Champagne

Champagne is a region in France – the country’s northernmost winemaking region, to be exact. In the Champagne region, the growing season is shorter; thus, the grapes are picked with higher acidity than in most other regions, which is one of the reasons for Champagne’s distinct taste. Three grapes can be used to produce Champagne: Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, and Chardonnay. In France, only sparkling wines that come from the region of Champagne may be called “Champagne.” Some American producers have borrowed the name “Champagne” to put on the label of their sparkling wines. These cannot and should not be compared with Champagne from France. Champagnes are classified according to sweetness/dryness: Brut – driest; Extra dry – less dry; Sec – more sweet; and Demi sec – sweetest.

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Albariño / Albariño

White wine producing variety, used to create a serious varietal wine with pleasant citrus fruit aroma, widely grown in regions of Northwest Spain and in northern Portugal. Thought by some to be a Riesling clone originating from the Alsace region of France.

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**Arneis**

Arneis is a white Italian wine grape variety originating from Piedmont, Italy. It is most commonly found in the hills of the Roero, northwest of Alba, where it is part of the white Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita (DOCG) wines of Roero. Arneis (literally: little rascal, in Piemontese) is so called because it is regarded as a somewhat difficult variety to grow. It is a crisp and floral varietal, and has been grown for centuries in the region. The white wines made from the Arneis grape tend to be dry and full body with notes of pears and apricots.

**Cabernet Franc**

Cabernet Franc is a cedar and herbaceous scented wine that is much lighter in color and body than either Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot. Often used in blended wines, it gives complexity to a wine’s bouquet and softness. When it stands by itself, it is generally considered an exceptional wine.

**Cabernet Sauvignon**

Considered the most successful red vinifera grape in California, this grape yields some of the greatest red wines in the world. It is the predominant variety used in the finest red Bordeaux wines. These wines have long been recognized for their quality and are the standard to which the red wines of other regions-new and established-are compared. Almost all California Cabernets are dry, and depending upon the producer, they range in style from light- to extremely full bodied. They are rich, complex, highly tannic wines that need barrel and bottle aging and are normally blended with Merlot and Cabernet Franc to quicken the aging process. Cabernet Sauvignon is often described as having berry, black currant, cassis, herbaceous or vegetative (bell pepper, green bean, olives), mint, black pepper aromas and flavors. It can age 10 20 years.
### Chile

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<td>Whitehall Lane, <strong>Cabernet Sauvignon</strong>, Napa Valley, California, 2004</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
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Chardonnay

This green skinned European grape is considered the finest white grape variety in the world. Chardonnay originated in France, where it was blended to make Champagnes and used to produce excellent oak aged, rich, dry white wines in the Burgundy district, which includes the Chablis region whose wines are often more tart and lighter-bodied. Chardonnay is very popular internationally and is vinified successfully in Italy’s northern districts, as well as in Spain and Eastern Europe. Outside of Europe, it has performed well on the east and west coastlines of the U.S., South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. In California, it has been the most successful white grape, yielding a wine of tremendous character and magnificent flavor. The wines are often aged in small oak barrels, increasing the complexity. Chardonnay is always dry, and benefits from aging more than any other American white wine. Superior examples can keep and develop well in the bottle for five years or longer. Because it is often aged in oak, it is difficult to pinpoint the varietal aroma characteristics of Chardonnay. Descriptions heard around the tasting table are fruity (apple, peach, citrus, pineapple), ripe grape, and fig, along with the bouquet terms vanilla (from oak aging) and buttery (from the malolactic fermentation). Outstanding Chardonnays can age five years and more.

Argentina
776 Trapiche, Chardonnay, "Oak Cask", Mendoza, Argentina, 2014 ......................................................... 23
286 Viña Cobos, Chardonnay, "Bramare Marchiori Vineyard", Mendoza, Argentina, 2005 .......................... 52
327 Zolo, Chardonnay, Unoaked, Mendoza, Argentina, 2014 ................................................................. 24

Australia
284 Philip Shaw, Chardonnay, "No 11", Orange, New South Wales, Australia, 2005 ................................. 42

Chile
630 La Playa, Chardonnay, Unoaked, Colchagua Valley, Chile, 2017 .................................................... 20
99 Veramonte, Chardonnay, "Reserva", Casablanca Valley, Aconcagua, Chile, 2009 ................................. 21
566 Vino del Paso, Chardonnay, Valle Central, Chile, 2014 ................................................................. 23

