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The 17 Best Wines of the Year, From Chalk Hill's Chardonnay to Domaine Faiveley's Red Burgundy

The greatest bottles we tried from around the world.

By MIKE DESIMONE AND JEFF JENSSEN

Robb Report
BEST OF THE BEST
WINNER
2025
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As we blind-taste samples, visit wineries around the world, and enjoy new bottlings and older vintages with winemakers throughout the year, we are constantly on the lookout for those that may rank among Best of the Best. Although many are drinking perfectly now, library vintages are immediately removed from the equation because to make this highly coveted list, bottles must have been released within the previous year. While taste and quality alone are enough to catch our eyes—and palates—we also look at rarity and exclusivity as well as the vintage conditions and the hand of the winemaker that went into creating a pour that is without peer in its category.

One thing we don't look at is price tags, as exclusivity to us has more to do with finding the balance between scarcity and accessibility rather than just cost alone. That's why among bottles that fetch multiple hundreds of dollars you will find six that can be yours for less than $150. We also cast a net that goes far beyond the iconic labels that can only be procured by the most well-connected and seek out wines that our readers can get hold of with a little determination. And in addition to legacy regions like Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Napa, we highlight bottles from the Southern Hemisphere and elsewhere in the world that may not be in every collector's cellar but should be on their radar. Here are the 17 wines that we chose as *Robb Report's* Best of the Best for 2025.

White Burgundy and Wine of the Year: Domaine Parent Corton 2022 Grand Cru Blanc

Photo : Scott Semler

Representing the 12th generation of their family, winemaker Anne Parent and her sister Catherine Fages-Parent are the first women at the helm of Domaine Parent. After picking the grapes from a privileged site on the Corton hill, the duo fermented the juice with indigenous yeast and barrel aged it on the lees for 16 months. Aromas of Bartlett pear, nectarine, and toasted almond open for flavors of Granny Smith apple, lemon zest, and a touch of oyster shell. Despite the hot summer of 2022, this wine's lively acidity is the first thing that you'll notice—and the last impression this truly stunning wine will leave on the palate. *$399*

Dress, **Max Mara**; all jewelry, **Pamela Zamore**.

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Rosé: Château d'Esclans 2022 Garrus Rosé

Photo : Scott Semler

If you closed your eyes before sipping, you might think you were drinking an elegant white Chardonnay from Burgundy, but this amazing Provencal rosé wine is made using deep-garnet Grenache grapes grown on 100-year-old vines. Fermented in 600- liter temperature-controlled oak barrels, it undergoes twice weekly *bâtonnage*—in which settled lees are stirred back into the wine—for 11 months, which imparts structure and creaminess. Reminiscent of a Saint-Tropez sunset, it is pale pink in the glass and has aromas of vanilla, strawberry, and red raspberry. A backbone of minerality supports flavors of red plum, white citrus blossoms, and honeydew. *$125*

Dress, **Max Mara**; bracelet, **Emily P. Wheeler**; rings, **Pamela Zamore**.

