

THIS MONTH

- 3** SPAIN
- 33** CROATIA
- 34** FRANCE
- 36** BEAUJOLAIS
- 47** ALTO ADIGE
- 51** SICILY
- 55** GREECE
- 58** PORTUGAL
- 62** GERMANY
- 68** AUSTRIA
- 70** CALIFORNIA
- 96** OREGON
- 102** WASHINGTON
- 107** CHILE
- 110** NEW ZEALAND
- 116** MEZCAL
- 120** NO/LOW ALC. BEER

Landscape view of fields,
vineyards and greek villages Fira
and Oia on Santorini island, Greece

FOR ADDITIONAL RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT [WINEMAG.COM/RATINGS](https://www.winemag.com/ratings)

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Bertola Palo Cortado 12 Years (Jerez). A bouquet of vanilla, almond, iodine and sea breeze sets the stage for flavors of peach, licorice and cinnamon. This wine is elegant and smooth in the mouth and offers a sense of warming the insides of the cheeks. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$40

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Pemartín Medium (Jerez). This deep-hued wine has aromas of candied chestnut, dried stone fruit and orange blossom. It offers flavors of holiday fruitcake, marzipan, chocolate-covered espresso bean and almond blossom. A luminous note of candied orange peel plies the palate from first sip and gently lingers. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$19

91 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Bertolo Fino (Jerez). Medium yellow to the eye, this dry Sherry has a bouquet of caramelized apple, toasted hazelnuts and seawater. Toasted nut notes continue onto the palate, where they are joined by flavors of guava, pineapple, dried apricot, salted fresh bread and a tiny hint of vanilla bean that evaporate into a nutty finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

91 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Victoria Manzanilla Selección (Manzanilla-Sanlúcar de Barrameda). This wine has aromas of green apple, rising pizza dough and grapefruit peel. It is simultaneously light and bright on the palate, with flavors of lemon, green pear, freshly baked salted pretzel and a hint of ground almond that lingers on the tongue. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

91 Viña Palaciega NV Amontillado (Jerez). This bourbon-colored dry Sherry offers a bouquet of dried apricot, roasted almond and coffee bean. Dried apricot and roasted almond transition to the palate alongside notes of vanilla, rose petal, sautéed mushroom and orange zest. The bright finish is marked with a nice note of salinity. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$20

91 Viña Palaciega NV Medium Dry (Jerez). Aromas of mixed nuts, milk chocolate and honeysuckle prep the tastebuds for flavors of roasted apple, peach nectar, gingerbread spice, delicata squash, slivered almonds and clementine. This Sherry rides a fine line between sweet and dry, with a vein of vivid acidity keeping it alive on the palate from start to finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$115

91 Viña Palaciega NV Pedro Ximinez (Jerez). This deeply hued wine has aromas of cassis, licorice and freshly baked gingerbread. It is velvety on the palate, offering flavors of black cherry preserves, chopped dates, mocha and a touch of tangerine. The strong sweetness is balanced by a lingering sense of bright citrus fruit. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodegas Cruz Conde NV Fino 1902 (Montilla-Moriles). This pale-yellow wine has a bouquet of dried fruit, mixed nuts and rising bread. It offers a sense of brightness on the tongue, with flavors of apricot, peach, saline and toasted almonds, with a lingering note of lemon zest. Torgar Group. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

90 Viña Palaciega NV Oloroso (Jerez). The color of brewed tea, this dry Sherry offers aromas of apricot, toasted hazelnut and caramel. It has a gorgeous nutty oxidative quality, with flavors of hazelnut, dried apricot, toasted pineapple, honeysuckle, a hint of iodine and a brilliant finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$15

89 Viña Palaciega NV Fino (Jerez). A nose of peach, apricot, mixed nuts and lemon zest with a hint of iodine sets the scene for flavors of cashew, grapefruit, button mushroom and lemon zest. This dry Sherry has a full texture, a strong vein of acidity and a lingering note of Marcona almond. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

88 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Pemartín Fino (Jerez). Deep straw in the glass, this dry Sherry features aromas of Granny Smith apple, lemon pith, marzipan and a touch of petrol. It is equal parts bright fruit and nutty notes on the palate, with flavors of apricot, grapefruit, hazelnut and slivered almond. Fruit dominates the finish, offering a splash of citrus-laced brightness. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

