromas of white peach, lemon syrup, butterscotch and prominent oak show on the nose of this bottling, one of the richer ones in the current Talley lineup. The oak smoke flavors mix with vanilla and a finish of caramel on the palate, but the winery's reliably bright acidity hold the larger elements in check. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$44

**92 Two Sisters 2015 Courtney's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tangy aromas of lemon curd meet with warmer touches of Marcona almonds and cider-laced popcorn on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate starts with a melted butter richness before tangy citrus peels and savory sea salts combine for a long finish, where both butterscotch and vanilla also make an appearance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$40

**91 Barra of Mendocino 2016 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Mendocino).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Seared lemon peels, densely packed honeysuckle, Brie rind and white-ash aromas show on the nose of this appellation blend from the regional superstars, which recently became part of the Jackson Family of wines. The palate is tightly wound with grapefruit pith and a lemon spray-laced acidity that provides ample structure, carrying the slightest bit of riper stone fruit at the core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Coquelicot 2016 Estate Chardonnay (Los Olivos District).** The nose on this bottling leans a bit sweet yet remains zesty, with ripe apples, pears, lime sorbet and lemon-lime soda. But the sip is racy and sizzling with buoyant acidity, delivering tightly wound Bosc pear and Gravenstein apple flavors doused with citrus spray. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$26

**91 Duckhorn 2015 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**91 Foley 2015 T Anchor Ranch Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Buttercream, sweet butter, marmalade, baking spice, brown sugar and sea salt