



R.H. Drexel's Top 50 Wines of 2023



BY R.H. DREXEL | NOVEMBER 22, 2023



These are troubled times and 2023 was especially tumultuous, with war abroad and civil unrest stateside closing out the year. For me and my wife, enjoying wine became even more meaningful this year. At our age, we're delighted and surprised when we make new friends, which happened a few anointed times this year, each one over great bottles of wine.

We've become more discerning, too. We're older and can't drink as much as we used to, so when we do open a bottle of wine at home, we choose carefully and enjoy it with some time on our hands.

I'm grateful for the many beautiful wines I enjoyed this year; for the company I was with and for the moments we spent together, when worries were suspended however briefly by an urgent kind of joy.

3. 2020 Jonata Cabernet Franc, El Alma de Jonata, Ballard Canyon, Santa Barbara County, CA

Quarry sage. Mint beneath a Cherry tree. Neruda. \$175.00



2. 2019 J. H. Wheeler Cabernet Sauvignon, Vine Hill Ranch, Napa Valley, CA

Core of purity. Textural wonder. Unrelenting aromatics. \$275.00

1. 2021 Jasud Cabernet Sauvignon, Estate, Diamond Mountain, Napa Valley, CA

Wilderness made. Abiding humility. Electrifying character.