

100+

WINES
REVIEWED

GREAT SPIRITS
OF THE MIDWEST

BEAUJOLAIS
CRUS FOR SUMMER

AUSTRIA'S
SEXIEST WINE

VINE ENTHUSIAST

JULY 2017

AMERICA'S CLASSIC

CLAMBAKE

HOW TO PREPARE & WHAT TO POUR

US & CANADA



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PROVENCE

It's summer time—and rosé reigns supreme.

Another year has passed and prime rosé time, aka summer, is back. This year, I've reviewed more rosés from Provence than ever before—more than 250. The United States remains the largest export market for these delicious wines, as America continues to open bottles all summer long. Glasses are filled by the pool, on the deck, at the beach or simply while lounging at home, as the wine transports you to the French Riviera no matter where you actually are.

The wines from 2016 are among the best I've tasted. There seems to be even more fruit than usual in these crisp, dry rosés. And, I am delighted to report, there seems to be just a bit more

color. While last year it seemed producers were vying to see how near-white their rosés could be, this year I found an attractive pale-pink color dancing through nearly all the wines.

I've also seen some breathtaking packaging. Square bottles, blue bottles, bulbous bottles, bottles that are so heavy they need two hands

to hold, each representing in their own way the beauty of the wine within. And the labels: From clean and classically crafted to strikingly modern and highly designed, there's an aesthetic to please every personal preference.

There continue to be some outstanding rosés from estates that have become famous. What is encouraging this year—maybe it's to do with that extra bit of color—is that at all price points, there are wines of real character, with fruit and acidity happily in balance.

So here's to summer and it's perfect wine partner, rosé.

Although Provence is the star of this issue's Buying Guide, we have hundreds of additional reviews from around the globe: red wines, white wines, sparklers and, yes, even more rosés from the Old World and the New. And, as always, be sure to check out our complete database, with thousands more reviews at your fingertips, at winemag.com/ratings

Cheers! —Roger Voss

At all price points, there are wines of real character, with fruit and acidity happily in balance.

BANDOL

93 Chateau de Pibarnon 2016 Rosé (Bandol). The wine is rich—a beautiful blend dominated by Bandol's own Mourvèdre. The grapes gives both structure and a perfumed character to this ripe full wine. With acidity and layers of red fruits, it is worth aging. Drink from 2018. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Domaines Ott 2016 Château Romassan Rosé (Bandol). Dominated by the local Mourvèdre grapes, this is a ripe and complex wine. Its acidity is integrated with rich yellow fruits, spice and perfume. The wine is floral, poised and very stylish. Drink from late 2017. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

92 Château Val d'Arenc 2016 Rosé (Bandol). The high proportion of Mourvèdre (80%) in this Sénéclauze family wine gives it great richness

and a fine perfumed character. It is has ripe apricot and pineapple fruits along with a strong pepper character. The mineral texture and fine acidity make this a great food wine. Syngery Fine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Château Vannières 2014 La Patience de Vannières Rosé (Bandol). This wood-aged wine is a fascinating example of how rosé can age. It is certainly mature and has lost its crisp fruitiness. But it has gained toast, a smooth rich texture and plenty of spice. It's obviously a food wine, ready to drink now. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Vannières 2016 Rosé (Bandol). With its proportion of Mourvèdre in the blend, this is a ripe and perfumed wine. It has a rich sumptuous feel with ripe strawberry and crisper red currants. The wine is generous and ready to drink. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2016 Cuvée G Rosé (Bandol). With 45% Mourvèdre and 35% Cinsault this has turned into a highly flavored and aromatic wine. It has great fruits and a rich texture that has a herbal edge. It is certainly a food rosé and with its up-front fruit, it could do with a few months to calm down. Drink from late 2017. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

91 Ravoire et Fils 2016 Domaine Mas Thérèse Rosé (Bandol). This is a rich wine that is full of spicy aromatic fruit. It is classy and elegant while having some weight. Red fruits and orange zest are given a perfumed herbal edge from the Mourvèdre in the blend. This is real food wine, ready to drink. Vinecraft Distribution LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Château la Vivonne 2016 Rosé (Bandol). This Bandol, from an estate split between Bandol and Côtes de Provence, is full of rich fruit. Perfumed and textured, it is spicy, tangy with tangerines and full of red-berry fruits. The wine has a ripe floral aftertaste. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Hecht & Bannier 2015 Rosé (Bandol). Lightly orange pink in color, this ripe wine has the attractive perfumed character of Mourvèdre that dominates the blend. It has ripe orange and spice flavors as well as red-currant fruitiness. With its structure, the wine is full, ripe and could well age further. Drink now and until 2019. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

