

WINES OF THE YEAR 2019

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 2019, and called the wines in to taste. Here we present the top scorers from the 117-wine line-up. **Tina Gellie** reports

Exceptional diversity and interest were once again the buzzwords following our third Wines of the Year tasting, in which a remarkable 87% of entries scored an average of 90 points or above.

'This has become my favourite event in the calendar,' said Sarah Jane Evans MW. 'There's nothing more exciting than being presented with a roomful of extraordinary bottles recommended by fellow *Decanter* experts.'

Dirceu Vianna Junior MW agreed: 'I've been judging for *Decanter* for 10 years and I've never enjoyed such an exceptionally high quality but varied array of wines from around the world that all had a real sense of place.'

As one of the first comprehensive two-day tastings to be held at *Decanter's* new Canary Wharf HQ, it was fitting that 117 fascinating wines were put forward – what better way to help christen the new facility?

Unlike other publications that rank the year's highest-scorers from tastings, our annual showcase highlights the wines that really made an impression on our experts, for their classicism, value or quirkiness.

We asked *Decanter* World Wine Awards Regional Chairs, key contributors and *Decanter* staff to name the wines they most enjoyed over the past 12 months under the categories of Classic (a premium, textbook wine style), Offbeat (unusual grape, winemaking method, region or unearthen gem) and Value (a wine that punches above its weight at £25 or under). Each wine's category and their champion are included in the tasting notes to follow.

Encouraging variety

Of the 23 countries that featured in our Wines of the Year, France was the most-represented

with 29 wines, followed by Italy (17) and Spain (14). Australia led the New World charge with nine wines, with South Africa (seven) and New Zealand (six) close behind.

The wines were tasted blind, in late October, and scored out of 100, though their respective Classic, Offbeat and Value categories were not disclosed. 'The great value in this is that we are not prejudiced by either big-name expensive wines or the humble brands,' explained Evans. 'The cream rises to the top.'

'So I was encouraged to see that in the Outstanding category, for example, we rewarded a £175 bottle of Champagne, but also a £20 Australian Chardonnay.'

But the judges were most enthralled by unusual wine styles and grapes – 60 different varieties were represented among our 117 entries. Evans highlighted a 'beautifully complex' Ribolla and the 'wonderful' Malbec from Washington, while Vianna was impressed by the Plyto from Greece, Bequignol from Argentina and Areni Noir from Armenia. 'Some of these things are out of my comfort zone,' he admitted, 'but that's a good thing! To be a wine lover you need to expand your palate and many of the wines we've recommended here will help you do that.'

Evans agreed: 'It shows us how extremely diverse the wonderful world of wine is and just how much variety of style and price there is to choose from.'

'It also reinforces that we need to branch out from our safe zones,' she urged. 'There are some lovely discoveries here – let's celebrate and enjoy them. And what better time than the festive season to be more adventurous!'

• For full tasting notes of these wines, plus the 58 others that scored 88 to 91 points, see *Decanter.com*



Sarah Jane Evans MW is a DWWA Co-Chair, past chair of the Institute of Masters of Wine and an award-winning writer



Dirceu Vianna Junior MW is a wine consultant, educator and judge who has worked in the wine industry for more than 30 years



Tina Gellie is *Decanter's* Content Manager and Regional Editor for the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

Thank you to the following people who contributed their recommendations: Vahan Agulian, Sarah Ahmed, Jane Anson, Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW, Amanda Barnes, Paolo Basso, Richard Baudains, Jim Budd, Bernard Burtschy, James Button, Bob Campbell MW, Ferran Centelles, Jeannie Cho Lee MW, Alistair Cooper MW, Markus del Monego MW, Natalie Earl, Sarah Jane Evans MW, Simon Field MW, Michael Garner, Tina Gellie, Rebecca Gibb MW, Caroline Gilby MW, Michael Hill Smith MW, Justin Howard-Sneyd MW, Jane Hunt MW, Andrew Jefford, Anne Krebiehl MW, James Lawther MW, Nico Manassis, Caro Maurer MW, Elin McCoy, Fiona McDonald, Thierry Meyer, Michaela Morris, Barbara Philip MW, Anthony Rose, Ronan Sayburn MS, Julie Sheppard, Stephen Skelton MW, Rod Smith MW, Steven Spurrier, Matt Walls, Amy Wislocki

