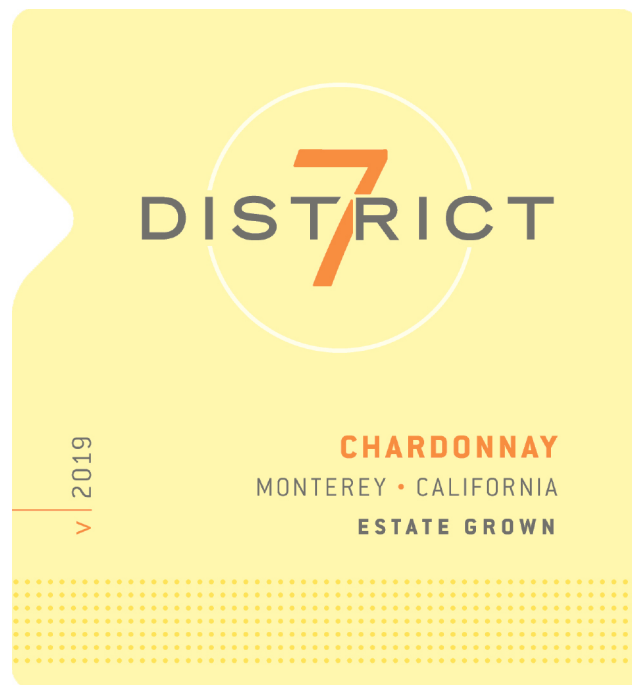


92 Points



92 District 7 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey, California). Scheid family's commitment to a sustainable future, exemplified by their state-of-that-art winery, is palpable in this delicious, superbly crafted white. Aromas of candied pineapple and white cake are mesmerizing, and on the palate, white chocolate melts into lemon chiffon and papaya. With good acid structure and plenty of layers of flavor, it finishes with crisp notes of wet stone and toasted coconut. Aged 14 months in stainless steel with 25% new French oak.

Abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

Publisher's PICKS



John Legend Signature Series by LVE 2020 Chardonnay, Sonoma County (\$15) Lithe and crisp, with a peach-blossom lilt. White pepper, honeyed pear, orange peel, and a piquant note excite the palate. **90**

BOISSET COLLECTION



Barón de Ley 2019 Varietales Tempranillo, Rioja, Spain (\$15) Illuminating scents of dark berry and vanilla lead to pleasing, dry tannins that wash the tongue with violets and plum. Mocha and graphite notes go long before superb acidity and a rustic, grainy texture add complexity to the finish. **91**



Cline Cellars 2019 Ancient Vines Zinfandel, Contra Costa County (\$15) The grapes for this juicy, fragrant red are from deep-rooted, dry-farmed, head-trained vines, some as old as 100 years. Ripe mulberry is accentuated by red tea, brush, and red beet.

Elegance ensues, leaving a dash of white pepper on the finish along with wild strawberry and red licorice. **91**



Nielson 2019 Chardonnay, Santa Barbara County (\$16) Fragrant and clean, this is a classic-style Chardonnay, with a white-floral tone and balanced notes of citrus, honeyed tropical fruit, and salty pine nut. Aged eight months in French oak, stainless steel, and concrete egg. **90**

JACKSON FAMILY WINES



Carmen 2020 Gran Reserva Pinot Noir, Leyda Valley, Chile (\$17) A charming single-vineyard Pinot Noir with sage, soil, and woody notes. A swath of cinnamon and white pepper graces rhubarb and black cherry as toasty oak and fine acidity keep things balanced. Aged eight months in used French oak. **91**

VIÑA SANTA RITA

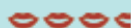


Frey Vineyards 2020 Biodynamic Field Blend, Mendocino (\$17) The colorful, amusing label depicts astrological charts and *Farmers' Almanac*-type graphics—a nod to the Biodynamic roots of this blend of 45% Syrah, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 10% Carignane, and 5% Zinfandel. Heather and mountain brush, along with savory notes of dried plum, peppercorn, clove, and mulberry, make for a rustic roundup of flavors and textures. **90**



District 7 2019 Chardonnay, Monterey (\$18) The Scheid family's commitment to a sustainable future, exemplified by their state-of-the-art winery, is palpable in this delicious, superbly crafted white. Aromas of candied pineapple and white cake are mesmerizing, and on the palate, white chocolate melts into lemon chiffon and papaya. With good acid structure and plenty of layers of flavor, it finishes with crisp notes of wet stone and toasted coconut. Aged 14 months in stainless steel with 25% new French oak. **92**

SCHIED FAMILY WINES



Lost Eden 2018 Red Blend, Georgia (\$19) Georgian wine imports are on the rise, and this one should be at the top of everyone's lists. Coming from the documented birthplace of wine circa 5500 B.C., this wonder of a project was launched by a young Georgian named Tariel Chichua, an attendee of Cornell University who sought funding from Georgia's ministry of agriculture. Eleventh-generation Georgian winemaker Lado Uzunashvili, who trained in Austria and France, created the wine with fruit from the Kakhetian region, mostly the indigenous Saperavi. The result is concentrated and fragrant, offering a marvelous layer of velvet atop dark berries and melted chocolate—and while it comes across as dense and sweet, it's well balanced, with optimum acidity for its style at 13% ABV. Absolutely delicious. **93**

GLOBAL BRAND LLC



Michael David Winery 2020 Freakshow Chardonnay, Lodi (\$18) Partially barrel-fermented in French and American oak and partially stainless steel-fermented, this multifaceted white features luscious flavors of apricot and caramel apple that are wrangled by good acid structure and tightwire minerality. Floral aromatics linger on the nose and palate, with honeysuckle petals gracing the tongue. **91**