

Wine Spectator

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100 TOP
VALUES

THE TOP 100

PLUS:
WINE OF THE
YEAR

THE CLASSICS
425 Wines Rated 95+

AMERICAN SPARKLERS

STE. MICHELLE
50 Years Leading Washington Wine

THE TOP

100

OUR ANNUAL ROUNDUP OF THE YEAR'S MOST EXCITING WINES

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Wines of 2017

The rejuvenation of a winery founded four decades ago (No. 1). A new estate created in an area where no vineyards existed (No. 41). A French red that leans toward Italy (No. 72). These are just a few examples on the impressive list of wines whittled down from the thousands of bottles tasted by *Wine Spectator* editors in 2017.

Of the nearly 17,000 wines under review this year, more than 5,600 rated 90 points or higher on *Wine Spectator's* 100-point scale. From that starting point, we looked for wines that excelled in four criteria: quality (based on score), value (based on price), availability (based on cases either made or imported into the U.S.) and, most importantly, a compelling story behind the wine, something we call X-factor.

The result is our Top 100 of 2017, a group that includes time-tested vintners, new labels, up-and-coming regions and a diverse range of grape varieties—a microcosm of the wine world today. On this year's list, the average score is 93 points and the average price is \$43.

This year's Top 100 features a strong showing of wines from the United States: nearly 25 percent are from California, augmented by selections from New York, Oregon and Washington. Overall, domestic wines account for one-third of our class of 2017, including the Wine of the Year.

For the third year in a row, the No. 1 wine is from California. It's the Duckhorn Merlot Napa Valley Three Palms Vineyard 2014, representing a comeback story starring a grape much maligned over the

past decade. An in-depth profile of the wine and the people behind it begins on page 52.

Most of the list comes from three countries: the U.S., France and Italy. Cabernet led the way in California. New projects, including former sommelier Larry Stone's *Lingua Franca* and Louis Jadot's *Résurgence*, generated excitement in Oregon. The 2015 vintage in France resulted in a strong presence from the Rhône Valley, Loire Valley and Burgundy. The Italian contingent hails primarily from Tuscany, supplemented by wines from eight other regions.

There are geographical newcomers, too. We were impressed by the Italy-influenced Sangiovese-based *Domaine Petroni Corse 2015*, from Corsica, and the *Tannat Uruguay Reserva 2015* from Bodega Garzón. On the other hand, many high-scoring wines failed to make the list because of limited quantities and high prices, a reflection of ongoing trends in the greater wine world. We hope you will look at our Top 100 not as a shopping list, but rather a guide to wineries to watch in the coming months and years.

For complete on-release tasting notes of the Top 100 wines, see the Buying Guide. Senior editors MaryAnn Worobiec, Alison Napjus and Tim Fish, plus our colleagues Augustus Weed, Gillian Sciarretta, Aaron Romano, Aleksandar Zecevic, Cassia Schifter, Mitch Frank, Ben O'Donnell, Emma Balter and Samantha Falewée all contributed profiles to this story. We hope you enjoy this exciting list of top wines, terrific values and new discoveries that make up *Wine Spectator's* 2017 Top 100.



DI MEO

Greco di Tufo G 2016

90 | \$27 | Italy

Greco is a grape that thrives in Italy's Campania, in the southwest of the country, and arguably shows its finest expression in the white wines of the Greco di Tufo DOCG. There, Di Meo owns the vineyard that produces this G bottling, a 100 percent Greco. The site rises to nearly 1,600 feet in elevation, and in 2016, it was subject to an erratic spring of rain and frost, though the rest of the season proceeded smoothly, allowing full development of Greco's signature floral aromas and tropical fruit flavors. Three months in stainless steel and three more in bottle finished this wine. 5,500 cases made.

Special Report

2017 Top 100

The reviews that follow are the on-release tasting notes for the wines of the 2017 Top 100. Ranking is indicated by the number in the red box to the left of each note. Prices given are release prices. The date in parenthesis indicates the issue in which the wine was first reviewed. An overview of this year's Top 100 and profiles of each of the selected wines begins on page 50.

94 90 di Meo Greco di Tufo G 2016 \$27
Tarragon and thyme notes lace flavors of green melon and lime granita in this juicy, light- to medium-bodied white. Fresh, balanced and minerally, with a spiced finish. Drink now through 2020. 5,500 cases made.—A.N. (11/30/17)