① Charles Heidsieck, Blanc des Millénaires Brut, Champagne, France 2004

97 **C** Sarah Jane Evans MW 97 Tina Gellie 97 Dirceu Vianna Junior MW 98 £145-£175 Carruthers & Kent, Exel, Finest Bubble, Harrods, Hedonism, Jeroboams, The Wine Society Delicious; an elegant ensemble of yellow fruits, fresh apples and brioche. Power with delicacy, showing glorious complexity with a refreshing, slightly savoury finish. World class! **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alcohol** 12% **Nominated by Michael Hill Smith MW**

② Equipo Navazos, La Bota 78 Oloroso, Jerez, Spain 96

C SJE 96 TG 96 DVJ 96 £91.99-£95 Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Darley Abbey Wines, Swig Undoubtedly oloroso, with intense and inviting aromas of toffee, praline, caramel and nuts. Massive weight and concentration, wonderfully complex. Awesome. **Drink** 2020-2028 **Alc** 22% **Alistair Cooper MW**

③ Quinta do Noval, Vintage Port, Douro, Portugal 2016

96 **C** SJE 96 TG 96 DVJ 96 £66-£75 Armit, Berry Bros & Rudd, Carruthers & Kent, Chelsea Vintners, Cru, Fine & Rare, Goedhuis & Co, Justerini & Brooks, Montrachet, Richard Kihl, Seckford, Tanners Youthful and superbly ripe, with incredibly pure notes of blackberry, black cherry and violet. Has it all: acid, density and structure, backed by grippy tannins. **Drink** 2025-2048 **Alc** 19.5% **Decanter staff**



① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥

④ Stéphane Ogier, But de Mont, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France 2010

96 **C** SJE 95 TG 97 DVJ 97 £88 Crump Richmond Shaw Lovely maturity on the nose, with notes of dark fruits, bonfire, wet earth and dried herbs. Enticing leather and spice on the palate, with silky tannins. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 13% **Jane Anson**

⑤ Tyrrell's, 4 Acres Shiraz, Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia 2011

96 **C** SJE 96 TG 96 DVJ 96 £75 John E Fells Savoury aromas of chamois spiced leather, showing nice development. Palate remains fresh and bright, with crunchy red fruits overlaying supple, mature tannins. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 13% **Tina Gellie**

⑥ Xanadu, Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia 2017

96 **V** SJE 96 TG 96 DVJ 96 £18.40-£19.99 Bibendum Wine, Cellar Door Wines, Exel, Oz Wines Ethereal, intriguing nose of yellow fruits, wild flowers and citrus. Hints of wet stone and green apple on the palate, leading to a very long finish. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 13.5% **Sarah Ahmed** >

⑦ **Château de Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Champ Canet, Burgundy, France 2017**
 95 **C** SJE 95 TG 95 DVJ 95
 POA Justerini & Brooks
 Creamy, leesy aromatics, with perfumed citrus peel, green herbs and a hint of minerality. A powerhouse of a wine, very big but certainly balanced. Very long finish. **Drink** 2020-2031 **Alc** 14% **Decanter staff**

⑧ **Domaine Kirrenbourg, Riesling Grand Cru Schlossberg, Alsace, France 2016**
 95 **C** SJE 95 TG 96 DVJ 95
 POA Raeburn Fine Wines
 Classic Alsace elegance, revealing a beautiful perfume of citrus fruit and sweet spice along with a floral touch. Exceptional concentration on the palate, backed by a lovely freshness. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 14% **Thierry Meyer**

⑨ **Emilio Lustau, VORS 30 Years Old Palo Cortado, Jerez, Spain**
 95 **C** SJE 95 TG 95 DVJ 95
 £89.95 Berry Bros & Rudd, Hedonism
 Glorious aromas of burnt butter, brazil nuts and honey. Powerful, rich and intense on the palate, with distinct walnut flavours and notes of raisins. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Alc** 21% **Michael Hill Smith MW**

