2026 Harvest Terroir Challenge

Sonoma County, CA November 17, 2026

Best of the Best

Aimee	2024 Aimee Merlot	Napa Valley	Winemaker Select	98	Beautiful and elegant, with dark stone fruit, a full mouthfeel, and nice use of oak; immaculate finish.

Best of Anderson Valley AVA

Pennyroyal Farm	2018 Pennyroyal Farm Blanc de Noir	Anderson Valley	Traditional Method	96	Crisp apple; hints of Anjou pear; confirmed on palate. Very well balanced and well-made wine.
Pennyroyal Farm	2025 Pennyroyal Farm PinoTrio	Anderson Valley	Estate Bottled & Produced	100	Dry and complex; grippy, ginger, pineapple; well integrated.

Best of Argentina AVA

GALLO	2024 Alamos Malbec Seleccion	Mendoza		97	Purity at its best. Deep, dark berry fruit with a meaty edge; brilliantly balanced.

Best of California AVA

New Clairvaux Vineyard	NV New Clairvaux Vineyard White Table Wine Lot 12	Tehama County	Vina Ranch	96	Fresh fennel, white lily, pineapple, and lemongrass; good layering and acidity with a clean finish.

Best of Calistoga

Tom Eddy Winery	2021 Tom Eddy Kerry's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley	Single vineyard designate - Kerry's Vineyard	95	Dark fruit; smooth and beautifully balanced.

Best of Central Coast AVA

Prompt	2024 Unshackled Red Blend	Central Coast		98	Blackberry and cherry; full-bodied.

Best of Clarksburg AVA

Sierra Starr Vineyards	2024 Sierra Starr Vineyards Pinot Noir	Clarksburg		95	Juicy strawberry, violet, and cola notes with lively acidity.

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Best of Dry Creek

Amphora Winery	2022 Amphora Mourvèdre	Sonoma County, Dry Creek Valley		Crafted in Tuscan Clay Amphorae	98	Light, elegant style, true to varietal; clove, red apple, and red licorice. A wine with personality.

Best of Fountain Grove District AVA

Piezo Winery	2019 Piezo Winery Cabernet Franc	Fountaingrove District		Antonina's Vineyard	96	Warm spices, plum, and pencil lead; nice depth of fruit and oak integration.

Best of France

Penrose Hill	2024 St. Audette Nuit Vin Rouge	Pays d'Oc IGP			95	Blueberry, cherry, integrated tannins, herbal

Best of Knights Valley AVA

Trotter 1/16 Wines	2023 Trotter 1/16 Winery Cabernet Franc	Knights Valley	Barrel Aged	Newman Vineyard	99	Rich, full body, rounded palate and ripe.

Best of Mendocino County AVA

Husch Vineyards	2025 Husch Vineyards Chenin Blanc	Mendocino		Family Farmed	98	Crisp green apple and peach; balanced.

Best of Napa Valley AVA

Aimee	2024 Aimee Merlot	Napa Valley	Winemaker Select		98	Beautiful and elegant, with dark stone fruit, a full mouthfeel, and nice use of oak; immaculate finish.

Best of New Zealand AVA

GALLO	2025 Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc	Marlborough			99	Classic New Zealand style with grapefruit; balanced.

Best of North Carolina AVA

JOLO Winery & Vineyards	NV JOLO Vineyards Muddy Paws	North Carolina				
JOLO Winery & Vineyards	2025 JOLO Vineyards Golden Hallows Reserve	North Carolina			96	Lush and fruity with a full mouthfeel.
JOLO Winery & Vineyards	NV JOLO Vineyards Sweet Vermouth	Yadkin Valley			97	Lovely vermouth style with herbal notes.

Best of North Coast AVA

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Rutherford Wine Company	2024 Predator Chardonnay	North Coast			96	Big apple and a beautiful citrus accent, like lemon-lime gelato; nice lingering finish.
Best of Oak Knolls						
Fortunati Vineyards	2022 Fortunati Vineyards Porto Fino Dessert Wine (100% Syrah)	Oak Knoll District	Estate		98	Lovely dark fruit with notes of prune; rich and balanced.
Best of Ramona Valley AVA						
Ramona Ranch Winery	2023 Ramona Ranch Winery Tannat, Reserve	Ramona Valley	Estate Bottled & Produced	Certified Sustainable	99	Blueberry; big, rich, and full-bodied.
Best of Rockpile AVA						
Fortunati Vineyards	2023 Fortunati Vineyards Zinfandel	Rockpile			98	Smoky berry fruit and a rich mid-palate; cellar potential.
Best of Rogue Valley AVA						
Belle Fiore Winery	2023 Belle Arte Teroldego	Rogue Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		95	Black fruit with a round finish; fun to share with friends.
Best of Russian River AVA						
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards	2023 St. Francis Lagomarsino Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon	Russian River Valley		Artisan Collection	98	Complex, with firm tannins and notes of red velvet cake.
Best of Santa Cruz Mountains AVA						
Kings Mountain Winery	2023 Kings Mountain Vineyards Clone 13	Santa Cruz Mountains	Estate Grown		97	Apple, cherry, and raspberry with bay leaf and forest floor; good acidity and skin-contact character.
Best of Santa Rita Hills						
Fortunati Vineyards	2023 Fortunati Vineyards Reserve Pinot Noir	Sta. Rita Hills	Winemaker's Reserve	Single Vineyard	97	Red cherry and spice with an earthy note; medium-bodied and well balanced.
Best of Santa Ynez Valley AVA						
Brick Barn Wine Estate	2023 Brick Barn Wine Estate Rhône Blend	Santa Ynez Valley	Estate		97	Black cherry; full-bodied with a delightful finish.

