



2017 Platinum Notes & Reviews

Producer: **RVPN012 J. Lohr**
Appellation: **Santa Lucia Highlands**
Broader region: **California**
Vineyard: **Highlands Bench**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **Pinot Noir**
Proprietary: **X**
Vintage: **2013**
Price: **35**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94**
Color: **Red**

Review: J. Lohr fires the opening salvo at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition with the first Platinum Award of the day. It a rich, bold style Pinot Noir that features black cherry, bright acidity, a touch of citrus zest and some damp earth, with some sweet oak forward in the persistent finish. Steve Peck seems to do no wrong at J. Lohr.

Producer: **RVPN019 Pacific Heights**
Appellation: **Sonoma Coast**
Broader region: **California**
Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **Pinot Noir**
Proprietary: **X**
Vintage: **2015**
Price: **25**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94**
Color: **Red**

Review: A beautifully red fruit focused Pinot Noir that leans into the lighter style, where nuanced aromas can be perceived without too much oak spice casting a shadow over the other elements. Bright cherry, strawberry, powder and cardamom aromas and flavors ride lively acidity through a fully integrated finish. An extremely fish friendly wine! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVPN041 John Ross**

Appellation: **Monterey County**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **La Belle Rose Vineyard**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Pinot Noir**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2013**

Price: **28**

Importer: **X**

Score: **95**

Color: **Red**

Review: Wow! Here's a beauty from Monterey County that shows bright fresh turned field aromas layered over bold black cherry and fall spice, with mouth-watering acidity translating the nose directly into flavors and carrying it all through a seamlessly integrated finish. Gorgeous Pinot Noir at a more than fair price! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **Gallo Signature Series**

Appellation: **Santa Lucia Highlands**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Pinot Noir**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **35**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: This wine shows some real aging potential, with a nose of fresh

raspberry and spice that is just beginning to develop. Racy acidity and a fine balance of oak, fruit, acid and alcohol promise to make this an elegant cellar treasure. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVCRG001 Carol Shelton**

Appellation: **Alexander Valley**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **Oat Valley Vineyard**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Carignane**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **28**

Importer: **X**

Score: **95**

Color: **Red**

Review: Carol Shelton is one of the few winemakers with a solid commitment to Carignane, and she really treats it with the same love and care she gives all her wines. This vintage shows here favored style, with bright red plum, raspberry and spice, with notes of leaf and faint dust adding layers of interest. Supple grip keeps it all together through the lingering, blooming finish. Class up your grilling with a bottle of this! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVIT001 Sunland Vintage Winery**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Nero D'Avila**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **36**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: The black devil shows its face in California, and he's in a good mood, with candied raspberry balanced by bright vanilla and fall spice.

Bright acidity and soft tannins keep things together, and the finish brings a sweet oak note forward. It's ready for medium to strong cheeses or a seared sirloin. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVIT003 Nello Olivo**

Appellation: **El Dorado County**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Sagrantino**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **63**

Importer: **X**

Score: **95**

Color: **Red**

Review: Nello Olivo is definitely on to something with their Sagrantino program - this is the third vintage I've tasted, and they've all shown proper Umbrian heritage with a lively Sierra Foothills streak. It packs the expected tannic wallop, but bright blackberry and raspberry fruit shine right through, and though it's exceptionally firm, it's ready to drink now with fatty cuts of meat, or you can age it for fifteen years or more to reveal some more layers. Salut ! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVIT004 Santa Barbara Winery**

Appellation: **Santa Ynez Valley**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **Joughin Vineyard**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Lagrein**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2013**

Price: **32**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: Santa Ynez, located west of Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County,

is becoming a happy home for Italian varieties. This Lagrein bottling has been showing promise for a few vintages now, and the '13 is coming into its own, with a balance of blackberry and savory aromas and flavors that are well knit together and linger through a finish with enough grip to sustain both characteristics. Go for something gamey as a pairing. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVML008 Trinity Oaks**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Merlot**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **9**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/90**