Aromatic Wine: Trimbach 2018 Clos Ste. Hune Riesling

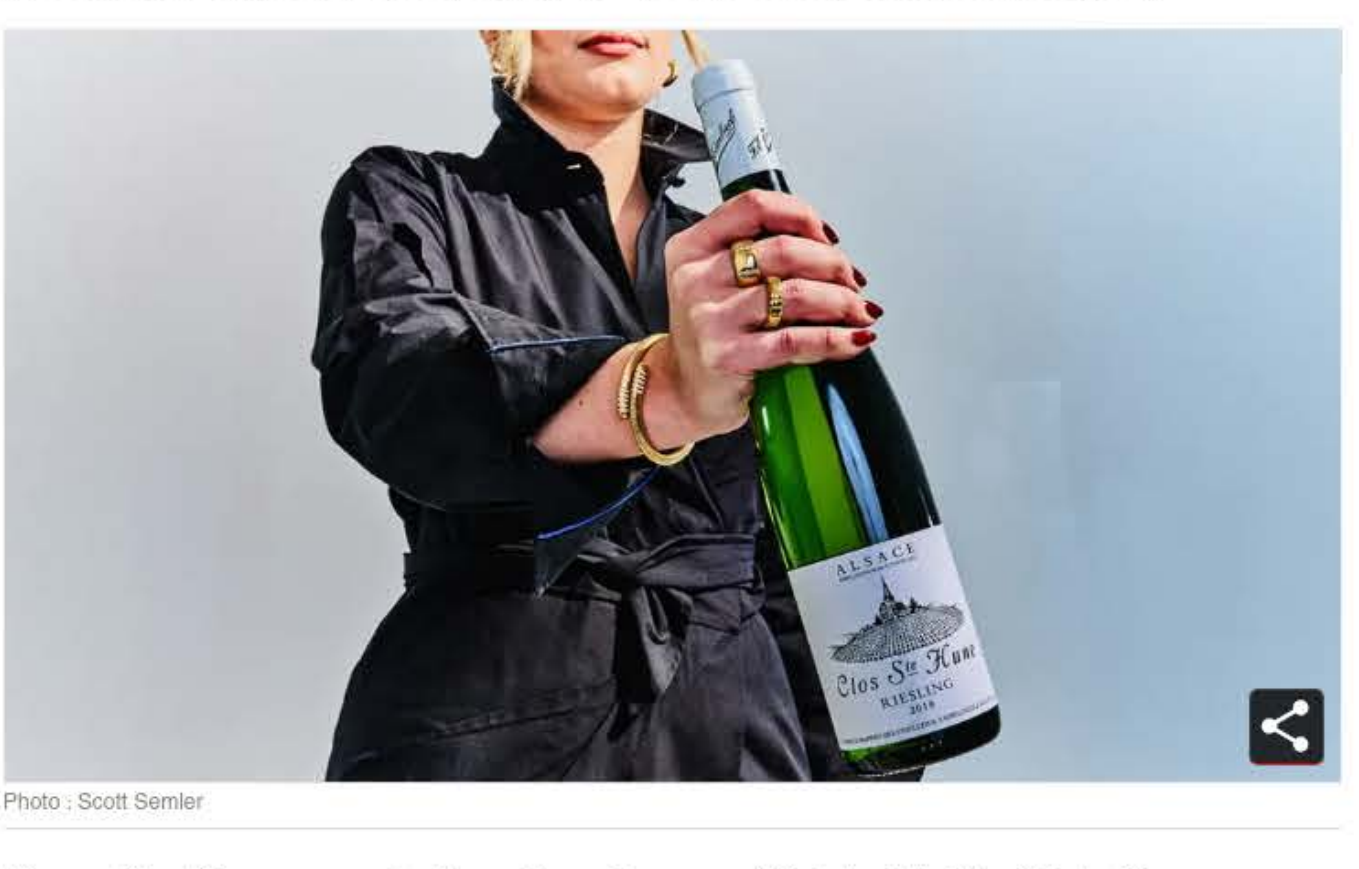
Photo : Scott Semler

The 2018 bottling represents the 99th anniversary of Trimbach's Clos Sainte Hune Riesling's first release. Located in the unique terroir of Rosacker Grand Cru in Hunawihr, the *monopole* vineyard has been owned by one family for over 200 years and is a little larger than four acres in size. Its limestone soils are studded with broken- down seashell remnants, which impart a unique minerality to this stunning wine. It has aromas of verbena, Bartlett pear, and mango, with balanced acidity and flavors of freshly sliced apricot, yellow peach, and yellow plum. *$499*

Dress, **Max Mara**; bracelet, **Emily P. Wheeler**; rings, **Pamela Zamore**.

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Dessert Wine: Kopke 2022 Quinta São Luiz Vintage Port