⑬ **Couly-Dutheil, Clos de l'Echo, Chinon, Loire, France 2016**
 94 **C** SJE 95 TG 93 DVJ 94
 £20.76 Georges Barbier, Thorman Hunt
 Attractive and youthful, with a smoky dark fruit core. All about elegance, freshness, textbook pencil lead, a fine grip of tannin and great freshness. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** 13.5% **Rebecca Gibb MW**

⑭ **Domaine La Péquétette, Emile, Vinsobres, Rhône, France 2017**
 94 **V** SJE 94 TG 94 DVJ 93
 £25 Vine Trail
 Sumptuous juicy red fruits with enticing hints of peppery spice. Vital, pure and delicious, evolved by a firm, sophisticated structure. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Alc** 14.5% **Matt Walls**

⑮ **Griesel & Compagnie, Pinot Brut Nature, Deutscher Sekt, Hessische Bergstrasse, Germany 2015**
 94 **C** SJE 94 TG 94 DVJ 95
 £30.05 The WineBarn
 Fresh, bright and breezy with notes of grapefruit, fresh apples and wild flowers. Excellent concentration, leading to a slightly autumnal finish. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 12.5% **Anne Krebiehl MW**



⑩ **Gramona, III Lustrós Brut Nature, Corpinnat, Spain 2012**
 95 **C** SJE 95 TG 95 DVJ 94
 £45.50 Berry Bros & Rudd
 Biscuit and brioche aromas with hints of baked apple and honey. Lovely age and complexity, a very good example with beautiful refreshing acidity. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** 12% **Ferran Centelles**

⑪ **Rutini, Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc, Gualtallary, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2016**
 95 **C** SJE 95 TG 95 DVJ 95
 N/A UK www.rutiniwines.com
 Seductive, classy and elegantly perfumed with notes of blackberries, coffee beans, chocolate and sweet spices. Fine-grained texture, wonderfully complex. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 15% **Decanter staff**

⑫ **The Wine Society, The Society's Exhibition Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France 2015**
 95 **V** SJE 95 TG 95 DVJ 95
 £22 The Wine Society
 Beautiful depth and concentration, deep bramble and meaty spice, very complete and complex. The powerful palate is backed by grippy tannins. This will age beautifully. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 14.5% **Steven Spurrier**

⑯ **Hugel, Estate Riesling, Alsace, France 2015**
 94 **V** SJE 93 TG 95 DVJ 94
 £18.99-£26.50 Albion Wine Shippers, Berry Bros & Rudd, Farr Vintners, Hedonism
 Gorgeous nose, lovely purity, dense and very concentrated, showing beautiful weight of sweet ripe apple and lemon confit fruit. Enticingly complex. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 14% **Thierry Meyer**

⑰ **Klein Constantia, Vin de Constance, Constantia, South Africa 2015**
 94 **C** SJE 94 TG 94 DVJ 94
 £49.95-£62.99 Bancroft, Christopher Piper, Divine Fine Wines, Exel, Hard to Find Wines, Hedonism, Lay & Wheeler, Tanners, The Oxford Wine Co, Uncorked
 Very sweet, ripe and tropical, a lovely style. Intensely aromatic, overflowing with honeysuckle, pineapple and orange marmalade. **Drink** 2020-2050 **Alc** 14% **Fiona McDonald**

⑱ **Martin's Lane Winery, Fritz's Vineyard Riesling, West Kelowna, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada 2016**
 94 **C** SJE 95 TG 93 DVJ 93
 N/A UK www.martinslanewinery.com
 Smoky typicity on the nose, with a sunburst of acidity in the mouth, balanced by succulent golden plums. Very pretty and pure. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 13.5% **Sarah Jane Evans MW**

19 **Mullineux, Straw Wine, Swartland, South Africa 2017**

94 **C** SJE 95 TG 93 DVJ 93
 £26.50-£29.95/37.5cl Christopher Keiller, Frank Stainton, Handford, Justerini & Brooks, Noel Young, Swig, Vin Cognito
 Thick and unctuous, a combination of ripe stone fruits, bruised apples and honey. Punchy acidity cuts through the sugary, honeyed palate. **Drink** 2020-2035 **Alc** 9.5% **Vahan Agulian**

