

THE ENTHUSIAST 100 OF 2017

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As the number of wines reviewed in *Wine Enthusiast* continues to climb higher and higher, with nearly 23,000 wines tasted in 2017, we are perpetually seeking opportunities to tell thirsty readers about what we're drinking. We strive to offer resources that please all palates and help make the most of your vinous adventures.

To that end, we take it upon ourselves to annually recap a year's worth of tasting with our three Top 100 lists. In the November issue, we compile our **Top 100 Best Buys**, a roster of wines that exhibit excellent quality-to-price ratios. For the December 1 issue, we share our **Top 100 Cellar Selections**, a list of stand-out wines with serious long-term potential.

Now comes the *pièce de résistance*: The Enthusiast 100.

A showstopper in its own right, this best-of-the-best list illustrates the fantastic variety of wines available to consumers today. It features selections from 17 countries—including vibrant whites, rich reds, succulent rosés, brilliant bubbles and intense sweet wines—ensuring there's something for even the most discerning wine lover. Beyond the bewildering array, this list boasts an average score of 94 points and median price of \$35, which translates to an incredible bang for your buck.

This year's top spot goes to a Russian River Valley **Chardonnay**, the first No. 1 white wine in over 10 years! For its display of excellent quality, competitive pricing and wide availability—a veritable triple threat—the Gary Farrell 2015 Russian River Selection Chardonnay could not be overlooked as the top wine this year.

You'll find plenty of other killer selections on the list. And all of them, from **California**, **Italy**, **France** and beyond, are waiting for you. Just act quickly before stocks run out.

Domaine de la Bégude 2014 La Bégude Red (Bandol)

2017

< **ENTHUSIAST 100** >

[see full list](#)

#69

94
POINTS

This is an impressively rich, still very young wine. Dominated by Bandol's own Mourvèdre grape, it is dense and concentrated. Spice and dark red fruits are shot through with a wonderful herbal character that conjures the southern warmth. The wine is still just setting out and will not be ready to drink before 2019.

PRICE	\$44, Buy Now
DESIGNATION	La Bégude
VARIETY	Provence red blend, Red Blend
APPELLATION	Bandol, Provence, France
WINERY	Domaine de la Bégude

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ALCOHOL	12.5%
BOTTLE SIZE	750 ml
CATEGORY	Red
IMPORTER	Kysela Père et Fils
DATE PUBLISHED	7/1/2017
USER AVG RATING	Not rated yet [Add Your Review]



WINE ENTHUSIAST
BEST of YEAR
2017