

THE
tasting panel
MAGAZINE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

Shining a
NEW LIGHT

*Ole Smoky
Moonshine*

ADDS FOUR READY-TO-
DRINK COCKTAILS TO ITS
BRIMMING PORTFOLIO



- 93** Hawk & Horse 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Hills AVA, Lake County (\$84)
- 93** Hawk and Horse 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Hills AVA, Lake County
- 94** Hawk and Horse 2016 Block Three Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Hills AVA, Lake County (\$50)
- 94** Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2016 Petite Sirah, Lake County (\$65)
- 95** Hearst Ranch Winery 2017 Proprietor's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$100)
- 96** Helios 2017 Cabernet Franc, Sunbasket Vineyard, St. Helena, Napa Valley (\$100)
- 94** Hestan Vineyards 2015 Stephanie Malbec, Napa Valley (\$55)
- 95** il Poggiolo 2015 Brunello di Montalcino, Italy (\$70) ENOTEC IMPORTS
- 94** J. Bucher 2017 Opa's Block Pinot Noir, Bucher Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$75)
- 93** J. Bucher 2017 Three Sixty Pinot Noir, Bucher Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$65)
- 93** J. Christopher 2017 Lumière Special Selection Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills, Willamette Valley, Oregon (\$52)
- 93** J. Christopher 2017 Volcanique Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills, Willamette Valley, Oregon (\$52)
- 93** J. de Villebois 2017 Pouilly-Fumé Les Marnes Kimmeridgiennes, France (\$53) VINEYARD BRANDS
- 94** J. de Villebois 2017 Sancerre Les Monts Damnés, France (\$66) VINEYARD BRANDS
- 95** J. Lohr 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, Carol's Vineyard, St. Helena, Napa Valley (\$60)
- 94** J. Lohr 2016 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$100)
- 93** J. Lohr 2017 Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$35)
- 93** J. Lohr 2017 Tower Road Petite Sirah, Paso Robles (\$35)
- 93** J. Lohr 2018 Fog's Reach Pinot Noir, Arroyo Seco, Monterey County (\$35)
- 94** J. Lohr 2018 Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$35)
- 93** J. Lohr 2018 October Night Chardonnay, Arroyo Seco, Monterey County (\$25)
- 93** J. Lohr 2018 Pure Paso, Paso Robles (\$27)
- 94** J. Lohr 2019 Flume Crossing Sauvignon Blanc, Arroyo Seco, Monterey County
- 93** J. McClelland Cellars 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$50) SCOTTO CELLARS
- 93** J. McClelland Cellars 2017 Chardonnay, Oak Knoll District, Napa Valley (\$35) SCOTTO CELLARS
- 93** J. Wilkes 2018 Chardonnay, Santa Maria Valley (\$25) MILLER WINE COMPANY
- 94** Jean Fournier 2017 Marsannay, France (\$40) SHIVERICK
- 95** Jean-Claude Dagueneau 2018 Pouilly-Fumé Domaine des Berthiers, France (\$34) VINEYARD BRANDS
- 94** Jeremy Nickel Cellars 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon, Atlas Peak (\$75)
- 95** Jon Nathaniel 2018 Fabulist Blend, Komes Family Vineyard, Napa Valley (\$125)
- 93** Jon Nathaniel 2018 Pinot Noir, Lavender Hill, Napa Valley (\$65)
- 95** Jordan Winery 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County (\$58)
- 93** Joto Sake NV Maboroshi Daiginjo The One With The Clocks, Hiroshima, Japan (\$45) KOBRAND
- 93** Justin 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$58)
- 93** Justin Vineyards & Winery 2016 Isosceles, Paso Robles (\$76)
- 95** Justin Vineyards 2017 Savant, Paso Robles (\$50)
- 93** Kaiken 2017 Obertura Cabernet Franc, Luján de Cuyo, Argentina (\$45) GUARACHI WINE PARTNERS
- 93** Kalaris Family Vineyards 2015 Chardonnay, Oak Knoll, Napa Valley (\$55) AXIOS
- 94** Kalaris Family Vineyards 2016 Cabernet Franc, Napa Valley (\$55)
- 93** Kate Arnold 2017 Daffodil Hill Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills, Oregon (\$45)
- 94** Keeler Estate 2017 Concrete Dolia Pinot Gris, Eola-Amity Hills, Willamette Valley, Oregon (\$24)
- 94** Kishor Vineyards 2016 Misgav Red, Galilee, Israel (\$37) ISRAELI WINE DIRECT, LLC
- 93** Kith & Kin 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$40) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
- 96** Ladera 2015 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain, Napa Valley (\$115)
- 96** Lancaster Estate 2016 Winemaker's Cuvée, Alexander Valley, Sonoma (\$100) FOLEY FAMILY WINES

GREATEST EVOLUTION:

JORDAN WINERY

There are many reasons why the Alexander Valley-based Jordan Winery is the acclaimed producer it is today, but the events of the past year perhaps best reflect its willingness to evolve. In 2019, Rob Davis—the winemaker who produced Jordan's first vintage in 1976 under the guidance of the legendary André Tchelistcheff and every subsequent vintage since—passed the baton to associate winemaker Maggie Kruse. Although Kruse herself is a 14-year veteran of the winery, 2020 was her first vintage at the helm of both the winemaking and winegrowing operations—ushering in a new era for her and Jordan.

Jordan Winery 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County (\$58) The 40th vintage of this wine boasts a nose of crushed violets, sweet earth, and graphite that evokes Margaux, while the well-mannered, silky entry, with supple tannins and a wash of espresso and slate, is cause for joy. Allspice and dark black cherry point back to the Alexander Valley, showing that inner sunshine on a plush mouthfeel. **95** —*M.M.*



PUREST PLEASURE:

FLORA SPRINGS

This small family-owned winery can always be counted on for wines of substance and pleasure. Proprietary blends Trilogy and Soliloquy represent years of farming and winemaking in Napa Valley, showcasing Flora Springs' tradition of fine estate vineyards and winemaking excellence.

Flora Springs 2019 Soliloquy, Napa Valley (\$50) A smooth and aromatic wine crafted from an unusual blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and Malvasia. Rich, dense, and tangy, with creamy elements of juicy fruit and spice; lush and long. **93** —*A.D.B.*

Flora Springs 2017 Trilogy, Napa Valley (\$85) Deep garnet color and a soft vanilla nose; silky smooth, with notes of soft plum, toast, vanilla, new oak, mocha, and chocolate. Elegant and lush, long and balanced. **93** —*A.D.B.*



PHOTO: JOANNA SALAZAR