20 **Mullineux, Kloof Street Old Vine Chenin Blanc, Swartland, South Africa 2018**

94 **V** SJE 94 TG 93 DVJ 94
 £14.75-£17.99 Berry Bros & Rudd, Carruthers & Kent, Hlc, Handford, Roberson, Swig
 Silky textured, with lovely inviting notes of grapefruit, wild flowers and sweet spices. Displays exceptional finesse and typicity. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 13.5% **Elin McCoy**

21 **Quinta do Crasto, Vinha Maria Teresa, Douro, Portugal 2015**

94 **C** SJE 94 TG 94 DVJ 94
 £155-£220 Carruthers & Kent, Great Western Wine, Hedonism
 Youthful and intense aromas including notes of blackberry, citrus zest and violets. Dense and concentrated, a wine to lose yourself in. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 14.5% **Sarah Ahmed**

25 **Beaumont, Hope Marguerite 34 Barrels, Bot River, Overberg, South Africa 2018**

93 **C** SJE 91 TG 94 DVJ 93
 £23.55-£26 H2Vin, Le Vignoble
 Sensationally complex, including notes of crème brûlée, honey and sweet spices. Ripe, luscious style with a beautifully refreshing finish. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 13% **Julie Sheppard**

26 **Bernard Magrez, Clos Haut-Peyraguey, Sauternes, Bordeaux, France 2015**

93 **C** SJE 92 TG 93 DVJ 93
 £30 Montrachet
 Aromas of orange marmalade, honey and cashew jump out of the glass. Great brisk acidity and unctuous fruit. Fresh and delightfully creamy. **Drink** 2020-2050 **Alc** 13.5% **Decanter staff**

27 **Bodegas Hidalgo, La Gitana Single Vineyard Pastrana, Manzanailla Pasada, Jerez, Spain**

93 **C** SJE 95 TG 93 DVJ 92
 £11.95-£17.59 Christopher Piper, Exel, JN Wine, Majestic, The Wine Society, Waitrose Cellar
 Vibrant and uplifting, clean and flinty character with notes of pomelo. Intense yeasty notes combine beautifully with crystallised fruit and bruised apples. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** 15% **Natalie Earl**



22 **Savage Grace, Dineen Vineyard Côt, Rattlesnake Hills, Yakima Valley, Washington, USA 2017**

94 **D** SJE 94 TG 94 DVJ 93
 £18.99-£22.50 Harvey Nichols, The Wine Rascals
 Perfumed nose with wild flowers and ripe red fruits of the forest dominating. Lovely bright, ripe juiciness, with real purity of mulberry fruit. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 11% **Tina Gellie**

23 **Wiston Estate, South Downs Blanc de Blancs Brut, England, UK 2011**

94 **C** SJE 94 TG 95 DVJ 94
 £39.50-£42.50 Butlers Wine Cellar, Hennings, Lea & Sandeman, Museum Wines, Richard Kihl, South Downs Cellars, St Andrews Wine Co, Swig, The Oxford Wine Co, The Wright Wine Co
 Expressive nose of yellow fruits and freshly baked biscuits, with great toastiness. Beautiful texture and tight, brisk acidity with a long finish. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 12% **Justin Howard-Sneyd MW**

24 **Akarua, Bannockburn Pinot Noir, Central Otago, New Zealand 2017**

93 **C** SJE 92 TG 93 DVJ 93
 £26.90-£29.99 Alexander Hadleigh, Exel, Specialist Cellars, Vinvm
 Overt, intense aromas of red forest fruits, sweet spices and wild herbs. Pretty and delicious, with smooth tannins and some exotic spice. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 14% **Bob Campbell MW**

28 **Château La Conseillante, Pomerol, Bordeaux, France 2016**

93 **C** SJE 93 TG 94 DVJ 92
 £150 (ib)-£211.67 Berry Bros & Rudd, BI, Corkr, Davy's, Farr Vintners, Fine & Rare, Grand Vin, Millésima, Montrachet, Mr Wheeler, The Vinorium
 Lively, with bright acidity and firm tannins. Flavours led by cassis, earth and sweet spices. This is big and concentrated, with good potential. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 14% **Decanter staff**

