

AMERICAN IDOLS



(Don't worry we aren't running a singing competition)

Despite still being classed as the ‘New World’ in wine circles, both North and South America have centuries of history in their vineyards. The vast and varied terroirs of the Americas produce an incredible array of wines, including some of the most consistently high scoring, collectible and unashamedly hedonistic in the world.

We have selected three wines each from North and South. Some for the cellar and some for enjoying immediately but all benchmark wines for their regions that really deliver that ‘wow’ drinking experience.



The South

Bottle Price
Retail

Cheval des Andes 2018, Mendoza, Argentina (Arriving December 2021)

61.00

The story of Cheval des Andes began exactly twenty years ago.

At its origin is the Argentine winery, Terrazas de los Andes, one of the pioneers in wine growing in Mendoza. Pierre Lurton, General Manager at Cheval Blanc, studied the “terroirs” of Las Compuertas with Roberto de la Mota and had the ingenious idea of blending the expertise of Cheval Blanc with the purest, original expression of Malbec, king of the Argentine grape varieties.

Conceived in 1999, Cheval des Andes has inherited 200 years of expertise in the art of blending from Cheval Blanc. Without a doubt, this vision of wine growing is completely unusual as it combines two very different “terroirs” coupled with two legendary grape varieties and a desire to create complexity out of diversity. Today, the vision of committed viticulturists has been achieved through twenty years of daily care in these unique vineyards which now produce a genuine ‘grand cru’ of the Andes.

Bottle Price
Retail

Sottano 'Judas' Malbec 2018, Mendoza, Argentina

50.00

Bodega Sottano is the result of a family tradition that has been enriched and maintained over several generations. The winery essentially strives to unite hard work and new technologies to preserve the gifts of nature and showcase them in their wines.

'Deep red colour with some brilliant and intense black hints. Wonderful aromatic intensity and complexity with notes of cherries but dominance of species as snuff, cassis, white pepper, cloves, some chocolate and mint. There is good acidity balancing the broad palate. Velvety sweet tannins with an extraordinary aromatic intensity and long finish'.

Bottle Price
Retail

Emiliana 'Ge' 2016, Colchagua, Chile

38.00

Voted by Wines of Chile as 'Winery of the Year 2016', Emiliana is one of Chile's most exciting producers and pioneers in organic and biodynamic wine making. Emiliana's innovative and natural-leaning wines are made with great care and attention and the results are inspiring.

'A totally integrated wine with a heady assemblage of intermingled flavours. Complexity, elegance structure and finesse, but still very approachable. This wine has an intense ruby red colour with a touch of violet. The nose includes a nice balance of ripe black fruit and plums in harmony with a delicate touch of truffle, vanilla and spice. The palate has rich ripe fruit, a touch of savouriness and salinity and soft, velvety tannins providing structure and complexity, clearly defining the benefits of the place of origin'.



The North

Bottle Price
Retail

DAOU Vineyards, Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2018, Paso Robles

58.00

George & Daniel bring the same drive, passion, exactitude & intensity that led these one-time refugees from the Lebanon to forge success in the business world to the cultivation of this land. The estate stands alone at 2,200 feet and is a true contender for 'first growth' stature with its soils, aspect and climate.

'At this early stage, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve seems to be even more promising than the 2016, opening in the glass with aromas of dark berries and damson, without any trace of its time in new oak. On the palate, it's full-bodied, concentrated, and intense. Rich and layered, there's a lot of substance here, but it's replete with sappy energy. This could easily turn out to be the best Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve to date'.

92-94 pts, Wine Advocate

Bottle Price
Retail

Eisele Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon 2018, Napa Valley

375.00

Since 1971, some of California's most age worthy and intensely flavoured Cabernet Sauvignons have been made from grapes grown at the Eisele Vineyard, located on an alluvial fan near the northern end of the Napa Valley. This 38-acre vineyard now owned by Château Latour produces wines with a rare combination of forthright character with precisely defined flavours and fine textures, deep concentration without any sense of heaviness, and the capacity to develop profound complexity with age. Truly one of the greatest vineyards in the world.

'The very deep, purple-black coloured 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon is made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. It takes a fair amount of swirling to unlock an incredibly intense nose of dark chocolate, warm cassis, baked plums and Morello cherries plus touches of red roses, violets, pencil shavings, cinnamon stick and dusty soil with a hint of iron ore. The full-bodied palate is so exquisitely elegant, charged with electric black and red fruits and a firm frame of super-ripe, grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing very long and very perfumed. This is pure energy in a glass!'

99 pts, Wine Advocate

Bottle Price
Retail

Peter Michael 'Les Pavots' 2018, Knights Valley (Arriving December 2021)

195.00

In 1982, after six years of searching for land to serve as both vineyard and family retreat, Sir Peter Michael and Lady Michael purchased 630 acres of volcanic ridges on the western face of Mount St. Helena in Knights Valley. 'Les Pavots' remains the winery's most storied and iconic wine.

It is the wine, Sir Peter had in his mind's eye when he started his search for a vineyard site in 1976.

Today, with the support of son Paul and his wife Emily, the Peter Michael winery still adheres to its original founding principles of mountain vineyards, classical wine making, and limited production.

'Located in Knights Valley, Sonoma, the Les Pavots vineyard is located in the oldest of the estate-owned sites, planted in 1989. It is situated at 1,000-1,400 feet and is quite steep in areas. Composed of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, the 2018 'Les Pavots' is medium to deep garnet-purple in colour. It needs a fair bit of coaxing to unlock the intense scents of blackcurrant preserves, ripe black plums and boysenberries with touches of wild sage, tobacco leaf and pencil shavings. The full-bodied palate is densely packed and tightly wound with loads of black fruits, dried herbs and earthy layers, supported by firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and energetic'.

96 pts, Wine Advocate

These are all priced as they will be on the shelf even if they haven't arrived yet but if you would prefer to buy them 'In Bond' for longer cellaring just let us know and we will confirm price and availability.

Please email steven at: sw@woodwinters.com with any requests.

Cheers, Doug, Rodney, Shane & Steven