CROATIA

MALVASIA

92 Crvik 2021 Tezoro Malvasia (Dalmatia). This medium-yellow wine has aromas of apricot, lemon and herbes de Provence. Full mouthfeel and flavors of white peach, orange marmalade, butterscotch and a soft touch of lavender that lingers into the smooth finish make for a satisfying pour. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Dubrovački Podrumi 2019 Malvasia (Dalmatia). This light-yellow-colored wine has a nose of passion fruit, dried apricot and rose petal. Flavors of green pear, white peach, honeysuckle and lemon zest sail into a bright, floral-scented finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Fakin 2020 La Prima Malvazija (Istria). Light yellow to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Valencia orange, white peach and honeysuckle. It feels good on the palate, offering flavors of lemon, nectarine and orange blossom that cul-

minate in a bright finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

POSIP

92 Volarević 2020 Posip (Dalmatian Coast). A bouquet of lemon, green apple and dried thyme set the scene for flavors of Valencia orange, lemon-lime sorbet and herbes de Provence. It is bright on the palate from first sip through the zesty finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Korta Katarina 2021 Posip (Dalmatian Coast). For full review see page 16. Katharine's Garden LLC.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Black Island Winery 2021 The Dalmatian Dog Posip (Dalmatian Coast). For full review see page 18. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Saints Hills 2021 Le Chiffre Chardonnay (Istria). Straw colored in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of nectarine, lemon zest and almond blossom. It is full in the mouth, with bold acidity and flavors of pineapple, lemon tart, vanilla and peach. A bright note of grapefruit washes over the finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Antunović 2017 Tradition Grand Selection Graševina (Croatia). For full review see page 10. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$59

93 Saints Hills 2021 Frenchie Bordeaux-style White Blend (Istria). A Bordeaux-style blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, this wine has a nose of Meyer lemon, freshly chopped parsley and Granny Smith apple. It is round in the mouth, with a nice note of eucalyptus mingling with flavors of lemon-lime, green apple and a tiny hint of dried Mediterranean herbs that fade into a smooth finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉ

90 Korta Katarina 2021 Rosé Plavac Mali (Pelješac). Medium pink to the eye, this wine offers a nose of apricot, raspberry and almond blossom. Flavors of strawberry, clementine and jasmine sing on the palate and wind their way to a bright, pomegranate-infused finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

PLAVAC MALI

99 Saints Hills 2019 Ernest Tolj Plavac Mali (Dingac). Deep violet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of blackberry pie, black fig, vanilla and aniseed. It is full on the palate, with enduring tannins and flavors of dark fruits of the wood, milk chocolate, clove and lavender with a slight hint of dried tarragon. There is a beautiful soft floral note that appears at first sip and remains through the drawn out finish. Drink—2034. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.

abv: NA **Price:** \$150

94 Saints Hills 2019 Dingac Plavac Mali (Dingac). Aromas of blackberry pie and baking spice with a hint of tobacco prepare the palate for flavors of cherry preserves, Chambord, dark chocolate, coffee bean and clove with a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. Luxurious tannins coat the tongue and gums and drift off into a lengthy pomegranate finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Saints Hills 2019 St Roko Premium dry Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). This dark-ruby-colored wine has aromas of black cherry and milk chocolate with a touch of flint. There is a nice sense of spice on the palate, with velvety tannins and flavors of licorice, menthol, cassis, raspberry and a touch of dried thyme that wind down to a violet finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

94 Saints Hills 2018 Dingac Plavac Mali (Dingac). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of cassis, dried thyme and smoke. It is pleasantly minty, with flavors of eucalyptus, clove, blackberry, cherry and sage. Silky tannins make way for a floral-scented finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

94 Saints Hills 2018 St Roko Premium Dry Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). Inky garnet in the glass, this wine has a gorgeous nose of cassis, blackberry, thyme and lavender. A layer of sleek tannins is wrapped around flavors of purple fig, raspberry, milk chocolate, dried Mediterranean herbs and a hint of espresso. The smooth finish is marked with soft notes of butterscotch and orange zest. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

