

# NAVARRA HIGHLIGHTS

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## BODEGAS QUADERNA VIA 'BE BIKE' GARNACHA ROSADO 2016



Bright raspberry color (very traditional color for Navarra). Aromatic fruit notes of raspberries and cherries, plus floral hints. Ripe, fruity entry, dry medium body; red fruits prominent. Lively acidity sets us a refreshing, clean finish. Organic. (Seeking Importer, SRP \$7.50)

## CASTILLO DE MONJARDÍN 'EL CEREZO' CHARDONNAY 2016



Located in the foothills of the Pyrenées, not far from the French border, Monjardín's high-altitude vines, in the hands of owner/winemaker Victor Villar, yield clean, pure single-vineyard wines. "I've always appreciated Monjardín's honest winemaking; this tropical-lemomy Chardonnay is immensely pourable and consistent—and a great value," said Avital. (The Winebow Group, SRP \$15)

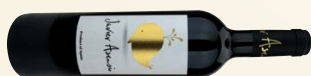
## BODEGA INURRIETA 'ORCHIDEA' SAUVIGNON BLANC 2016



Inurrieta first planted vines in 1999, yet quickly gained fame for its modern, fruit-driven yet balanced wines. Stoler, who has had success selling this wine in the past, appreciated its "clean, lemony brightness." She added "It's hard to find 100% Sauvignon Blanc from Spain that isn't overly ripe; this fits the bill for a well-priced, crisp Sancerre-like Sauvignon and there is a big market for that." (Vinaio Imports, SRP \$12)

## BODEGAS ASENSIO 'SERIE ORO' 2015

This family-owned winery first planted vines in the 1980s, and established their winery a decade



later. A blend of Merlot and Tempranillo, this is perfect "for someone who wants a full-bodied, juicy, well-made wine for well under \$20," described Abbott. (Mitchell Wine Group OR, SRP \$15)

## BODEGAS ESCUDERO 'LOGOS II' 2013



The Escudero family began making wine in 1852 in Rioja. This Tempranillo-Garnacha-Cabernet blend showed lovely spice and savory aromatics, said Stoler: "I think people would want to drink this—it has the restraint and earthiness of a Bordeaux, without too much ripe fruit and I appreciate that." (Votto Vines CT, SRP \$20)

## CASTILLO DE ENERIZ 'MAS DE BERCEO' GRACIANO 2016



The group liked the joven-like freshness on this well-made Graciano—a steal for the price. Abbott—praised the "aromatic dark fruit nose, floral lift and acid structure," and Stoler liked its lean body and distinct cinnamon-clove notes, characteristic of the under-appreciated variety. (National Refrescos, SRP \$8.99)

## NEKEAS 'EL CHAPARRAL' GARNACHA OLD VINES 2015



One of the region's more well-known red wines, this hails from a famous single vineyard with 60-year old Garnacha vines. "It's very drinkable and fresh, and showing a more delicate side than vintages past," Avital described. (Martin Scott Wines, SRP \$13)

## OCHOA RESERVA 2010

Winemaker Adriana Ochoa is the sixth generation at the helm of this 150-year-old family winery. There's real chewiness



to this Cabernet-driven blend, with smoke, black currant and tobacco notes. Abbott liked the hints of "green dried herbs and coffee notes and a pleasant earthiness." (Frontier Imports, SRP \$25)

## BODEGAS OTAZU PREMIUM CUVEE 2013



A huge fan of Otazu's wines, Stoler found this Cabernet-Tempranillo-Merlot blend to have an appealing green note—"not due to under-ripeness, but a leafy, earthy quality and great acidity that is really pleasant. This to me is true Navarra terroir coming through." (Monsieur Touton Selection, SRP \$13.99)

## BODEGAS PIEDEMONTE 'CUARTO TIERRAS' 2014



A "conscious" wine, Cuarto Tierras blends four varieties (40% Merlot, 30% Tempranillo, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Garnacha) grown in four diverse areas. Aromatically it leans toward plum and black currant,

with touches of smoke, earth and herbs. The medium-bodied palate show lively acidity, a combination of red and dark fruit with some spiciness. Easy to drink now. (Seeking Importer, SRP \$16)

## BODEGAS MARCO REAL 'PEQUEÑAS PRODUCCIONES' GARNACHA 2014



Appropriately deep and inky purple. On the nose, tasters found intense red fruit aromas (cherry, pomegranate), floral notes and what Kelley O'Connor called "a pleasant meatiness." Full body is rounded out with refreshing acidity, dark and red fruits, some evident tannins and a nice touch of spice. Clean, powerful finish. (Latitude Beverage Co., SRP \$13.25)

## BODEGAS CAMILO CASTILLA 'CAPRICHICO DE CAMILO CASTILLO' MOSCATEL DE GRANO MENUDO



Deep tawny brown with olive-tinged edge. The nose is rich with molasses, walnuts, pecans, mocha, dark figs. The palate delivers a richly fruited sweet fig-prune character; complex and concentrated. Lovely acidity yields a sweet finish of great length. (Seeking Importer, SRP \$29)