COTEAUX D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

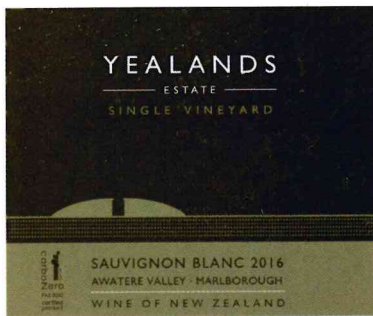
94 Château Vignelaure 2016 Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). This is one of the classics among Provence rosés. Produced from organically grown grapes and coming from an impressive red-wine producing estate east of Aix-en-Provence, the wine is structured and ageworthy with its blend that includes Cabernet Sauvignon. Rich and full of red fruits, the wine should be drunk from late 2017. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Château de Calavon 2016 Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). The Audibert family estate, close to beautiful Aix-en-Provence, is now run organically. The wine, rich and with delicious ripe fruits, is full in the mouth, packed with red-berry flavors that are cut with red currants and lemon zest. It is a very fine wine, ready now. Weygandt-Metzler. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

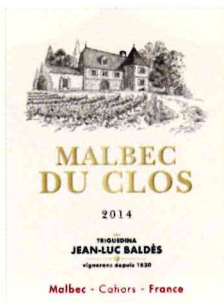
91 Château Vignelaure 2016 La Source de Vignelaure Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). In

Continued on page 90

BUYINGGUIDE



90 **Yealands 2016 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley).** A considerable step up in quality from the basic Yealands Sauvignon Blanc, this offering boasts attractive aromas of white grapefruit and pea tendrils. There's a silky texture and green, grassy elements on the palate, but they never stray too far into vegetal, finishing zesty and clean. Palm Bay International. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25



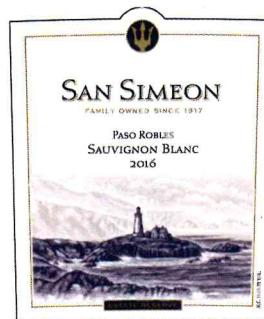
89 **Jean-Luc Baldès 2014 Malbec du Clos (Cahors).** This is one of the entry-level wines from this producer. It shows the ripe, soft side of Malbec without compromising on the firm structure and mineral edge that is natural to the grape and the appellation. The wine is developing easily and quickly, with bold black fruits and acidity. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17



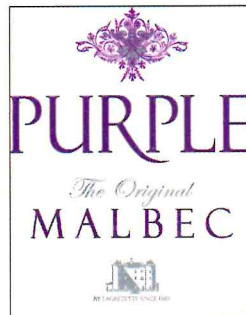
89 **Fabre en Provence 2016 Château de l'Aumérade Rosé (Côtes de Provence).** From a Provence estate bearing the name of the family that has owned it for 17 generations, this wine is crisp, fruity and bright. It has a light touch of acidity, as well as red currant and spice flavors. The wine, with its lively aftertaste, is in a fine apéritif style. August Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15



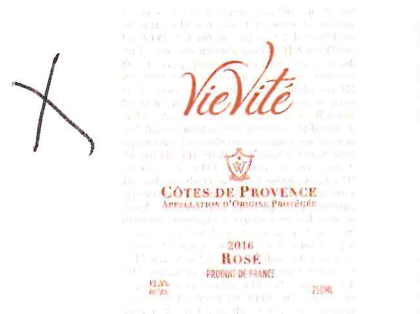
89 **Peregrine 2014 Mohua Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** The best effort to date from Peregrine's second label, this is a chunky but velvety-textured wine. Ground spices and earth notes add nuance to the plummy fruit, which manages to finish bright and fresh. Drink now—2022. Vineyard Brands. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22



