

Decanter's Top 50 US Wines: Part two – 30–11

Decanter's North American Editor Clive Pursehouse continues his countdown of the top 50 US wines of 2024, with part two covering wines 30–11.



Clive Pursehouse
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Top Wines of the Year lists are far from novel, with most major publications compiling a list of their various takes on a 'Top 100' wines tasted in a given year. They may elicit controversy and second-guessing; but you know what they say about opinions, after all.

In my second year in this role, as our US coverage has continued to expand, it felt important to find a way to emphasise our commitment to both the depth and breadth of US wine.

In 2024, we've featured vintage reports from both the **Sonoma Coast** and **Sonoma County** separately, **Oregon's Willamette Valley** and the **Columbia Valley** that spans both Washington and Oregon.

Of course, we covered **Napa**, **Paso Robles**, **New York State**, and, for the first time, the **Anderson Valley** on California's northernmost coast.

I made the final ranking decisions, and I've personally tasted most, but not all, of these wines, even if I haven't scored them myself. I recognise that it's not perfect, but I feel like it's a great start for us, a very small team on this side of the pond.

My hope is that you may discover a new producer or three and enjoy exploring this list as much as I did putting it together.

Our grouping of the second 20 wines on our list includes several American Syrahs, a variety that people should absolutely get excited about.

From California's Paso Robles to Santa Barbara County, The Rocks District on the Oregon side of the Walla Walla Valley, and an iconic Yakima Valley vineyard in Washington state. Here are a few wines I'd like to highlight.

11: Cobb, Emmaline Ann Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, California 2021

The Emmaline Ann Pinot Noir stood out from a large 2021 vintage tasting on a rainy January day on the Sonoma Coast at Abigail's Vineyard with Ross Cobb. The wine's sheer elegance made it stand out among a collection of sterling examples of subtlety and refinement. 'Lots of folks talk about making wines in a Burgundian style, but From a vineyard planted by the Hunnicutt family, a little more than 1ha at up to 250m, the Emmaline Ann vineyard is surrounded by redwood forest. Made with 40% whole clusters and aged 22 months in barrel, this is an elegant aromatic symphony of gravelly minerality, pine bough, tart red fruits and fresh mint, revealing candied raspberries, black tea depth, bright berries and pomegranate molasses.

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