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Best of Shawnee Hills – IL

Blue Sky Vineyard	NV Blue Sky Vineyard Norton	Illinois	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		97	Fun; black cherry; earthy and well balanced

Best of Show Dessert/Late Harvest

Husch Vineyards	2025 Husch Vineyards Late Harvest Gewurztraminer	Anderson Valley	Estate Bottled		99	Classic and rich; perfection in a glass.

Best of Sierra Foothills AVA

Sierra Starr Vineyards	2023 Sierra Starr Vineyards Barbera	Sierra Foothills, El Dorado		Walker Vineyard	97	Bright cherry; medium-bodied, complex, and perfectly splendid.

Best of Sonoma Valley AVA

St. Francis Winery & Vineyards	2025 St. Francis Wild Oak Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc	Sonoma Valley		Artisan Collection	98	Grassy, in a New Zealand style.

Best of Spain

Penrose Hill	2025 Tomé Verdejo	Spain			97	Dynamic, with apple and citrus and a long, crisp finish.

Best of Tehama County AVA

New Clairvaux Vineyard	2025 New Clairvaux Vineyard Albarino	Tehama County	Single Vineyard	St. James Block	98	Lime peel and floral notes; refreshing and very inviting. "More, please."

Best of Virginia AVA

Vint Hill Craft Winery	2023 Covert Wineworks Cabernet Franc "Bebe La Franc"	Virginia			96	Classic and elegant, with dark stone fruit, a cool mint note, and nice herbal character.
Vint Hill Craft Winery	2025 Vint Hill Craft Winery Vint Hill Craft Winery Viognier "Vivian"	Virginia			96	Peach pie with brilliant acidity; classic Viognier, elegant from start to finish.

Best of Washington State AVA

Basalt Cellars	2023 Basalt Cellars Cabernet Franc	Lewis-Clark Valley			97	Pine forest, earth, tarragon, and plum.

Best Red

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Aimee	2024 Aimee Merlot	Napa Valley	Winemaker Select		98	Beautiful and elegant, with dark stone fruit, a full mouthfeel, and nice use of oak; immaculate finish.

Best Sherry

JOLO Winery & Vineyards	NV JOLO Vineyards Muddy Paws	North Carolina				

Best Sparkling

Pennyroyal Farm	2018 Pennyroyal Farm Blanc de Noir	Anderson Valley	Traditional Method		96	Crisp apple; hints of Anjou pear; confirmed on palate. Very well balanced and well-made wine.

Best Vermouth

JOLO Winery & Vineyards	NV JOLO Vineyards Sweet Vermouth	Yadkin Valley			97	Lovely vermouth style with herbal notes.

Best White

New Clairvaux Vineyard	2025 New Clairvaux Vineyard Albarino	Tehama County	Single Vineyard	St. James Block	98	Lime peel and floral notes; refreshing and very inviting. "More, please."

Best of Class

Aimee	2024 Aimee Merlot	Napa Valley	Winemaker Select		98	Beautiful and elegant, with dark stone fruit, a full mouthfeel, and nice use of oak; immaculate finish.
Amphora Winery	2022 Amphora Mourvèdre	Sonoma County, Dry Creek Valley		Crafted in Tuscan Clay Amphorae	98	Light, elegant style, true to varietal; clove, red apple, and red licorice. A wine with personality.
Basalt Cellars	2023 Basalt Cellars Cabernet Franc	Lewis-Clark Valley			97	Pine forest, earth, tarragon, and plum.
Basalt Cellars	NV Basalt Cellars Sparkling Rosé	Columbia Valley			95	Red cherries, raspberries with a splash of citrus; very crisp and clean
Belle Fiore Winery	2023 Belle Arte Teroldego	Rogue Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		95	Black fruit with a round finish; fun to share with friends.

