GREAT WINES TO DISCOVER

EDITORS' PICKS:
30 WINERIES TO TRUST

ULTIMATE VALUES:
1,236 WINES
90+ / $30 OR LESS

BUYING GUIDE:
650+ WINES REVIEWED

THE ABCs OF PORT
IRISH WHISKEY
30 WINERIES TO DISCOVER

NEW WORLD—40 California, Oregon and Washington 48 Argentina and Chile 50 South Africa, Australia and New Zealand
OLD WORLD—56 France 61 Italy 65 Spain and Portugal 67 Austria
Wineries stand out from the crowd for various reasons. Some are historical leaders in their region. Some produce large quantities of good-value wines. Still others create excitement by combining quality and rarity.

But many great wineries still fly under the radar of most wine lovers. We want to shine the spotlight on some of these underappreciated gems. Think of them as wineries to trust, because these are producers that offer a broad range of wines that consistently deliver both excellence and affordability. That may be an even greater achievement than making a single iconic wine: It requires more nimbleness in the winery and more effort to stand out in the market. However, this approach allows winemakers to drill deeper into the particularities of terroir and varietal character.

Some of these wineries’ bottlings may be small in terms of production, and therefore a bit more difficult to find. But a winemaker’s ability to succeed with multiple cuvées makes his or her bottlings safe bets no matter which of them you encounter.

For this story, we asked our senior tasters to recommend exemplary wineries to explore from the regions they cover. This package spotlights 30 wineries from around the world that produce broad portfolios of distinctive wines. Some are well-established, while others are emerging stars; all consistently deliver high quality and relative value. Almost all the wines referenced in the following pages scored 90 points or higher, or “outstanding,” on our 100-point scale, and none are priced in the stratosphere.

These are wineries that deserve your attention, and we encourage you to discover all they have to offer.
Washington

Novelty Hill/Januik
A Big-Winery Veteran Fashions a Solid Portfolio

Mike Januik left his job as head winemaker at Chateau Ste. Michelle in 1999 to start his own winery. He also agreed to consult with Seattle-based venture capitalist Tom Alberg and his wife, Judi Beck, on their new Columbia Valley vineyard, Stillwater Creek, a 245-acre site on the Royal Slope in Frenchman Hills.

This soft-spoken winemaker had been responsible for more than a million cases a year at Ste. Michelle. But he loves the hands-on experience of producing 12,000 cases a year for his own brand and 22,000 more for Novelty Hill, Alberg’s label.

Both labels deliver high quality across a wide spectrum of modestly priced wines. Ratings tend to cluster around 90 points. Most bottlings are priced at $23 to $50 and made in quantities of 500 to 1,000 cases.

The two labels’ styles are similar, showing off Januik’s hand for balancing power and restraint. The wines generally brim with fruit presence, but do a little dance on the finish to emphasize their grace.

Vineyard sources create diverse styles. For his own brand, Januik vineyard-designates bottlings from sites such as Cold Creek, Weinbau, Champoux, Ciel du Cheval and Bacchus. He also covers the core of Washington’s specialties, including Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Syrah.

Novelty Hill excels at Chardonnay, Viognier, Grenache, Malbec, Sangiovese, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, all from the Stillwater Creek estate. Columbia Valley blends of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot offer broader availability and even more modest prices. —H.S.

Januik Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain 2013 | 93 | $40 | 187 cases made
This supple, expressive red tames its formidable Red Mountain tannins, which support a glowing core of black cherry, guava and rose petal.

Januik Cabernet Franc Wahluke Slope Weinbau Vineyard 2013 | 90 | $55 | 54 cases made
Celebrates the minty, floral overtones and powdery tannins of Cabernet Franc (an unsung hero in Washington) without sacrificing the dark fruit.

Novelty Hill Cascadia Columbia Valley 2013 | 91 | $50 | 339 cases made
This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Malbec layers toasty, peppery notes with black fruit flavors.

Novelty Hill Grenache Columbia Valley Stillwater Creek Vineyard 2013 | 91 | $28 | 372 cases made
Shows lovely refinement, with suppleness and floral notes around dark fruit and pepper.

Novelty Hill Malbec Columbia Valley Stillwater Creek Vineyard 2013 | 90 | $28 | 379 cases made
A fine example of this varietal in Washington. Broad, spicy and polished.

Fire that gives fans first chance at the more limited-production wines.

The style is bold for the reds, lively and tangy for the whites. Linn Scott has been the on-site winemaker since 2010. Consulting enologist Erica Orr also makes the wines at Baer. The list of grape sources reads like a who’s who of Washington growers, including Bacchus, Boushey, Ciel du Cheval, Klipsun and Uplands. —H.S.

Sparkman Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Holler 2013 | 94 | $52 | 912 cases made
Composed of Cabernet Sauvignon from five high-elevation vineyards, this weaves a tangy edge into the dark fruit and supple texture.

Sparkman Malbec Red Mountain Prepostero 2014 | 92 | $38 | 524 cases made
Ten percent Syrah from Boushey creates extra suppleness to the firm tannins in this focused Malbec from Red Mountain grapes.

Sparkman Syrah Yakima Valley Darkness 2013 | 92 | $62 | 234 cases made
A Syrah sourced from Boushey and Olsen vineyards in Yakima Valley, this wine balances rich black fruit with lively acidity.

Sparkman Riesling Columbia Valley Birdie 2015 | 91 | $18 | 621 cases made
Grapes from Bacchus, Dionysus and Olsen vineyards come together in a zingy, dry style, with mineral flavors informing the vivd fruit.

Sparkman Stella Mae Columbia Valley Lumière 2014 | 89 | $30 | 605 cases made
Two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon, the rest Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, from four vineyards in different AVAs. Seamless and supple.

Sparkman Chardonnay Columbia Valley Lumière 2014 | 91 | $55 | 456 cases made
Wild yeasts ferment grapes from Stillwater Creek vineyard, creating a sleek, expressive style.

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