

# Wine Spectator

## 12 Outstanding California Wines for Mother's Day

*New reviews of Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and more from Napa, Sonoma, Carneros and beyond, all earning 90 points or more*

By Aaron Romano

Searching for a last-minute gift or a bottle for Mother's Day brunch? Look no further. The wines in this week's selection offer a panoply of choices, from rich Chardonnay and festive bubbly to suave Pinot Noir and zesty Zinfandel. Plus, there are a few values sprinkled in. No matter which wines the mothers in your life enjoy, you can't go wrong with these bottlings, as they've all earned 90 points or more on Wine Spectator's 100-point scale.

Sparkling wine is a terrific way to celebrate mom. This week's bubbly includes an Albariño from Cadre, a new label from John Niven. Niven recently branched out from his family's business, Niven Family Wine Estates, to follow his passion for vibrant Edna Valley wines. His sparkler displays ginger, lime zest, lemon curd and melon notes. For something a bit more traditional, Domaine Carneros offers its Brut Rosé Carneros with expressive rose petal, raspberry, orange zest and spice notes.

Or look to this week's trio of Napa Chardonnays. Antica Napa Valley uses grapes from the mountainous Atlas Peak region for an unctuous and fruity version, while Bouchaine taps grapes from its Carneros estate to craft a juicy style with contoured tropical fruit flavors. Duckhorn pulls from several vineyards for its refined Chardonnay with fresh acidity and a long, well-spiced finish. Alternatively, if mom is a Pinot Noir fan, try Chalk Hill's concentrated version with cedary notes and chocolate mousse accents. Roar demonstrates a different style with its big and open-textured Pinot, which displays loamy accents on the ripe finish. And the suave Pinot from Lucas & Lewellen is a great value with cream-filled flavors of raspberry and cherry tart.

**BOUCHAINE**  
**Chardonnay Napa Valley**  
**Carneros Estate 2018**

Score: 91 | \$32

WS review: This juicy white is filled with lithe, contoured tropical fruit flavors that show notes of beeswax and brioche. Unctuous midpalate, with a long finish that is plush and richly spiced. Drink now through 2024. 3,500 cases made.—K.M.

