



Cannonball 2021 Chardonnay, California (\$17) Rich tropical flavors are the primary attraction of this Chardonnay, which doesn't come off as overly manipulated and lacks overtly woody notes. Quite rounded in feel, with soft acidity, it's especially well suited to sipping on its own. **88**

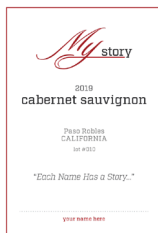
Josh Cellars 2021 Reserve Buttery Chardonnay, Central Coast (\$17) Truth in advertising is obviously a virtue, and so too is clarity in labeling at a time when Chardonnay styles are in flux. This wine is indeed buttery and toasty too, as is evident aromatically even before the namesake flavor presents itself along with a luscious core of fruit. Despite the recent shift toward simpler, fresher renditions, there remains a lot of consumer demand for this style, and this big, assertive wine delivers on its promise. **90**



DEUTSCH FAMILY WINE & SPIRITS

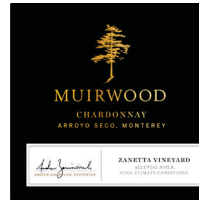
MyStory Wine Company 2019 Lot #010 Cabernet Sauvignon, Templeton Gap District, Paso Robles (\$18)

Crafting an all-purpose Cabernet is no small feat, but that's the result of the effort put into this wine. Medium-bodied and showing dark berry fruit tinged with dried herbs, it finishes with a soft texture that suits casual sipping but enough tannic backbone for it to work well at the table. **90**



Muirwood Vineyards 2021 Zanetta Vineyard Chardonnay, Arroyo Seco, Monterey (\$22)

Skillfully grown and deftly crafted, this tastes notably better than what one would expect from a \$22 single-vineyard Chardonnay, with restrained and tasteful oak usage lending spiciness and flair. Also important to the wine's success—whether it's served on its own or with food—is especially energetic acidity, which brightens and drives the ripe fruit flavors of peach and mango without ever turning tart or creating a sense of tension between the two elements. **93**



ASV WINES

Intipalka 2021 Reserva del Familia Malbec, Ica Valley, Peru (\$25) Though I've spent lots of time tasting in South America, this is the first truly fine wine I've ever tried from Peru, and "truly fine" is an apt phrase to describe it. Impressively deep color bodes well from the outset, followed by scents of dark berry fruit that marry nicely with some spice and toast accents from the barriques—all skillfully balanced. The flavors are pure but also interesting and complex for a wine that's still young, and they become markedly better with even just a few minutes of aeration. Intipalka also makes an entry-level Malbec priced at \$13, but this is so much better that the step up is the right play. **93**



VIÑAS QUEIROLO



Sean Minor 2021 Signature Series Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast (\$28)

The Sean Minor California Series Chardonnay is quite nice for \$18, but an extra ten bucks for this release nets you a wine that's twice as good and an even stronger value. The medium-plus body is satisfying but never heavy, with appealingly spicy aromas leading to delicious fruit flavors of ripe apple and peach that are enlivened by just the right jolt of acidity. The oak is also impressively well measured, and the superb proportionality of the wine keeps it tasting great sip after sip, either on its own or with a wide range of foods. Wicked good juice for the price. **94**

Chasing Venus 2022 Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand (\$20)

As Marlborough Sauvignon Blancs go, this is relatively toned down, which will prove pleasing to anyone who finds the category too pungent and intense. Though true to both the variety and the style of the region, it's a bit riper and more developed than most 2022 releases now in circulation—so if you like your fireworks from a bit of a distance, this could be the ticket for you. **89**

MATCHBOOK WINES