

fruit is engaging in this red, with a succulent feel throughout, while light notes of anise, singed apple wood and tobacco chime in on the finish. Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2031. 4,500 cases made, 3,360 cases imported.—J.M.

90 Château Poujeaux Moulis 2022 \$40 Fleshy and generous in feel though reserved overall in style, with wet clay, tobacco and worn cedar notes gently infusing cassia and cherry puree flavors. Steady finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2032. 20,000 cases made, 1,250 cases imported.—J.M.

90 Château Reysson Haut-Médoc 2022 \$30 Shows the sleek, fresh profile of the vintage, with vivid black cherry and boysenberry fruit flavors laced with violet and iris notes and backed by a warm stone accent on the finish. Nicely done. Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2033. 10,416 cases made, 400 cases imported.—J.M.

89 Château Larrivaux Haut-Médoc 2022 \$20 Flavors of cherry and boysenberry preserves stream through, gilded with iris and anise notes. A subtle chalky underlay on the finish keeps this honest. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2031. 3,166 cases made.—J.M.

88 Château de Malleret Haut-Médoc Le Baron de Malleret 2022 \$22 Warmed plum sauce and melted licorice notes drape over a hint of sweet tobacco. There's a sandalwood echo through the polished finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2029. 10,277 cases made, 5,400 cases imported.—J.M.

FRANCE Bordeaux / White

93 Château Cheval Blanc Bordeaux White Le Petit Cheval 2022 \$135 A pure version, with a mix of sel gris, quinine and Key lime notes leading the way, backed by subtle accents of lemon curd, salted butter and honeysuckle. The long, refined finish shows a flash of wet stone. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2027. 1,452 cases made, 250 cases imported.—J.M.

93 Château Cos-d'Estournel Bordeaux White 2022 \$208 Tarragon, chive and thyme notes permeate a core of white peach and white nectarine fruit flavors. The sleek, shimmering finish lets a flash of oyster shell peek in. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2027. 1,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—J.M.

91 Château Coutet Bordeaux White Opale 2022 \$45 A fresh and lively white, offering a mix of pineapple, white peach and Meyer lemon notes lined with verbena and tarragon. Shows nice purity. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2027. 580 cases made.—J.M.

91 Château Jean Faux Bordeaux White 2022 \$35 Plump in feel, with bergamot, lemon zest, white peach and verbena notes that shimmer along prettily thanks to mouthwatering acidity that stays nicely embedded. There's a brioche kiss on the finish. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2027. 450 cases made.—J.M.

90 Domaine de Chevalier Bordeaux White Clos des Lunes Lune d'Or 2022 \$50 This is an intriguing white, with a slight waxy edge to its mix of white peach, salted butter, green almond and bergamot notes. The focused finish shows a subtle hint of bitter blanched almond. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2027. 200 cases made.—J.M.

quince, lemon pith and tobacco notes stream into a core of lemon curd. Friendly finish. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2026. 800 cases made, 200 cases imported.—J.M.

90 Château Tronquoy-Lalande Bordeaux White 2022 \$50 Juicy and focused, with good underlying zip to its notes of white peach, jasmine, honeysuckle and salted butter. Shows a flattering kick on the finish. Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris. Drink now through 2026.—J.M.

FRANCE Loire / Montlouis Sur Loire

94 Le Rocher des Violettes Montlouis Sur Loire Le Grand Poirier 2022 \$50 See Highly Recommended, page 87.

94 Domaine de la Taille Aux Loups Montlouis Sur Loire Clos du Hochet 2022 \$44 Deeply concentrated and beguiling, with quince, baked apple, ginger and fleur de sel notes all sharing the stage equally. Piecrust accents add to the richness, while a savory blast of acidity cuts through for a snappy, succulent finish that stretches way out. Pretty stunning. Drink now through 2030. 500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—K.B.

93 François Chidaine Montlouis Sur Loire Clos du Breuil 2022 \$70 Jolts of lemongrass acidity and white pepper add freshness to the notes of green plum, almond and flint. Supple and accessible, while a simmering energy gives life and complexity. A smoky edge picks up steam on the zesty, lively finish. Drink now through 2030. 1,652 cases made, 156 cases imported.—K.B.



FRANÇOIS & MANUELA CHIDAINE
Owners & Winemakers

93 François Chidaine Montlouis Sur Loire Les Bournais 2022 \$70 Ripe and round, with succulent, finely beaded acidity enlivening a gentle-edged core of pepper-dusted quince and pear. Crushed, chalky-textured flint and smoke permeate alongside chamomile, dried thyme and warm hay. Herbaceousness brings additional energy to the winding finish, which is persistent and complex. Drink now through 2030. 1,652 cases made, 156 cases imported.—K.B.

