

# BUYINGGUIDE

**93 Joseph Phelps 2016 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**92 MacLaren 2016 Lee's Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** This is a quiet, subtle and deliciously crafted white, moderate in acidity, that presents as crisp and dry. Meyer lemon shines brightest, providing a refreshing complexity as stony minerality adds texture. —V.B.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

**92 Presqu'île 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Maria Valley).** This bottling from an extremely cool-climate vineyard is light and easy on the nose, with ripe apples, sharp herbs, moss and an inherent grassy character deep within. It's extremely lively on the palate, with compellingly delivered acidity and a lime-skin tension carrying flavors of dried dill and sharp lemony citrus. It's one of the better Sauv Blancs of the vintage. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$26

**92 Trione 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Made in a refreshingly light and bright style, this wine shines in stony minerality—its bite is of green apple, its aroma laced in hibiscus. Smooth and sublime on the palate, with clean, focused flavors, it adds a note of grapefruit pith that pierces the finish. —V.B.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$25

**91 Comartin 2016 Zabala Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco).** Extremely tight and herbal aromas of cut grass, chives, scallions and oregano ride a fascinatingly rainy cement minerality on the nose of this fresh and vibrant bottling. The wet-cement flavors show powerfully on the sip, with lemongrass, wild lime leaves and more mowed-lawn touches. —M.K.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$25

**91 Daou 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaida District).** This is a richer style of Sauvignon Blanc, as would be expected from the Daou brothers, but is a fresher style than the last vintage. Aromas of toast, oak and yellow fruit prove quite seductive, and the palate proves grippy with dried lemon peels and cut-grass touches. There's just a hint of smoke on the sip. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$50

**90 Broman 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Opening with a creamy tropical fervor, this wine is rich and rewarding in pineapple and a touch of lemongrass, its acidity lingering and supportive of the ripe fruit. —V.B.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$24

**90 Clos du Val 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Citrus-driven, this wine is made from the producer's State Lane Vineyard in Yountville, and is beautifully aromatic in honeysuckle

and hibiscus. Medium bodied and balanced in style, it's dry and bristling in acidity, the flavors sharply defined in grapefruit and tangerine. —V.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**90 Gary Farrell 2016 Russian River Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$32

**90 Kitá 2016 Camp 4 Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Very light in the glass and fresh on the nose, this bottling by Chumash tribe descendant Tara Gomez offers aromas of lemon blossom and honeydew rind. There is good tension to the sip, which is very much focused on texture, with flashes of green apple skins and lime peels, proving quite tight and zesty. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$24

**89 Piocho 2016 Happy Canyon Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** A very light shade of hay in the glass, this bottling, which is rounded by 16% Semillon, shows poached pear, honeysuckle nectar, green plum and lime skin on the nose. There is a great sizzle of acidity to the sip, where Bosc pear, Pink Lady apple, lime zest and wet gravel make for a complex profile. —M.K.  
abv: 12.4% Price: \$25

**88 Dry Creek Vineyard 2016 Fumé Blanc (Sonoma County).** This vintage marks the winery's 45th anniversary making this wine, a feat of historic proportion. Maintaining a fair price, it offers lime, lemon and grapefruit within bristling, buzzing acidity. The texture is thick and refined. Balanced, it's dry and refreshing. —V.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**88 Refugio Ranch 2016 Tiradora Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** This bottling is very grassy on the nose, with some lime peels and a definite touch of reduction at this stage of its life. The flavors are clean and steely, with yellow apple rinds, Anjou pear and a sharp acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$NA

**88 SeaGlass 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County).** This brand reliably produces varietally correct, down-the-middle wines, and this is no exception, starting with aromas of Anjou pear, underripe honeydew, tight white-flower buds and freshly cut key lime. The ripe stone-fruit flavors on the sip are cut by citrus and wet cement, offering all the elements to please many a Sauv Blanc fan. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**87 Viluko 2016 Mayacamas Mountains Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Savory and tart, this is a dry, expressive white, varietal in nature, that offers tart tightly wound flavors

of quince, white peach and lemon. A back note of freshly cut grass teases the nose and palate. —V.B.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$28

