

# The Gazette

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## Break out some of the best California Chardonnays in decades

RICH MAURO, COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE MAY 2, 2018



2014 Bouchaine Estate

As warmer weather emerges, many of us begin to pay more attention to white wines and, among the whites, chardonnay is the undisputed favorite of American consumers. Luckily, this may be the best time in decades to drink California chardonnay. A focus on cooler climate vineyards where chardonnay thrives and more respect in handling the fruit has led to an abundance of good wine at reasonable prices in a variety of styles.

More than half of the wines in my tastings made the cut for this column. Most followed a Burgundian approach: significant oak, malolactic fermentation and lees stirring to achieve texture and richness. These deftly walked the line between opulence and freshness. I present them here in order of my preference, but all are recommended.

**2014 Bouchaine Estate:** fresh, elegant, meringue.