France
536 Auguste Bonhomme, Demi-Sec, Vouvray, "La Forcine", Loire, France, 2013 ................................. 26
624 Domaine Bernard Defaix, Chablis, Burgundy, France, 2014 ......................................................... 31
426 Domaine Bernard Defaix, Petit Chablis, Burgundy, France, 2017 .................................................... 28
367 Domaine Roux Père & Fils, Chardonnay, Bourgogne, Burgundy, France, 2014 .............................. 29
236 Drouhin Vaudon, Chablis, Burgundy, France, 2010 ............................................................ 39
182 Les Cadoles, Chardonnay, Mâcon-Villages, Burgundy, France, 2013 ............................................. 29
115 Louis Jadot, Pouilly-Fuissé, Burgundy, France, 2015 ............................................................... 37
859 Louis Latour, Chardonnay, Ardèche, France, 2015 ............................................................. 20
519 Louis Latour, Pouilly-Fuissé, Burgundy, France, 2015 ............................................................. 40
148 Louis Latour, Pouilly-Fuissé, Burgundy, France, 2013 ............................................................. 37
504 Paul Bouchard & Cie, Chablis, Burgundy, France, 2013 ............................................................. 38
503 Paul Bouchard & Cie, Chardonnay, Bourgogne, Burgundy, France, 2014 ..................................... 27
741 Paul Bouchard & Cie, Chardonnay, Bourgogne, Burgundy, France, 2013 .................................. 27
750 Paul Bouchard & Cie, Chardonnay, Mâcon-Villages, Burgundy, France, 2012 .............................. 26
544 Tussock Jumper, Chardonnay, Vin de France, 2012 ................................................................. 24

Italy
997 Castelfeder, Chardonnay, "Doss", Alto Adige-Südtirol, Alto Adige, Italy, 2018 .............................. 27
Spain

Bodegas Castillo de Monjardin, **Chardonnay**, "El Cerezo", Navarra, Spain, 2015 ...........................................23

USA

98 Ferrari-Carano, **Chardonnay**, "Tré Terre", Russian River Valley, California, 2013 ...........................................37
404 Freestone, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma Coast, California, 2007 ..............................................................................46
962 Gloria Ferrer, **Chardonnay**, Carneros, California, 2014 .................................................................................27
996 J. McClelland, **Chardonnay**, "JMC", Napa Valley, California, 2016 .................................................................29
600 Jones of Washington, **Chardonnay**, "Estate", Wahluke Slope, Washington, 2013 .............................................29
108 Jordan, **Chardonnay**, Russian River Valley, California, 2013 ...........................................................................45
381 Joseph Phelps, **Chardonnay**, "Freestone Vineyards", Sonoma Coast, California, 2014 .................................49
402 Joseph Phelps, **Chardonnay**, "Freestone Vineyards", Sonoma Coast, California, 2010 .............................33
952 Kenwood Vineyards, **Chardonnay**, "Six Ridges", Russian River Valley, California, 2018 .............................23
551 Kite Hawk, **Chardonnay**, Napa Valley, California, 2014 ...............................................................................30
293 Migration by Duckhorn, **Chardonnay**, Russian River Valley, California, 2013 ..............................................42
150 O Wines, **Chardonnay**, Columbia Valley, Washington, 2011 .................................................................22
356 Patz & Hall, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma Coast, California, 2015 .............................................................................48
357 Patz & Hall, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma Coast, California, 2014 .............................................................................48
483 Ramey, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma Coast, California, 2014 .................................................................................50
499 Ramey, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma Coast, California, 2013 .................................................................................50
520 Ramey, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma Coast, California, 2012 ..................................................................................34
334 Robert Mondavi Winery, **Chardonnay**, "Reserve", Napa Valley Carneros, California, 2014 ......................56
370 Robert Mondavi Winery, **Chardonnay**, "Reserve", Napa Valley Carneros, California, 2011 ......................66
110 Rodney Strong, **Chardonnay**, "Estate Vineyards", Chalk Hill, California, 2014 .............................................34
972 Shannon Ridge, **Chardonnay**, "Circle O Ranch", Lake County, California, 2015 ..............................................25
985 Simi, **Chardonnay**, Sonoma County, California, 2019 ...................................................................................26
496 Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars, **Chardonnay**, "Karia", Napa Valley, California, 2014 .................................43
622 Steele Canyon Cellars, **Chardonnay**, Napa Valley, California, 2012 ...........................................................30
372 Stonehedge, **Chardonnay**, California, 2012 .................................................................................................32
902 Talbott, **Chardonnay**, "Kali Hart", Monterey County, California, 2012 .........................................................32
230 Villa Mt. Eden, **Chardonnay**, "Bien Nacido Vineyard Grand Reserve", Santa Maria Valley, California, 2006 ..........................52
40 William Hill Estate Winery, **Chardonnay**, Central Coast, California, 2019 ............................................24

