

HIGH SCORES

Washington - Red Blend

Figgins Estate Red 2020 \$99.99 – save \$20.

The next generation from Leonetti, off their estate vineyard in Walla Walla, just keeps getting better. Chris Figgin's says this about his Cabernet, Merlot and Petit Verdot blend, "Expressive bouquet with notes of red and black licorice, tea roses, aged leather, vanilla, and toasty oak. It is a massive mouthful of dense fruit. The elegant tannins and bright acidity give way to a medium body balanced with freshness, making this vintage of Estate Red wonderfully approachable. A stunningly long and full finish."

97 pts Jeb Dunnuck, 97 pts James Suckling, 96 pts Wine Advocate

Washington - Red Blend

Sleight of Hand Cellars The Conjurer 2020 \$23.99 – save \$14.

I know that's Neil Patrick Harris on the label, but it should be Trey Bush! This red blend made in Walla Walla has a dense purple color that is followed by a gorgeous perfume of cassis, violets, sappy herbs, and graphite. It's concentrated and has remarkable purity, fine tannins, and a great finish.

94 pts Jeb Dunnuck

Spain - Tempranillo

Covento Oreja Crianza 2019 \$19.99 – save \$10.

"A bouquet of Luxardo cherry, blackberry preserves and lavender wafts from the glass. Surprisingly juicy on entry, this wine has flavors of pomegranate, ripe cherry, orange zest, dried thyme, dark chocolate and violet. Opulent tannins build in volume and then recede into a finish that is filled with bright fruit notes."

94 pts Wine Enthusiast

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Italy - Sangiovese

"Donna Laura Alteo Chianti Riserva" 2020 \$13.99 – save \$8.

Vintner Lia Tolaini Banville is a Canadian by birth but her ancestral home is outside Lucca in Tuscany. She was inspired to study winemaking through many visits to her aunt there and in 2004, she moved and began making wine. 100% Sangiovese from Donna Laura's vineyards in Castelnuovo Berardenga. Wild rose, black currant and sour black cherry aromas with lingering flavors of red berries with soft tannins.

Washington - Sauvignon Blanc

Bergevin Lane Linen Sauvignon Blanc 2022 \$14.99 – save \$8.

Annette Bergevin loves the wine business—everything about it. The craft of winemaking. The almost magical way it makes any meal or moment memorable. Good friends to drink it with—and sell it to, too! Her family has deep roots in the Walla Walla Valley, over 150 years. This delicious little Sauvignon Blanc has balanced flavors of pear, grapefruit, granny smith apples with a wisp of peach on the finish.

Oregon - Pinot Gris

Foris Pinot Gris 2022 \$12.99 – save \$9.

Stephanie Pao, the winemaker for Foris Winery in the Rogue Valley, made wine in Washington, Paso Robles and the Willamette Valley before joining Foris. Her notes on this year's Pinot Gris, "Fragrant aromatics of pear, honeysuckle, orange blossom hone, and white stone fruit. The wine has enhanced mouthfeel and weight but with bright acidity that carries flavors to a lingering finish of pear, lemon zest and pith."

91 pts Wine Enthusiast

The Hot Sheet – 3/24

WASHINGTON!

Washington - Red Blend

Gorman Winery Zachary's Ladder 2021 \$24.99 – save \$18.

Zachary's Ladder is pure Red Mountain expression at its best. "A gutsy red, this combines a bit of muscle with rich and zesty black cherry, espresso and dusky spice flavors while building richness toward medium-grained tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot."

92 pts Wine Spectator

Washington - Chenin Blanc

L'Ecole No 41

Old Vines Chenin Blanc 2022

\$13.99 – save \$6.

Since 1987, the venerable little schoolhouse just outside Walla Walla has produced this outstanding, classic Chenin Blanc and darn if it doesn't just keep getting better vintage after vintage. "Aromas of apricots and lemon pith, together with floral fragrance of lily-of-the-valley, elderflower and crushed stones."

93 pts James Suckling

Washington - Red Blend

Pomum Red 2019

\$13.99 – save \$10.

Here's one of the best deals for a Washington Bordeaux red blend we've come across in a long time! All the fruit comes from owner/winemaker Javier Alfonso's own Konnowac Vineyard and is composed of 34% Petit Verdot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Malbec. The Petit Verdot shines through, showcasing classic herbal and berry/plum characteristics. Deeply fruited and richly textured with a rich complexity well beyond its modest price point.

Washington - Syrah

Nine Hats Syrah 2019

\$19.99 – save \$10.

Gilles from Long Shadows, who makes some of the best wines in the state, crafts this second label from select Columbia Valley Vineyards. This Syrah offers beautiful characteristics of sweet spice, black olive tapenade and blueberry notes.

93 pts Owen Bargreen

RED

France - Rhone Blend

Domaine Jean Royer Le Petit Roy 2022 \$14.99 – save \$8. A baby Chateauneuf in the truest sense of the word from one of my favorite small Rhone producers. Jean Royer owns old vine vineyards next to Rayas in Southern Chateauneuf du Papes along with vines just outside the CDP appellation. Every year this wine seems too good to just be classified as Cotes du Rhone with an intensity and complexity you often don't get in wines 3 to 4 times this price.

