



June 2019

Grand Cru

2015 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley – 119.98

2018 Chateau Sainte Roseline Rose Le Cloitre Cotes de Provence – 16.98

Sparkle

2011 Larmandier-Bernier Extra Brut Champagne Terre de Vertus Premier Cru – 65.98

M Bonnamy Cremant de Loire Brut – 14.98

Ultimate Reds

2015 Clos Du Val Cabernet Sauvignon – 44.98

2017 Domaines Barons de Rothschild 'Aussieres' Rouge, IGP Pays d'Oc – 17.98

Vintage Values

2015 Double Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon Horse Heaven Hills – 17.98

2018 Chateau Sainte Roseline Rose Le Cloitre Cotes de Provence – 16.98



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2015 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley, California

Paul Hobbs started his wine career at Mondavi in 1977. Paul Hobbs focus on oak aging techniques led him to make great wines with Mondavi and Simi Winery. In 1991 he struck out on his own and founded his eponymous winery. Additionally, he began developing the Paul Hobbs brand consulting for other wineries. Paul Hobbs realized the potential for Malbec after his success with the varietal at Bodegas Catena in Mendoza, Argentina. Today he continues to make fantastic Malbec and Cabernet through his partnership at Viña Cobos, Mendoza and other Argentinian brands.

With the Paul Hobbs Winery, he set out to produce small lot, hand-crafted, vineyard designate wines. He began with just three – one Chardonnay, one Pinot Noir and one Cabernet Sauvignon. Over the years, the small family of wines has grown to over a dozen as numerous new and historic vineyards have captured Hobbs' attention since that first vintage. The current wines are the result of years of perseverance, patience and experimentation in Hobbs' continuing adventure with wine. It is his great hope that the fruit-driven, complex wines he makes with his dedicated team will continue to appeal to many people around the globe.

The Napa Valley Cabernet is the workhorse of the winery sourcing grapes from numerous vineyards such as Flat Rock, State Lane, Nathan Coombs Estate. Fermentation is performed in stainless steel and aged in 70% new French oak.

95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. The color of a Burmese ruby, the 2015 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon even in its appearance has an exuberant nature. On the nose find wild elderberry, black currant, and tobacco. Pure, delineated flavors of ripe blueberry, graphite, olive, sage, thyme and sea salt provide for an ever evolving experience on the palate. Fine-grained tannins, balanced acidity and a richly intense texture persist through the very long finish. Exquisite with grilled rib eye, pasta Bolognese, or a delicate beef carpaccio.

92 Wine Advocate - Very deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (containing splashes of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc) opens with expressive crushed plums, mulberries and cassis with touches of dark chocolate, baking spice and black soil. Medium to full-bodied, it fills the mouth with approachable, spicy black fruit, framed by grainy tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing long with a pleasant herbal lift.



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2018 Chateau Sainte Roseline Rose Le Cloitre Cotes de Provence
Provence, France

Château Sainte Roseline is a prestigious one thousand year old terroir with some vineyards created by Pope Jean XXII (1244 - 1334), and is one of the richest historical sites in Provence. History has graced the château with an exceptional double distinction. It is both a registered historical site and one of the Cru Classé vineyards since 1955 of the Côtes de Provence. These cultural awards have made the parish chapel one of the most visited sites in the Provence region and have rewarded the wine for its excellence. Indeed, the property is one of the most visited places in Provence thanks to its XII century cloister, its chapel built in 1329, just after the death of Sainte Roseline (1263 - 1329). The place has become a pilgrimage place with the actual body of Sainte Roseline being exposed on site in the Chapel. You can also find on site some Chagall mosaic, and a Giacometti bas relief. Additionally, modern art can be seen all around the property.

The property is ideally located at Arcs sur Argens, about 20 to 30 minutes away from Saint-Tropez or from the Cannes Croisette. Based on seven centuries of grapevine cultivation, it can be said of Château Sainte Roseline's terroir that it is one of the most outstanding in Provence. In 1955 it was awarded the appellation "CRU CLASSÉ." The clay and limestone soil as well as the underground spring make a controlled feeding of the grapevines possible, thus ensuring the making of great wines. Château Sainte Roseline covers an area of 108 hectares on which are grown eleven different grape varieties.

Le Cloître is a blend of 50% Cinsault, 20% Grenache, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Mourvèdre. In the glass, the wine emanates a brilliant translucent pink with copper highlights. Aromas and flavors of red berry and tropical fruits intermingle with savory herbs and rocky mineral notes.



June 2019

2015 Clos Du Val Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley, California

Clos Du Val is a benchmark Napa Valley wine producer with a focus on crafting complex, age-worthy, estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignon from the Stags Leap District AVA in Napa Valley. Since its founding in 1972, Clos Du Val has continually helped define the world's view of Napa Valley wines.

