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# Wines in the News!

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## WASHINGTON POST

(Dave McIntyre)

### Domaine Naturaliste Rebus Cabernet Sauvignon

2015

EXCEPTIONAL

Wilyabrup, Margaret River, Australia, \$30

Winemaker Bruce Dukes has crafted an elegant, plush New World-style cabernet that explodes with ripe flavors of blackberries, currants and blueberries. Even with its fruit-forward flavors, it maintains an Old World sensibility — the oak is beautifully integrated to give structure and tannin to the wine, the alcohol is in check, and there's a mineral undertone that suggests a fine bordeaux. Pair this with the next large hunk of beef you grill for a summer party. ABV: 14 percent. (6/14/19)

### Gone Rogue Mish Mash White

2018

EXCEPTIONAL

Great Southern, Australia, \$23

This delicious riot of a wine — designed to appeal to iconoclasts of all ages — is a blend of riesling and pinot grigio, with a dash of viognier tossed in for good measure (and, well, aromas and body). That recipe corresponds to none of the paradigms of the wine world, but it succeeds with a frenzy of flavor, balance and fun. Both the name and label encourage us to “go rogue” and defy limitations. ABV: 13 percent. (6/14/19)

### Matakana Estate Sauvignon Blanc

2018

Marlborough, New Zealand, \$18

EXCELLENT

New Zealand made its mark with in-your-face sauvies featuring assertive grassy, peppery flavors. The latest example from Matakana Estate is restrained and ripe, with zesty citrus and just a hint of jalapeño flavors. It's fine by itself,

but better with food such as grilled fish. ABV: 12.5 percent. (5/24/19)

### Domaine du Mont Épin Mâcon-Péronne

2016

EXCEPTIONAL

Burgundy, France \$20

Chardonnay shines in the Maconnais, and Domaine du Mont Épin doesn't disappoint with this racy white that combines fruit, flowers and minerals in its flavor profile. ABV: 13 percent. (1/6/19)

### Solluna

2015

EXCEPTIONAL

Priorat, Spain \$25

Priorat is known for heady, high-alcohol reds from garnacha (grenache), grown on slate soils called “llicorella” in hills near the Mediterranean coast in northeastern Spain. This intriguing example offers attractive perfume of roasted fruits and wild herbs, and a sense of adventure. ABV: 14.5 percent. (1/12/19)

### Belle Jardin Blanc de Blanc Brut

GREAT VALUE

France \$14

Here's a basic sparkling wine from France that tastes more sophisticated than it costs. It's a great mood-setter, a spark to turn a mundane day into a celebration, or even a nice base for a sparkling wine cocktail. Anyone planning a wedding this year should consider stocking up on this for the reception. ABV: 11.5 percent. (2/2/19)

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## THE WINE SPECTATOR

### Domaine Naturaliste Chardonnay, 2016

92 Points

Margaret River, Australia

Succulent, with peach and apricot flavors that give way to a juicy core of dried mango and Meyer lemon notes. The details dance around effortlessly, with fennel, cumin and white pepper accents lingering on the silky finish.

### Domaine Du Grapillon D'or

#### Gigondas

2015

93 Points

Southern Rhône, France \$32

Issue Web Only - 2018

Ripe, rounded and inviting in feel, delivering blueberry, blackberry and raspberry reduction flavors rolling through in waves, kept bright with fresh, well-embedded acidity and a lilting violet note. A flash of roasted apple wood shows on the finish. Best from 2020 through 2035. 4,900 cases made.

## WINEREVIEWONLINE.COM (Michael Franz)

### Louis Massing, Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru NV - 93

Champagne, France \$55

My recent tasting of the three Louis Massing Champagnes was my first encounter with them, and our love affair is off to a flying start. All three are quite good, but this Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs release is definitely the pick of the litter to my palate. I can't say whether the fruit was sourced entirely from the famous Chardonnay-producing village of Avize, but that's where the producer is located. In any case, the core material was certainly very good, as was the winemaking, as this shows wonderful purity as well as fine concentration, complexity, depth and length. In sum, it displays the

freshness and elegance expected of a Blanc de Blancs Champagne while also delivering the complexity and flavor impact appropriate for a Grand Cru wine. I also love the fact that this \$55 bottle tastes like a \$75 Champagne. (12/11/18)

### Louis Massing, Brut Rosé Premier Cru NV - 92 Champagne, France \$55

This is a very good Rosé Champagne, exhibiting the richness and depth of flavor expected by buyers of Rosé, but without veering to the extreme of seeming too obviously fruity or "winey" at the cost of the fluffiness and charm that any Champagne show also deliver. A genuinely dry wine, it is nevertheless not austere at all, and the winemaking team got the dosage just right. Appropriately expressive yeastiness provides complexity without proving distracting, and the finish shows enough acidity to keep this fresh and enable it to work well as an aperitif or a partner for a seated first course. (12/11/18)

### Louis Massing, Brut Grande Réserve NV - 91 Champagne, France, \$45

This non-vintage Brut from Louis Massing is significantly better than many comparable wines from big Champagne houses, so you should seriously consider it when stocking up for holiday celebrations this year. Medium-plus in body, it offers expressive aromas and quite impressive depth of flavor. Nicely fresh but also quite complex (no doubt thanks to a judicious dose of reserve wine from years prior to the base vintage), this is very satisfying while also staying light on its feet. (12/11/18)

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