

# Publisher's PICKS



**Portalupi 2021**  
**Charbono, L. Venturi**  
**Vineyards, Mendocino**  
**County (\$65)** In this inky black-purple wine, notes of char and ripe boysenberry meet star anise anchored by wet earth, black olive, and Italian herbs. Ripe fruit lingers on the rustic finish. **92**



**Dolum Estates 2018 Cask #11 Proprietary Red Wine, Sonoma Mountain, Sonoma Valley (\$82)** With 9% of its fruit hailing from Oakville, this blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc is determined and driven by insistent tannins. Plum, lavender; and espresso are enveloped in a dusty coat on the chewy, dry finish. **94**



ATC WINES



**Caelesta 2020 Vega, Templeton Gap District, Paso Robles (\$75)** Evoking Châteauneuf-du-Pape with a dose of California sunshine, this stunning 100% Grenache aged 20 months in a mix of French barriques and puncheons is a palate grabber—let it sit for about 30 minutes before diving into its notes of cinnamon, raisin, black cherry, and vanilla bean. Racy acidity brightens with orange peel and cranberry. **94**



**Lobo 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, Wulff Vineyards, Napa Valley (\$85)** Voluminous notes of violets and dusty cherry skin are attention-getting. Espresso and graphite chime in midway, lending further grip and structure. Ripe blackberry beckons on the finish, joined by notes of cedar and Worcestershire. **94**



**MacRostie 2021 The Loch Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, Sonoma County (\$95)** Crafted from top blocks along the Sonoma Coast, The Loch is a blend of 20 barrels aged in French oak. Expansive flavors of espresso and fennel contribute to a savory, mouth-coating character. Plum and spiced blueberry mingle on the earthy midpalate, but it's the lilting notes of blue flowers that prompt this wine to take flight. **95**



**Brandlin Estate 2021 Malbec, Napa Valley (\$75)** Dusty plum tannins skate across the chewy and fleshy palate as robust notes of espresso and tobacco are perfumed and flavored by dark chocolate, boysenberry, and violets. Dynamic and muscular, with salted black cherry and sweet, creamy oak. **95**



**Amulet Estate 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$85)** Opulent, with dusty tannins and bright boysenberry lining the palate. Juiciness streams in to meet focused tension on the midpalate. Needs time to open up, but once it does, the fruit shines through. **95**



OPICI WINES



**Trione Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon, Block Twenty One, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County (\$80)** This gutsy, ripe, energetic red armed with plum and spiced cedar is built to last, carrying its weight well with structured yet glossy tannins. Anise, tilled soil, and Worcestershire sauce contribute a savory, earthy tone. **93**



**Acumen 2021 Mountainside Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$85)** Astute and high-toned, with skyscraper structure. Purple plum, boysenberry bramble, and soy sauce are vibrant and zippy on the palate, which finishes with blue floral notes and a touch of sandalwood. The fruit was sourced from mountain and hillside vineyards and spent 18 months in (30% new) French oak. **94**



**Lorenzi Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon, South Coast, Temecula (\$95)** Sourced from five estate vineyard rows, this wine offers stark notes of coffee and leather surrounded by dark, clove-spiced plum. Cigar leaf tingles on the tongue as deep, rich purple fruit makes a grand entrance on the heels of chewy tannins. **95**

