

## TOP 100 WINES

### CHILE

#### BEST CARMENERE

**94** | De Martino \$39  
**2018 Maipo Valley Altos de Piedras Carmenère** One of the most evocative and beautiful carmenères in Chile, Altos de Piedras grows on deep gravel and clay alongside the river in Isla del Maipo. It's a sweet spot for the variety, showing off the sleek length of flavor carmenère can achieve, a fresh scent of bergamot, the fruitiness of chocolate and the fruit of forest mushrooms lasting on supple tannins. This has the stamina of a marathon runner, the focus to age for a decade. —J.G. *Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA*

#### BEST CABERNET BLEND



**95** | Almadiva \$150  
**2019 Maipo Valley** An exceptional vintage from the joint venture between Baron Philippe de Rothschild (Mouton) and Concha y Toro, this grows at a parcel of the old Tocornal vineyard in Puente Alto. Almadiva's 148 acres of vines surround the winery on a terrace above the north bank of Maipo River. The cool elevation (2,130 feet) and the alluvial soils take cabernet in an elegant direction, rarely found outside Bordeaux, and rarely reaching the level of this latest release. It made me homesick for Chile, tasting the salt air of the coast and the mountain air of the Andes, the velvet-texture of carmenère (23 percent of the blend) and the cranberry and currant freshness of the fruit. Tight, floral, spicy and youthfully firm, this wine's subtle power will sustain it for decades. —J.G. *Joanne Bordeaux-U.S., San Francisco, CA*

### CZECH REPUBLIC

#### BEST WHITE

**94** | Stávek \$38  
**2020 Moravia Medovy Muskátek** This honey-infused muscat has an intoxicating scent of wildflowers along with an incense-

like spice. It's entirely dry, even lean, with ripening acidity that gives it energy and drive; the flavors are earthy, with notes of lanolin, beeswax and cured sausage that point it toward a charcuterie plate. —T.Q.T. *Jenny & François Selections, NY*

### FRANCE: CHAMPAGNE

#### BEST ROSÉ

**98** | Louis Roederer \$579  
**2013 Champagne Cristal Rosé** Cristal Rosé appears to be an effortless wine, a pleasure point somewhere between masculine strength and feminine beauty. The delicate rose color and lasting red fruit describe ripe peach, the scent of bee pollen, savory herbs and smoke, but what astonishes about this wine is the kind of power that pheromones have, well past the edges of perception. A blend of Aÿ pinot noir and Avize chardonnay, all mid-slope parcels, all on chalk soils, this is glorious wine to enjoy now, while it holds the inner tension and bold compression of flavors to develop for decades. —J.G. *Maisons Marques & Domaines, Oakland, CA*

#### BEST BLANC DES BLANCS

**96** | Pierre Péters \$63  
**Champagne Grand Cru Cuvée de Réserve Brut Blanc de Blancs** Based on the 2018 vintage, this wine includes reserves dating back to 1988. Most of the components come from Le Mesnil-sur-Oger; all grow on chalk. The wine seems to layer that chalk's seabed heritage into beautiful richness, as it combines different parcels aged in stainless steel, oak barrels or concrete. "It reminds me of architecture," Tina Vaughn of NYC's *The Simone* said. "The smell of a building site—granite, concrete, steel beams. Very Ayn Rand." Or is it the architecture of ancient fossilized soil, along with a softer impression, one that made me smile at the glory of Champagne. —J.G. *Skurnik Wines, NY*

### FRANCE WHITE

#### BEST ALSACE PINOT GRIS

**96** | Domaines Schlumberger \$50  
**2016 Alsace Grand Cru Kessler Pinot Gris** During its long history, this small, vine-covered valley was noted for its protection from the winds and its cauldron (Kessler) shape. Schlumberger owns most of the vineyard (54.3 acres out of a total of 71.6), where the family grows riesling, gewurztraminer and pinot gris in sandstone soils. It was this

2016 gris that stood out in our tastings, a big wine with an immediately pungent apricot scent. Decant it, and the flavors integrate, developing an exotic yellow plum brightness that seems to interact with every taste bud; it sets the mouth watering for all sorts of foods, whether white fish crudo or an Alsatian savory tart. This is all satin-cushioned deliciousness. —J.G. *Maisons Marques & Domaines, Oakland, CA*

#### BEST ALSACE RIESLING

**96** | Zind-Humbrecht \$90  
**2019 Alsace Grand Cru Brand Riesling** Olivier Humbrecht farms his family's 5.9-acre parcel at Brand under biodynamics. It's a sunny, south to southeast-facing slope sheltered from the north winds, where riesling vines grow in a coarse sandy granite and black mica soil. Riesling ripens early on this sunny hill: The fruit of this 2019 seems to blossom out of mineral dust, the structure completely integrated into the peach skin and pink peppercorn scents, the texture fleshy and ripe, racy and energized. A long, pale and powerful white wine, this is open as a young wine with the grand structure to age. —J.G. *Kobrand, Purchase, NY*

#### BEST ALSACE FIELD BLEND

**95** | Marcel Deiss \$115  
**2017 Alsace Grand Cru Schoenenbourg** A famed hillside in Riquewihr, this south-facing mixed planting grows in light sandstone top soils over clay-rich, fertile gypsum marls. Deiss believes it is his longest-lived wine and it does take days to show itself. Impacted at first, perfumed with scents of apricots, peach skin and a nutty character, this wine shows its stamina as it stretches out while maintaining a seamless integration. As the richness and flavors progress, that integration makes it feel silken and remarkably easy to drink. In the end, the wine conjured more thoughts about what to eat with it (a Comté grilled-cheese sandwich with onion jam...chicken Cordon Bleu...) than how to describe its incandescent taste. —J.G. *Exported by Becky Wasserman & Co.*

#### BEST WHITE BURGUNDY

**96** | Domaine Comtesse de Chérisey \$144  
**2019 Meursault-Blagny 1er Cru La Genelotte** North of the village of Blagny, La Genelotte is the domaine's largest holding, with 8.64 acres of vines planted between 1946 and 1955, and it is one of the most distinctive wines in Blagny—instantly recognizable