

# Publisher's PICKS



## J. Lohr 2020 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$100)

A tribute to Jerry Lohr's pioneering efforts in the Paso Robles region, this impeccably crafted Cabernet Sauvignon hails from the high-elevation Creston District and offers opulent notes of heather, dark chocolate, and black plum. The addition of Cabernet Franc brings dried lavender to the mix while the rare variety Saint-Macaire contributes a savory element. The wine's elegant structure is further enhanced by the integration of Malbec. **98**



## Acumen 2021 PEAK Cabernet Franc, Atlas Peak, Napa Valley (\$125)

Blended with 14% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, this is Acumen's inaugural Cabernet Franc. A mountain-grown concentration of fragrant blue fruit, leather, and espresso emerges on entry. Dried violets linger on the tongue with chewy, dusty tannins before black cherry and clove gloss over the palate on the luscious finish. **95**



## Flora Springs 2021 Trilogy, Napa Valley (\$100)

The Komes family has been crafting their flagship blend since 1984; composed of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, and 5% Malbec fermented in stainless steel and aged in small French (90%) and American (10%) oak barrels for 18 months, this is the label's 38th bottling. Following a suede-textured entry with concentrated notes of blueberry bramble plus a sprinkle of white pepper, the approachable palate caresses with a mocha-mint middle. Graphite adds to its concentration, surrounding a soil-rich core reminiscent of Pauillac. **96**



PHOTO: MEGAN STEFEN UNTHAPED



## Cult by Beau Vigne 2021 13th Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$150)

Tightly wound tannins impart powerhouse intensity as notes of dried herbs, soy sauce, and slate bring courage and conviction to the Cult. Black plum increases the wine's complexity, enveloping spiced sandalwood on the finish. **97**



ATC WINES



## Dolum Estates 2021 Cask #28 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$120)

Muscular, with notes of bright black fruit and fennel; espresso-tinged astringency; and grippy, chalky tannins. Mocha-kissed violets are pleasurable on the finish. **94**



ATC WINES



## CIRQ 2021 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$150)

In this divine creation of red fruit, spice, and earth, minerality and notes of pennyroyal and dark chocolate alert the palate as a juicy release of cinnamon, clove, and cherry is kissed by hibiscus. White-peppered cranberry brings a sapidity to the palate, encouraging us to revel in its energy. **96**



BROWNE FAMILY WINES



## Clos du Val 2021 Yettalil, Stags Leap District, Napa Valley (\$200)

Celebrating 50 years of Clos du Val's history on the Hironnelle Estate in the Stags Leap District, proprietor Olav Goelet named this wine for his grandmother, who, in his words, "was always planning for the future." A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc, 10% Malbec, 7% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot, it's absolutely luminous. The astonishing mouthfeel is silky and dramatic, revealing fresh boysenberry, vanilla, cassis, crème fraîche, and black-tea tannins as a garden of peony, hibiscus, sweet tobacco, Italian herbs, and dried rose sprouts on the nose and palate. In its youthful glory, Yettalil shows stature and elegance with a wisp of chalky minerality on the graceful finish. **97**