

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

9 Refreshing Provence Rosés for \$28 or Less

New reviews of fresh and affordable pink wines from Southern France, up to 91 points



Négociant Hecht & Bannier was founded by old schoolmates Gregory Hecht and François Bannier, and today makes a variety of Southern French wines. (Lisic Marijan)

By Gillian Sciaretta

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Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

The warm weather is here. Luckily, there are many high-quality Provence rosés available to help us enjoy the heat. Throughout 2020, warm daytime weather in Southern France was matched with cool nighttime temperatures. This allowed grapes to retain bright acidity and to achieve phenolic ripeness and ideal sugar levels. The results are impressive and exciting rosés like the nine in this week's

selection.

This week's top-scorer is [Château Pradeaux](#)'s juicy version, a blend of Cinsault, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Carignan. A bold rosé, it uses grapes from vineyards within the noted Bandol appellation. [Hecht & Bannier](#), a well-known [négociant](#), has made an outstanding rosé as well. This elegant Côtes de Provence bottling is a blend of Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah and Rolle. Much of this crop comes from high-altitude vineyards, enhancing the wine's freshness.

There are other familiar names here too, including [Château d'Esclans](#)' crowd-pleasing Whispering Angel, and [Jolie-Pitt & Perrin](#)'s mouthwatering Miraval. And those searching for terrific pink values can look to [Domaine de Cala](#)'s savory version with watermelon and mineral notes, or to [Mirabeau](#)'s crisp Belle Année bottling with white raspberry and tangerine elements.



CHÂTEAU PRADEAUX

Côtes de Provence Rosé 2020

Score: 91 | \$24

WS review: This is a juicy, broad, orange-hued rosé, with blood orange, orange peel and rosewater flavors backed by firm, focused acidity. A lovely mineral undertone matches flavors of tea, peach and smoke on the long finish. Drink now. 960 cases imported.—
Gillian Sciaretta



CÔTES DE
PROVENCE

HECHT & BANNIER

Côtes de Provence Rosé 2020

Score: 90 | \$20

WS review: This elegant, refined and refreshing rosé offers a supple texture, sporting vivid melon, tangerine zest, white cherry and rose water notes flanked with mineral undertones that give way to a spicy finish. Grenache, Cinsault and Vermentino. Drink now. 25,000 cases made, 13,000 cases imported.—G.S.



JOLIE-PITT & PERRIN

Côtes de Provence Rosé Miraval 2020

Score: 89 | \$25

WS review: This elegant rosé combines orange pith, white cherry and grapefruit flavors, with undertones of mineral, spice and heather accents. Refreshing acidity gives this a mouthwatering finish. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. Drink now. 150,000 cases imported.—G.S.



CHÂTEAU VANNIÈRES

Bandol Rosé 2020

Score: 89 | \$28

WS review: Wild herb notes edge the melon and orange peel flavors of this smoke-tinged rosé, with white pepper, tea and stone notes layering together on the focused finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases made, 300 cases imported.—G.S.



BERTAUD-BELIEU

Côtes de Provence Rosé La Fête du Rosé 2020

Score: 88 | \$24

WS review: This round, spicy rosé offers white pepper and *garrigue* notes surrounding juicy ripe cherry and raspberry flavors, all supported by tangy acidity. Undertones of tea and wet stone gain traction on the finish. Drink now. 20,000 cases made, 20,000 cases imported.—G.S.



CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS

Côtes de Provence Rosé Whispering Angel 2020

Score: 88 | \$25

WS review: A crowd-pleasing rosé, with white strawberry, mineral and rose petal flavors that are graceful and pure. Details of mineral, spice and melon fine-tune the supple finish. Drink now.—G.S.



DOMAINE DE CALA

Coteaux Varois en Provence Rosé 2020

Score: 87 | \$18

WS review: Melon pith, watermelon rind and zesty dried herb notes are cast with a lively acidity in this savory, focused rosé, with wet stone, kumquat and white pepper notes rounding out the finish. Grenache, Cinsault, Rolle and Syrah. Drink now. 4,000 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.—G.S.



MIRABEAU

Vin de France Rosé Belle Année 2020

Score: 87 | \$16

WS review: Vivid melon, tangerine and white raspberry notes are livened up with citrus acidity in this crisp rosé, with elements of wet stone, spice and anise folding together on the finish. Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault. Drink now. 15,000 cases made, 2,310 cases imported.—G.S.



AIMÉ ROQUESANTE

Côtes de Provence Rosé Cuvée Sélectionnée 2020

Score: 86 | \$14

WS review: White cherry, peach and anise notes are enveloped in a creamy, spice-laced texture in this rosé, with mineral, tea and herb notes gracing the finish. Cinsault, Syrah, Carignan, Mourvèdre and Grenache. Drink now. 350,000 cases made, 45,000 cases imported.—G.S.