**Chenin Blanc**

Chenin Blanc is a grape planted throughout the world. Properly ripened, the Chenin Blanc grape shows aromas of honeysuckle, apricot, honey and flowers, always with a firm acidity, which allows for lengthy aging in the bottle. Vouvray is the most important white wine appellation in the Touraine District of the Loire.

USA

114 Zaca Mesa, **Viognier**, Santa Ynez Valley, California, 2013 .................................................................26
Cortese
Cortese has the dubious distinction of producing Italy's most expensive dry white wine, Gavi di Gavi. To many this accolade is a little difficult to understand, although Cortese wine certainly conforms to the Italian ideal for a bianco: low in aroma, high in acid and fairly neutral in character.

Italy
410 Fontanafredda, Gavi, Piedmont, Italy, 2016 ................................................................. 29
409 La Scolca, Gavi, "Black Label", Piedmont, Italy, 2013 .................................................. 33
688 Tenuta La Marchesa, Gavi, Piedmont, Italy, 2014 ......................................................... 22

Corvina Rondinella
Found in Northeast Italy, Corvina is one of the most important varietals when producing Valpolicella and neighboring reds, making up 70 percent of the blend. The light crimson color, light to medium body, and tart, soft, bitter almonds gives this wine its character.

Italy
290 Aldegheri, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, Veneto, Italy, 2004 .................................. 84
313 Cesari, Amarone della Valpolicella, "Bosan", Veneto, Italy, 1998 .................................... 131
773 Masi, Rosso del Veronese, "Brolo di Campofiorin", Veneto, Italy, 1998 ......................... 40
227 Secoli, Amarone della Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy, 2014 ................................................. 38

Furmint
Furmint is the white variety that most international wine drinkers associate most readily with Hungary, chiefly because it is the predominant variety in the official Tokay blend, one of the few wines that could justifiably be described as legendary.

Hungary
837 Disznókő, Aszú 6 Puttonyos, Tokaji, Hungary, 1999, 500ml ........................................... 156
121 Puklus Pincészet, Aszú 3 Puttonyos, Tokaji, Hungary, 2008, 500ml ............................ 31

Gamay
Beaujolais is France's most popular wine. The Gamay grape produces refreshing fruity wines for early consumption. There are some who believe Beaujolais is one of the very few red wines that can be drunk as a white. Cru Beaujolais may be served slightly chilled to bring out the fruit and liveliness (acidity) of the wines. Beaujolais is a red wine that can also be enjoyed during the warmer months.

France
423 Louis Jadot, Rosé, Coteaux Bourguignons, Burgundy, France, 2016 .............................. 26
689 Complices de Loire, Gamay, "Jus de Gamay", Touraine, Loire, France, 2015 ............... 21
746 Georges Dubœuf, Nouveau, Beaujolais, France, 2017 .................................................. 22
178 Georges Dubœuf, Nouveau, Beaujolais, France, 2016 .................................................. 21
268 Georges Dubœuf, Nouveau, Beaujolais, France, 2015 .................................................. 22
137 Georges Dubœuf, Nouveau, Beaujolais, France, 2014 .................................................. 23
205 Jean Loron, "Beau!", Beaujolais, France, 2014 ................................................................. 23
851 Louis Jadot, Beaujolais-Villages, Beaujolais, France, 2016 ........................................... 24
Grenaché

Grenache is the most widely planted red wine grape in Spain, from where it originates. It is the main grape in Navarra and is a constituent of Rioja. It is widely planted in the Southern Rhone Valley, California and Australia. When mature, it can produce excitingly dense reds that demand several decades of cellaring.

