

# FOCUS: CALIFORNIA GRENACHE

Our blind panels tasted **36** grenache wines from California for this issue. **Joshua Greene** reviewed the new-release grenaches; then **Patrick J. Comiskey** conducted a focus tasting for a feature article in this issue. They rated **14** as exceptional (90+) and **1** as a Best Buy. *Find a complete list of wines tasted and all reviews at [wineandspiritsmagazine.com](http://wineandspiritsmagazine.com).*

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**92** | Birichino \$25  
**2017 Central Coast Besson Vineyard Grenache** This comes from head-trained vines planted in the 1910s, near the southern flanks of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It's saturated with flavor, from baking spice to deep red-cherry notes, and structured by ripe, concentrated tannins. It's a grenache with exceptional composure and grace. — P.J.C.

**91** | Birichino \$25  
**2016 Central Coast Besson Vineyard Grenache** The warmth of the 2016 vintage is on display in this wine's heady scents and mildly briny sourness. The ripe black-cherry fruit is reined in by an almost clay-like grip of tannins, fine and elegant, for something with a bit of savor, like goat. — P.J.C.