Tempranillo and Blends

Tempranillo-based wines never seem to disappoint. Whether they are from Rioja, Ribero del Duero, or other parts of Spain, these well-made wines almost always represent excellent value to the consumer. Full of structure, juicy cherry and dark berry fruit, these wines are perfect for pairing with food-olives, aged Manchego, and Serrano ham to name a few. From juicy and crunchy young crianzas to the elegant, smooth and complex Gran Reserva, these Spanish wines are a must have in any wine cellar.
Bruce Soley

BEST IN CLASS

➤ **Beronia 2015 Rioja Reserva**
Rioja, Spain
$22-24 CSPC 731708

TOP VALUE

Honoro Vera 2018 Rioja
Rioja, Spain
$20-22 CSPC 796836

JUDGES SELECTION

Les Vins Bonhomme 2015 El Grand Bonhomme Castilla y León, Spain
$32-34 CSPC 667394

Faustino "Art Collection" 2016 Crianza
Ribera del Duero, Spain
$20-22 CSPC 817866

Merlot

A grape Hollywood almost killed, as criticism in film "Sideways" brought its reputation to its knees. A mainstay from the famous region of Bordeaux, these wines are sublime and were unfairly deemed uninteresting. This year's merlot shone bright with a diverse expression of this noble grape showing its many personalities from around the world.
Peter Smolarz

BEST IN CLASS

➤ **Hillside 2015 Dickinson Vineyard Merlot**
Naramata Bench
British Columbia
$40-44 CSPC 560680

TOP VALUE

Wente 2017 Sandstone Merlot
Livermore Valley, United States
$16-18 CSPC 171025

ALBERTA BEVERAGE AWARDS 2018

JUDGES SELECTION

Powers Winery 2016 Merlot
Columbia Valley, United States
$25-27 CSPC 800423

Zorzettig 2017 Merlot DOC
Friuli-Venezia, Italy
$27-29 CSPC 823600