

95 Jean Grivot Vosne-Romanée Les Beaux Monts 2016 \$300 Pure, supple and complex red boasting violet, cherry, raspberry, sandalwood, mineral and toasty oak aromas and flavors. The firm, racy structure adds focus and drives the lingering finish. Shows terrific balance and freshness. Best from 2022 through 2043. 319 cases made.—B.S.

95 Philippe Pacalet Echézeaux 2016 \$500 Seductive aromas of sandalwood, rose, green olive and cherry are the hallmarks of this rich red. The dense structure buoys the long finish and the lingering aftertaste evokes cherry and spice notes. Best from 2023 through 2046. 110 cases made.—B.S.

94 Drouhin-Laroze Gevrey-Chambertin Lavaut St.-Jacques 2015 \$145 Pretty rose, currant, cherry and spice flavors highlight this silky red, with a structure well-covered by fleshy fruit. Complex and harmonious. The tannins exert themselves on the finish, and earth and underbrush accents linger. Best from 2022 through 2038. 8 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Frédéric Esmonin Gevrey-Chambertin Clos Prieur 2017 \$33 Supple in texture, this red boasts cherry, black currant, graphite and earth notes. Starts out very elegant for the appellation, picking up firm tannins and more weight on the long finish. Best from 2022 through 2035. 1,350 cases made.—B.S.

90 Domaine Berthenet Montagny Tête de Cuvée 2016 \$24 A bright, juicy white, this offers peach, apple, floral and lemon flavors. Rich, yet backed by a lively structure that extends the finish. Drink now. 1,000 cases made.—B.S.

FRANCE Rhône

97 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016 \$130 Very youthful and tightly focused now, featuring a lovely beam of cassis, cherry preserve and raspberry pâte de fruit notes leading the way, backed by light floral, bergamot, anise and apple wood accents. The fruit is warm and caressing, with solid grip and drive through the finish due to a buried graphite element. Stays alluring, with lots of subtle charm, despite the density and layers. This will cruise in the cellar. Best from 2022 through 2040. 7,000 cases made.—J.M.

96 Domaine La Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure 2016 \$100 Features an intriguing mix of lush and grippy aspects, with a large core of steeped plum, blackberry and boysenberry fruit showing a caressing side, while light charcoal, tar and licorice root accents add a contrasting textural element. Shows a subtle roasted apple wood backdrop on the finish. Nicely put together. Best from 2022 through 2040. 50 cases imported.—J.M.

96 Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu La Chambée 2017 \$85 A large-scaled version, with dense and creamy layers of plantain, white peach, yellow apple and green melon flavors, backed by a kiss of warm brioche and a flash of verbena on the very long finish. Drink now through 2022. 672 cases made.—J.M.

95 Delas Cornas Chante-Perdrix 2015 \$55 Offers a delicious core of gently mulled blueberry, blackberry and black currant fruit that is matched by a mix of floral, mineral and singed spice notes throughout. The long chalky spine is well-buried on the finish, letting all the elements play out suavely through the finish. Best from 2021 through 2036. 1,100 cases made.—J.M.

95 François Villard Condrieu DePoncins 2017 \$62 A plump and creamy style, with alluring yellow apple, Cavaillon melon, pear and peach flavors all gliding through, backed by hints of warm brioche and almond cream. Quite alluring in the end. Drink now through 2021. 1,200 cases made.—J.M.

95 Alain Vogé Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes 2016 \$85 See Highly Recommended, page 101.

94 Domaine Courbis Cornas La Sabarotte 2016 \$95 Alluring, with a gilding of mocha and bacon-accented toast that melds into the core of gently steeped plum and blackberry fruit, while light black olive, anise and juniper notes add range and texture through the finish. Best from 2021 through 2036. 310 cases made.—J.M.

94 Les Vins de Vienne Cornas Lieu-Dit St.-Pierre 2016 \$80 Very racy and pure, despite a somewhat hefty core of steeped plum and black currant fruit, as racy iron and chalk notes provide the foil. The backdrop of rosemary, olive, violet and white pepper details is lovely. Best from 2022 through 2038. 200 cases made.—J.M.