**Australia**

510 Yangarra Estate, **Grenache**, "Old Vine", McLaren Vale, South Australia, 2004.................................44

**France**

616 Domaine Catherine Le Gœuil, Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne, Rhône, France, 2013......................30

**Spain**

469 Álvaro Palacios, Priorat, "L’Ermita", Catalonia, Spain, 2009.................................................................771
234 Bodegas Aragonesas, **Garnacha**, "Coto de Hayas Centenaria", Campo de Borja, Zaragoza, Spain, 2012..................................................................................................................33
701 Bodegas Castillo de Monjardín, **Garnacha**, "Old Vines", Navarra, Spain, 2013..................................20
718 Bodegas y Viñedos del Jalón, **Garnacha**, "Alto Las Pizarras Viñas Viejas", Calatayud, Aragón, Spain, 2009 ..............................................................................................................28

Grenache Blanc

Grenache blanc is a variety of white wine grape that is related to the red grape Grenache. It is mostly found in Rhône wine blends and in northeast Spain. Its wines are characterized by high alcohol and low acidity, with citrus and or herbaceous notes. Its vigor can lead to overproduction and flabbiness. However, if yields are controlled, it can contribute flavor and length to blends, particularly with Roussanne.

**Spain**

534 Bodegas Langa, **White**, "Pi - 3.1415", Aragón, Spain, 2015.....................................................................29

**USA**

219 Curran, **Grenache Blanc**, Santa Ynez Valley, California, 2007..........................................................39
532 Lumen, **Grenache Blanc**, Santa Barbara County, California, 2015......................................................34

Grüner Veltliner

Grüner Veltliner is the grape of Austria, and has come into favor in recent years. Typical Grüner Veltliner is pale green, fruity and dry, fairly high in acid, medium in body, often has a slight prickle of gas, and always a spicy, almost musky aroma that is faintly reminiscent of the pungency that is common to Alsace wines. Grüner Veltliner is usually a full-bodied dry wine with a firm mineral backbone, giving it the strength of character to work well with many cuisines.

**Austria**

207 Wieninger, **Grüner Veltliner**, "Herrenholz", Qualitätswein, Wien, Austria, 2008..................................36
472 Winzer Krems, **Grüner Veltliner**, "Kremser Sandgrube", Kremstal, Niederösterreich, Austria, 2016 .................................................................20
583 Winzer Krems, **Grüner Veltliner**, "Kremser Sandgrube", Niederösterreich, Austria, 2013...............25
Gewürztraminer

The word Gewurtz means “spicy.” Terms used to describe this wine include: spicy, floral (rose petals), fruity (citrus, grapefruit, peach), lychee, honey, and jasmine tea. When well made, it is intense and distinctive. These wines generally seem soft and rich even when dry.

France

USA

Malbec

In France, Malbec is considered a weaker version of Merlot, matures earlier, and is used in blends. In Chile and Argentina, the grapes have much greater “staying power”, and may be blended with Merlot and Petit Verdot, or bottled alone.

Argentina
50 Alta Vista, Malbec, "Estate", Mendoza, Argentina, 2019
645 Bodega Norton, Malbec, "Colección", Mendoza, Argentina, 2014
713 Bodega Orfila, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina, 2008
487 Cupcake, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina, 2014
627 Santa Julia, Malbec, "Reserva", Valle de Uco, Mendoza, Argentina, 2015

USA
52 Writer’s Block, Malbec, Lake County, California, 2015
51 Writer’s Block, Malbec, Lake County, California, 2014

Meritage - Red

Red Meritage wines historically have been among the world's most highly rated wines. They are prized for their smooth, silky texture and complex, robust structure. While they age beautifully - often for decades - most are also very drinkable in their younger years.

Argentina
548 Finca Flichman, "Dedicado", Mendoza, Argentina, 2013

Chile
149 Viñedos Emiliana, "Coyam", Colchagua Valley, Organically Grown, Chile, 2005