93 François Chidaine Montlouis Sur Loire Les Choissilles 2022 \$63 Weighty and serious, with quinine bitterness and mineral density the foundation for quince, tangerine and earthy lilac. Turns stern and chiseled on the racy palate, with lime oil, pickled ginger and cardamom chiming in. White grapefruit-laced acidity and tannins drive the finish, which is concentrated, straight-laced and long. Drink now through 2032. 2,500 cases made, 110 cases imported.—K.B.

93 Domaine de la Taille Aux Loups Montlouis Sur Loire Clos Michet 2022 \$40 Rich and full, with ripe apple and baking spice notes flecked with fleur de sel and enrobed with toasty cedar. Spicy candied ginger and saline mineral streaks give this savory energy. With beautiful lightness to the finish, this is complex but not at all heavy. Drink now through 2029. 1,200 cases made, 350 cases imported.—K.B.

93 Domaine de la Taille Aux Loups Montlouis Sur Loire Les Hauts de Husseau 2022 \$45 Salted apple, pear and macadamia nut are set against green plum and salty mineral in this balanced, intriguing white. Silky and almost oily in texture, with tangy acidity bringing definition and refreshment. The tension

of dried mango, lime zest, persimmon, sun tea and candied flower petal to harmonize, with savory evolution—umami, dried leaves and salty earth—adding detail. Dry yet rich on the well-cut, unctuous finish. Drink now through 2029. 500 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

92 Domaine de la Taille Aux Loups Montlouis Sur Loire Clos de Mosny 2022 \$43 Starts off stylish and supple, with dried ginger, pear and chamomile streaked with saline and bitter lemon zest. Firmly structured and focused on the palate, with a lavish brush of toasty cedar blending nicely into the backdrop. Cardamom and pink peppercorn add to the complex, long finish. Excellent. Drink now through 2030. 1,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.—K.B.

91 Le Rocher des Violettes Montlouis Sur Loire Touche-Mitaine 2022 \$40 Beautiful green freshness permeates a ripe yet firm core of apple and star fruit in this seductive, fleshy version, with notes of smoked almond and salted green herbs. Caressing in feel, with lime pith giving the well-cut finish a bitter kick. Shows energy and freshness. Drink now through 2030. 14,000 cases made, 3,000 cases imported.—K.B.

90 Domaine Les Pierres Écrites Montlouis Sur Loire Empreintes 2022 \$35 Notes of white blossoms, spiced apple and pear are punctuated by a fresh wave of acidity in this delicious white. Accents of warm almond and green herbs add detail to the fluid palate, which is mouthcoating and savory at the end. Drink now through 2028. 233 cases made, 21 cases imported.—K.B.

90 Domaine Les Pierres Écrites Montlouis Sur Loire Petits Boulay 2022 \$25 Toasted macadamia, ripe pear and baking spices mark this alluring white, with succulent, salty, lime-edged acidity pulsing throughout. Plump, fresh and friendly, this also shows good poise and balance. Delicious. Drink now through 2028. 1,400 cases made, 400 cases imported.—K.B.

90 Le Rocher des Violettes Montlouis Sur Loire Les Borderies 2021 \$30 Round and supple, with a silky texture to the orchard fruit, spice, gentle toast and earth notes. Flashes of herbs and acidity clean up the silky finish. Shows purity. Drink now through 2027. 250 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

FRANCE Rhône

91 Château Pesquié Ventoux Silca 2022 \$45 Offers the freshness of the Ventoux, with a pure beam of crunchy cherry and pomegranate unadorned with excessive oak. Iron minerality cruises from start to finish, with a structured feel to the focused tannins. Dusty earth and a hint of alder smoke emerge, showing an inner density that draws the finish way out. Grenache and Cinsault. Drink now through 2028. 500 cases made, 50 cases imported.—K.B.

91 Domaine Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Flouret 2022 \$42 A suave version, with a sultry quality to its winery red currant, dried strawberry and lavender elements, all streaked with a thread of herbaceousness that brings freshness. Incense smoke curls up from the finish, with leafy, earthy notes at the edges. Softened tannins give this a velvety feel, while finely crushed mineral details spill out on the finish, adding textural intrigue. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2030. 721 cases imported.—K.B.