

May Wine Bargains

Red Wines:

_____ **Brownstone Pinot Noir, California** **\$10**

Ripe black cherry and blackberry dark fruit meld with a touch of oak to balance and round out into a smooth, satisfying finish. What's not to love?

_____ **La Coume de Roy "Alma" Grenache, 2013, Roussillon, France** **\$14**

This easy going wine reveals an attractive deep ruby color, a forthright, generous nose of sweet, jammy black-cherries, lush, heady, succulent flavors, low acidity, and a plump, mouthfilling finish. This silky-textured wine should drink well for 1-2 more years.

_____ **Four Vines "Truant" Zinfandel, 2012, Paso Robles, California** **\$13**

The folks at Four Vines claim to be "wine-loving rebels who seized an opportunity to craft wines that are distinctly unstuffy, characteristically joyous and decidedly American." The name Truant describes someone who slips away from the confines of everyday routine, and also refers to their winemaking style, which is not limited by geographical confines. It is a juicy, spicy, generous wine. Dark berry and spicy notes entice the nose, while ripe plum, blackberry and a touch of blueberry flavors entertain the taste buds. Juicy and structured, this wine is well balanced and has a long, velvety finish.

_____ **Slent Pinotage, 2014, South Africa** **\$13**

Ripe crushed strawberry and dark plum on the nose with just a hint of blueberry and orange blossom. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannins, crisp acidity and a very focused finish of licorice and baked cherries.

_____ **Montesinos Monastrell, 2013, La Mancha, Spain** **\$14**

Purple in color, it exhibits a perfume of spice box, forest floor, blackberry, and blueberry. This leads to a ripe, mouth-filling, succulent wine that has no hard edges. Drink it over the next three years.

_____ **Chateau Vieux Courriere, 2014, Bordeaux, France** **\$10**

This blend of Merlot & Cabernet has a fragrant bouquet of wild strawberry and raspberry that is nicely defined. There is a bit of complexity here with light mineral and dried flower scents underneath the red fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grained tannin that provide nice backbone. Excellent with roasted beef or lamb.

_____ **Bodega La Azul Malbec, 2013, Mendoza, Argentina** **\$14.50**

This Malbec offers up an inviting nose of spice box, floral notes, and black cherry. Supple, easygoing, and with excellent grip, in the glass it displays wonderful depth, complexity, and length. Drink this tasty wine over the next 3-4 ye

White & Rosé Wines:

_____ Camina Verdejo, 2015, La Mancha, Spain \$11

This fragrant 100% Verdejo white is pale lemon-green with aromas of lemon, melon and delicate notes of pear and honeysuckle. Refreshing on the palate with zesty acidity and a fresh, fruity finish. A great aperitif or pair with fish dishes.

_____ Salton “Flowers” Branco, Brazil \$10

This stuff is just fun, from the packaging to the wine -- simply light and easy. An off-dry blend of Muscat, Malvasia, and Gewurtzaminer, this wine lives up to it's name with lots of floral notes. It has a medium-light body, zingy acidity, and flavors of jasmine, roses, and apricots. It's playful, perfect for spring, great with Asian fare or sipping poolside on a hot day this summer.

_____ Squadra Terre Bianco, 2014, Sicily, Italy \$14

This blend of Cataratto and Grillo (two indigenous grapes) reveals an intense expression of tropical fruit, flowers and baking spices, with a level of richness that is gorgeous. That said, the wine retains a surprising level of acidity, verve and freshness.

_____ Tormaresca Chardonnay, 2014, Puglia, Italy \$14

This winery (owned by Antinori) is doing some extraordinary things in the heel of the boot. This delightful Chardonnay is fermented and aged in stainless to retain some acidity. The sun drenched vineyards in Puglia produce grapes with great intensity, giving the wine depth and richness. Orange, roasted apple, pear and spice with a hint of flowers and citrus zest.

_____ Domaine La Tour de Beraud Rosé, 2015, Costieres de Nimes, France \$14

We're kicking our heels we're so excited the rosés are arriving. 2015 was an excellent vintage for rosé in the south of France and this one, made with Mourvèdre and Carignan with Syrah and Grenache is a stunner. It is pretty, perfumed and lively, with wild strawberry, underbrush and hints of wild thyme. The best part is how amazingly versatile these wines are with food.