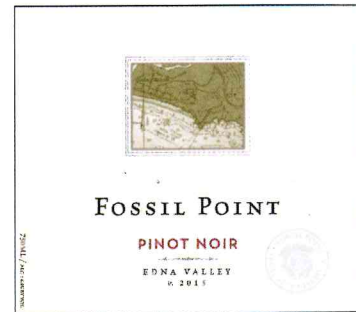
89 **San Simeon 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** This is a new grape for the Riboli family's brand, and they've managed to present it with enticing and rounded nectarine and melon aromas. There is a grippy texture to the palate, which serves as a good foil for its tropical ripeness. A solid first effort. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



88 **Château Lagrézette 2015 Purple The Original Malbec (Cahors).** Mainly Malbec, with 8% Merlot, this is a soft, full-bodied and fruity wine. It comes from young vines, which give the wine is vigor and juicy fruits. No wood is used in the winemaking, so it is all about generous black fruits. Drink now. Curious Cork Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

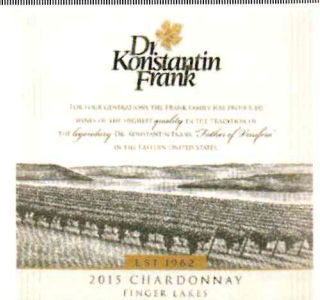


88 **Domaine Sainte-Marie 2016 VieVité (Côtes de Provence).** Bottled in a square-necked bottle, the wine comes from an estate in the hills just outside Saint-Tropez. One of a pair of attractively fruity wines, it is crisp and bright, with red-currant acidity and fruitiness. There is a slight feel to this ready-to-drink wine. Turquoise. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18



88 **Fossil Point 2015 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Fleshy red plum and alpine strawberry aromas show alongside vanilla and baking spice on the nose of this well-priced bottling from the C of Effort team. The palate will please many, thanks to buoyant acidity and bright red cherry, raspberry and garrigue flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$18

BEST BUYS



90 **Dr. Konstantin Frank 2015 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes).** Apple blossoms and crisp pear perfume this exceptionally light-footed Chardonnay. While delicate in style, concentrated apple, quince, and integrated oak tones lend oomph to the midpalate. The finish is long, fresh and satisfying. Drink now through 2018. *Best Buy.* —A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

BUYINGGUIDE

o drink at the end of 2017. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

92 Figuière 2016 Confidentielle Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This almost white rosé is produced from selected parcels of the estate. Citrus and pepper dominate, supported by ripe red fruits and delicate acidity. It is a beautiful wine, elegant and with a fine balance between the fruit and the crisp texture. Drink now. Craft + Estate—The Winebowl Group. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Les Maîtres Vignerons de la Presqu'île de Saint-Tropez 2016 Château de Pampelonne Légende Rosé (Côtes de Provence). In its singular oval bottle, this is the top cuvée of this prestigious estate close to Saint-Tropez. It is a lively and fruity wine with great acidity and richness. It has spice as well as red-currant and raspberry fruitiness. This is definitely a wine for food, with its edge of structured acidity and bone dry aftertaste. Drink from late 2017. Jeff Welburn Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

92 Mirabeau 2016 Etoile Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This is a new wine designed to be a “grown-up rosé” from the Cronk family who moved from London to Provence in 2009. It is a ripe fruity and rich blend of Grenache and Syrah. Weight as well as contrasting acidity give a structured character that balances well with the intense fruitiness. Drink the wine from late 2017. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Bernard Magrez 2016 Château des Muraires Séduction Rosé (Côtes de Provence). With a high proportion of the local Rolle grape in the blend, this is a lightly perfumed wine with a strong herbal element. It is a ripe finely structured wine, with great acidity and orange flavors. A style of wine that will be better for a few more months, it should be drunk from late 2017. Wine Universe Corp. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