Color: **Red**

Review: You won't find too many easy to locate, easy to drink red wines at a price like this that show some depth and finesse like this under ten dollar gem. There's a fine balance between black cherry fruit and green pepper that proudly say "I'm Merlot" and don't succumb to what has become knw as the cabernization of the variety. You'll be seeing this by the glass on restaurant lists... A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **BRSV001 El Miracle**

Appellation: **Vinos Alicante DO**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **Spain**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **35**

Importer: **Vicente Gandia**

Score: **95**

Color: **Red**

Review: An interesting blend of Monastrell, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Merlot and Tempranillo that delivers aromas of raspberry, kirsch and peppered red meat that translate well on the palate, with supple grip and a complex finish. I'm not familiar with the region, but you can bet I'll be looking into it after this tasty glass. Perfect for your favorite lamb preparations. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **BRBV006 Sodaro Estate Winery & Vineyards**

Appellation: **Coombsville, Napa Valley**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Estate Blend**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2012**

Price: **100**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: This winery is making some noise of late at competitions, having recently taken the best of show honors at the Toast of the Coast with the 2007 version of this wine. The '12 shows great promise, with classic blackberry, cassis, graphite and subtle spice just starting to come together. They certainly will. This is a winery to watch! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVCS018 Trinity Oaks**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Cabernet Sauvignon**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **9**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: Hooray for inexpensive, high quality, varietally correct wine! This

producer put two such wines in the top tier at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition, with this Cabernet hitting all my markers for the variety in a fresh, ready to drink style that will delight wine fans of all types. Available everywhere, and at a discount from it's already modest retail price. Well done!

Producer: **RVCS040 V. Sattui**

Appellation: **Napa Valley**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **Preston Vineyard**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Cabernet Sauvignon**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **75**

Importer: **X**

Score: **96**

Color: **Red**

Review: Ho-hum, another spectacular Cabernet Sauvignon from V. Sattui... Of course, I jest - there's nothing ho-hum about this wine. Classic Napa characteristics of blackberry, cassis, mild dried herbs and fall spice are perfectly interwoven from start to finish, with a blossoming acidic kick bringing you back to the glass again and again. Brooks Painter and his crew just keep turning out great wine. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **BRBOR007 Bordeaux Secrets**

Appellation: **Bordeaux AOC**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **France**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **30**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: A rigidly structured wine that represents great value from the region,

and will do very well in the cellar. Tannins are dominant at present, but all the other expected elements are starting to peek through. At this price, you can get a case and try it over the next 6 years to enjoy its development. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **Villa Bellezza**

Appellation: **Upper Mississippi River Valley**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Marquette**

Proprietary: **Reserve**

Vintage: **2013**

Price: **32**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: An unusual wine from the largest AVA in the USA scores big with a fleshy, smoky red that is dry, peppery and showing red and black fruit, with a nice meaty note that makes you think you're in the Languedoc. Villa Bellezza is quietly making a case for the style in particular and the region in general. I say keep it up! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVZN015 Jigar Wines**

Appellation: **Dry Creek Valley**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **Adams Vineyard**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Zinfandel**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **28**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: Zinfandel has the potential to exhibit scents that mislead you in a pleasant way. This bottling hits you with a sweet, brambly nose with pie

spice accompanying, leading you to expect something sweet and maybe even jammy on the palate, but it turns the tables on you, coming off dry and peppery, with a long finish that brings the berry fruit out. This is food friendly Zin - try a slab of grilled venison. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVZN040 Darkhorse**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **USA**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **10**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/91**

Color: **Red**

Review: Here's a fairly new label in the E&J Gallo stable that's out of the gate smartly with this Zinfandel that pleases with sweet red fruit, pepper and fall spice. It finishes dry and clean, with the fruit and pepper mingling together in style. Burgers, medium strong cheese - place your bets! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVPS007 Carol Shelton Wines**

Appellation: **Dry Creek Valley**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **Florence Vineyard**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Petite Sirah**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2013**

Price: **30**

Importer: **X**

Score: **95**

Color: **Red**

Review: One of my favorite winemakers shows her talents yet again, shining through a blind flight of Petite Sirah and standing out amongst her peers.

