

90 | Emile Balland \$33
2018 Sancerre Croq'Caillotte Broad apple and green pear flavors fill out and warm this wine's structure, which has enough tension and mineral acidity to corral the ripeness. Chill it this summer to enjoy its clean, floral citrus notes with grilled sea bass. It grows in 2.5 acres of vines in clay-limestone soil covered in white stones, the wine spontaneously fermented in stainless-steel tanks, where it ages for five months. *Bonhomie Wine Imports, South Orange, NJ*

***90 | Domaine Delaporte** \$40
2018 Sancerre Silex Matthieu Delaporte heads up this family domaine in Chavignol, producing this wine from 50-year-old vines growing in flinty soils. The wine ferments and ages in 2,000-liter barrels, building the vanilla notes of oak into the massive amount of fruit, from yellow cherries to apricots and lemon. A powerful young wine, this needs several years in bottle to show its best. *Vineyard Brands, Birmingham, AL*

90 | Langlois-Château \$35
2018 Sancerre Château de Fontaine-Audon This crémant specialist, under the Bollinger umbrella, is focused in Saumur, while its domaine extends to 81.5 acres in Sancerre. This wine grows at 37 acres on flint soils surrounding the château at St-Gemme. Fermented in stainless steel and aged into spring on the lees, it's an austere sauvignon with notes of grapefruit pith and white pepper. There's floral passion fruit richness waiting to develop with bottle age. (*W&S 2/20*) *Vintus, Pleasantville, NY*

90 | Saget La Perrière \$63
2016 Sancerre Mégalithe From an estate vineyard rich in silex soils, this wine is a 50-50 blend of lots fermented and aged in barrels (one-third new) and others vinified in stainless-steel vats. It comes together in a broad and luscious sauvignon, its clean green-grape richness detailed by smokiness, creaminess and lasting complexity. Built to age. *Taub Family Selections, Boca Raton, FL*

***90 | J. de Villebois** \$53
2017 Sancerre Terres Blanches This grows at parcels on the western side of Sancerre, where the Kimmeridgian marl is covered in white stones. The 25-year-old vines produced a clean and spicy sauvignon in 2017, gooseberry-fresh in the middle, a little brothy and doughy in the end. Its broad flavors need something equally rich, like a creamy scallop and asparagus risotto. *Vineyard Brands, Birmingham, AL*

88 | Domaine Yves Martin \$29
2017 Sancerre de Chavignol Clos de Beaujeu (Best Buy) Scents of white lilies give this wine a mature fullness, an oxidative character that comes from barrel fermentation and aging. As full and fleshy as it is, there's enough grape-skin bitterness to tighten up the structure. It's substantial enough for roast veal. *David Bowler Wines, NY*

TOURAINE

90 | Aimé Boucher \$16
2018 Touraine Sauvignon Blanc (Best Buy) Spring-like freshness infuses this fat and fleshy sauvignon, its green grape flavors plumped up to tropical notes of passion fruit even as they carry a bitter orange acidity and woodland scents of spring flowers. A delicious white for fresh shellfish, like Nantucket bay scallops. *Vintners Alliance, New Rochelle, NY*

90 | Domaine Delobel \$17
2018 Touraine Angle Droit Sauvignon Blanc (Best Buy) Benjamin Delobel farms 30 acres in Oisly, focused on sauvignon blanc. This selection offers full yellow plum and lemon custard flavors cut by green acidity. The wine's tense structure seems tied to its floral scents of lilies and lavender. For chèvre, from fresh to aged. *Cognac One, NY*

90 | Domaine de la Rochette \$25
2017 Touraine Chenonceaux Based in the Cher Valley, Vincent Leclair grows this sauvignon near the Château du Chenonceau. From its honeycomb scent to its bright grapefruit-pith acidity, this has a rich and tangy contrast that would work well with fresh goat cheese. *David Bowler Wines, NY*

VAL DE LOIRE

89 | Domaine du Salvard \$16
2018 Val de Loire Unique Sauvignon Blanc (Best Buy) Based in Cheverny, the Delaille family farms sauvignon in north-eastern Touraine. This bottling, grown on clay and sand, is deliciously plump, with rich notes of white peach and beeswax. It's dense and heady, a terrific buy for spring dinners, such as pasta with English peas. *Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA* ■

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