

Exploring Inexpensive French, Portugese, California Recommendations

Dry Chenin Blanc 2022, Dry Creek Vineyard, Clarksburg, California \$15

Stainless Steel Fermentation, "...aromatics of honeydew, watermelon and pineapple spring forward from the glass with floral notes of jasmine and honeysuckle. On the palate, the wine has refreshing flavors of cucumber, lime and nectarine with hints of geranium, sweet basil and ripe orange (OR "...peach, Meyer lemon and cucumber with hints of geranium, white tea and white pepper.") The mouthfeel is soft but inviting, with a lively acidity. This classic, Loire Valley-style wine is excellent when paired with fresh oysters, and seafood, or just about anything!"
12.5% alcohol.

Gamay de Loire 2020, Terres Blondes, Loire, France \$12

"It's light and fresh enough to chill to take on a picnic but finishes with a slight earthiness for a more serious dinner wine. The grapes are fermented as whole clusters starting with carbonic maceration to keep the red cherry fruit and raspberry fruit popping." "This juicy, high-toned Gamay from the Loire Valley is bursting with fresh, clean fruit. It blends together cranberry, pomegranate, and orange peel into one delicate package. And then there's that underlying rocky minerality that screams Loire Valley."
12% alcohol.

Altano Naturalmente Douro 2021, Symington Family Estate, Douro Valley, Portugal \$13

Tempranillo (Tinta Roriz), Touriga Francesa, Tinta Barroca. "A deep, ruby-crimson color. Aromas of Mediterranean maquis vegetation with eucalyptus & pine needle, black plum & damson. Full & satisfying on the palate with ripe, fruits of the forest flavors, seasoned with peppery tannins." "A red blend made from Touriga Francesa, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca, with a brief spell in oak barrels. In recent years this wine has sought to emphasize the clarity and freshness of its red and black fruits, as well as less extraction and greater fluidity, which is more than welcome. Enjoyable to drink and easy to please, it has vibrant acidity, soft tannins and a juicy finish, with hints of flowers, herbs, plums, blackberries and violets. Here, less is much more! Alcohol 13.5% - 91/100, Adegas Magazine" (Translated with DeepL.com (free version))

Réserve De Prieuré St-Flaurent, Bordeaux, France 2022 \$11

"Medium-bodied, showing remarkable strength and elegance. The color is bright ruby and the tannins are light." "Aromas of ripe black fruits; cherries and blackcurrants whilst on the palate these ripe fruits marry perfectly with the silky soft tannins to produce a wine just pleading to be drunk and enjoyed. Excellent with red meats, game and hard cheeses." From the Cardarelli family, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 70% Merlot, 13.5% alcohol

Domaine de Truchasson Côtes de Duras Rouge 2020, St-Jean de Duras, France \$12

Domaine de Truchasson shows a deep red color. The nose reveals a broad range of dark red fruit aromas. In the mouth, the tannins are well rounded and the finish is long.
20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 80% Merlot, 14.5% alcohol.