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OREGON'S PINOT POWER

2017: ANOTHER GREAT VINTAGE
500 PINOT NOIRS REVIEWED

**BORDEAUX
2017: WHAT
TO BUY**

**+ PINOT NOIR MASTER
MIKE ETZEL**

**WATERFRONT
RESTAURANTS FOR
WINE LOVERS**

MARCH 31, 2020
\$6.99 US



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91 Mollydooker Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale The Maitre D' 2018 \$30 Aromatic and intense, with whiffs of mahogany and palo santo that swirl around chocolate-covered coffee bean and blackberry preserve flavors at the core. Generous and layered, offering complexity, a swath of velvety, fine-grained tannins and a long finish. Drink now through 2035. 5,316 cases made, 882 cases imported.—M.W.

91 Mollydooker Merlot McLaren Vale The Scooter 2018 \$30 Black pepper and herbal hints are plush and juicy, with a note of black tea complementing the jammy core of blackberry and plum flavors. Ripe and generous, offering a firm, muscular backbone. Drink now through 2030. 3,219 cases made, 420 cases imported.—M.W.

90 Mollydooker Shiraz South Australia The Boxer 2018 \$30 Juicy notes of ripe black cherry and spiced plum are thick and velvety, oozing with details of baking spices, tobacco and Earl Grey tea on the finish. Concentrated and complex. The thick tannins add some charm. Drink now through 2030. 37,550 cases made, 5,880 cases imported.—M.W.

90 Riposte Pinot Noir Adelaide Hills The Dagger 2018 \$25 Bright and focused, with juicy cherry and raspberry flavors that integrate well with notes of cardamom, black tea, thyme and orange zest. A touch of tension from the tannins and acidity add to the appeal on the fresh finish. Drink now through 2031. 5,000 cases made, 296 cases imported.—M.W.

89 Hugh Hamilton Shiraz South Australia Jim Jim 2017 \$13 Dense huckleberry, blackberry and cassis flavors are focused, with toothsome tannins and accents of black licorice, toffee pudding and baking spices. This finishes on a note of strong chai tea. Drink now through 2033. 3,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.—M.W.

AUSTRIA

93 Alzinger Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Wachau Ried Steinertal 2018 \$65 This shows impressive range, featuring hints of mango and apple, framed by sage, clove and white chocolate notes. The texture caresses the palate, while piercing acidity gives this focus and precision. Long and mouthwatering on the richly spiced finish. Drink now through 2031. 214 cases imported.—A.Z.

93 Nikolaihof Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Wachau Im Weingebirge 2018 \$35 A stunning version, showing incredible complexity combined with elegance, this offers an intense mix of ginger, tangerine and peach flavors that are powerful and backed up by juicy acidity. The finish offers notes of jasmine, cream and spice. Drink now through 2029. 145 cases imported.—A.Z.

92 Alzinger Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Wachau Ried Loibenberg 2018 \$53 Effusive, with notes of pear and bitter citrus oil that are offset by lively acidity, gliding along the silky texture. Lentil and tobacco accents emerge, along with some alcohol on the finish. Needs time, but will deliver in a few years. Best from 2021 through 2031. 216 cases imported.—A.Z.



NIKOLAUS SAHNS JR.
Owner & Winemaker

92 Hiedler Grüner Veltliner Kamptal Reserve Kittmannsberg 2018 \$39 Richly spiced, with a glossy texture, offering hints of turmeric, vanilla and coriander seed. Lively and balanced, showing citrus and orchard flavors, but savory mineral and herbal elements take over. True to the variety, this is not about fruit, focusing instead on texture and spice. Should make a great pairing for crudo or sashimi. Drink now through 2030. 121 cases imported.—A.Z.

92 Meinklang Blaufränkisch Austria 2017 \$22 Very elegant and on the lighter side, with a silky texture, but the tannins add crunch. Exhibits notes of dark cherry and pomegranate, while clove and aniseed accents add to the complexity. Black tea hints impart a bit of bitterness on the lasting finish. Drink now through 2027. 100 cases imported.—A.Z.

91 Alzinger Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Wachau Ried Mühlpoint 2018 \$39 Crisp, yet very youthful and undeveloped. Features peach and saffron flavors at the core, showing a serious structure, but needs time to come together. A little less flamboyant, but well made. The acidity should give this the potential to age. Best from 2023 through 2030. 218 cases imported.—A.Z.

88 Glatzer Grüner Veltliner Carnuntum 2018 \$14 Shows concentrated lemon and quince notes, with hints of wheatgrass and white pepper. Focused and persistent, but not too complex. Drink now through 2024. 576 cases imported.—A.Z.

88 Bernhard Ott Wagram Am Berg 2018 \$21 A lean, mouthwatering style, with a steely profile, showing notes of green apple and lemon oil, revealing slight hints of salted butter. The finish is mineral-driven. Harmonious overall. Drink now through 2024. 293 cases imported.—A.Z.

86 Zantho Burgenland Rosé 2018 \$12 A crisp blush, with notes of white raspberry and white pepper, backed by lively acidity. Well-balanced and pretty, but lacks length. Drink now. 168 cases imported.—A.Z.

FRANCE

Bordeaux / Bordeaux Red

87 Château Magnol Bordeaux M de Magnol 2018 \$15 Friendly plum and blackberry fruit is laced with toast accents and a hint of anise. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. 10,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—J.M.

86 Barton & Guestier Bordeaux Cuvée Rambaud 2018 \$12 Direct, with cherry and plum preserve notes and light-handed toast on the finish. Basic, but fresh and balanced. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. 13,101 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—J.M.

86 Clarendelle Bordeaux 2017 \$19 A tobacco leaf edge emerges amid the mix of dark cherry and plum fruit. Ends with a notable dose of cocoa on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2022. 35,833 cases made.—J.M.

86 Château de Lagarde Bordeaux Les Hauts de Lagarde 2017 \$15 Fresh damson plum and bitter cherry notes are lined with a grilled savory accent. Reveals a tobacco echo through the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now. 11,500 cases made, 8,450 cases imported.—J.M.

86 Château Peynaud-Bagnac Bordeaux 2018 \$15 Light plum and savory notes mingle with a whiff of sandalwood. Offers an easy, vanilla-tinted finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now. 25,000 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.—J.M.

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