

# FOOD & WINE

OCTOBER 2016

## 195 WAYS TO UP YOUR WINE GAME NOW

### Wine Knowledge

GOT QUESTIONS? F&W PUNDIT RAY ISLE HAS (PRETTY MUCH) ALL THE ANSWERS. HERE, HIS RESPONSES TO YOUR URGENT QUERIES FROM FACEBOOK LIVE.

**I'm looking for a good red that is "soft," which for me means that it hits my mouth gently and is lovely, not harsh. What should I be drinking?**  
—Harriet Goldstein, Watertown, MA

"Soft" is a great adjective, but if you want to up your game at the wine store, what you could say you're looking for is a red that's relatively low in tannins (which are astringent) and not very high in acid (which can be sharp). For a good, soft red, I suggest a wine made from Zinfandel, Cinsaut or Grenache. One of my go-tos is the 2014 Seghesio Sonoma County Zinfandel (\$26).

**What do you think is the best and most underrated wine region in the US?**  
—Melissa Langer, Los Angeles

I'd vote for the area around Charlottesville, Virginia. It's absolutely gorgeous, and the top wineries (such as Barboursville, Stinson, Michael Shaps and King Family) will impress even the biggest wine snob. Plus, there are plenty of good restaurants—like Fleurie, in Charlottesville (fleurie restaurant.com)—and hotels. I enjoy staying at Veritas winery's lovely renovated farmhouse B&B (veritasfarmhouse.com).

**I love Barolo, but it's pricey. Are there any other expensive wines you'd recommend?**  
—Jessica Lynn

You're right, Barolo is a good wine, but it's expensive. I'd recommend a good Pinot Noir or Cabernet Sauvignon.

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## BROADSIDE

around the world. Here are 10 recent standouts from the F&W tasting room.

### TOP 10 VALUE CABERNETS

**2014 Broadside Margarita Vineyard (\$20)**

Ripe Paso Robles fruit, but not too ripe; supple tannins balance it out.

Washington's finest genius winemaker Charles Smith.

State Cabernets are serious steals.

MUSKOGEE vinaigrette (p. 120).

