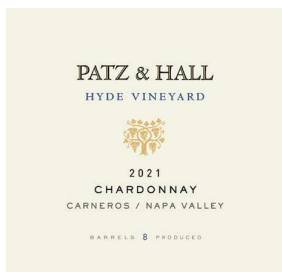
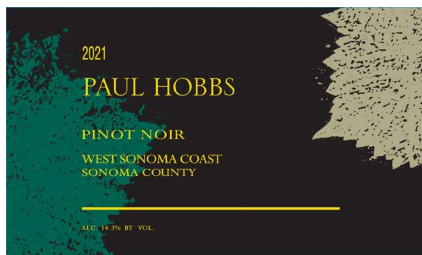


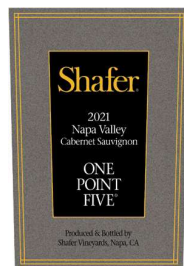
96 Freeman 2019 Akiko's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Elegant, well balanced and moderately tannic, this top-of-the-line Pinot from Freeman presents infinite food pairing possibilities, starting with seared ahi tuna. Rather tight, definitely crisp and tangy, the wine emphasizes lively acidity and crunchy cranberry, red cherry and sour cherry flavors, with hints of rose petal and black tea. Best through 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$78



96 Patz & Hall 2021 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). After the light, complex oak spice aromas, the next thing that strikes you about this medium-bodied wine is an unusually appetizing, even grippy texture from good acidity and possibly oak tannins. The wine is structured, concentrated and a good candidate for further aging. Best from 2025–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65



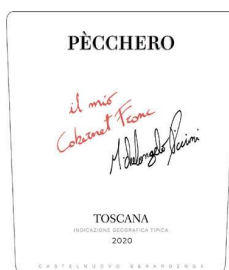
96 Paul Hobbs 2021 Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Perfectly balanced and powerfully fruity, this focused and moderately tannic wine is packed with red and black fruits in great harmony with vivid acidity and a sense of depth. Decant and drink soon for its pure cherry beauty or save while more complexity develops. Best from 2026–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80



96 Shafer 2021 One Point Five Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This sophisticated and concentrated wine wraps lovely dark plums, blueberries and cocoa flavors in velvety tannins that are well integrated and soothing, while still setting the wine up for a potentially long life. Subtle baking spices, espresso and cedar accents enhance the impressive fruit flavors. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$125



96 Three Sticks 2021 Walala Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Sweet, cinnamon oak on the nose and pure red and black cherries in the mouth give tremendous allure to this polished and concentrated wine. A silky texture of fine-grained tannins and tangy acidity brings the cherries, rhu-barb and black currants to life on the palate. Best from 2025–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85



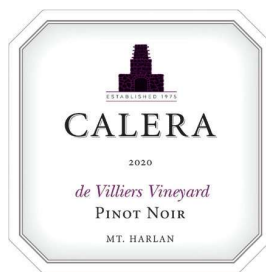
96 Valiano 2020 Pècchero Cabernet Franc (Toscana). The nose is savory and elegant yet comforting, like a cookout with friends, as the grilling meat sizzles and the afternoon sun warms the stones in the garden. A berry undertone swells on the palate, while a backdrop of heat emphasizes a latent earthiness, but the texture remains impressively polished. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$400



95 Amor Fati 2021 Murmur Vineyard Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). Intense and rich aromas of black raspberry and boysenberry are cut by chai spices and loamy minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate is both creamy in mouthfeel and edgy in tannins, showing blackberry and lavender flavors. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



95 Amor Fati 2021 Murmur Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). This bottling from a cool-climate vineyard just south of Santa Maria on 101 shows all the stuffing required to ensure a long cellar life. That package starts with roasted berry, tarry kelp, raw lamb and black olive aromas. Peppery spice leaps off of the palate, where açai and black currant flavors mingle with savory meats and spices. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65



95 Calera 2020 de Villiers Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). Lively aromas of cracked pepper, black raspberry paste and licorice stick show on the impressive nose of this bottling from vines planted in 1996 at 2,200 feet. Peppery and herbal flavors of wild fennel and thyme add complexity to the fresh boysenberry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

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creamy cherry, berry and baking-spice flavors into a serious yet easy-to-quaff expression. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$229

95 Sea Smoke 2020 Southing Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fruity and juicy aromas of alpine strawberry and raspberry compote are elevated by elegant lavender and violet touches on the nose of this bottling. The palate is framed by ample tannins, yet it goes down incredibly easy, offering raspberry paste, boysenberry and light spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

95 Walt 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dense and meaty aromas of blackberry and dark rose petals are intensely rich but beautiful on the nose of this bottling. The palate is thick and creamy yet has plenty of chalky tannins to hold the blackberry jam, violet, black pepper and cardamom-pod flavors in delicious check. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