Black and blue berries, pepper and mild menthol all walk the tightrope of structure found only in the best examples. This will work well now with a long decant, or it will cellar for the long haul. Way to go Carol! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **RVPS014 New Clairvaux Vineyard**

Appellation: **Tehama County**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **Poor Soul's Block**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Petite Sirah**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **21**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: Another county heard from at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition. This approachable Petite Sirah is softer on the tannins than most examples of this age, with bright red and blue fruit, pepper and faint dried herbs rounding things out. The finish emphasizes the red fruit, with pepper remaining properly present. A fine pairing for a ripe gorgonzola, and a Platinum award winner.

Producer: **BROTMD004 Newman's Own**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **Common Good Red Blend**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **12**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Red**

Review: Trincherro Family Wines continues to put out high quality juice at prices anyone can afford, a feat that's always worthy of praise. This bottling shows rich blackberry and black cherry fruit joined by leaf and fall spice, and

manages some savory flavors to boot. That's a lot to ask for at this price point, but not for the folks at Trinchero. Well done! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

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Producer: **SWBR001 Gloria Ferrer**

Appellation: **Sonoma County**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **Sonoma Brut**

Vintage: **NV**

Price: **22**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Sparkling**

Review: It's a California Classic, and one of the most identifiable non-vintage sparklers on the market. A bright apple and bread dough nose leads to a crisp palate that's bright and zesty, with a mild scour and a persistent finish that keeps you coming back for more. Celebrate! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **SWBV001 Gloria Ferrer**

Appellation: **Carneros**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **Royal Cuvee**

Vintage: **2007**

Price: **37**

Importer: **X**

Score: **96**

Color: **Sparkling**

Review: A favorite bottle of mine, and my suspicions about its merits are confirmed by a blind tasting panel that sent this wine forward as worthy of top award consideration. Golden apple, quince, brioche and a touch of

spice make for a deeply complex wine that has improved markedly since its initial release. It's long on the finish with a great scour that leaves you clean but bursting with all the initial flavors. I often prefer this bottling to the house flagship - but I'm always willing to put them side by side. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **ROSED011 Chronic Cellars**

Appellation: **Paso Robles**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **Pink Pedals Rosé**

Vintage: **2016**

Price: **16**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Pink**

Review: This is about as close as you can get to a Provence style rosé in a domestic, and if you're a fan, you'd be wise to seek this out. Wrapped in the fun packaging you'll find crisp watermelon and citrus, with light white pepper completing the aroma and flavor mix. It's got the acidity to hang with fried chicken, so dig out grandad's recipe and give it a go. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVAL001 Oak Farm**

Appellation: **Lodi**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Albariño**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2016**

Price: **24**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **White**

Review: Oak Farm continues to make a case for this usually coastal variety in its far from the coast location. It's a great argument for what can be

accomplished when micro climates are carefully selected. This is spot on Albariño, with lemon, lime, peach, wet stone and mild spice beautifully intermixed from start to finish. You can't argue with the quality here, especially when it's been consistent for four years running. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVRD008 Suben**

Appellation: **Mosel**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **Germany**

Grape: **Riesling**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **25**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **White**

Review: Ahhhh... Riesling. When done well, it's the most sublime and interesting wine there is. This is one of those wines, and it's one you have a chance of finding in the domestic marketplace. The mix of citric flavors and the acidity that you expect to accompany them shines in this glass, with appropriate notes of spice and stone joining in. A sweeter side aperitif that will work with mild cheeses. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVSB003 J. Lohr**

Appellation: **Arroyo Seco**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Sauvignon Blanc**

Proprietary: **Flume Crossing**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **14**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/90**

