

YEAR'S BEST ROSE

Our blind panels tasted **590** new-release rosé wines over the past 12 months. Our critics rated **26** as exceptional (90+) and **41** as Best Buys. **Patrick J. Comiskey** covers New York, Oregon and Washington; **Joshua Greene** covers Italy and Portugal; **Luke Sykora** covers California; **Patricio Tapia** covers Chile and Spain, and **Tara Q. Thomas** covers Austria, France, Greece and Hungary. Find a complete list of wines tasted and all reviews at wineandspiritsmagazine.com.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

92 | Fritz \$25
2014 Dry Creek Valley Estate Grown A blend of zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon and malbec grown at the Fritz estate in a narrow valley created by Dutcher Creek, this is a rosé with real power and definition. From a warm, dry vintage, it's ripe and plump as a white cherry, spiced with complex aromas of ginger and white sage. The vibrant fruit lasts, its amplitude focused around a hunger-inducing core of acidity, floral and earthy at the same time and perfect for a tuna niçoise salad. (130 cases) *Fritz Winery, Cloverdale, CA*

91 | Small Vines Wines \$29
2014 Russian River Valley Rosé of Pinot Noir (Best Buy) Paul Sloan harvested this pinot noir from four estate vineyards, pressing directly into stainless steel and fermenting with indigenous yeasts. The pinot noir character comes through in scents of earth, herbal tea and rose petals that last with a bracing focus. It's austere but complex, dry and crunchy enough for oysters but sufficiently vinous to handle richer fare as well. (125 cases) *Small Vines Wines, Santa Rosa, CA*

91 | Vaughn Duffy \$18
2014 Sonoma County Rosé of Pinot Noir (Best Buy) As plump and mouthwatering as a cherry, this bursts with lively scents of rose and jasmine tea, that florality turning spicy at the end, focusing the wine around clean, light, savory pinot noir flavors that last. (W&S 6/15; 500 cases) *Vaughn Duffy Wines, Santa Rosa, CA*

90 | Tin Barn Vineyards \$23
2013 Sonoma Coast Joon Coryelle Fields Vyd. Rosé of Syrah From a cool, far-coast vineyard at 1,000 feet, this is a mouthwatering wine with a pale salmon color. As bright and tart as a blood orange, with a savory edge that suggests cherry tomato skin, it's an addictive rosé for summer drinking. (W&S 10/14; 82 cases) *Tin Barn Vyd., Sonoma, CA*

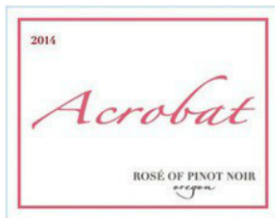
89 | Inman Family \$25
2014 Russian River Valley Endless Crush OGV Estate Rosé of Pinot Noir (Best Buy) This rosé delivers a bold cornucopia of fruit flavors—from candied strawberry and peach to tangy cranberry and rhubarb tones. It's simple but delicious, a frisky wine that leaves an impression of cool refreshment in its wake. *Inman Family Wines Santa Rosa, CA*

89 | The Withers \$20
2014 El Dorado Rosé (Best Buy) A near-even blend of grenache and mourvedre, this substantial rosé shows the warmth of the Foothills in a peachy juiciness that turns earthy and taut at the end. It's a bold, clean, satisfying rosé for sesame-crusting tuna. (723 cases) *The Withers Winery, Santa Rosa, CA*

88 | Martin Ray \$18
2014 Russian River Valley Rosé of Pinot Noir (Best Buy) This has plenty of acidity to focus its plump texture, that freshness driving gentle waves of flavor—rose petals and candied cherry. Chill it for a picnic. (1,900 cases) *Martin Ray Winery, Santa Rosa, CA*

OREGON

90 | Ponzi \$20
2014 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir Rosé (Best Buy) This savory rosé of pinot noir has a bright strawberry accent adorned by the scent of dried pine boughs. The flavors are generous and pleasant, with a brisk, mild amaro bitterness. Pour with a salmon roll. (1,500 cases) *Ponzi Vineyards, Sherwood, OR*