Clos Du Val, French for "small vineyard estate of a small valley," was founded in 1972 in the renowned Stags Leap District. The winery was first recognized for its Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon at the famed Judgment of Paris in 1976, establishing its place as one of Napa Valley's most iconic winery estates. Still family-owned today, Clos Du Val farms 350 acres of estate vineyards in the Stags Leap District, Carneros and Yountville appellations and continues to craft wines of balance and complexity, showcasing the fruit from the outstanding terroir on which the estate lies.

Today, Clos Du Val is in the midst of an evolution inspired by its venerable roots and lessons from the last five decades. This new chapter of Clos Du Val begins with a renewed focus on the winery's estate vineyards and wines; a conscience decision to reduce production; and the opening of the Hironnelle House, which welcomes visitors for new personalized experiences that match its gracious wines.

For more than 40 years, Clos Du Val's Napa Valley estate vineyards have been at the heart of the winery's winemaking program. Located on some of the finest winegrowing locales in Napa Valley, and farmed by Clos Du Val for decades, the Clos Du Val vineyards reflect the valley's diversity, and provide a world-class palette of estate fruit for Winemaker Ted Henry. Beginning in 2014, the winery affirmed its commitment to the importance of this estate fruit by drastically reducing production and focusing almost entirely on their estate-grown wines. As further example of their commitment to quality and longevity, the winery has we have ceased using any herbicides or pesticides in the vineyards, and they are entering organic certification on all vineyards.

80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc. This Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is brimming with classic varietal characteristics of cassis, bramble fruit and blueberry. The hints of butterscotch on the long, smooth finish are a giveaway of the new, carefully selected French oak barrel influence.



June 2019

2017 Domaines Barons de Rothschild 'Aussieres' Rouge, IGP Pays d'Oc
Southern France

Due to its exceptional geographical location, the unique wine-growing site and its history, Domaine d'Aussières is a place of wild, natural beauty that emanates tremendous power. These words of Baron Eric explain why he fell in love with Aussières and what led Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) to restore and revitalize one of the oldest and most beautiful wine-making properties in the Narbonne region.

Aussières has made wine since the Roman era, a period when the great properties of the "Roman Province of Narbonne" were recorded in the land registry and became the main wine suppliers to Rome. In the year 92, the Edict of the Emperor Domitian put a halt to this by requiring the massive uprooting of vineyards in order to protect Roman production. The prosperity of the Languedoc's wine-growing activity disappeared with the collapse of the Roman Empire and the ensuing battles over the territory between the Visigoths, Franks and Arabs.

Up and down winemaking went as centuries of war, religious strife, relief ensued as in 1999 the land was acquired by Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite – yes, that Lafite Rothschild). The 550 hectare estate has undergone a vast rehabilitation program as 167 hectares of vines have been replanted with carefully selected traditional Languedoc grape varieties: Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Carignan, complemented by Cabernet, Merlot and Chardonnay. The estate buildings were restored at the same time and a new winery installed in the old cellars, in the heart of the vineyard.

The mature vines and substantial efforts to develop quality have enabled the serenity befitting a former abbey to be restored. The consistency and remarkable potential of the wines produced since 2003 have already positioned Aussières as one of the front runners in the revival of the Languedoc.

Aussières Rouge combines the elegance of Cabernet Sauvignon with the power and character of Syrah, two star grape varieties of the Bordeaux and Mediterranean regions. Dark red-ruby and vibrant. Lively aromas and flavors of black cherry, licorice, pepper and a decidedly floral/lavender dimension. Sappy, silky and concentrated. Sweet fruit and velvety texture. It's a quaffer.



June 2019

2015 Double Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon
Horse Heaven Hills, Washington

For the past 50 years, Horse Heaven Hills has produced some of the most revered fruit in Washington. The 90-acre Double Canyon Vineyard, named for two ravines that run through the property, was selected for its desirable location and proximity to the Columbia River. Influenced by volcanic activity, ancient glacial deposits, desert soils, and a persistent wind that blows off the river, Double Canyon wines capture the distinctive character of this renowned appellation.

Located along the Columbia River, west of Walla Walla, Horse Heaven Hills occupies an expanse that spans 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. Characterized by a dry desert landscape, the area is set apart by winds that blow continuously across the vineyards. These winds naturally reduce the vine canopy size for better ripening, while the drying effect protects against mildew and other diseases. From this relatively large appellation, Double Canyon focuses its efforts around the community of Alderdale, the area considered capable of the highest quality.

As one of Washington's warmest appellations, proximity to the Columbia River moderates temperatures and provides a consistent source of water to irrigate the vines. Horse Heaven Hills experiences diurnal shifts between extended sunlight (around 17 hours of light each day) and cool evenings, which helps the fruit develop optimal phenolic ripeness and balanced acidity. Elevations range from 300 to 1,800 feet above sea level. Another unique characteristic that defines this region is the wind-blown loess soils that sit atop a basalt base, which is the result of huge lava flows millennia ago. Nutrient-poor and free-draining, the soils of Horse Heaven Hills produce wines with distinct mineral nuances — a defining characteristic of Double Canyon wines.