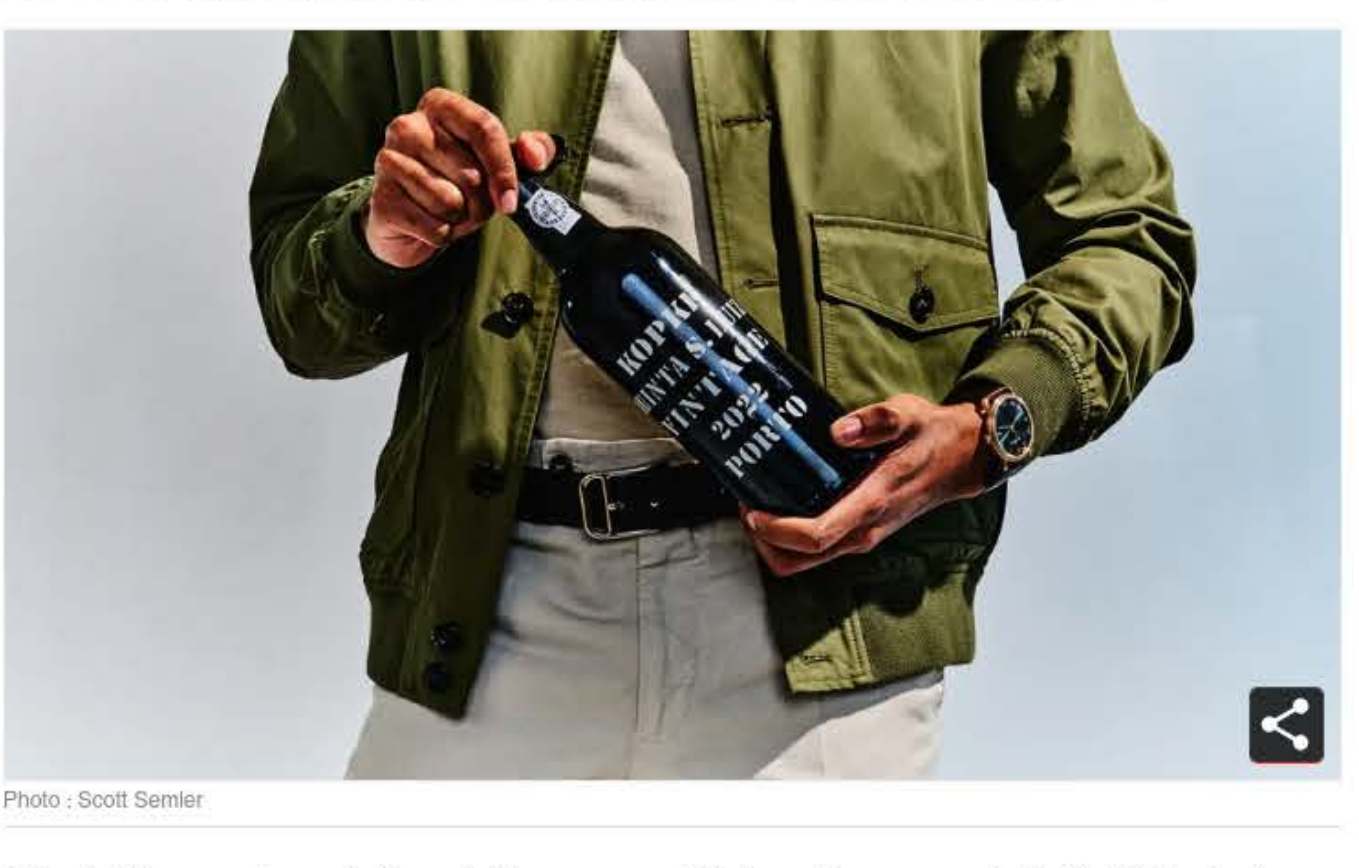
Photo : Scott Semler

This delicious port, made from fruit grown on old vines, is composed of a field blend of 35 different varieties of grapes, with Touriga Nacional accounting for 30 percent of the finished wine. It is deep red-purple in color with aromas of red plum, black pepper, and blackberry pie. Silky-smooth with just the right levels of sweetness and acidity, it offers flavors of raspberry jam, vanilla, and red currant on the palate. Enjoy this perfectly balanced sweet wine with strong cheeses—like Stilton—or with fruit-based desserts. *$87*

Clothing, **Slowear**; watch, **Blancpain**.

Rosé Champagne: Nicolas Feuillatte 2008 Palmes d'Or Rosé Intense

Photo : Scott Semler

From the house that produces the No. 1 Champagne in France comes a limited- edition rosé made with 100 percent Pinot Noir from two cru vineyards. According to chief winemaker Guillaume Roffiaen, Palmes d'Or Rosé Intense "is only made when the vintage is remarkable and promises a high aging potential." The coldest year of its decade, 2008 provided freshness and vitality that are evident in its vivid aromas of peach and pomegranate. Pale apricot in the glass with a persistent column of fine bubbles, this elegant sparkler offers flavors of lemon, red plum, and lavender with a delicate structure and brilliant acidity. *$230*

Scarf blouse, **Another Tomorrow**; trousers, model's own; Scarf ring, **Pamela Zamore**; diamond ring, **Wempe**.

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White Champagne: Dom Pérignon 2015

Photo : Scott Semler

The singular house to produce only vintage Champagne, Dom Pérignon has bottled its 46th declared vintage since its inaugural release in 1936. Cellar master Vincent Chaperon attributes the 2015's "bright, focused character and the signature texture" to a season of extreme weather, including a prolonged summer drought. With aromas of peach, brioche, and espresso bean, this luscious dram washes over the mouth with flavors of apricot, vanilla, lemon zest, and rose petal. Well structured and offering gorgeous acidity, this blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay energizes the palate with a sense of precision and focus. *$295*

Scarf blouse, **Another Tomorrow**; trousers, model's own; Scarf ring, **Pamela Zamore**; diamond ring, **Wempe**.

