

September Wine Bargains

Sparkling & White Wines:

Belle Jardin Blanc de Blanc Brut, Alsace, France

\$14

This Pinot Blanc bubbly displays a fresh, floral nose with hints of toasty yeast. A fine value, particularly for a sparkling wine, it exhibits a myriad of tiny bubbles in its flavorful, satin-textured, light to medium-bodied, vinous character. Lively, yet rich, this wonderful alternative to high priced Champagnes can be served either as an aperitif or with a meal.

Duquesa de Valladolid Verdejo, 2014, Rueda, Spain

\$11

This is a terrific seafood wine, with its fresh, lively acidity, honeyed, crisp, mineral-like character, and dry, medium-bodied finish. Its purity, freshness, and overall fruit character dominate its personality.

Flying Solo Grenache Blanc / Viognier, 2014, Languedoc, France

\$14

It possesses a lively, perfumed, honeysuckle, citrus, and flower-scented bouquet. Medium-bodied and refreshing, with loads of crisp fruit, it will provide immense enjoyment over the next year.

Old Soul Chardonnay, 2013, Lodi, California

\$15

Lovely aromas of pineapple, pear and lemon mix with accents of vanilla, caramel and a light, and very elegant, touch of oak. On the palate, this medium-bodied wine exhibits ripe pear, pineapple and peach in obvious amounts. The finish is long, fruity and silky smooth.

Bonny Doon "The Heart Has its" Riesling, 2013, San Benito & Monterey, California

\$14

Randall Graham is one of the most interesting characters in all of wine. His description of this wine is, "This wine is the absolute embodiment of springtime. Remarkably crisp, zinging acidity with enough sweetness (3%ish) to keep it perfectly balanced, it delivers an exquisite wallop to the senses. Eminently approachable in the short term, it is our expectation (though who really knows what the future will bring?) that this wine will reward a long-term commitment to cellaring. In the nose, you find a classic fragrance of kirsch (generally thought of as a signifier of the Rheingau), but maybe also Mirabelle plum and an earthiness that bespeaks the Nahe. Very delicate body; in the mouth, a sort of filigreed, dancing lightness to the wine, impelled, no doubt, by a wonderful, refreshing acidity."

Red Wines:

Terrapura Pinot Noir, 2013, Aconcagua, Chile

\$15

This gorgeous Pinot Noir is dark ruby red with an expressive nose of toast, spice box, incense, black cherry, and black raspberry. On the palate, it is sweetly-fruited, savory, and has good density. Drink this tasty effort over the next several years with duck, roasted chicken or grilled salmon.

Piazzo Dolcetto d'Alba, 2013, Piedmont, Italy

\$14

This beautiful Dolcetto reveals a brilliant dark purple color, a big, exuberant nose of ripe fruit and flowers, lusciously rich, fleshy fruit, and a clean, velvety finish with just enough acidity to provide grip.

Lechuza Garnacha, 2012, Carinena, Spain

\$11

This yummy Garnacha from Carinena is dark ruby-colored with a lively nose of red and black cherry. Supple, seamless, and with no hard edges, this easy-drinking wine is a crowd pleaser. This is an excellent value to drink over the next three years.

Bootstrap Red Wine, 2013, California

\$13

This Zinfandel blend has a dark ruby/purple color that is followed by a Cotes du Rhone-like nose of crushed black pepper intermixed with sweet black cherries, currants, figs, and dusty cocoa. Nicely-textured and chewy, this delicious red should be consumed over the next 2-3 years with barbecue and burgers.

Rabbit Ridge "Allure" Red, 2013, Paso Robles, California

\$12

This G,S,M Rhone blend from Erich Russell at Rabbit Ridge is absolutely delicious. The nose is very fresh, with aromas of violet, blackcurrant, dark and red fruits, cedar and spice. It is light and fresh in the mouth, with nice balance and roundness. A sexy floral quality plays in the background with sappy dark berry and lavender flavors in the mid-palate. This wine displays impressive depth and power with out excess weight.

Callia Alta Malbec, 2014, San Juan, Argentina

\$12

We love this pure Malbec from the San Juan province, the second in importance for wine after Mendoza. It has a showy bouquet of ripe blueberries and smoke intermixed with floral and wild berry notes. The palate is medium-bodied, crisp, with rather simple red fruit flavors, clean and with good persistence.

Santa Carolina "Reserva" Carmenere, 2013, Cachapoal, Chile

\$11

This Carmenere has a raucous, intense bouquet with blackberry, kirsch and blueberry jam that is rich but well defined and pure. The palate is rounded and sensual with ripe black fruit and silky smooth tannins on the chocolate tinged finish. Spectacular with beef or lamb.