

## SELECTIONS FROM WINERIES

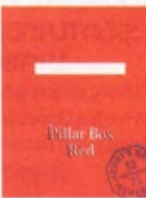
**RUN BY WOMEN**

By John Vankat

**W**omen play essential roles in wineries nationally and abroad, including as owners and CEOs. Their wineries range in size from small to very large, and many produce wonderful wines. Here are my favorite bottles from recent tastings.




**Pillar Box (by Henry's Drive) 2015 red blend "Padthaway, Australia" (\$15)**



Owner Kim Longbottom's winery is in the small but widely respected area of Padthaway. This Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon blend impresses with color depth and hue, a powerful nose and pleasing fruit and complexity on the palate.

**Luca 2016 Chardonnay "G Lot, Tupungato, Argentina" (\$35)**



Founder and owner Laura Catena is a fourth-generation Argentine vintner. Her Chardonnay is among the best I've tasted in the last year, featuring gold color, complex nose, and indelible power and grace on the palate.


**St. Amant 2016 Barbera "Tools of the Trade, Lodi" (\$18)**

Owner Barbara St. Amant-Spencer's winery is a family affair, as her son is the winemaker. The Barbera from Barbara's winery features notable strength and engaging complexity on nose and palate, giving it a strong personality. Available online.

**La Scolca 2016 Cortese "Black Label, Gavi dei Gavi, Italy" (\$45)**

Chiara Soldati is owner and fifth-generation winemaker at La Scolca in southern Piedmont. This dry white is beautifully made, with strength, body, fruit, balance and complexity blended into a strong, long-lingering personality.

**Graffito 2015 Malbec "Mendoza, Argentina" (\$20)**

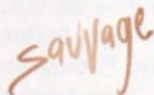


Owner and winemaker Jimena Lopez has produced wines for nearly 20 years in seven countries. Her Graffito Malbec is a fine buy with great color depth and hue, as well as strength on the palate featuring excellent fruit and attractive tannins.

**Dutcher Crossing 2015 Zinfandel "Maple Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley" (\$46)**

Proprietor Debra Mathy purchased Dutcher Crossing in 2007. This fine Zin features strong fruit, honed balance and very attractive tannins at first sip, followed by highly pleasing complexity at mid-palate and beyond. Available online.

**Sauvage (by Gruet) non-vintage sparkling wine "Rosé, America" (\$21)**




Nathalie Gruet is president of New Mexico's Gruet Winery, which produces Champagne-styled wines. This Rosé is outstanding, being forward and complex on both nose and palate and having voluminous bubbles and great length.

**Heitz 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon "Napa Valley" (\$54)**

Kathleen Heitz Myers is president and CEO of one of Napa's most renowned wineries. The wine has forward strength, excellent fruit and fine balance, all persisting through a lingering finish. Tannins call for pairing with beef.

**Maggy Hawk 2014 Pinot Noir "Jolie, Anderson Valley" (\$66)**



Maggy Hawk is part of the Jackson Family Wines Collection of chairwoman and proprietor Barbara Banke. The Jolie expresses rich fruit on the attack, followed by beautiful development of texture and complexity derived from core tannins. ▲

**Mollydooker 2016 Shiraz "The Boxer, South Australia" (\$28)**

Sarah Marquis, who co-founded Mollydooker in 2005, became the winery's sole owner in 2017. The Boxer is excellent Aussie Shiraz. Strong on the palate with rich full-bodied fruit, fine balance, impressive complexity and extended finish.

Recommended wines can be ordered from your favorite Arizona wine store, except as noted. Write to John Vankat at [azpinewine@yahoo.com](mailto:azpinewine@yahoo.com).