The soft and supple mouthfeel is supported by sweet oak tannins and fresh fruit character, finishing with a juicy acidity that is characteristic of Horse Heaven Hills. This Cabernet embodies an enticing array of ripe red fruit, intermixed with notes of graham cracker, allspice and dried tobacco. The addition of Syrah lends a full and rich texture on the mid-palate, further accented by bright acidity from the Petit Verdot, sweet red fruit from the Merlot and luscious raspberry notes supplied by the Malbec. The soft and supple mouthfeel is supported by sweet oak tannins and fresh fruit character, finishing with a juicy acidity that is characteristic of Horse Heaven Hills.

90 Wine Advocate - The keenly priced 2015 Horse Heaven Hills Cabernet Sauvignon burst from the glass with a dramatic bouquet of ripe cherries, sweet berry liqueur and loamy soil. On the palate, it's medium-bodied and generous, with an ample core of ripe fruit, good balancing acids and ripe but youthfully chewy tannins. Open-knit and built for near-term consumption (it's bottled under Diam 10), it's a demonstrative Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend which seems sure to be a commercial hit.



June 2019

2011 Larmandier-Bernier Extra Brut Champagne Terre de Vertus Premier Cru
Champagne, France

Champagne Larmandier-Bernier is one of the true stars of the Côte des Blancs. Both the Larmandier and Bernier families have had a long history in the Champagne region, dating back to the French revolution, but it was not until the marriage of Philippe Larmandier and Elisabeth Bernier in 1971 that Champagne Larmandier-Bernier was established. The small house today is directed by Pierre and Sophie Larmandier, who own just under fifteen hectares in some of the finest villages on the Côte des Blancs: Cramant, Chouilly, Oger and Avize (all Grand Crus), as well as in the fine premier cru village of Vertus.

Pierre took over the direction of the family estate in 1988, and by 1992 he began to move the family's vineyards over to organics and then to full-blown biodynamic viticulture by 1999. The Larmandiers are very much committed to the ideal of producing world class wines that speak of the inimitable terroirs of the Côte des Blancs, rather than using parlor tricks in the cellar. They thus work extremely hard using biodynamic methods to produce the finest possible fruit in each vintage. Their holdings are comprised of eighty-five percent chardonnay and fifteen percent pinot noir. As their vines near 35 years of age, the Larmandiers practice a much more conservative approach to yields than is currently customary in the Champagne region.

An important belief of Pierre Larmandier's is that the underlying terroir is expressed best with very minimal levels of dosage, or—in the case of Terre de Vertus—no dosage at all. Consequently, all of the Larmandier-Bernier wines never receive more than five grams per liter of sugar (versus others Brut bottlings that can go up to twelve grams per liter). This puts Larmandier-Bernier's Brut champagnes in the category of Extra Brut. In a world of Champagne that has witnessed sweetness levels rise in the last couple of decades, the Larmandier-Bernier wines stand out for their textural purity and their underlying energy derived from their minerality. They emerge from the cellar with picture-perfect balance, drinking well right out of the gate, while possessing all of the inherent precision to age gracefully for decades.

92 Vinous - Larmandier-Bernier's 2011 Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Terre de Vertus 1er Cru is as good a wine from this challenging vintage as readers are likely to find. Deep, powerful and vinous, the 2011 offers terrific persistence in all of its dimensions. Dried flowers, herbs and menthol are all nicely delineated. Next to the best wines in this lineup, the Terre de Vertus is a bit chunky and rough around the edges, but for the year it is very well done.



June 2019

M Bonnamy Cremant de Loire Brut
Loire Valley, France

This is an incredible value and is a top candidate for daily drinking discretion.

Maurice Bonnamy's Crémants are produced by a group of winegrowers who decided in 2002 to pool their resources in order to offer a complete range of authentic, well-balanced wines from Muscadet to Vouvray along the Loire River. The winegrowers are driven by the strong but simple values of the modern cooperative – solidarity, respect and creativity – values enhanced by a real team spirit, which enriches each stage of the wine production process. This group of 8 cooperative cellars, representing all the diversity of the terroirs and appellations of the Loire Valley. Wines from the Loire Valley, in general, are known for possessing great value, and Crémants in particular, are a fantastic alternative to the more expensive Champagne's of the world.

65% Chenin Blanc, 20% Chardonnay, 15% Cabernet Franc. A pale yellow wine with tiny bubbles. Rounded and delicate, a fine nervy complex with the freshness of Chenin Blanc, floral Chardonnay and fruity Cabernet Franc. A nice aromatic persistence in the mouth with notes of fresh pear, peach and almonds.