94 Saints Hills 2017 St Roko Premium Dry Plavac Mali (Komarna). This deep-red-violet wine has a bouquet of red currant, purple fig and herbes de Provence. It is surprisingly soft on entry, offering flavors of pomegranate and black cherry set into a sheath of polished tannins. Notes of milk chocolate, dried thyme and sage, freshly ground coffee and lavender drift into the enduring finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

93 Jako VINO 2017 Stina Majstor Barrique Plavac Mali (Dalmatia). Aromas of purple plum,

black currant, espresso and saddle leather set the scene for flavors of blueberry, blackberry, dark chocolate, fresh ground coffee, olive paste and sage. Plush tannins coat the tongue and gums and fade into a satisfying finish marked with a note of salinity. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

93 Volarević 2018 Gold Edition Plavac Mali (Croatia). Bright garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, violet talc and clove. It is soft at first sip and then enduring tannins coat the tongue and gums along with flavors of black cherry, blackberry, chocolate covered espresso bean, crumbled sage and a hint of anise that marks the lengthy finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Korta Katarina 2015 Plavac Mali (Dingac). Aromas of purple plums, dried thyme and olive tapenade set the scene for flavors of blackberry, black cherry, bittersweet chocolate, truffle and eucalyptus set into plush tannins. There is a bright note of cranberry underlying the palate that holds on and dominates the long finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Saints Hills 2019 Black Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). This dark-garnet wine has a bouquet of purple plums, cassis and charcuterie. It is softer than expected on the palate, offering velvety tannins and flavors of black currant, purple fig, spearmint, clove, thyme and just a hint of honey-glazed ham. The persistent finish is strewn with notes of mint and lavender. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: NA **Price:** \$27

92 Saints Hills 2018 Black Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). Dark ruby in color, this wine offers a nose of pomegranate, milk chocolate and aniseed. It opens with vibrant cherry and pomegranate flavors, quickly followed by lush tannins and notes of dark chocolate, anisette, crumbled sage and a touch of roasted yellow pepper. Bold acidity is a good match for the tannic structure. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

TERAN

95 Fakin 2019 Il Primo Teran (Istria). For full review see page 5. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

93 Fakin 2021 Teran (Istria). This deep violet-red wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate and fennel seed. Vibrant flavors of cherry and pomegranate are accompanied by velvety tannins and notes of mocha, aniseed, black-olive paste and dried sage. The finish is marked with a splash of cranberry. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Kabola 2016 Amfora Teran (Istria). Aromas of raspberry, black truffle and forest floor waft from the glass. This wine has flavors of cranberry, tart cherry, roasted yellow pepper and sage. It is bright on entry and then deep-set tannins settle into the palate bearing flavors of dark chocolate and molasses that remain into an otherwise bright finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

OTHER RED WINES

92 Testament Winery 2018 The Dalmatian Dog Babic (Dalmatian Coast). For full review see page 15. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

92 Bibich 2017 G6 Grenache (Dalmatia). Red-violet in color, this wine has a nose of blackberry, violet and a touch of leather. Smoky and complex on the palate, it offers flavors of brambly fruits of the wood, black-olive paste, dark chocolate and saddle leather that glide into an enduring finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Korta Katarina 2018 Zinfandel (Dalmatian Coast). This black-cherry-colored wine has a bouquet of raspberry, red apple peel and menthol. It is bright at first sip, offering flavors of cranberry, cherry preserves, dried hillside herbs and a hint of tar. Luxurious tannins and bold acidity head hand in hand into a minty finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Dubrovački podrumi 2016 Zinfandel (Dalmatia). This deep ruby-colored wine offers aromas of black plum and cassis with a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs. A web of polished tannins supports flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, cocoa powder, coffee bean and a touch of green bell pepper. The bright finish is marked with a note of ripe summer cherry. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

ALSACE WHITE WINES

RIESLING

93 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Tart apricot and barely there petrol aromas introduce this as a Riesling for people who love Riesling. Restrained and silky, the wine carries currents of grapefruit zest and wet slate into a long, savory finish. For lovers of Alsace Riesling (which should be everyone), this is a classic and deliciously approachable pour. Quintessential Wines. —L.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25