**87 Wonderment Wines 2015 Las Trancas Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District).** This wine offers lively citrus and moderate acidity—a simple dry expression of the variety that refreshes. Stainless-steel fermented, it's been aged in both stainless and neutral Burgundy oak, adding complexity around the seasonings of lemongrass and ginger. —V.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**86 Ladera 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** From vineyards on Howell Mountain and Oak Knoll, this wine is bristling in acidity, with a taste of lemon peel and grapefruit. Secondary characteristics of peas and pineapple confound as a stony texture adds breadth. —V.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**86 Napa Cellars 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Oaky and robust, this wine takes on a confectionery route to tropical flavor and high-octane concentration, offering a thickness of texture and body. Stainless-steel fermented, it unveils secondary flavors of lime and white peach on the finish. —V.B.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$17

**86 Tamber Bey 2016 Lizzy's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Oakville).** Incorporating 30% of the variety in Musqué clone, this wine offers fresh flavors of green apple, grass and pea shoots, as well as a distinct notion of oak. Aged in both new and neutral Acacia, as well as stainless, it has a spicy quality akin to lemongrass that lingers on the finish. —V.B.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$32

**85 Flora Springs 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Reduced, with a pronounced aroma of oak, this is a simple, moderately focused wine that presents as fleshy and thick, bursting in flavors of grass. —V.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$26

**85 Pellegrini 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Bennett Valley).** This overtly ripe white shows a generosity of guava and mango flavor—a tropical outpouring of perceptible sweetness that's wrapped in a boldness of body and vanilla oak. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$25

**85 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 12% Price: \$8

**84 Parmesan 2016 Indian Springs Ranch Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley).** This wine is tenacious in its grassy mix of pea shoots and gooseberry, interwoven with acidity that takes on a tartness that's not entirely pleasant. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$23

25% Pinot Noir, with detectable residual sugar, this wine is moderately complex in its mix of peach, cherry and citrus flavor. The acidity is simple and direct. The palate is thick and creamy. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

## SPARKLING ROSÉS

**92 Riverbench 2015 Cork Jumper Brut Rosé (Santa Maria Valley).** Pale yellow-pink in color, this sparkler shows watermelon rind and flesh, red pear skins, orange zest and plush nectarine on the very accessible nose, which will please veterans and neophytes alike. The palate combines a baking soda character with stone fruit and ripe Asian pear slices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$44

**92 Riverbench 2014 Cork Jumper Blanc de Noirs Rosé (Santa Maria Valley).** Hay yellow in the glass, this rosé isn't pink at all, but offers inviting aromas of seltzer, crushed chalk, light lemon peels and yellow apples. The palate is quite mellow, which is pleasing, showing flavors of cider apple, dough and grapefruit peel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**91 Goat Bubbles 2014 Solomon Hills Vineyard Rosé (Santa Maria Valley).** This sparkler from a coveted property on the western edge of the appellation offers lots of yeasty and toasty aromas as well as raspberry, lemon peel and a touch of damp earth. Classic bready flavors show on the sip, which is cut but a sharp citrusy edge and tart raspberry. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$42

**90 Laetitia 2014 Brut Rosé (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Extremely fresh and lively aromas of soft strawberry and lime pith combine to make a very racy edge to the nose of this bottling from the pioneering property, which was founded as a bubbly house in the early 1980s. There is great energy to the sip, where somewhat sour flavors of Ruby Red grapefruit rind give the wine lots of acidic length. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Sheldon 2016 Luc's Vineyard Brut Rosé (Fountaingrove District).** This is a breath of fresh air, a single-vineyard designate sparkler made from Tempranillo that's refreshing and salty. Dry, it tastes of gelato, pomegranate, raspberry, cherry and strawberry—swirls of light-bodied flavor that replenish the palate with every sip. —V.B.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$28

## OTHER SPARKLING WINES

**92 Goat Bubbles 2014 Sierra Madre Vineyard Crémant (Santa Maria Valley).** Light and chalky aromas of lemon peel, yeast and white flowers are pure and inviting on the nose of this bottling by regional sparkling pioneer Norm Yost. Clean lines

of lime peel and rounded hints of nectarine show on the very pleasing and non-aggressive palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$40