29 **Château Larrivet Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan, Bordeaux, France 2010**

93 **C** SJE 93 TG 94 DVJ 93
 £45-£59 Crump Richmond Shaw, Jeroboams, Montrachet
 Enticing savoury nose, notes of dark fruits, leather, wet earth and graphite. Lovely weight and nice acidity, at a perfect stage to enjoy. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 14.5% **Decanter staff**

30 **Château Thivin, Les Sept Vignes, Côte de Brouilly, Beaujolais, France 2018**

93 **V** SJE 93 TG 93 DVJ 92
 £19.95-£22.50 Domaine Direct, Richard Kihl, Taurus, Theatre of Wine, The Wine Society
 Alluring aromas, promising succulent fruit. Vibrant and youthful, with flavours of cherry, violets and wet earth, oak spice adding complexity. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 13.5% **Michael Hill Smith MW**

31 **Château Trotte Vieille, St-Emilion IGCC, Bordeaux, France 2016**

93 **C** SJE 93 TG 94 DVJ 93

£55 (ib)-£95 Brunswick, Cru, Crump Richmond Shaw, Farr Vintners, Fine & Rare, Goedhuis & Co, Millésima, Montrachet

Full of expression; red plum and currant fruit, fine tannins and a note of freshness. Shows classy use of oak: a very well-made wine. **Drink 2020-2030 Alc 14%**
Decanter staff

32 **De Bortoli, Deen Vat 8 Shiraz, Heathcote, Victoria, Australia 2017**

93 **V** SJE 93 TG 93 DVJ 93

£10.69-£11.99 Frank Stainton, House of Townend, Nethergate, Rodney Fletcher, TJ Wines Really meaty and savoury, backed by a core of ripe blackberries. Exceptional concentration and silky tannins lead to a long finish. **Drink 2020-2029 Alc 14.5%**
Decanter staff

33 **Delas Frères, Clos Boucher, Condrieu, Rhône, France 2016**

93 **C** SJE 93 TG 92 DVJ 93

£47.50-£59.99 Christopher Keiller, Lay & Wheeler, Maison Marques & Domaines, Millésima, Noble Green, Portland Wine A fine interplay developing between fruit, alcohol, mouthfeel and acidity. Shows great varietal typicity and a real sense of place. **Drink 2020-2024 Alc 14%**
Andrew Jefford



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34 **Escala Humana, Liverrá Bequignol, El Zampal, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2018**

93 **O** SJE 93 TG 93 DVJ 93

N/A UK www.escalahumanawines.com Friendly and inviting nose of cherry and vanilla with a touch of pepper. Dry, light and refreshing, with tangy acidity on the palate. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**
Amanda Barnes

35 **Faustino, I Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2009**

93 **V** SJE 93 TG 92 DVJ 93

£20 Tesco Plenty of characteristic toasty oak aromas. Harmonious and perfectly balanced palate, with lovely juicy fruit underpinned by lively acidity. **Drink 2020-2029 Alc 13.5%**
Decanter staff

36 **Gravner, Ribolla, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy 2011**

93 **O** SJE 93 TG 93 DVJ 93

£75 Raeburn Fine Wines Glorious vivid amber colour. Elegant and complex with aromas of dried fruits, earth, citrus zest and honey. Amazing for its age. **Drink 2020-2025 Alc 15.5%**
Richard Baudains ➤

37 **Mullineux, Schist Syrah, Swartland, South Africa 2016**

93 **C** SJE 94 TG 91 DVJ 94
 £63.68-£77 AG Wines, Berry Bros & Rudd, Harrods, Justerini & Brooks, Lay & Wheeler
 Enticingly complex and seductive, with notes of blackberries, blueberries, dried herbs and sweet spices. Fresh, with punchy acidity. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 13.5% **James Button**

38 **Osborne, Capuchino VORS Palo Cortado, Jerez, Spain 93** **C** SJE 93 TG 92 DVJ 94

£79 Vindependents
 Sensational bouquet displaying amazing complexity through notes of walnuts, chocolate, caramel and molasses. Powerful and long. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 20% **Decanter staff**