Color: **White**

Review: J. Lohr's continued experimentation with acacia wood really shows

well in this value priced bottle. It serves to round off the intense fruit and lively acidity, fleshing out the texture just right and not masking any of the brightness of its fruit, herb and bell pepper character. I make a mixed pepper salad with olives, cucumbers, bacon and fresh grated Parmigiano-Reggiano for which this seems tailor-made. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **BWSV001 El Macho**

Appellation: **Utiel-Requena DO**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **Spain**

Grape: **Viura-Chardonnay**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2016**

Price: **25**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/93**

Color: **White**

Review: I'm seeing more and more Spanish whites with this blend on the label, and I'm sure you will be too as wines of this quality make their way into the public consciousness. It's crisp, dry, and refreshing, focused on dry stone fruit flavors with touches of leaf and granite minerality. The finish is zesty and blossoms for a good minute. Very nice! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVPGO020 Liberty Creek**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **X**

Grape: **Pinot Grigio**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **NV**

Price: **7/1.5L**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/90**

Color: **White**

Review: This is going to make a lot of people happy... A crisp, bright, just off

dry Pinot Grigio that hits high in quantity and quality, and at a rock bottom price. Lively lemon, lime and wet stone, and as refreshing as a cool lemonade on a hot summer day, that comes in at roughly fifteen cents per ounce. Sold. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVPGO012 Flipflop**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **X**

Grape: **Pinot Grigio**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **NV**

Price: **7**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/90**

Color: **White**

Review: A nice value in a properly wooly yet fresh Pinot Grigio, with lemon, lanolin and spice flavors that finish with a zesty kiss. Flying off the shelves in a market near you. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVGB001 Halter Ranch**

Appellation: **Adelaida District, Paso Robles**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Grenache Blanc**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **28**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/92**

Color: **White**

Review: A weighty, plush white wine with a touch of oak spice adding interest to the grilled peach and citrus aromas and flavors. The finish keeps everything in play to the end, with mouthwatering acidity driving it into the distance. This would be great with a smoked turkey. A Platinum Award

winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **BWRV002 Carol Shelton**

Appellation: **Paso Robles**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **Coquille Blanc**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **24**

Importer: **X**

Score: **95**

Color: **White**

Review: Another star over multiple vintages for Carol Shelton. The '15 is fully fleshed out a bit earlier than previous vintages, and it's likely in short supply with the lighter harvest that year. Get some right away and be dazzled by the complex array of flavors, from spiced peach to quince paste, that hit my creamy and crisp style button perfectly. She's a rock star! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVVM003 Cala Di Poeti**

Appellation: **Toscana IGT**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **Italy**

Grape: **Vermentino**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **25**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/91**

Color: **White**

Review: This winery is showing well on the competition circuit this year, with multiple top awards. This crisp white makes for a fine aperitif, with subtle citrus flavors and wet granite freshness that finish unobtrusively, yet call you back for another sip. Classic Italian white, and A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVCH049 Rodney Strong**
Appellation: **Chalk Hill, Sonoma County**
Broader region: **California**
Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **Chardonnay**
Proprietary: **Estate Vineyards**
Vintage: **2015**
Price: **22**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94**
Color: **White**

Review: A crowd pleaser of a Chardonnay that rides the line between lean and fat perfectly. You get the plush butter and oak spice, but thanks to bracing acidity, the lemon crème and tropical fruit flavors shine through, with the finish melding all the elements together in lip-smacking fashion. A great price on a quality bottle. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVCH060 Carolyn's Sakkonet Vineyards**
Appellation: **Rhode Island**
Broader region: **X**
Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **Chardonnay**
Proprietary: **Unexpected Miracles**
Vintage: **2014**
Price: **33**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94**
Color: **White**

Review: Those in the know would say that the only thing off about the name of this wine is the "unexpected" part. This winery has been producing top flight wines for a long time, and this Chardonnay doesn't disappoint, with lively pear, lemon, pineapple and spice aromas and flavors, with great acid balance, subtle oak and a long, blossoming finish that goes on and on. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVCH069 Stephen Vincent**