**92 Schramsberg 2013 Crémant Demi-Sec (Napa Valley).** This off-dry sparkling is made from 78% Flora, 13% Pinot Noir and 9% Chardonnay. It works in its inviting, rich array of stone-fruit and tropical accents, met by a floral underbelly of inviting aroma. Creamy, voluptuous and well-made, it'll pair well with spicy dishes and is perfectly refreshing and delightful on its own. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$40

**91 Gloria Ferrer 2010 Anniversary Cuvée (Carneros).** A small-production vintage-dated sparkler made from 67% Pinot Noir and 33% Chardonnay, this wine succeeds in its smooth refined contour of peach mousse and vanilla. It's dry, but voluptuously rich, remaining balanced through the tangy tart finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Municipal Winemakers 2016 Mubbly (California).** By sourcing French Colombard and force carbonating like beer, David Potter made this fun and tasty wine as an antidote to the high prices that sparkling wine traditionally require. Aromas of apple cider, crisp Granny Smith apples, key lime, yellow melon and chalk lead into a palate laced with fatter bubbles and flavors of more apple and pear. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$30/500 ml

## ROSÉS

**92 Clos du Val 2016 Estate Grand Val Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé (Carneros).** Dark pinkish-red, this wine comes from two blocks of the producer's Carneros estate, which are harvested at lower sugar ripeness to offer a dry refreshing experience, which this wine does. This exudes weighty and broad flavors of tangy watermelon, orange and cranberry, with a satisfying grip of power on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**92 Limerick Lane 2016 Syrah Rosé (Russian River Valley).** A perennial knockout, this wine continues to impress. The estate-grown grapes are picked specifically to make a bone-dry refreshing palate pleaser that's pretty in pink and orange tones. Tart, crisp and broadly appealing, it's an effortless experience dripping in grapefruit and blood orange. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$30

**92 Stephen Ross 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Pale yellow pink in color, this is one of the better rosés of the vintage, showing lush but restrained aromas of peach crème fraîche along with lemon zest and crushed limestone. There is fabulous energy and texture on the sip, where chalky flavors meet with red apple and a hint of rosewater. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$25

**91 Castle Rock 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**91 Murrieta's Well 2016 Dry Rosé (Livermore Valley).** Seriously refreshing, this pink and copper-colored medium-bodied wine has dazzling citrus aromas, pink grapefruit and raspberry flavors and great acidity that wakes up the taste buds. Made from Grenache and Counoise grapes, it's just the thing for an alfresco lunch or to pour with appetizers before dinner. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**90 Keller 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Floral in rose petal, this mouthwatering wine is awash in light beams of watermelon and grapefruit—its soul infinitely crisp. Refreshingly memorable, it sparks in orange and cherry on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35

**90 Markus Wine Co 2016 Zeal Rosé (Lodi).** This dry appetizing wine comes from one of Lodi's more adventurous winemakers, Markus Niggli. A hot-pink color and red-cherry aromas lead to bright fresh cherry and raspberry flavors, while a medium body and mild acidity form a smooth texture. Niggli made it from Syrah and Carignane grapes fermented by native yeast. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$22

**90 Miralta 2016 Rosé (Monterey).** This is a solid bottling that should be widely available, with lush aromas of plum, watermelon and clove on the nose. There is a tactile grip to the sip, delivering orange, red-apple and tart raspberry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Navarro 2016 Rosé (Mendocino).** This is an excellent rosé with some red-wine character showing through the pale-salmon color and fresh fruitiness. It has slightly meaty, spicy and cherry-like flavors, a good balance between medium body and firm acidity, and a nice tangy finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20

**90 Parmesan 2016 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Light copper-pink in color, this vineyard-designate shows a wealth of peach and orange flavors that combine to refreshing effect. Lightly made in a bright accessible style, the wine offers a moderate body weight and texture that's pleasing on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**90 Tres Sabores 2016 Ingrid and Julia Rosé (Napa Valley).** Named for the proprietor/winemaker's favorite two roses, the flowers not the wine, this is indeed a wholly floral experience, subtle and delicately crafted to exude wild strawberry,