



77. Barnett

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**MARISCO**Pinot Gris Marlborough  
The Ned 2024**90** | \$17 | NEW ZEALAND

Marisco Vineyards is a family-run winery founded in 2003 by second-generation winemaker Brent Marris. They make a stunning lineup of outstanding wines, but it's the Pinot Gris that has a cult following in New Zealand with its distinctive pale pink color and creamy texture. "We actually do about 12 hours of skin contact with a portion of the fruit," Marris explains, giving the wine that hallmark color and lovely richness. The biggest-selling Pinot Gris in New Zealand at every price, it's finally available in the United States and worth seeking out. 226,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.

75

**GRACI**

Etna Rosato 2024

**91** | \$30 | ITALY

Alberto Aiello Graci was an early addition in the wine scene on Sicily's Mount Etna when he established his winery in 2004. Today he is one of its best-known names, producing a half-dozen labels, including this 100% Nerello Mascalese, a distinctive, mineral-driven rosé. Graci utilizes a slow hydraulic pressing to gently extract color from the dark-skinned variety. Fermentation in concrete tanks keeps the purity of the fruit while eight months aging on the lees amps up complexity and textural finesse. 1,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.

76

**BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA**Malbec Paraje Altamira  
Nicasia Vineyard 2023**95** | \$120 | ARGENTINA

Named for proprietor Laura Catena's great-grandmother, the Nicasia vineyard sits at over 3,500 feet in the foothills of the Andes in the southern part of the Uco Valley, guaranteeing plenty of ripening sunshine. The proprietary *massale selection* vines, now 29 years old, are planted on their own roots in sandy soils laced with alluvial rocks covered in calcium carbonate, providing structure and focus as a contrast to the typically velvety, lush

Malbec. Yields were low in 2023, a particularly muscular vintage. 1,833 cases made, 450 cases imported.

77

**BARNETT**Merlot Spring Mountain  
District 2022**94** | \$80 | CALIFORNIA

Barnett Vineyard is located at the peak of Spring Mountain, at an altitude of about 2,000 feet and above the layer of fog that often blankets Napa Valley below. The vines thrive in the sun during the day, while it turns cool at night, which helps preserve acidity. Fiona and Hal Barnett bought the rugged 40-acre property in 1983, clearing it and planting vineyards in a series of dramatic terraces. The 2022 Merlot is primarily estate fruit, and winemaker David Tate used mostly new French oak barrels for the aging. 867 cases made.

78

**CONTE VISTARINO**Pinot Nero dell'Otrepò  
Pavese Costa del Nero 2022**90** | \$29 | ITALY

Ottavia Giorgi di Vistarino joined her family's 2,000-acre estate (370 under vine) in 2001. She pushed for a

change from its sparkling winemaking tradition dating to the late 1800s, to high quality red wine production. Increased plantings of Pinot Noir clones from Burgundy in the 1990s and U.S. demand for Pinot supported her vision. The Costa del Nero sources grapes from 15 acres of low-yielding vines located on a hillside vineyard at 1,000 feet elevation, with aging for about seven months in 85% stainless steel and 15% oak barrels before blending, followed by bottling six months later. 3,500 cases made, 700 cases imported.

79

**DOMAINE MICHEL MAGNIEN**

Bourgogne Côte d'Or 2022

**92** | \$45 | FRANCE

Frédéric Magnien joined his father in 1993, convincing him to cease selling their grapes to the local cooperative and bottle their wines themselves. The domaine's 45 acres of vines are concentrated in Morey-St.-Denis and include *grands crus* Clos de la Roche, Clos St.-Denis and Charmes-Chambertin from neighboring Gevrey. Since 2015, the farming has been certified biodynamic. This Bourgogne offers fine value from the excellent 2022 vintage. Magnien has decreased



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