39 **Poderi Luigi Einaudi, Barolo Bussia, Piedmont, Italy 2015**

93 **C** SJE 93 TG 92 DVJ 93
 POA The Wine Society
 Bursting with flavour, dark cherry, vanilla and floral aromas. Very structured, with firm, dense tannins working nicely with crisp acidity. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 14.5% **Paolo Basso**

43 **Aldi, Exquisite Collection Riesling, Clare Valley, South Australia 2018**

92 **V** SJE 92 TG 92 DVJ 92
 £6.99 Aldi
 Racy and vibrant, with piercing citrus fruits and aromas of wild flowers. Shows a flinty freshness with some stony notes, delicious and persistent. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 11.5% **Jim Budd**

44 **Baron de Ley, Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2015**

92 **V** SJE 91 TG 92 DVJ 92
 £12 Tesco
 A traditional and elegant style of Rioja, combining notes of spice and earth with a ripe, juicy fruit profile. Shows finesse and complexity. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 14% **Decanter staff**

45 **Bodegas Hidalgo, La Gitana, Manzanilla, Jerez, Spain**

92 **C** SJE 91 TG 93 DVJ 93
 £9.50-£13.99 Amathus Drinks, Averys, Booths, Exel, Frazier's, Hennings, Jeroboams, JN Wine, Majestic, Sainsbury's, Speciality Drinks, Tanners, The Oxford Wine Co, Virgin Wines, Waitrose
 Lovely salinity and olive brine aromas, with notes of bruised apples, fresh dough and chalk. Dry, crisp, delicate and refreshing. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 15% **Simon Field MW**



40 **Vinos de la Luz, Iuminado Malbec, Paraje Altamira Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2015**

93 **C** SJE 94 TG 92 DVJ 92
 N/A UK www.vinosdelaluz.com
 Bold aromatics with distinct mulberry fruit and sweet spice. Powerful, dense and juicy with excellent concentration and a long finish. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 14% **Decanter staff**

41 **Yann Chave, Hermitage, Rhône, France 2012**

93 **C** SJE 92 TG 94 DVJ 93
 POA Montrachet
 Intense aromas, quite meaty and showing some minerality. Dense blackcurrant conserve on the palate with a long finish. **Drink** 2020-2036 **Alc** 13.5% **Matt Walls**

42 **Zorah, Karasi Areni Noir, Yeghegnadzor, Vayots Dzor, Armenia 2017**

93 **C** SJE 93 TG 93 DVJ 93
 £25.55-£29.99 Exel, Hedonism, Noel Young, The Drink Shop, Vinvm, Wine Direct, Wino's
 Vibrantly aromatic, with fresh and intense plum, cherry, wet earth and violets, sweet spices and herbs. On the palate it is generous and juicy, yet firm with refined structure. **Drink** 2020-2024 **Alc** 14% **Caroline Gilby MW & Anthony Rose**

46 **Brancott Estate, Letter Series B Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019**

92 **V** SJE 92 TG 91 DVJ 93
 £16.99 WinePig
 Distinct NZ aromatics of passion fruit, guava and mango leaping out of the glass. On the palate it is intense, powerful and refreshing. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 13.5% **Decanter staff**

47 **Château Dauzac, Margaux 5CC, Bordeaux, France 2017**

92 **C** SJE 92 TG 92 DVJ 92
 £40.83-£45 Millésima, Montrachet
 Very deep, complex and smooth, showing plenty of ripe black fruit with some rich oak spice. A well-knit wine that will evolve beautifully. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 13.5% **Decanter staff**

48 **Craggy Range, Te Kahu, Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand 2016**

92 **V** SJE 92 TG 91 DVJ 92
 £20.99-£21.50 Bibendum Wine, Exel
 Pure and savoury, with a dense damson and dark berry core. Very accomplished and complex, with great acidity, this will age well. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** 13% **Bob Campbell MW**