France
427 Domaine Houchart, Rosé, Côtes de Provence, Provence, France, 2017
243 Château Bel-Orme-Tronquoy-de-Lalande, Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France, 2010
165 Château Blanchereau, Côtes de Bourg, Bordeaux, France, 2009
695 Château de Lancyre, Coteaux du Languedoc Pic St-Loup, "Grande Cuvée", Languedoc, France, 2013
429 Château de Lascaux, "Garrigue", Languedoc, France, 2016
203 Château de Marsan, Bordeaux Supérieur, Bordeaux, France, 2010
738 Château de Montfaucon, Côtes du Rhône, Rhône, France, 2013
Château de Peyguerol, Costières de Nîmes, Rhône, France, 2011 .................................................. 25
Château des Tuquets, Bordeaux, France, 2010 ............................................................................ 27
Château Fleur-Cardinale, St-Émilion, Bordeaux, France, 2010 .................................................. 90
Château Fleur-Cardinale, St-Émilion, Bordeaux, France, 2009 .................................................. 88
Château Gonin, Bordeaux, France, 2011 .................................................................................... 26
Château Gonin, Bordeaux, France, 2010 .................................................................................... 25
Château Lamothe de Haux, Côtes de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, 2013 ............................ 30
Château Lamothe de Haux, Côtes de Bordeaux, "Première Cuvée", Bordeaux, France, 2014 35
Château Maine d’Arman, Côtes de Bourg, Bordeaux, France, 2010 ........................................ 22
Château Prieuré Lichine, Margaux, Bordeaux, France, 2015 ......................................................... 63
Château Ramage La Bâtisse, Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France, 2005 .......................................... 42
Domaine Charvin, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France, 2014 ................................................. 60
Domaine de Beaurenard, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France, 2012 ..................................... 53
Domaine du Pégau, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, "Cuvée Réservée", Rhône, France, 2014 .......... 60
Domaine Font de Michelle, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France, 2003 .............................. 55
Famille Perrin, Côtes du Rhône, "Réserve", Rhône, France, 2013 ............................................ 21
Gérard Bertrand, Côtes du Roussillon-Villages Tautavel, "Grand Terroir", Roussillon, France, 2008 26
Henry Fessy, Gamay Noir, Vin de France, 2016 .................................................................... 20
Lavergne, Bordeaux, France, 2014 ............................................................................................ 22
M. Chapoutier, Côtes du Rhône, "Belleruche", Rhône, France, 2016 .......................................... 24

**Italy**

Casetto, Bardolino Classico, Veneto, Italy, 2015 ......................................................................... 20
Castello Banfi, Sant’Antimo, "Excelsus", Tuscany, Italy, 2001 ..................................................... 97
Castello Banfi, Sant’Antimo, "Summus", Tuscany, Italy, 2004 .................................................... 82
Castello Banfi, Toscana, "Summus", Tuscany, Italy, 2011 .......................................................... 80
Le Ragose, Ripasso, Valpolicella Classico, Superiore, Veneto, Italy, 2002 ............................. 40
Luiano, Toscana, "Sangio", Tuscany, Italy, 2004 .................................................................... 32
Planeta, Rosso, "La Segreta", Sicilia, Sicily, Italy, 2009 .............................................................. 26
Riondo, Rosso Veneto, "MMIX", Veneto, Italy, 2010 ............................................................... 30
Santa Cristina, Toscana, "Le Maestrelle", Tuscany, Italy, 2012 ................................................ 33
Tenute Poggio Bonelli, Toscana, "Tramonto d’Oca", Tuscany, Italy, 2007 ............................. 51
Tormaresca, Negroamaro, "Masseria Maime", Salento, Puglia, Italy, 2002 ............................ 40

**USA**

50 Harvests, Meritage, Napa Valley, California, 2013 .............................................................. 67
Bernardus, Cabernet Blend, "Marinus", Carmel Valley, California, 1996 ................................. 51
Charles Krug, Cabernet Blend, "Generations Family Reserve", Napa Valley, California, 2003 60
Chimney Rock Winery, "Elevage", Stags Leap District, California, 2004 ................................. 95
Dry Creek Vineyard, Meritage, Sonoma County, California, 2012 ......................................... 35
Dry Creek Vineyard, Meritage, Sonoma County, California, 2010 ......................................... 40
Dry Creek Vineyard, Meritage, Sonoma County, California, 2008 ......................................... 37
Dry Creek Vineyard, Meritage, "The Mariner", Dry Creek Valley, California, 2004 ............ 57
Ferrari-Carano, Red, "Siena", Sonoma County, California, 2014 .............................................. 30
Ferrari-Carano, "Siena", Sonoma County, California, 2011 ...................................................... 39
Franciscan Estate, Meritage, "Magnificat", Napa Valley, California, 2013 .............................. 61
Geyser Peak, Meritage, "Reserve Alexandre", Alexander Valley, California, 2006 ............... 54
Meritage - Rosé

Meritage is its own category for red and white wines made in America from a blend of the classic Bordeaux wine grape varieties. One of the main reasons this category was created was because many winemakers felt stifled by the minimum amount of a grape that must go into a bottle (75%) for it to be named for that variety.

