

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY

In April, James Suckling and his team took their fifth trip in three years to Chile to score nearly 800 wines. They found hundreds of outstanding vintages along with three perfect 100-pointers. From pinot noir and chardonnay to syrah and carignan, Chile has exceptional diversity that goes well beyond just cabernet sauvignon and sauvignon blanc. Here are 10 wines not to miss



T To see the full list of top 100 Chilean wines, visit jamesuckling.com



VIÑEDO CHADWICK CABERNET SAUVIGNON VALLE DE MAIPO 2015

Very deep and primary fruit character gives this wine amazing length and focus. It seems to go on forever. Full body yet vivid and energetic. Tannic and muscular yet so polished and refined. Drink now. But one for the cellar as well. ● **99 points**



CONCHA Y TORO CABERNET SAUVIGNON PUENTE ALTO DON MELCHOR 2014

Wonderful aromas of stone, mint and blackcurrant. Sweet tobacco. Tile and rust. So aromatic. This is the best Don Melchor I have ever tasted. Full body, very soft yet firm and silky. It has tension, intensity and balance. Drink or hold. ● **98 points**



MONTES VALLE DE COLCHAGUA ALPHA M 2014

The greatest M ever made. It continues the legend of the great 2014 vintage. Full-bodied, compacted and powerful. Tight and chewy. It starts slowly and builds. Superb. Drink in 2022 but already a joy to taste. ● **98 points**

CLOS APALTA VALLE DE COLCHAGUA 2014

An extremely aromatic and focused Clos Apalta with blackberry, blueberry, floral and hot-stone character. Full body, very linear and ultra-fine tannins. Focused and tight. Precise and long. This is the most polished and beautiful definition of this wine ever. You want to drink it now but better in 2020. A blend of carménère, cabernet sauvignon and merlot. ● **100 points**



ALMAVIVA PUENTE ALTO 2015

A glorious and complex nose of tobacco and blackberry with hints of stone, flowers and bitter chocolate. Full-bodied, very tight and compacted. Linear backbone gives this form and tension. It has the same character on the palate, as well as cayenne and other spices. Loved the 2014 but this shows more fine-grained tannins. So balanced and harmonious. A blend of 69% cabernet sauvignon, 24% carménère, 5% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. Needs four or five years in the bottle but a joy to taste now. ● **100 points**

SEÑAL VALLE DE ACONCAGUA 2015

Stunning aromas of blackcurrant, stone, blueberry and liquorice. Also iodine. Floral. Perfumed. Full body, fantastic density of fruit and ripe tannins. It goes on for minutes on the palate with such energy and focus. Touch of chewiness on the finish. A complex and complete wine that delivers a generosity with firmness. Drink in 2021 but already a classic. ● **100 points**

ERRÁZURIZ PINOT NOIR ACONCAGUA COSTA LAS PIZARRAS 2016

The mineral, stone, slate and violet aromas are superb. Full body, dense and silky texture. So much beautiful fruit yet it's so reserved and refined. Layered and complete. Fantastic acidity at the finish. Iron, iodine and oyster. Long finish. Superb follow-up to the 2015. Drink or hold. ● **99 points**

RITUAL CHARDONNAY VALLE DE CASABLANCA SUPERTUGA BLOCK 2016

This is a phenomenal chardonnay with light bread dough, cooked apple and pear aromas. Full-bodied, seamless white with earth and subtle ripe apple and pineapple. Fantastic length and beauty. 500 cases made. Screw cap. ● **97 points**



HACIENDA ARAUCANO CARMÉNÈRE VALLE DE COLCHAGUA ALKA 2015

Blackberry and dark chocolate with hints of spice. Dried meat. Full body, juicy and layered. Wild wine. So much going on here. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink now or hold. ● **96 points**



GARCIA + SCHWADERER GRENACHE VALLE DE ITATA PIEDRA LISA VINEYARD 2015

A linear and fine red with lovely fruit that has cherry, raspberry and floral character. Chewy tannins and wild finish. Builds on the palate. Love this always. From grafted, 120-year-old vines. ● **96 points**