France - Pinot Noir

La Girouette Pinot Noir 2021 \$14.99 – save \$7. Certified Organic, the Girouette wines are grown by a group of growers in the Cevennes, a part of Languedoc which is higher altitude and therefore cooler and produces fresh, bright wines. Girouette means 'weather vane' and represents a symbolic change in direction towards sustainability and organic farming practices. Candied and Morello cherry aromas, luscious palate with a spicy finish.

Italy - Barbera

Enzo Bartoli Barbera d'Asti Superiore DOCG 2018 \$13.99 – save \$13. Enzo Bartoli is a wine made by a cooperative group of sustainable farmers. This wine shows notes of violets, cherries, and spices, with hints of balsamic. Pair with grilled or stewed meat, aged cheeses, or agnolotti.

UNDER \$10.

Washington - Rosé

Mr. Pink Rosé 2022 \$8.99 – save \$7. Great price on what has become one of the quintessential Washington rosés. Dry and fruit-forward with bright strawberry and peach aromatics backed by white florals such as honeysuckle and jasmine.

Italy - Garganega

La Cappuccina Soave DOC 2022 \$9.99 – save \$9. This Soave is subtle and delicate in the glass with dusty yellow florals and hints of peach skins. It washes across the palate, soft and round, with a lovely mineral and acid balance. This leaves a glycerol coating of fruit concentration, yet still finishes remarkably fresh.

Portugal - Red Blend

Caves Bonifacio Encosta da Tapada Red NV \$7.99 – save \$5. Some of the best wine values today are coming from Portugal. This intense ruby red comes from the area around Lisbon. "Freshly perfumed, almost sweet in character. It has flavors that hint at fruit candies, the acidity so light, the structure so gentle." — **Roger Voss**

BIG SAVINGS

Germany - Riesling

Zilliken Butterfly Riesling 2020 \$14.99 – save \$10.

"Very fresh and lively, with so much energy and herbal freshness, this has a wonderfully crisp personality. Long, harmoniously dry finish that makes this an extremely flexible wine."

92 pts James Suckling

Veneto - Corvina Blend

Allegrini Valpolicella 2022

\$14.99 – save \$15.

With more than six generations of winegrowing tradition, Allegrini is the most-awarded winery in the Veneto and the benchmark for Amarone and Valpolicella. Beautifully balanced with sappy red fruit, fennel and violet, gritty tannins and a winning freshness.

92 pts James Suckling

Oregon - Pinot Noir

Patricia Green Reserve Pinot Noir 2021 \$23.99 – save \$16.

Patricia Green Cellars unapologetically produces more individual bottlings of Pinot Noir than any winery in America. This might be their most important offering as it brings the best of the others together in one bottle. Aromas of blackberry, orange peel and cacao nibs are rich and tangy all at once. Black cherry and tangerine flavors join together with bursts of white tea and clove, with crisp acidity and velvety tannins.

92 pts Wine Spectator

France - Pinot Gris

Francois Schmitt L'un de Sept Pinot Gris 2022 \$17.99 – save \$8.

Frédéric and Myriam Schmitt's vineyards are located on the best part of the Bollenberg hill in the heart of Alsace and this wonderful terroir is given expression through organic and biodynamic farming practices and the Schmitt's attentive winemaking. This is a delicious, dry expression of Pinot Gris, with ripe apple and almond skin aromas, a fantastic match with all kinds of soups and stews.

WHITE

Oregon - White Blend

Ovum Big Salt White Blend 2023 \$16.99 – save \$6.

Just released! The new vintage of Big Salt is here and the phenomenon continues to grow. This co-fermentation of aromatic white varietals from 10 vineyards located all across Oregon lives up to hype, imparting aromas and flavors reminiscent of a day at the beach. Salinity, bright acidity and deft minerality abound. 2023 Big Salt is dry, aromatic and zippy. Lemon peel, mandarin and pineapple leap out of the glass. An earlier than expected harvest gave the palate a lightness at just 12.0% abv.

Italy - Fiano

Natale Verga Antale Fiano 2022 \$9.99 – save \$5.

From our favorite fourth generation Italian family's property in Sicily comes this enticing white with floral notes of acacia and linden, with scents of pear and hazelnut. Delicious with chicken and crab dishes or pastas in crème sauce.

South Africa - Chardonnay

Lexicon Chardonnay 2021 \$9.99 – save \$5.

The Swartland region of South Africa is a rugged place of untamed beauty and unique, distinctive terroir. From low-yielding vines, Lexicon Chardonnay is made in a rich, full-bodied style. Intense aromas of ripe apples, lime and pears with hints of tropical fruit are beautifully enhanced by subtle tones of well-integrated oak. The bright fruit is balanced by fresh acidity and a lingering finish.

Austria - Grüner Veltliner

Kracher Grüner Veltliner 2022 \$17.99 – save \$19.

From legendary Austrian winemaker Alois Kracher. Bright green-yellow in color. Complex and focused: yellow apple, quince, and kefir lime on the nose. Rich on the palate, fresh from the focused acid, quite a long finish. Pair with salads, fresh veggies, or fish tacos.

90 pts Decanter