93 Château de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016 \$105 This is a fleshy and dense offering, with layers of warm cassis, plum sauce and cherry preserve flavors seamlessly entwined, while warm fruitcake and melted red licorice notes fill in through the finish. There's a whiff of smoky tea at the very end, while the fruit plays out. Best from 2020 through 2034. 7,667 cases made.—J.M.

92 Domaine de l'Arnesque Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015 \$40 Solid, with bramble and singed sandalwood flavors out front, followed by cassis, bitter cherry paste and raspberry coulis notes. The sandalwood note reasserts itself through the finish, giving this some tension. Best from 2022 through 2035. 1,600 cases made.—J.M.

92 Domaine La Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016 \$60 Solid, with dark currant and blackberry fruit flavors laced with licorice snap, apple wood and warm tar notes. The grip is grounded through the finish, while the dark fruit keeps pace. Best from 2021 through 2033. 500 cases imported.—J.M.

92 Gabriel Meffre Châteauneuf-du-Pape Laurus 2016 \$54 Offers a smoldering edge, with singed alder, tobacco and mocha notes augmenting the core of steeped black currant and black cherry fruit. A licorice root echo runs through the finish, imparting an extra twinge of grip. Best from 2021 through 2031. 1,000 cases made.—J.M.

92 Gabriel Meffre Châteauneuf-du-Pape St.-Théodorique 2016 \$49 Juicy, with a bright core of red currant and raspberry puree flavors that have yet to unwind fully, while light apple wood, floral and savory hints fill in throughout. Fresh and focused finish. Best from 2020 through 2030. 1,000 cases made.—J.M.

92 Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu 2017 \$72 Very plump and showy in style, with ginger, brioche and piecrust notes inlaid liberally in a mix of creamed peach,

apricot and melon flavors. Long, butter- and almond-lined finish. Drink now through 2020. 750 cases made.—J.M.

91 Gabriel Meffre Côtes du Rhône-Villages Laurus 2016 \$19 Ripe and fleshy, but soft and gentle in feel, with warm plum and raspberry compote notes gliding through, lined with black tea and incense accents that blossom and linger on the finish. Drink now through 2020. 2,900 cases made.—J.M.

91 Gabriel Meffre Côtes du Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu St.-Mapalis 2017 \$17 Breezy, with raspberry and red currant coulis notes that are nicely taut and focused, with modest spice and fruitcake accents on the finish. Drink now through 2021. 3,000 cases made.—J.M.

91 Les Vins de Vienne Viognier Collines Rhodaniennes 2017 \$26 Juicy and forward, with a plump mix of melon, peach and apricot flavors liberally lined with heather and white ginger notes. Drink now through 2020. 1,740 cases made.—J.M.

90 Gabriel Meffre Côtes du Rhône White Laurus 2017 \$19 Rounded and creamy, with melon, yellow apple and salted butter notes. A flash of almond shows on the finish. Drink now. 1,800 cases made.—J.M.

88 Delas Côtes du Rhône St.-Esprit 2017 \$12 See Best Values, page 104.

FRANCE Other

93 Domaine de la Grange des Pères Pays d'Hérault 2015 \$100 A powerful red, with a graceful, integrated profile, offering dried cherry, licorice and cured meat flavors, underscored by mineral, rooibos tea and Kalamata olive accents. Mineral and garrigue details pepper the long, tannic finish. Perfect for a steak. Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cabernet Sauvignon and Crounise. Drink now through 2030. 2,500 cases made.—G.S.

91 Domaine Gayda Pays d'Oc Chemin de Moscou 2015 \$38 This red embodies both power and elegance, with a mineral spine cutting into the steeped cherry, fresh red plum and blackberry fruit flavors heightened with tea, licorice and violet details. Offers a long, plush finish. Drink now through 2025. 8,000 cases made.—G.S.