89 | Acrobat \$13
2014 Oregon Rosé of Pinot Noir (Best Buy) A light, fruit-scented pink, this pretty

rosé of pinot tastes like cherries, the texture lean and invigorating with an acidity that smacks of fresh strawberries. At this price, chill down and drink up. (1,629 cases) *Acrobat Winery, Eugene, OR*

WASHINGTON

90 | Gard \$22
2013 Columbia Valley Grand Klasse Lawrence Vyds. Rosé This bright grenache rosé has wild strawberry freshness girded by a fine mineral tang. Its flavors are juicy and lifted, like strawberries spritzed with Meyer lemon, with a lean and mineral edge to the finish. Chill for chicken sausage. (W&S 10/14; 306 cases) *Lawrence Cellars, Walla Walla, WA*

AUSTRIA

92 | Umatham \$22
2013 Burgenland Rosa Josef Umatham is best known for the reds he produces from his vineyards near Lake Neusiedl, farmed biodynamically since 2005. His Rosa, a blend of blaufränkisch, zweigelt and sankt laurent, is a rosé with conviction, the flavors entirely savory, with a plum-skin grip that holds them tight. It feels earthy and firm, with the fruity spice of pink peppercorns, and enough steadfast acidity to take on a pork shoulder. *Winemonger, Los Angeles, CA*

CHILE

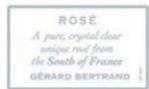
90 | Calcu \$13
2014 Colchagua Valley Rosé (Best Buy) Calcu produces this rosé from a vineyard specifically managed for rosé production, with a focus on protecting the grapes from the scorching sun of Colchagua. It takes Chilean rosé to a new level, distinctly refreshing, a little mineral, filled with fresh red fruit scents and a light, tannic structure. Chill it for a picnic this summer. (W&S, 6/15) *Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA*

FRANCE

BORDEAUX

86 | Augey \$10
2014 Bordeaux Rosé (Best Buy) This is gravelly and slightly bitter in its vegetal fruit, an earthy rosé for sausages. *Prestige Wine Group, St. Paul, MN*

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON



91 | Gérard Bertrand \$17
2014 Pays d'Oc Gris Blanc The delicacy of this rosé is reflected in its color, a barely-there tint of orange-pink. That hue corresponds to the pale peach flavors, the acidity adding a slight grip, like the fuzz of peach skin. It feels fine and filigreed with spice and mineral details, an elegant rosé for mussels in a light herb sauce. *USA Wine West, Sausalito, CA*

88 | Le Grand Noir \$11
2014 Pays d'Oc Rosé (Best Buy) This is saline and savory, a light, strawberry-scented rosé with a firm minerality. *Prestige Wine Group, St. Paul, MN*

87 | Les Chemins de Bassac \$14
2014 Vin de Pays des Côtes de Thongue Isa (Best Buy) A fresh and lively wine from an organic producer just north of Béziers, this tastes like just-picked strawberries, still crisp and acidic. *Jenny & François Selections, NY*

87 | Laroche \$13
2014 Languedoc Rosé de la Chevalière (Best Buy) This is full-bodied and round, with a melon-like juiciness and the savor of the flesh when it gets close to the rind. Give it a chill to calm the peppery edge. *Wilson Daniels, St. Helena, CA*

86 | Penya \$12
2014 Côtes Catalanes Rosé (Best Buy) Mostly grenache with a dollop of syrah, this is a rustic rosé, with just enough grip to its sweet, earthy strawberry fruit to match hot

dogs Chicago-style, with all the toppings. *Hand Picked Selections, Warrenton, VA*