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Blue Sky Vineyard	NV Blue Sky Vineyard Norton	Illinois	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		97	Fun; black cherry; earthy and well balanced
Brick Barn Wine Estate	2024 Brick Barn Wine Estate Albarino	Santa Ynez Valley	Estate		96	Peach and quince with a round mid-palate.
Brick Barn Wine Estate	2023 Brick Barn Wine Estate Rhône Blend	Santa Ynez Valley	Estate		97	Black cherry; full-bodied with a delightful finish.
Brick Barn Wine Estate	2023 Brick Barn Wine Estate Grenache	Santa Ynez Valley	Estate		96	Intense cherry; medium body; full mid-palate; cherry candy
Durbin Family Wines	2023 Durbin Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley	Reserve	Greeg Mountain Ranch	97	Power and grace; savory barrel notes, vanilla, and cassis.
Durbin Family Wines	2025 Durbin Cellars Sauvignon Blanc	Napa County, Carneros	Single Vineyard Selection	DRIFTVEIL	97	Citrus-driven and refreshing, in a bold, expressive style.
Dusty Cellars Winery, LLC	2022 Dusty Cellars Winery Graciano	Columbia Valley, Rattlesnake Hills			96	Balanced savory berry, intense blackberry.
Florence Vineyard	2024 Florence Vineyard Petite Sirah	Sonoma County, Rockpile	Reserve		97	Dusty; big black fruit; a walk through the vineyard
Florence Vineyard	2023 Florence Vineyard Zinfandel	Rockpile	Reserve		97	Silky; spice; dark fruit; long finish
Fortunati Vineyards	2022 Fortunati Vineyards Porto Fino Dessert Wine (100% Syrah)	Oak Knoll District	Estate		98	Lovely dark fruit with notes of prune; rich and balanced.
Fortunati Vineyards	2023 Fortunati Vineyards Chardonnay	Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District	Estate Grown		97	Yellow apple with nice use of oak and a creamy mouthfeel. A crowd-pleaser.
Fortunati Vineyards	2023 Fortunati Vineyards Zinfandel	Rockpile			98	Smoky berry fruit and a rich mid-palate; cellar potential.
Fortunati Vineyards	2023 Fortunati Vineyards Reserve Pinot Noir	Sta. Rita Hills	Winemaker 's Reserve	Single Vineyard	97	Red cherry and spice with an earthy note; medium-bodied and well balanced.
GALLO	NV Barefoot Bubbly Pinot Grigio	California			96	Tropical fruit, fresh-squeezed lemon, apricot, white peach, and melon.

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GALLO	2025 Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc	Marlborough			99	Classic New Zealand style with grapefruit; balanced.
GALLO	NV Barefoot Cellars Pinot Grigio	American			96	Bright and crisp, with apple and pear.
GALLO	2024 Alamos Malbec Seleccion	Mendoza			97	Purity at its best. Deep, dark berry fruit with a meaty edge; brilliantly balanced.
Grey Stack	2024 Grey Stack Cellars Four Brothers Chardonnay	Sonoma Mountain	Estate Vineyard	Four Brothers	95	Well-managed oak; nice stone fruit; peaches; pear; well balanced
Husch Vineyards	2025 Husch Vineyards Chenin Blanc	Mendocino		Family Farmed	98	Crisp green apple and peach; balanced.
Husch Vineyards	2025 Husch Vineyards Chardonnay	Mendocino		Sustainably Farmed	97	Full finish; forward fruit; ripe apple and spices
Husch Vineyards	2025 Husch Vineyards Late Harvest Gewurztraminer	Anderson Valley	Estate Bottled		99	Classic and rich; perfection in a glass.
JOLO Winery & Vineyards	NV JOLO Vineyards Sweet Vermouth	Yadkin Valley			97	Lovely vermouth style with herbal notes.
JOLO Winery & Vineyards	2025 JOLO Vineyards Golden Hallows Reserve	North Carolina			96	Lush and fruity with a full mouthfeel.
Kings Mountain Winery	2023 Kings Mountain Vineyards Clone 13	Santa Cruz Mountains	Estate Grown		97	Apple, cherry, and raspberry with bay leaf and forest floor; good acidity and skin-contact character.
Legis Vineyards & Winery	2022 Legis Vineyards & Winery Cabernet Sauvignon	Green Valley (Solano)	Estate Private Reserve	Organically Grown	90	Well made; light herbal balance; nicely managed oak; very integrated tannins; cassis
McIlroy Wines	2024 McIlroy Cellars Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	Sonoma County	Reserve		94	Brilliant fruit; cassis and blueberry notes; lovely tannins; well-managed oak; savory spice
Navarro Vineyards	2025 Navarro Vineyards Chardonnay	Anderson Valley			99	Crisp; delicate; creamy; pear tart
New Clairvaux Vineyard	2025 New Clairvaux Vineyard Albarino	Tehama County	Single Vineyard	St. James Block	98	Lime peel and floral notes; refreshing and very inviting. "More, please."

