

90 TOP CABERNETS + BEST BUYS

# Wine & Spirits

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CHAMPAGNE  
PICKS

BUBBLES  
ACROSS  
AMERICA

HOLIDAY  
FIZZ

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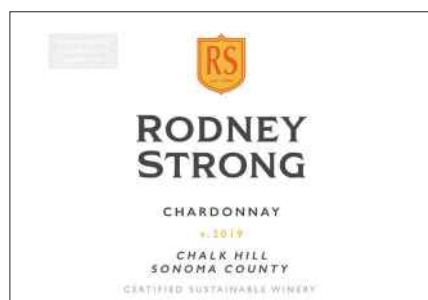


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## Top US Chardonnay



**91 | Rodney Strong** \$22  
**2019 Chalk Hill Sonoma County Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Broad and smoky, this is an unabashedly rich chardonnay, driven by the textural fullness of its alcohol, lasting on notes of mineral salts, along with pineapple and lime. Supple and appealing. —J.G.

**91 | Thirty-Seven** \$28  
**2020 Petaluma Gap Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** The 210-acre Thirty-Seven estate, on the south side of Highway 37 where it meets 121, is influenced by the Pacific via the Petaluma Gap as well as the San Pablo Bay. There's a suppleness to this chardonnay that brings to mind beeswax and honeycomb, and, while the flavors are broad and saturated, the wine holds its edge, finishing clean. —J.G.

**90 | St. Francis** \$30  
**2019 Sonoma Valley Wild Oak Vineyard Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Apple-orchard freshness meets sea wrack in this green-gold chardonnay. Clean and brisk, it has enough substance to stand with seared hamachi. —J.G.

**89 | Foppiano** \$25  
**2020 Russian River Valley Estate Grown Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Ripe and saturated with Bosc pear flavors, this wine shows some warmth in the end, moving from round in the middle to dry and austere on the finish. Pour it with a tarragon-roast chicken. —J.G.

**88 | Bravium** \$22  
**2021 Russian River Valley Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Soft lemon-curd flavors lend this wine a soft, creamy sweetness. A little malty up front, it turns toasty and lean as it finishes with freshness. —J.G.

**88 | Ron Rubin** \$20  
**2019 Russian River Valley Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Supple with custard richness in the middle, this has the scent of caramel apples and thyme. It's simple and clean, in a round, oaky style. —J.G.

**87 | River Road** \$18  
**2021 Sonoma County Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Warm and buttery with simple flavors of green grapes, this is a bright and balanced crowd-pleaser. —J.G.

### NEW YORK

#### FINGER LAKES

**92 | Hosmer** \$18  
**2020 Cayuga Lake Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Fermented mostly in stainless steel with 11 percent in barrel, this stylish chardonnay's nutty lees notes and whiff of oak provide a counterfoil to the tense, lemony Finger Lakes fruit. The region's coolness is apparent in the texture, with a grip of wet stones and white minerals. For seafood. —P.J.C. (400 cases)

**91 | Knapp** \$18  
**2021 Finger Lakes Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Youthful but expressive, this wine leads with lactic notes of kefir and wood smoke. The flavors are bright and assertive, a lemony attack giving way to scents of honeydew and lees. Give this a year to resolve. —P.J.C.

**90 | Anthony Road** \$18  
**2020 Finger Lakes Unoaked Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** This wine leads with contrasting aromas by turns rich and lean, of vanilla, lime and lemon curd. The flavors are broad and pear-like, with a whiff of breadcrumb on the finish. —P.J.C.

**90 | Sheldrake Point** \$18  
**2020 Finger Lakes Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** Scents of pink grapefruit and grapefruit peel lend this wine a lean, sour bite, framing a baked apple sweetness. It finishes clean, tart and citrusy. Give it time to settle. —P.J.C.

### OREGON



**91 | A to Z Wineworks** \$17  
**2021 Oregon Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** A well-made chardonnay from A to Z means a well-blended chardonnay from all points in

Oregon. Statewide sources render this wine unusually complex for the price, showing lemon-lime and white peach flavors alongside melon and honey, all guided by a stony minerality. The wine has nerve and energy. For scallops. —P.J.C.

### WILLAMETTE VALLEY

**95 | The Eyrie** \$27  
**2019 Dundee Hills Estate Chardonnay** For 2019, the estate's fiftieth pick, Jason Lett included more than 80 percent of what his family calls the Draper selection clone, from California mass selections. One of a kind, to be sure, no Oregon chardonnay is like this one, combining a rich fullness of flavor and idiosyncratic savor that feels like it can only happen from these vines and on this Dundee Hills estate. It smells rich, of pineapple and candied ginger, pear and a hint of dried apricot. And yet there is such tension on the palate that you'll forget notions of richness and focus on the wine's inimitable texture, layered and brimming with complex flavors. Fascinating now, it should age beautifully. —P.J.C. (504 cases)

**94 | Bergström** \$110  
**2020 Willamette Valley Sigrid Chardonnay** Josh Bergström's *grande assemblage*, this vintage of Sigrid is blended from Le Pré du Col, Silice, and Bergström vineyards. It possesses a kind of foundational restraint when first poured, as if you see the frame before you see the picture. But that delineating gesture hints to its structure, before the fruit comes to saturate the wine over the course of three days. It's pure, bright, salty and layered, filling out while it keeps its structure and composure. —P.J.C.

**94 | Matzinger Davies** \$38  
**2020 Eola-Amity Hills Pearlstad Vineyard Chardonnay (BEST BUY)** From a mid-appellation vineyard where the chardonnay blocks grow on the silt and sandstone deposits of an old seabed, this wine reflects those soils. It's tense and sapid, with a richness held in check by that salinity, nailing it as Eola Hills chardonnay, from shallow soils and narrow contours. Its baked-apple sweetness stays tethered to that mineral edge, wonderfully mouthwatering, bright and long. It has the build to cellar. —P.J.C.

**94 | Nicolas-Jay** \$75  
**2019 Yamhill-Carlton District Willamette Valley Bishop Creek Vineyard Chardonnay** Jean-Nicolas Méo's skills with chardonnay are on full display here, in a wine with structure and grace in equal measure. Open-