France

204 Baron Philippe de Rothschild, Rosé, "Mouton Cadet", Bordeaux, France, 2010 ........................................... 22
145 Gilardi, Rosé, Côtes de Provence, "Bailli de Provence", Provence, France, NV ........................................... 26
208 Jolie-Pitt & Perrin, Rosé, Côtes de Provence, "Miraval", Provence, France, 2014 ........................................... 36
691 Triennes, Rosé, Méditerranée, Provence, France, 2015 ................................................................. 26

Meritage - White

White Meritage wines, while rare, are some of the most elegant and exquisite white wines crafted. They are the perfect accompaniment to seafood and poultry, but also is superb just on its own.

Australia


Austria

578 Wieninger, Gemischter Satz, Qualitätswein, Wien, Austria, 2017 ......................................................... 27
202 Wieninger, Gemischter Satz, Qualitätswein, Wien, Austria, 2008 ......................................................... 36

France

490 Château de Fontenille, Entre-Deux-Mers, Bordeaux, France, 2016 ......................................................... 22
742 Château des Perlouges, Blanc, Graves, Bordeaux, France, 2013 ......................................................... 25
690 Château Ducasse, Blanc, Bordeaux, France, 2015 ................................................................. 26
705 Château Graville-Lacoste, Blanc, Graves, Bordeaux, France, 2014 ......................................................... 27
618 Château Les Arromans, Entre-Deux-Mers, Bordeaux, France, 2014 ......................................................... 31
619 Château Pavillon de Boyrein, Blanc, Graves, Bordeaux, France, 2013 ......................................................... 28
143 Domaine de la Verrière, Blanc, Ventoux, Rhône, France, 2013 ......................................................... 28
For many years Merlot was thought of as a grape to be blended with Cabernet Sauvignon, because Merlot’s tannins are softer and its texture is suppler. France is the largest grower of the Merlot grape, Italy second. Of red grape varietals in California, Merlot has seen the fastest rate of new plantings in the last five years. Typical aroma and flavor descriptors: fruit and floral, red cherry and plums.
Montepulciano d’ Abruzzo

After Sangiovese, Montepulciano is Italy’s most widely dispersed native red grape variety. Most common in Central Italy, it is grown along the eastern coast where it is planted from the Marche down to Apulia. Montepulciano produces wines that deserve attention for their smooth drinkability but not for any complex nuances of flavor. With its dependable high yield of late-ripened grapes, Montepulciano could well become internationally appreciated as a source of individualistic yet supple reds from Central Italy.

Italy

700  Cantina Zaccagnini, Montepulciano d’Abruzzo, "dal Tralcetto", Abruzzi, Italy, 2015 ........................................ 26
855  Dragani, Montepulciano d’Abruzzo, Abruzzi, Italy, 2016 ................................................................. 20

Muscadet

Muscadet is a white French wine. It is made at the western end of the Loire Valley, near the city of Nantes in the Pays de la Loire region neighboring the Brittany Region. More Muscadet is produced than any other Loire wine. It is made from the Melon de Bourgogne grape, often referred to simply as melon. As a rule in France, Appellation d’origine contrôlée wines are named either after their growing region or after their variety (the latter in Alsace only). The name Muscadet is therefore an exception. The name seems to refer to a characteristic of the wine produced by the melon grape variety: vin qui a un goût musqué - 'wine with a musk-like taste,' though wine expert Tom Stevenson notes that Muscadet wines do not have much, if any, "muskiness" or Muscat-like flavors or aromas. The sole variety used to produce Muscadet, Melon de Bourgogne, was initially planted in the region sometime in or before the 17th century.

France

174  Auguste Bonhomme, Muscadet, "La Forcine", Loire, France, 2013 .......................................................... 30
480  Domaine Salmon, Sur Lie, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine, "Vieilles Vignes", Loire, France, 2014 .................. 21
698  Magaly et Sylvain Gobin, Sur Lie, Muscadet, "La Berrière", Loire, France, 2014 ................................. 20
Muscat

The Muscat family of grapes include over 200 grape varieties belonging to the Vitis vinifera species that have been used in wine production and as raisin and table grapes around the globe for many centuries. Their colors range from white to yellow, to pink, to near black. Muscat grapes and wines almost always have a pronounced sweet floral aroma.

