

Wine & Spirits

94 | Green & Red \$30

2013 Napa Valley Tip Top Vineyard Zinfandel (Best Buy) Jay Heminway got his start in Bordeaux as a college student in the 1960s, working a summer with Alexis Lichine. He founded Green & Red in the eastern hills of Napa Valley in the 1970s, focused on zinfandel. This wine grows at the highest vineyard on the estate, topping out at 1800 feet, where he planted a northeast-facing slope in the late 1990s. It's a fruit driven zin, the freshness and sunny aspects pointed up by his teams work at the new sorting table installed in 2013. All that fruit seems to glow from within, surrounded by scents of bay and wild mushrooms. It tastes of plums and strawberries, while tannins gripped the fruit with the fine earthen rasp, adding complex notes of cracked green peppercorn and black olive skin this is a glorious Napa Valley wine, delicious to drink right now and one to brighten holiday meals in the years to come (720 cases)

94 | Green & Red \$23

2011 Napa Valley Chile's Canyon Vineyards Zinfandel (Best Buy) Jay Heminway has made the house red, a zinfandel for Chez Panisse in Berkeley for over two decades, and blends the silken zin from three blocks at his estate, mostly north-facing slopes at 1000 to 1800 feet. It's succulent, supple and juicy, with a glow of wild forest berry fruit in the end. That fruit has the tanginess of rose hips, and a darker tone like black raspberries, mulberries and currants. Decant it and the fruit engages, shifting away from oak scents towards earthiness and textural bliss.

92 | Green & Red \$30

2014 Napa Valley Tip Top vineyard Zinfandel (Best Buy) Tip Top sits at 1400 to 1800 feet on a northeast-facing ridge above Chiles Valley. It's the last vineyard Jay Heminway planted at his estate, in 1996 and 1997, the vines including some petite sirah, small portion of which makes its way into this zin. It starts off floral, with violet notes over the roasted edges of oak, then ends bright and zesty, the stamina of its fruit lasting long past the coffee-bean scents of the wood. The wine's energy holds its ripeness to a tight line, suggesting this will age well. (776 cases)

90 | Green & Red \$24

2014 Napa Valley Chiles Canyon Vineyard Zinfandel (Best Buy) Give this several hours in a decanter with the buxom richness of sweet fruit and the tart elements of its acidity will merge. It's a rustic zin, heady and firm, to enjoy now with grilled quail or to stash away in the cellar for 10 years. (2,432 cases)

93 | Green & Red \$22

2015 Napa Valley Catacula Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Best Buy) Jay Heminway planted the Catacula vineyard halfway up his hillside estate in Chiles Valley, focusing on the musqué clone of Sauvignon Blanc. His 2015 is a distinctive wine that gains in stature for days after its initial sweetness begins to fade, and bright, crunchy freshness takes its place. We spent a considerable amount of time trying to describe the flavors of this wine. It reminded Luke Sykora, our California wine editor, of winter melon in a moon cake; it reminded me of jasmine, peppery green olive oil and bitter melon. There is nothing grassy or passion-fruity about it. Instead, it offers a glassy transparency, a wine that's delicious and remarkably pleasant to drink. (312 cases)