LOIRE

90 | Dom. Paul Cherrier \$25
2014 Sancerre Rosé Stéphane Cherrier convinced his family to start bottling wines from their domaine when he returned from wine-making stages in several New World countries. He took over in 2002, focusing on the best fruit from the 32 acres of vineyards they have scattered throughout the commune of Verdigny. Most of his production is in sauvignon blanc, but this pinot noir rosé is well worth seeking out, a pretty, pale pink wine with a lemony brightness and vibrant white cherry flavors, with a suggestion of chalk underneath. *Avant-Garde Wine & Spirits, NY*

89 | Le Grand Bouqueteau \$16
2014 Chinon Rosé (Best Buy) This is distinctly cabernet franc, the sweet cherry flavor limned in green pepper notes, the tannins firm and slightly gravelly. It just happens to be a couple shades lighter in color than a Chinon red, and light enough to complement salmon rillettes. *European Wine Imports, Cleveland, OH*

87 | Jean Reverdy \$10
2014 Sancerre Les Villots (Best Buy) This strikes a juicy balance between sweet strawberry flavors, herbal notes and bright acidity. *Kysela Père et Fils, Winchester, VA*

PROVENCE

92 | Mas de la Dame \$17
2013 Les Baux de Provence Rosé du Mas Mas de la Dame is a wild place, 140 acres of vines planted among 740 acres of forest and scrub, gardens and olive groves. The wine has been the work of sisters Caroline Missoffe and Anne Poniatowski since 1995, when they took over from their parents. Their rosé consistently captures the feel of inland Provence, the flavors turned toward earth and herbs, this 2013 almost meaty in its savor. A bright acidity keeps it palate whetting, a ready partner for grilled sausages. *Esprit du Vin, Port Washington, NY*

92 | Château d'Aqueria \$20
2013 Tavel (Best Buy) This is one of the best vintages of d'Aqueria Tavel in recent memory. It's juicy and bright with red cherry fruit, zesty with lemon and herbs—a symphony of flavor that sings of its southern Rhône roots. Pick up a few bottles for an Easter ham, and

more to save for summer picnics with country pâté. (*W&S 2/15*) *Kobrand, Purchase, NY*

91 | Commanderie de la Bargemone \$19
2014 Coteaux d'Aix en Provence Rosé A regular favorite in our tastings, this estate produced a 2014 that shines in the glass with a silvery brightness. It feels just as electric in flavor, the acidity imbuing the fruit with the fragrant juiciness of a Charentais melon, a quiet, smoky minerality riding underneath. It feels complete and elegant, the flavors lasting and energetic. *Hand Picked Selections, Warrenton, VA*

91 | Clos Cibonne \$26
2013 Côtes de Provence Cru Classé Tibouren When André Roux le Pradet took over this estate in the 1930s, he replaced all the mourvèdre with tibouren, a local grape that had fallen out of favor. Today, his great granddaughter Brigitte and her husband Claude Deforge run the estate, making two rosés from the variety. This one, made by macerating the grapes on the skins for a few days, has the variety's telltale earthy spice, complimented by a marzipan richness. It feels almost like a red in structure, broad enough to take on a duck confit salad. *De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC*

90 | Château Barbeyrolles \$32
2014 Côtes de Provence Pétale de Rose From a small, organically farmed vineyard overlooking the Gulf of St-Tropez, this grenache-based rosé is spicy and firm, with a warm, expansive sense of minerality running beneath the clementine fruit. It feels clean and restrained, an elegant match for a duck pâté flavored with orange zest and pistachios. *House of Burgundy, NY*

90 | Domaine Clos Gautier \$22
2014 Côtes de Provence Clos du Château From a 79-acre estate in Carcès, far inland from the Mediterranean, this comes off the oldest vines of the estate, about 70 years old. A blend based on cinsault with grenache and syrah, it's savory and lean, with tart cranberry fruit and breezy, refreshing acidity. *Catamarca Imports, Snellville, GA*

90 | Château Maupague \$26
2014 Côtes de Provence Sainte Victoire The Sumeire family has owned this estate at the base of Sainte Victoire since 1991, one of several they run in the south of France. This rosé feels as light and fine as the scree that the vines are planted in, with a fine, flinty