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New Clairvaux Vineyard	2023 New Clairvaux Vineyard Petite Sirah	Tehama County	Single Vineyard	Poor Souls Block	97	Perfect Petite Sirah; deep dark and delicious; dark stone fruit; wild berries; a "wow" wine
New Clairvaux Vineyard	NV New Clairvaux Vineyard White Table Wine Lot 12	Tehama County		Vina Ranch	96	Fresh fennel, white lily, pineapple, and lemongrass; good layering and acidity with a clean finish.
Pennyroyal Farm	2025 Pennyroyal Farm PinoTrio	Anderson Valley	Estate Bottled & Produced		100	Dry and complex; grippy, ginger, pineapple; well integrated.
Pennyroyal Farm	2018 Pennyroyal Farm Blanc de Noir	Anderson Valley	Traditional Method		96	Crisp apple; hints of Anjou pear; confirmed on palate. Very well balanced and well-made wine.
Penrose Hill	2025 Avistelle Rose	Columbia Valley			93	Full body and bright; strawberry; crisp and refreshing
Penrose Hill	2025 Pip & Plow Sauvignon Blanc	Horse Heaven Hills			93	Citrus, grassy, balanced finish.
Penrose Hill	2024 St. Audette Nuit Vin Rouge	Pays d'Oc IGP			95	Blueberry, cherry, integrated tannins, herbal
Penrose Hill	2025 Tomé Verdejo	Spain			97	Dynamic, with apple and citrus and a long, crisp finish.
Piezo Winery	2019 Piezo Winery Pinot Noir	Sonoma Coast		Black Knight Vineyard	94	Burgundian in style, with an engaging nose of Bing cherry, blueberry, and raspberry; elegant.
Piezo Winery	2019 Piezo Winery Cabernet Franc	Fountaingrove District		Antonina's Vineyard	96	Warm spices, plum, and pencil lead; nice depth of fruit and oak integration.
Prompt	2024 Unshackled Red Blend	Central Coast			98	Blackberry and cherry; full-bodied.

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Ramona Ranch Winery	2023 Ramona Ranch Winery Tannat, Reserve	Ramona Valley	Estate Bottled & Produced	Certified Sustainable	99	Blueberry; big, rich, and full-bodied.
Russell Orchards	NV Russell Orchards Farm and Winery Strawberry Rhubarb Fruit Wine	Massachusetts	Estate Produced and Bottled	Woman Wine Maker	90	Tastes like strawberry-rhubarb pie.
Rutherford Wine Company	2024 Predator Chardonnay	North Coast			96	Big apple and a beautiful citrus accent, like lemon-lime gelato; nice lingering finish.
Seavin, Inc	2023 San Sebastian Winery Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa			97	Extraordinary aromatics, beautiful balance, and an elegant style.
Sierra Starr Vineyards	2024 Sierra Starr Vineyards Pinot Noir	Clarksburg			95	Juicy strawberry, violet, and cola notes with lively acidity.
Sierra Starr Vineyards	2023 Sierra Starr Vineyards Barbera	Sierra Foothills, El Dorado		Walker Vineyard	97	Bright cherry; medium-bodied, complex, and perfectly splendid.
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards	2025 St. Francis Wild Oak Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc	Sonoma Valley		Artisan Collection	98	Grassy, in a New Zealand style.
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards	2023 St. Francis Giovanetti Vineyard Zinfandel	Russian River Valley		Artisan Collection	97	Concentrated and layered, with raspberry, macerated cherry, and balsamic.
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards	2023 St. Francis Lagomarsino Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon	Russian River Valley		Artisan Collection	98	Complex, with firm tannins and notes of red velvet cake.
Tom Eddy Winery	2021 Tom Eddy Kerry's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley		Single vineyard designate - Kerry's Vineyard	95	Dark fruit; smooth and beautifully balanced.
Trotter 1/16 Wines	2023 Trotter 1/16 Winery Cabernet Franc	Knights Valley	Barrel Aged	Newman Vineyard	99	Rich, full body, rounded palate and ripe.
Vint Hill Craft Winery	2025 Vint Hill Craft Winery Vint Hill Craft Winery Viognier "Vivian"	Virginia			96	Peach pie with brilliant acidity; classic Viognier, elegant from start to finish.

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Vint Hill Craft Winery	2023 Covert Wineworks Cabernet Franc "Bebe La Franc"	Virginia			96	Classic and elegant, with dark stone fruit, a cool mint note, and nice herbal character.
WE KNOW JACK!	2024 WE KNOW JACK! BETTA LATE	Rockpile	Estate Grown, Late Harvest	SINGLE BLOCK	97	Sweet balance; raisins and prunes