49 **Domaine Marcel Lapierre, Morgon, Beaujolais, France 2018**

92 **C** SJE 91 TG 92 DVJ 92
 £27.50-£32.50 Bibendum Wine, Bowland Forest Vintners, Handford, Vine Trail
 Very perfumed, with notes of violet and potpourri. On the palate it is dry, zesty and fresh with lively fruit and a pleasant, persistent finish. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 13.5%**
Barbara Philip MW

50 **Gusbourne Estate, Blanc de Blancs Brut, England, UK 2014**

92 **C** SJE 91 TG 93 DVJ 92
 £45-£59 Exel, Hedonism, Jeroboams, Mr Wheeler, Tanners, The Champagne Co, The Oxford Wine Co, The Wine Reserve
 Bonfire smoky nose with a lovely Chardonnay fruit purity beneath. Harmonious, with a pleasant creamy texture and well-defined finish. **Drink 2020-2027 Alc 12%**
Stephen Skelton MW

51 **Iberieli Zurab Topuridze, Saperavi, Tsinandali, Kakheti, Georgia 2018**

92 **O** SJE 93 TG 92 DVJ 92
 £24.49 Les Caves de Pyrene
 Dense and vibrant, with intriguing aromas of dark fruits combined with citrus zest and floral complexity. Classy winemaking is evident here. **Drink 2020-2028 Alc 14.5%**
Amy Wislocki



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52 **Jacquart, Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne, France 2013**

92 **C** SJE 92 TG 92 DVJ 93
 £42.50-£52.91 (2012) Exel, GP Brands, Great Western Wine, Great Wines Direct, The Whisky Exchange
 Aromas are seductive and restrained including notes of citrus fruits, honey, citrus blossom and brioche. Well balanced and complex. **Drink 2020-2029 Alc 12.5%**
Decanter staff

53 **Kleine Zalze, Zalze Shiraz-Mourvedre-Viognier, Western Cape, South Africa 2017**

92 **V** SJE 93 TG 91 DVJ 92
 £8.99 Asda, Morrisons, Ocado, Waitrose
 Aromas of ripe dark fruits, pine, spices, meat and bonfire. Amazing concentration of ripe juicy fruit combined with harmonious structure. **Drink 2020-2029 Alc 14.5%**
Fiona McDonald

54 **Kumeu River, Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay, Auckland, New Zealand 2014**

92 **C** SJE 92 TG 92 DVJ 92
 £41.50 Specialist Cellars
 Distinctly savoury aromas, with lots of bâtonnage oaky spice influence. It's beautifully structured with a persistent savoury and mineral finish. **Drink 2020-2029 Alc 13.5%**
Amy Wislocki >

55 Roederer Estate, Quartet Brut, Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, California, USA

NV 92 **V** SJE 91 TG 92 DVJ 93

£24-£30 Widely available

A generous and expressive style, with a fine mousse. Lovely creamy texture on the palate with enticing ripe fruit notes and good acidity. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Alc** 13% **Anne Krebiehl MW**

56 San Polino, Helichrysum, Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy 2014

92 **C** SJE 92 TG 93 DVJ 92

£69.99 The Fine Wine Co

Evolved and complex, luxurious cherry fruit complemented by the toffeed sweetness of nougat and oak. Lovely structure and ageing potential. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 14.5% **Richard Baudains**

57 Torres, Reserva Real, Penedès, Spain 2015

92 **C** SJE 95 TG 90 DVJ 92

POA Armit

Refined red and black fruit on the nose, enhanced by notes of cedar and vanilla oak. Silky textured on the palate, showing real elegance. **Drink** 2020-2024 **Alc** 14% **Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW**



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58 Torres, Mas la Plana, Penedès, Spain 2015

92 **C** SJE 91 TG 92 DVJ 93

£47-£50.50 Hedonism, Tanners

Full flavoured, with baskets of dark berries and cassis. Well made in a modern, international style, with amazing power and tension. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 14% **Markus del Monego MW**

59 Trivento, Golden Reserve Malbec, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina 2017

92 **V** SJE 92 TG 92 DVJ 93

£16-£17 Asda, Morrisons, Tesco, WinePig

Shy nose with hints of cherries, blackberry and violets. Bright, crunchy palate, layered between fleshy fruit, textured tannin and brisk acidity. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 14% **Decanter staff**

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