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TOP 100 WINES OF 2019 AND OUR WINE OF THE YEAR My son Jack, Senior Editor Nick Stock and I are going to remember 2019 for a long time. It was the year that we discovered more than 50 perfect wines among the 25,000 we rated. In fact, we can't remember a year quite like it; it was truly phenomenal for great wines. It seems that just about every major wine region released great wines onto the market, the majority being from the 2015 and 2016 vintages. These duo vintages will long be remembered much like 1989 and 1990 for Bordeaux. However, 2017 and 2018 should not be forgotten — both produced some exceptional wines, particularly whites. Many regions shone in quality in our tastings this year. Most notable were Argentina, Bordeaux, Napa Valley, Tuscany, Piedmont, Rioja, Port, Champagne and Chile. That's why many wines from

$150 a bottle, although a few crept in at the bottom of the list that can cost up to $900 a bottle. It's a shame that so many of the best-quality wines in the world are incredibly expensive now, but this list includes lots of exceptions to the rule, mainly from Argentina, Australia, and Chile. Indeed, our list includes what may be one of the greatest wine values on earth, the 98-point El Enemigo Chardonnay Mendoza 2017. It retails for around $25 a bottle! And three of the wines in the Top 10 will only set you back $45-50 a bottle: Muga Rioja Prado Enea Gran Reserva 2011, Marchesi Antinori Umbria Cervaro Della Sala 2017 and Schäfer-Fröhlich Riesling Nahe Felseneck GG 2018. Quality-price ratio was a key consideration in selecting our Wine of the Year, and this is why we decided on Brunello di Montalcino, the great wine-producing region of Italy's Tuscany. We tasted close to

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO PIANROSSO 2015 100/100 Lots of ripe and rich fruit with a decadent undertone of meat and spice that turns to pure fruit and licorice. Medium to full body, refined tannins and a fresh and bright finish. All about harmony. Better after 2021.