American Pinot Noir: Arista 2021 Ulises Valdez Lucky Well Vineyard

Photo : Scott Semler

"The U. V. Lucky Well Vineyard, and frankly the entire lineup of Pinot Noirs from 2021, are without a doubt the most deeply and vibrantly colored wines we have produced," says Arista's winemaker, Matt Courtney. That intensity carries through to the aroma and palate thanks to a season noted for ideal growing conditions and Courtney's incorporation of whole- cluster fermentation into the winemaking regimen. Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of pomegranate, vanilla bean, and black tea. Flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, milk chocolate, and juniper berry are wrapped in a sheath of polished tannins and brilliant acidity. *$104*

Watch, **Parmigiani**.

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American Cabernet Sauvignon: Sullivan Rutherford Estate 2021 J. O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Photo : Scott Semler

Drought-like conditions in 2021 created a vintage marked by 30 percent less fruit and petite, intensely flavored grapes that were vinified to make this exceptionally concentrated wine. A blend of 89 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 11 percent Petit Verdot, it was aged for 22 months in 85 percent new French oak. Densely colored in the glass, it smells like black raspberry and brown baking spices and has a silky tannic backbone that supports flavors of elderberry, black plum, cassis, and powdered dark cocoa. Only 500 cases were produced. *$350*

Watch, **Parmigiani**.

American White White: Chalk Hill 2021 Founder's Block Chardonnay

Photo : Scott Semler

Situated in the Russian River Valley's Chalk Hill region, this 1,500-acre estate of the same name is planted with a one-of-a-kind proprietary Chardonnay clone developed in partnership with U.C. Davis's esteemed viticulture and enology department. Courtney Foley, executive vice president and owner of Foley Family Wines & Spirits, says this was the favorite wine of her father, Bill, who founded the company. Winemaker Darrell Holbrook fermented the juice with native yeast and matured it in 92 percent new French oak for 15 months. With flavors of Gala apple, Bartlett pear, and nutmeg, it is full textured and bursting with acidity. *$125*

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Bordeaux: Château Angelus 2022 Le Majestueux Saint Émilion

Photo : Scott Semler

Made with 60 percent Merlot and 40 percent Cabernet Franc, the 2022 edition of Angelus is called Le Majestueux (the Majestic) thanks to the unprecedented resistance the vines showed during the season's severe drought. Château Angelus C.E.O. and owner Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal points to the years of work her team has done in the vineyard to "reliably produce magnificent, ripe berries," resulting in a wine with a "a remarkable sense of freshness, energy, and tension." Its black-fruit and violet aromas, flavors of purple plum, cassis, and candied violet, and gorgeous polished tannins make for a beautiful pour. *$530*

Watch, **Blancpain**.

Red Burgundy: Domaine Faiveley 2020 Corton Clos des Cortons Faiveley Grand Cru Monopole

Photo : Scott Semler

One of only two grand cru *monopoles* in Burgundy that also bear the name of their owner—and the only grand cru site for red wines in the Côte de Beaune—Domaine Faiveley is a special locale. Its seventh-generation proprietor, Erwan Faiveley, praises this vintage for its "astonishing ripeness." A bouquet of black cherry, clove, rose petal, and river rock gives way to raspberry, dried-cranberry, and nutmeg flavors with hints of white chocolate and orange zest. Velvety tannins and well-integrated acidity mean you can drink it now or hold it for the next 20 years. *$492*

Watch, **Blancpain**.

New Zealand: Villa Maria 2019 Ngakirikiri Gimblett Gravels Cabernet Sauvignon Hawkes Bay

Photo : Villa Maria

Ngakirikiri is produced only in exceptional vintages—the 2019 represents just the fourth bottling since the inaugural 2013 release. The apex of Villa Maria's offerings, this New Zealand Cab offers aromas of mocha, pencil lead, and black currant with silky-soft tannins and flavors of plum, cigar box, and black raspberry. *$100*

Chile: Viñedo Chadwick 2021 D.O. Puente Alto

Photo : Viñedo Chadwick

The 2014 bottling was the first Chilean wine to receive a 100-point score from a major publication. The 2021 vintage recently garnered multiple perfect scores. Technical director Emily Faulconer attributes this to the wine's "perfect balance between texture and tension." We found voluptuous mouthfeel and precise acidity with aromas and flavors of black currant, red plum, and crushed violet petals. *$380*

Italy: Renato Ratti 2020 Rocche dell'Annunziata Barolo Piedmont

Photo : Renato Ratti

Proprietor and winemaker Pietro Ratti explains that the cliffside Rocche dell'Annunziata vineyard "represents the quintessential elegance of Barolo." Only 3,600 bottles and 200 magnums were made of this garnet-colored wine, which has aromas of crushed violets, rose petals, and red raspberry and flavors of black and red fruits wrapped in silky tannins. *$190*