94 Au Bon Climat 2021 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley). Very light colored in the glass, this bottling by a legendary producer from the region's most important vineyard begins with aromas of crisp raspberry, pomegranate and rose petals on the delicate yet inviting nose. The palate is energized with fresh and zippy acidity that presents flavors of pomegranate, lemon peel and peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Babcock 2021 Deja Vu John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A dark hue in the glass, this intensely aromatic Pinot Noir hits the nose with inky black cherry and blackberry scents that are amplified by purple flowers and loamy soils. It's thick and hefty on the creamy palate, sure to please those seeking powerful flavors of blackberry, licorice and cardamom. A boost of acid enlivens the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

94 Babcock 2021 Slice of Heaven Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark and expressive aromas of black cherry, berry jam, gingerbread and caramel make this a rich style of Pinot Noir. The palate holds a similar line, offering cherry compote, clove and nutmeg. An underlying herb element adds ample nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

94 Bernardus 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark boysenberry and black cardamom aromas make for an intense and rich nose on this bottling from an iconic vineyard. The palate is fruit-driven and fresh, as the ripe berry flavors are elevated by chai spices. Sure to impress those seeking a bold Pinot Noir. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$80

94 Calera 2020 Reed Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). The wilderness that surrounds this appellation comes through vividly in bottlings like this, where incense, bay leaf, menthol and eucalypt-

tus-oil aromas decorate the dark fruits. The palate is more rounded and fleshy, showing generous flavors of baked red fruit as well as that sharp incense tone. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Runestone Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$64

94 Dawn's Dream 2021 Alyssa Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A light color in the glass, this bottling offers clean lines of raspberry sorbet, hibiscus, rose petal and a pinch of thyme on the nose. The palate is snappy with white-pepper spice that offsets the juicy strawberry and fruit-punch flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

94 Dawn's Dream 2021 Nicole Pinot Noir (Monterey). Deliciously fresh aromas of cherry cordial are spiced by peppercorn, green cardamom and garden herbs on the nose of this bottling. That fresh cherry and raspberry sorbet character dominates the palate, but sansho pepper and eucalyptus-leaf flavors add lingering complexity. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58

94 Demetria 2021 Wabi-sabi Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dense aromas of strawberry, raspberry and hibiscus concentrate entice the nose on this bottling. The palate is tensely woven and wildly complex, ranging from baked pomegranate and red currant to thyme, peppercorn and freshly chopped mint flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

94 Exprimere 2021 Persey Peake Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8.
Editors' Choice.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$118

94 Fess Parker 2021 Ashley's Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Sagebrush, anise and turned-earth aromas give depth to plum and cranberry fruit tones on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Charcuterie and cranberry-sauce flavors are enhanced by thyme and dried sage elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

94 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling is layered on the herbally exciting nose in peppercorn, bay leaf, red currant and cranberry aromas. The palate is hearty in mouthfeel and packed with cohesive flavors of eucalyptus leaf, baked berry, dried meat and more spicy peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$54

94 Gainey 2021 Limited Selection Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Focused aromas of black cherry and cranberry are amplified by wet slate, turned earth and toasted herbs on the nose in this barrel-select bottling. The palate is fresh and intense with more black cherry fruit, but the ele-

gance comes from floral elements, bright acidity and a firm, grippy texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

94 Ojai 2021 Fe Ciega Discipulo Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rounded red cherry, earthy herb and light tar aromas converge into a heady mix of earth and fruit on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard that vintner Adam Tolmach recently acquired. There's a citrus-rind tension to the palate, where pomegranate and cranberry flavors are lifted by rose petal and herb, leading into a complex and slightly bitter finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

94 Patz & Hall 2021 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

94 Patz & Hall 2020 Jenkins Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This potent, flavor-packed wine takes time to open up, as oak spices and sour-cherry aromas lead into black cherries, blueberries and cloves. They're all wrapped in firm tannins and nervy acidity, boding well for future development. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Pennyroyal Farm 2020 Jeansheep Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). What a beautifully balanced and expressive Pinot Noir. Aromas burst with red cherry, boysenberry, raspberry, wild strawberry, fresh roses, black tea and damp forest floor. The palate delivers on that promise, carried by a soft, integrated tannic structure, lively acidity and a finish that lingers for ages. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$59

94 Pisoni 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$110

94 Rhys 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55

94 Rhys 2021 Home Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Mateo County). This rich, bold and yet detailed expression of Pinot Noir offers black cherry, cola and chai-vanilla latte aromas on the nose, with a loamy undercurrent. The palate shows rich boysenberry and rose-extract flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$99

94 Rhys 2021 Horseshoe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Baked strawberry, pastry crust and wild-plum aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a mountainside vineyard. Rounded red-fruit flavors are spiced up by hibiscus tea, cinnamon and tropical fruit flavors on the palate, which also exhibits a peppery spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$130

94 Rhys 2021 Skyline Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A fierce density of dark, plummy fruit shows on the nose of this bottling,

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iconic vineyard. Aromas of rich black cherry, mace, cinnamon, loamy soil and dried meat lure the nose in. The palate's hearty texture frames blackberry, violet and baking spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$92

