

Weird Whites

February 20, 2026

Marion and Larry Hamermesh

<i>Varietal</i>	<i>Winery/ Location/ Vintage/ Price</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. Hondarrabi Zura (Txakolina)	Hiruzta Hondarrabia, Gipuzkoa, Spain (near San Sebastian) 2024 \$19.94	Hondarrabi zuri vines produce grapes and bunches of small size. The wines have intense aromas of pear and exotic fruits, as well as citrus, herbaceous and floral nuances, with notable acidity and a medium to moderate alcohol content. In good vintages, when the maturation circumstances are optimal, it is possible to obtain aromatic, powerful and very balanced wines.
2. Verdejo	Protos Rueda, Spain (northwest of Madrid) 2020 \$15.19	Verdejo is a native varietal growing throughout Castilla y León located in the provinces of Valladolid, Segovia, and Ávila. Vineyards are affected by a Continental climate. which makes for crisp, fresh, aromatic, herbal, and fruity wines. In Rueda, the deep, sandy soils helped protect many of the vines from the phylloxera louse, so many of the vines are more than 100 years old. Verdejo wines are dry, with moderate alcohol, body, and high acidity. Flavors range from lemon-lime, grapefruit, and citrus, accented by fennel and grassy notes. In general, Verdejo styles vary in three ways. Wines vinified in stainless steel are mineral-driven, high acid, lemony, and grassy, designed for immediate consumption. Verdejo wines that are fermented in oak barrels are meant for long-aging, and develop a rich, smoky texture and creaminess. There is also a natural style of Verdejo winemaking, with long skin contact, aged in various vessels without fining, filtration, or adding sulfur. These wines often have a nutty and natty quality.
3. Greco di Tufo	Janare Sannio (near Naples) 2022 \$14.24	Powerful aromas of apricot, peach, and citrus on the nose, while on the palate mineral and floral notes are framed by apple and pear flavors. Pair with shellfish, cured and green olives, mild aged cheeses, and risotto, especially with porcini mushrooms.
4. Vermentino	Fibbiano Terricciola (near Pisa) 2023 \$18.99	Vermentino is a thin-skinned, early-budding, late-ripening grape that thrives in a warm Mediterranean climate. This variety grows primarily in Sardinia, Italy, producing a unique, refreshing dry white wine with citrus aromas of lemon and lime, along with green apple and pear. Among those notes are bright herbal notes with almond undertones.

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5. Godello	Avancia Valdeorras, northwest Spain 2023 \$22.79	Cuvee de O Godello expresses the freshest expression of the Valdeorras' unique slate soils and indigenous clones of Godello. Sur lie ageing and used large format barrel fermentation impart a weight and complexity to Cuvée de O that sets it apart from other Godellos. Godello is grown in both Spain and Portugal and is thought to originate in Galicia in the northwestern corner of Spain. A rare grape with great potential from the Iberian peninsula delivers mouth-watering flavors of briny grapefruit. The best examples offer smoky minerality.
6. Arneis	Cordero Langhe, Italy (near Turin) 2022 \$28.49	Arneis is a white Italian wine grape from Piedmont, renowned for the aromatic wines it produces, characterized by a floral aroma and a fruit-forward profile. Its aromatic profile includes fragrances of pear, apricot, white flowers, and chamomile. Arneis is known for its fruit-forward profile, featuring flavours like apple, pear, and stone fruits.
7. Turbiana	Ca dei Frati Lugana di Sirmione (near Verona/Lake Garda) 2024 \$20.89	Made from 100% Turbiana grapes grown on the estate, this is fresh and focused with a perfume that's reminiscent of white flowers, almond, and apricot. On the palate, this is crisp and flavorful with fruit flavors that are underpinned with just a suggestion of salinity/minerality. Crisp enough to refresh the palate, but weighty enough to stand up to a feast!

TOTAL: \$ 140.53

DESCRIPTION SOURCES:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hondarrabi_Zuri
2. <https://despanafinewines.com/collections/verdejo>
3. Kreston's Wine & Spirits (<https://krestonwines.com>)
4. https://www.thegrapegrind.com/grapes/vermentino-wine-guide/?srsltid=AfmBOop_2NPK-58UIE4-VPtgkwSm268I-RiwQeqzcJPymS_qVCF4qLtg
5. Kreston's Wine & Spirits
6. <https://www.vinerra.com/education/wines/arneis-an-in-depth-wine-profile>
7. Kreston's Wine & Spirits