Appellation: **Sonoma County**

Broader region: **California**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Chardonnay**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **18**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/93**

Color: **White**

Review: A Chardonnay that hits way above its price point, showing quite like a nice white Burgundy, with soft oak notes enhancing the lemon and pineapple fruit, lend a subtle nutty character. A great food wine for seafood or poultry, and a classy cocktail as a soloist. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVCH073 Darkhorse**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **Chardonnay**

Proprietary: **X**

Vintage: **2015**

Price: **10**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94/90**

Color: **White**

Review: A faint hint of residual sugar helps brighten the tropical flavors in this budget friendly Chardonnay, making passion fruit and pineapple jump out of the oak spice. I know lots of palates that this will please! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVRMS001 Sutter Home**

Appellation: **California**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **Riesling**
Proprietary: **X**
Vintage: **NV**
Price: **6**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94/90**
Color: **White**

Review: There's a pungent to this Riesling that's very attractive if somewhat unusual. It's sort of a grilled dried apricot (no, I've never done this, but now I'm intrigued) and spice character that speaks through moderate acidity, with a mid length finish that keeps both elements alive. Interesting! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **OTFRT001 Invintions**
Appellation: **American**
Broader region: **X**
Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **X**
Proprietary: **Fun Seekers Strawberry Watermelon**
Vintage: **NV**
Price: **14**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94/90**
Color: **Pink**

Review: The label says strawberry watermelon, and the wine hits the target squarely while delivering wine characteristics like racy acidity, balanced sugar and a blooming finish. If you didn't know it was a fruit wine it would be hard to tell it from a sweet rosé. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **WVICE002 Castel Grisch Estate Winery**
Appellation: **Finger Lakes**
Broader region: **New York**
Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**
Grape: **Riesling Icewine**
Proprietary: **X**
Vintage: **2013**
Price: **40/375ml**
Importer: **X**
Score: **95**
Color: **Dessert**

Review: The best icewines deliver power, grace and complexity all at once, as does this example from a winery that is new to me. Rich apricot, tangerine and lemon zest start out creamy and viscous, then really come alive with a searing acid pop that sends the finish into tomorrow. Layered, deep and delectable! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **DWRLH001 Macchia**
Appellation: **California**
Broader region: **X**
Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**
Grape: **Late Harvest Zinfandel**
Proprietary: **Flirtatious**
Vintage: **2015**
Price: **21**
Importer: **X**
Score: **94**
Color: **Dessert**

Review: A bold sweet Zin that makes an interesting dessert - it manages to maintain some of the pepper character you expect from an early picked version, will delivering a rich sweet berry vibe along with it. It doesn't veer into port-like qualities at all. A great pick for the cheese course, and something completely unique. A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **FWOT001 Amber Falls Winery**
Appellation: **American**
Broader region: **X**
Vineyard: **X**
Country: **USA**

Grape: **Chardone**

Proprietary: **Sweet Dreams (fortified)**

Vintage: **2014**

Price: **21/375ml**

Importer: **X**

Score: **95**

Color: **Dessert**

Review: Wow - get some of this to drink and some to tuck away - it's got a long life ahead and promises to deepen and gain genuine elegance. It's bright and sweet, with carefully selected barrels bringing a toasted nut character that counters the peach driven fruit profile perfectly. E just tasted an Angelice from the early 1970's that was beautiful - and this wine is poised to follow suit. Awesome! A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.

Producer: **DSGB004 Gallo Distillery**

Appellation: **X**

Broader region: **X**

Vineyard: **X**

Country: **USA**

Grape: **X**

Proprietary: **V.S.O.P Brandy**

Vintage: **X**

Price: **13**

Importer: **X**

Score: **94**

Color: **Fortified**

Review: You won't find a more complex brandy at this price anywhere, and fortunately you can find this one at the corner drug store. A deep, nutty vanilla and butter nose draws you in, and it shows on the palate with balanced heat, warming you without burning. A ridiculously good value, and A Platinum Award winner at the 2017 Monterey International Wine Competition.