92 Bernardus 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Baked black cherry, rhubarb, damp spice and dark herb aromas align on the nose of this bottling. There's an earthy core to the palate, where black cherry, mace and chai flavors make for a spicy sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Birichino 2022 Saint Georges Pinot Noir (Central Coast). A prevalent sense of chaparral and wild herb marks the nose of this appellation cuvée, which also shows dark cranberry and baked pastry. The palate picks up a gamy quality that gives savory edges to the dark plum and cranberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Calera 2020 Jensen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). Ripe and heavily extracted on the nose, this bottling offers dried plum, wild juniper and strong leather aromas on the nose. The palate is packed with wild chaparral herb flavors that enliven the baked red fruit and spicy leather flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

92 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Classic Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). A light, quite transparent hue in the glass, this bottling has rustic strawberry and cranberry aromas that are enhanced by hibiscus and toasted wood on the earthy nose. Red fruit flavors are prominent on the sip, where fresh acidity keeps it zipping into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Twin Creeks Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Rustic cranberry aromas meet with potpourri and pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate snaps with fresh and tart red-fruit flavors that are lifted by floral hints of rose petal and the spice of cracked peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

92 CRU 2020 Rancho Real Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$35

92 CRU 2020 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

92 Fess Parker 2021 Clone 115 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Crystallized black-cherry aromas meet with red and black licorice on the clean nose of this bottling. There's a formidable texture to the palate, where fresh red-fruit flavors hang out with mineral touches of crushed granite. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

92 Loring Wine Company 2021 Aubaine Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers tart pomegranate, raspberry and hibiscus aromas on the brisk nose. The palate shows a much riper side, with strawberry and fruit-punch flavors picking up cinnamon and cracked pepper by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Loring Wine Company 2021 Boekenoogen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Concentrated aromas of strawberry, cardamom and nutmeg draw the nose into this bottling. Roasted black-plum flavors are spiced up by sagebrush, green cardamom pod and cracked peppercorn on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Ojai 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with cran-pomegranate, rose petal, hibiscus and white-pepper aromas. There's a wild herb array to the palate, where rounded red apple, strawberry and thyme flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

92 Peake Ranch 2021 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). The nose on this bottling is meaty and concentrated, offering dark plum, purple flower and turned-earth aromas. The palate is dense and tightly wound, showing cranberry and pomegranate flavors as well as ample herbs. Time will allow further integration of flavors. Drink 2024–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Rhys 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Rich black cherry, loamy soil, dark chai spice and even cocoa aromas show on the dynamic and bold nose of this bottling. Tart red plum and cranberry flavors pop on the palate, alongside potpourri and peppercorn elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

92 Rhys 2021 Alpine Hillside Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark in the glass, this bottling offers cola, dried mint and baked red-fruit aromas on the nose. The palate is strong, with stiff tannins that coat the palate and give angles to the cherry cola, ripe plum and pepper flavors. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$229

92 Rhys 2021 Family Farm Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Mateo County). Bold and ripe aromas of smashed boysenberry, dark cherry, caramel and baking spice make for a rich nose on this bottling. The palate is tightly wound at first, then opens into blackberry and cola flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$90

92 Rhys 2021 Mt. Pajaro Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Earthy aromas of tarragon and loam add to the black-raspberry fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate is enlivened

by sagebrush and wild herb flavors that decorate the dark plum and stewed raspberry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$118

92 Stephen Ross 2020 Stone Corral Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Fresh cranberry, rose petal, lavender, brioche and French toast spices make for a rich nose on this wine. The palate lands with ample spice and sage seasonings, as rounded and ripe black-plum flavors dominate. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$68

91 Au Bon Climat 2019 Knox Alexander Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Baked raspberry, sandalwood and wild herb aromas show on the slightly tart nose of this blend of Le Bon Climat and Bien Nacido vineyards. The palate lands with a rustic kick of tart pomegranate, salted game and a hint of leather, with herbs popping into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Clendenen Family 2019 Rancho La Cuna Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling from a ranch near Los Alamos offers ample herb and anise aromas that decorate the cranberry, citrus and pear-flesh core. Fennel and marjoram flavors play against a cranberry sauce and orange-rind palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Dawn's Dream 2019 Bel Sogno Pinot Noir (Monterey). Rich aromas of black plum and blackberry are spiced by hearty peppercorns, toasted herbs and dark wood shavings on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich in mouthfeel but laced with acidity, offering a black-pepper kick to the black-plum core. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$76

91 Demetria 2021 Cuvée Sandra Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Focused aromas of black and red raspberry are lifted by minty cola on the clean, expressive nose of this bottling. The palate focuses more on crumpled thyme, bay leaf and other herbs, while strawberry and vanilla flavors grow riper into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

91 El Pino Club 2021 Sea Floored Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

91 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 Dijon Clone Rio Vista Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Strong herbal aromas of incense, bay leaf and patchouli meet with smashed red plum and sandalwood on the nose of this clonal study. The herbal package picks up thyme, oregano and fennel pollen on the roasted-plum palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

91 Loring Wine Company 2021 Kessler-Haak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Raspberry and fruit-punch aromas pick up an herbal kick of thyme and a tart hibiscus note on the nose of this bottling. The palate is bold with cherry and