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Saying hello to Hollywood ...

liquid news

THE 86th Annual Academy Awards (March 2) always promise an evening of glitz, glamour and the all-important envelope opening - which neatly brings to mind, why not open up a bottle too?

To applaud the critics' choice, toast your favourite and imagine you have a front-row seat, here are some best-dressed, A-list labels for Oscar's night.

Hollywood's power couple, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have just released the second vintage of their critically acclaimed Provençal rose, Chateau Miraval Rose 2013, France (£19.95, www.bbr.com) which has been described as "Almost luminous" in its beauty by Berry Brothers fine wine specialists. A collaboration between the Pitt-Jolies and the legendary Perrin winemaking family, the 2012 vintage sold 6,000 bottles in less than five hours - no doubt Pitt, the producer of the period-epic 12 Years a Slave, is hoping he'll enjoy equal success on the big night and take home his first golden statuette.

Space thriller Gravity is another firm favourite for the awards this year, and Sandra Bullock's nomination for Best Actress certainly calls for a wine that 'out of this world' Cave de Turckheim Gewurztraminer Grand Cru Brand 2011, France (£17.99, www.virginwines.co.uk), which has received glowing reviews, is a sweet wine from Alsace, slightly unctuous with a heavenly nose of lychee and rose petals, pure exotic fruit of a very high quality and a luxurious, honeyed mouthfeel with a hint of apricot on the lingering finish.

Or for a shift in style, Altitude by Duorum 2011, Portugal (£12.99, www.laithwaites.co.uk) is an award-winning Grand Cru blend of indigenous Portuguese grapes. This



fine, full-bodied red has a rich core of blackberry, prune, cassis and violets, ending with a long finish and traction from the firm tannins - if any wine is exciting enough to live up to a space voyage gone wrong, surely this is it.

For wine buffs backing screwball comedy American Hustle, a glass or two of Seghesio Sonoma County Zinfandel 2011, California, USA (£21.99, www.virginwines.co.uk) is a fitting tribute, nicely in keeping with the Golden State's flagship zinfandel (or primitivo) grape. Beautifully concentrated with jammy raspberry and aromas of baked cherry and spice, it's a bold style with plenty of body, and perhaps as easy to fall for as the movie world's current darling, and American Hustle star, Jennifer Lawrence.

Generally speaking, the Bafta Awards offer us an inkling of what we can expect at the Oscars, and Cate Blanchett will be hoping to repeat her win for Blue Jasmine.

To wish her well, Star & Vine Lodi Chardonnay 2012, USA (£9.99, www.virginwines.co.uk) is an elegant fruity white with a stylish label, which would have certainly appealed to Jasmine, her New York socialite film character. To satisfy those who only drink red, Wirra Wirra Church Block 2011, Australia (£12.99, The Co-operative) perfectly matches Jasmine's complex character, being a blend of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot.