

FOOD & WINE

THE 42 BEST SYRAHS TO BUY RIGHT NOW

BY BRIAN FREEDMAN JUNE 11, 2021

OUR FAVORITE SYRAHS FROM FAMILIAR REGIONS IN CALIFORNIA AND AUSTRALIA AND LESS-EXPECTED LOCALES IN IDAHO AND BEYOND.

Syrah has the potential to be grown and crafted in as wide a range of styles as any grape variety in the world. From fruit-forward and exuberant to practically dripping with bacon fat and tapenade, to bottlings that are lifted to the vinous stratosphere with the spicy, occasionally floral perfume of fresh-cracked peppercorns, Syrah (or Shiraz) is a grape that rewards exploration.

Which is why tasting for this piece was so deeply rewarding: Over the course of several dozen wines, it became abundantly clear that producers all over the world are crafting absolutely delicious Syrah and Syrah-based blends in a huge range of styles.

Still, for all that breadth, there is a remarkable thread that runs through the best of them, a savoriness that slices through the fruit, and a balance between the two that lends both tension and complexity.

Below are 42 Syrahs from all over the world that exemplify what makes the variety so exciting. Here are highly pleasurable Syrahs worth looking for.



KIMSEY
{ SYRAH }

2015 KIMSEY SYRAH BALLARD CANYON

So high-toned and full of cracked peppercorns, with gobs of green olives and dried thyme lending savoriness to the aromatics. A subtle saline, almost blood-like flavor to the palate is complicated by black cherries, fresh oregano, dried thyme, black tea, crunchy minerality, grenadine notes, hints of chocolate powder, and summertime flowers. Very complex.