

October Wine Bargains

White Wines:

Bodegas Volver “Paso a Paso” Organic Verdejo, 2019, Castilla La Mancha, Spain

This lovely, crisp, fresh white is made from Verdejo and Macabeo grapes in La Mancha, the land of Don Quixote. It has notes of citrus, mango, jasmine and baking spice all shining through on the long finish. Wonderful with garlic shrimp and simple white fish dishes. \$13

Purato Pinot Grigio & Catarratto, 2018, Sicily, Italy

From the island of Sicily, the toe of “the boot”, this Pinot Grigio benefits from the addition of Catarratto, an indigenous Italian grape generally used to make Marsala. Pinot Grigio from warm vineyards in the south bring flavors of orange blossom and tangerine. The Catarratto brings notes of white flowers, quince and lemon zest. It’s beautifully put together and really sings when paired with salads and fresh veggies. \$13

Craftwork Sauvignon Blanc, 2019, Monterey, California

From vineyards near the ocean in beautiful Monterey, this classy style of Sauvignon has flavors of fig, green apple, mint and minerals all coming together in a medium bodied format. It shows some weight on the palate, and pairs perfectly with salmon, rockfish or herb chicken. \$14

Perrin Reserve Cotes du Rhone Blanc, 2019, Rhone Valley, France

From the family that owns Chateau de Beaucastel in Chateauneuf-du-Pape, this is another rockstar wine at a roadie price point. Made from a blend of the classic Rhone varieties; Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Marsanne and Roussanne, it soars from the glass with aromas of apricot and tangerine. On the palate, there’s lovely mineral notes as well as flavors of toasted Marcona almond. It has a wonderful expression of fruit but it also has verve and backbone to keep it clean and fresh. Bravo! \$12

Pierres Blanches Chardonnay, 2019, Languedoc, France

The Languedoc is the largest group of fine wine vineyards in the world. That’s why we source so many great bargains for our list each month from there. Either the Romans planted vineyards there 2000 years ago or the Gauls before that. Either way, it’s been known for millennia that it’s a fantastic place to grow grapes. This pure expression of Chardonnay comes from vineyards just north of the city of Nimes, close to the Mediterranean Sea. It’s fermented in cool stainless steel before aging a few months in French oak casks to improve the texture and add subtle notes of spice and vanilla. The result is a wine with plenty of ripe pear and nectarine fruit with a nice bite of Granny Smith apple for mouthwatering freshness. The generous fruit flavors gain complexity from notes of spice, toasted hazelnut, and tangy butter and ride along in a round, silky, texture you’d hope for in a more expensive wine. A great cocktail and party Chardonnay for sure, and with enough body and depth to stand up to rich foods and cold nights. \$11

Red Wines:

Sorin Bourgogne Pinot Noir, 2018, Burgundy, France

It is now quite rare to find *any* red Burgundy at this price, let alone something that really shows the beautiful fruit and lovely minerality that only Burgundy does with Pinot Noir. This wine is all about texture; sating, liquid cherry ribbon candy. It's soft and lush and shows beautiful red raspberry and cherry fruit along with Burgundy's tell-tale minerality and a hint of dusty cocoa and cinnamon. It's a joy to drink and is even better with mushroom dishes and duck. \$15

Terra Viva Sangiovese, 2018, Marche, Italy

This is 100% Sangiovese, the Chianti grape, grown just southeast of Tuscany in Le Marche on the Adriatic Sea. The wine offers an elegant, cherry, strawberry, and leathery-scented nose, medium body, good spice and ripeness, and a round, open-knit texture. It's easy to understand and is a great bistro style red perfect for pasta and pizza. \$12

Vaza Tempranillo, 2018, Rioja, Spain

This Tempranillo hails from the ancient region of Rioja, but is made in a more modern style. It sees no oak & the focus is the true fruit expression of the grape. Flavors of blackberry, plum & strawberry licorice shine through with lingering hints of baking spice, soft tannins and mineral on the finish. \$13

Bodegas Sierra Salinas "Mo" Monastrell, 2018, Valencia, Spain

Jeb Dunnick, formerly of Robert Parker's Wine Advocate gave it 90 points and said, "Blueberries, violets, white pepper, and graphite notes all emerge from the 2018 Mo, which is 100% Monastrell, from old vines and high elevation vineyards, brought up all in stainless steel. Juicy, medium-bodied, with good acidity, and plenty of fruit, it's another smoking value from this importer. Drink it over the coming couple of years." \$12

Regio "Old Vine Old Clone" Zinfandel, 2016, Lodi, California

Sourced from old vineyards in Lodi, some dating back over 100 years, this wine has briary, brambly, aromas of blueberry pie, cola, cherry and black licorice as well as toast and spice from oak aging. It is rich, juicy and alluring on the palate with flavors of ripe red summer berries, cranberry, and hints of cinnamon and pepper. \$14

Navarro Correas Malbec, 201X, Mendoza, Argentina \$13

The medium ruby/garnet-colored Malbec is a silky, sumptuously-styled wine with a classy, complex nose of black fruits, spices, and flowers. Fresh and fruity, with a velvety texture, this stylish, rich, fully mature wine reveals no hard edges and ripe tannin. The finish is all concentrated black-raspberry juice. This Malbec will offer a seductive mouthful of wine for 3-4 years. Yummy!

Estampa Cabernet / Petit Verdot, 201X, Colchagua Valley, Chile

Aromas of cedar, tobacco, violets, spice box, black currant, and blackberry set the stage for a ripe, firm, well structured blend that is an amazing value meant for drinking over the next 4-5 years. \$14