

## WASHINGTON

### CHARDONNAY

**95 Abeja 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley).** This is one of the best Chardonnays from Washington I've had in many years. It leads with lemon-and-lime zest and rosemary aromas that personify freshness. Hovering in the background is a mildly smoky flint scent. The wine's crisp mouthfeel and nervy acidity go hand-in-hand with tangy Granny Smith apple, Bosc pear, green tea and walnut flavors. Bring on the grilled halibut steaks—this wine needs company. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

**abv:** 14%

**Price:** \$60

**93 Abeja 2023 Chardonnay (Washington).** The bold Chardonnay's aromas of lemon curd, honeycomb and cantaloupe fill a room faster than an open bar. It has enough zesty acidity to balance its plush Golden Delicious apple, nutmeg, toasted hazelnut and honey flavors. This wine is made with fruit from all over the state, proving the adage about a sum surpassing its parts. —M.A.

**abv:** 14%

**Price:** \$48

**93 Abeja 2023 Viognier (Walla Walla Valley).** I love how this Viognier's orange marmalade aroma tricks my brain into thinking something sweet is headed my way. The first sip disabuses me of that notion, as orange zest and not-quite-rip white peach flavors make me pucker just a bit. There is lots of acidity here, with a nifty honeycomb quality on the wine's long finish. —M.A.

**abv:** 14%

**Price:** \$48

**95 Abeja 2021 Heather Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Earthy blackberry and espresso aromas strike first, with bursts of cherry blossoms, straw, thyme and saline following in rapid succession. Those scents tempt you to sit with the wine for a few minutes before tasting. A sweet baked good flavor similar to a blackberry tart dominates the palate. Lesser notes of bergamot tea and cedar are equally enjoyable. The wine's imposing tannic structure and noticeable acidity suggest you can enjoy it until 2040, perhaps longer. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

**abv:** 14%

**Price:** \$90

**94 Abeja 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** I call this a "Goldilocks wine" because everything, from alcohol to tannins, is just right. Its black fruit aromas make a nice foil to scents of pine cones and maple that are like a stroll in the woods. The wine feels nimble and fresh on the palate, with Bing cherry, red apple, orange zest and fennel making a beautiful salad of flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

**abv:** 14.5%

**Price:** \$68

**92 Abeja 2022 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This is an excellent version of Merlot. Its blueberry and dark raspberry aromas are cut by tart orange zest, wet stone and vanilla notes. The medium-bodied wine's tangy mouthfeel is matched by its solid tannic structure, which provides strong support to blueberry, pear and strong-brewed coffee flavors. —M.A.

**abv:** 14.6%

**Price:** \$55