91 Château d'Astros 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This smooth ripe wine is packed with red fruits and a generous texture. There is a caramel edge to this rich wine with its spice as well as acidity. It comes from an ancient estate whose origins go back to medieval times. This is a wine to savor with food. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Château d'Esclans 2016 Rock Angel Rosé (Côtes de Provence). For full review see page 82.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Château de Brigue 2015 Oak Cuvée Spéciale Rosé (Côtes de Provence). As its name suggests, this wine has been lightly oak aged. The oak

character is very discreet, just a hint of spice. The great ripe fruit is equally important. The wine is smooth, round and creamy. Acidity and a tighter character shine through at the end. Drink now. Jeff Welburn Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Château du Galoupet 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence). An eclectic range of grapes including Tibouren and Rolle go into this harmonious wine. The Provence cru classé estate has made a rich wine, full with red fruits as well as intense acidity and a tight structure. The wine is ready to drink, although it will be better from 2018. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Château Hermitage Saint-Martin 2016 Ikon Rosé (Côtes de Provence). From a selected parcel in the estate, this organically grown wine is a ripe blend of Cinsault and Grenache. It is crisp and tight with minerality and zesty orange flavors. Dry and lightly structured, it is a fine food-style rosé. Drink from late 2017. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Château la Mascaronne 2016 Quat'Saisons Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This is a beautifully structured ripe wine that is full of dense red fruits and tightly wrought acidity. Crisply textured raspberry flavors dominate. This is a rich wine that can be kept for a few months. Drink at the end of 2017. Integrity Wines LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Château Léoube 2016 Secret de Léoube Rosé (Côtes de Provence). A very pale wine—it's just barely pink. With Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, it has a fine structured character that gives the wine weight. There are also refreshingly attractive red-berry fruits and a ripe aftertaste. Drink this complex wine from late 2017. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Château Minuty 2016 Rosé et Or Rosé (Côtes de Provence). For full review see page 82.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Château Sainte-Béatrice 2016 Cuvée Vauvrière Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This is the ripest wine in the Béatrice range. With generous red fruits and balanced acidity it has weight and richness alongside the crisp, tangy fruitiness. This is a textured wine with spice and pepper flavors to add complexity to the fruit. Drink the wine from late 2017. Sagittarius International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Domaine Clos Gautier 2016 Clos du Château Rosé (Côtes de Provence). Produced from vineyards around the chateau Gilles Pedini took over in 2011, this is warm and ripe wine. It balances rich red-berry fruits with acidity to give a crisp edge to a smooth wine. With intense fruitiness and

a delicious aftertaste, this is a great food wine, ready to drink now. Orr Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Domaine Saint Andrieu 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence). A light and deliciously fruity wine, this is crisp and bone dry. It has great fruitiness with lively acidity and red-fruit flavors. The wine has a zest and lift to it that is irresistible. It comes from an estate owned by the proprietors of Château Talbot in Bordeaux's Saint-Julien. Drink now. HP Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Domaines Ott 2016 Clos Mireille Rosé (Côtes de Provence). From a beautiful estate close to the sea, this wine has a lightly salty character. That contrasts with the zinging energy and ripeness of the fruit and balanced acidity. Citrus zest and spice complete this harmonious wine. Drink from the end of 2017. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

91 Fabre en Provence 2016 Château de l'Aumérade Cuvée Marie-Christine Cru Classé Rosé (Côtes de Provence). Bottled in the Fabre family's specially designed Gallé bottle, this wine is a classic. It has fine ripe, but crisp, fruit and delicious balanced acidity. With its fresh character, which is contrasted with the intense fruit, this is a real food friendly rosé. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Château Barbeiranne 2016 Réserve Robert Pascal Rosé (Côtes de Provence). The vineyard is on the slopes of the Massif des Maures, on the way to Saint-Tropez. This special cuvée is ripe and full in the mouth. It has a bone-dry texture, balancing fruit and spice. This serious wine will be ready from late 2017. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Château de Berne 2016 Grande Récolte Rosé (Côtes de Provence). From this showplace estate close to Saint-Tropez, this attractive wine brings out a warm and sunny character. It is smooth with just a light tang of clementines that is balanced with the riper raspberry fruit. Drink now. Metrowine Distribution. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Château de Bregançon 2016 La Réserve Rosé (Côtes de Provence). Very pale in color, this wine has managed to retain plenty of delicious fruity flavors. Yellow and white peaches show strongly as does a fine tang of acidity. The wine, from 40-year-old vines, has a fine touch of spice at the end. Ready to drink now. MacArthur Beverages. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Château de Brigue 2016 Brigue Prestige Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This is a finely balanced wine. It is dry with its red fruit right to the fore. The acidity and the tangy texture both promise