France

Famille Perrin, Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, Rhône, France, 2013

Spain

Torres, Blanco, "Viña Esmeralda", Catalunya, Catalonia, Spain, 2014

USA

Robert Mondavi Winery, Moscato, "Moscato d'Oro", Napa Valley, California, 2015, 375ml

Muscat Ottonel

Muscat Ottonel is a younger and less-distinguished member of the broader Muscat family. It was created in 1852 in France by a private breeder who crossed Chasselas and Muscat Ingram. The variety makes a range of wine styles, from light, dry table wines to richer styles with more residual sugar.

Austria

Weinlaubenhof Kracher, Muskat Ottonel, Trockenbeerenauslese, "Zwischen den Seen No. 9", Burgenland, Austria, 2011, 375ml

Nebbiolo

Nebbiolo produces some of the greatest wines of the world, and yet is hardly planted outside one very specific corner of northwest Italy. It has a concentration of non-fruity but complex, sometimes bitter flavor and a unique combination of extract, tannin and acid that can be fashioned into a glorious liquid of outstanding longevity. Two of the finest red wine grapes in Piedmont are from Barolo and Barbaresco. These two heavyweight wines are made from the Nebbiolo grape.

Italy

Antico Monastero, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy, 2010


Pecorino

Pecorino is a light-skinned wine grape used in Italy’s eastern coastal regions, particularly in Marche and Abruzzo. A classic Pecorino-based wine is dry and minerally, straw-yellow in color and has an elegantly floral bouquet of acacia and jasmine, sometimes spiced with a faint hint of licorice.

Italy

Collevite, Falerio, "Cantine della Marca", The Marches, Italy, 2012


Petite Sirah
A black skinned vinifera grape developed and named after Dr. Durif, who propagated it in the 1880’s in the Isère and Ardèche regions of the Rhone Valley in southeastern France. While it is believed by some to be a natural cross between Syrah and Peloursin (simple Durif relative-grape from the Rhone Valley), it is a mystery how this grape came to be known as Petite Syrah in California. It has no relationship to either the Syrah of France, or Shiraz of Australia. Petite Sirah is not grown much in Europe anymore because it is too susceptible to rot and mold caused by higher humidity and moisture in the vineyards. Petite Sirah does produce deeply colored, tart and tannic wine in the California vineyards that makes a statement when bottled as a varietal, though it is often blended with Zinfandel.

USA
706 Rosenblum Cellars, Petite Sirah, "Heritage Clones", California, 2012 ......................................................... 29
707 Rosenblum Cellars, Petite Sirah, "Heritage Clones", California, 2010 ................................................................. 27
167 Shannon Ridge, Petite Sirah, "High Elevation Collection", Lake County, California, 2013 .................. 22
237 Sobon Estate, Petite Sirah, "Vicious", California, 2009 ................................................................................. 28

Pinot Blanc
The great majority of the world’s Pinot Blanc wines come from Alsace and (as Pinot Bianco) from Northern Italy. The base for many Italian sparkling wines, Pinot Blanc is a softer cousin of Chardonnay in both its flavor and structure. Flavor descriptions are butterscotch, minerals, apples, and citrus.

France
450 Domaine Weinbach, Pinot Blanc, "Réserve", Alsace, France, 2006 ................................................................. 43
692 Kuentz-Bas, Pinot Blanc, Alsace, France, 2016 .......................................................... 25
749 Kuentz-Bas, Pinot Blanc, Alsace, France, 2014 ...................................................................................... 26

Pinot Grigio / Pinot Gris
Pinot Gris is considered by some to be the world’s most underrated great white wine grape. Known as Pinot Grigio in Italy where it is crisp and fruit forward, it can contain a whiff of smoke, the creamy taste of baked apples and nuts, and gobs of fruit when produced in Oregon. A mutation of the Pinot Noir, this variety generally shows a pale straw color in the wine. Its nose depicts delicate fruit and shows beautiful floral notes. It is a light, crisp and fresh wine.

France
508 Domaine Robert Klingenfus, Pinot Gris, "Signature", Alsace, France, 2016 ......................................................... 24
90 Hugel, Pinot Gris, "Classic", Alsace, France, 2012 ......................................................................................... 30
719 Trimbach, