



For this column, Tasting Panel editor-at-large Jonathan Cristaldi selects a range of international wines from portfolio tastings and sample submissions. Wines are assessed on a 100-point scale: A score of 88–89 is very good, 90–94 is outstanding, and 95–100 represents prodigious efforts to produce a wine capable of long-term cellaring. Prices are for 750-milliliter bottles unless otherwise noted.

**Wine of the Sea
2018 Amarone della
Valpolicella by Villa
Canestrari, Veneto, Italy**

(\$199) After undergoing the appassimento method, this blend of Corvina, Rondinella, and Molinara is bottled and aged for 18 months under the sea (hence the name of the producer, d.b.a. Coral Wine, which operates a sea farm off the coast of Croatia); the pressure hastens the aging process. Alluring notes of black currant, licorice, and leather appear alongside pronounced salinity. Soft, smooth tannins unspool around a deep core of juicy and candied red-berry fruit, red currant, strawberry, and ground espresso. Pure and minted with a remarkable saline note, this is one of the most irresistible reds you'll ever taste. **97**

PARK STREET IMPORTS



**Wine of the Sea 2017 Soave
Superiore Riserva by Villa
Canestrari, Veneto, Italy (\$159)**

Following a two-month drying process and fermentation, 100% Garganega grapes aged one year in neutral barrels followed by 14 months of aging under the sea. Aromas of sea brine, wet chalk, crushed stone, toasted hazelnut, and white flowers meet classic Soave weight and salinity. Notes of lemon, lime, and apricot lend incredible concentration before the finish of Parmesan rind. Beautiful, satiny-smooth texture with emerging notes of toasted hazelnut. Extraordinary. **96**

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**Il Molino di Grace 2020 Solo
Sangiovese Chianti Classico, Italy**

(\$40) This exceptional Chianti Classico possesses the powerful intensity for which wines from the hills of Panzano are known. Pure aromas of black cherry, cassis, dried rose petal, licorice, and black olive. Gorgeously textured with red-toned fruit, sage, crème de cassis, and spiced plum. **96**

**Giusti 2019 Umberto I Rosso,
Veneto, Italy (\$150)**

This producer's magnificent flagship red is made by Graciano Grassini (who also serves as winemaker for Sassacaia) from its best Cabernet and Merlot vines in red clay rich in iron. Powerful and modern in style, with generous blackberry, black cherry, and multidimensional tannins that build on the palate, framed by brisk acids. **96**

**Cordella 2018 Brunello di
Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy (\$80)**

Leading with savory conifer and cedarwood, this medium-bodied wine shows red cherry laced with sweet and dried herbs. A solid core of saline minerals meets a firm backbone of citrusy acidity. Layered and lean. Drink from 2024. **95**

**Isola del Cinghiale 2019
Vecchia Vigna Toscana,
Italy (\$60)**

This blend of old-vine Sangiovese, Colorino, Cilieggiolo, Canaiolo, and Malvasia was made by Emanuele Graetz, nephew of well-known Super Tuscan producer Bibi Graetz. Spiced plum, ripe cherry, and mocha surround a bright core of sweet red cherry tinged with tobacco. Lovely and long, with featherweight tannins. **95**



**Agricola Molino 2020
Ausario Barbaresco,
Piedmont, Italy (\$50)**

For ten years, New Last Bottle has been the sole importer of this wine, which hails from the higher of two plots on a Barbaresco property situated at over 1,100 feet. Following aromas of bright red berries, vanilla, and cedar; the silken and supple palate is packed with flavors of spiced plum, cherry, and crushed-stone minerality. **95**



NEW LAST BOTTLE INC.

**Champagne Paul
Berthelot NV Cuvée
Eminence Brut
Premier Cru, France**

(\$65) Beautifully expressive nose of pear, apple, citrus, and oyster shell. A lovely sweetness defined by candied citrus fruit underscores a fantastically creamy mousse. At 7 grams/liter of residual sugar, this blend of 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay is balanced and inviting, with marvelous tension and a finish of crushed almond. **95**



NEW LAST BOTTLE INC.

**Dom Pérignon 2009
Rosé Brut Champagne,
France (\$465)**

The initially delicate mousse builds in terms of assertiveness. Notes of golden raisin, apricot, pomegranate, and strawberry are laced with nougat and brioche. While this rosé shows plenty of tension layered with deep, ripe fruit notes, it remains light and ethereal. Red floral tones and citrus zest appear on the long finish. **95**



**Bertani 2012 Amarone della
Valpolicella Classico, Veneto,
Italy (\$130)**

Fresh, vivid, layered, and nuanced. Red currant, dried rose petal, briny minerality, and pine forest accent cinnamon-dusted blood orange. Full-bodied with black licorice, black currant, baker's chocolate, and sappy tannins. **95**

**Hardys 2018 Eileen Hardy Shiraz,
McLaren Vale, Australia (\$99)** A bold, structured, expressive Shiraz from old vines. Beautiful notes of rose petal, dusty herbs, and juicy plum. Rich and full-bodied with blueberry compote, boysenberry jam, and cedarwood. **95**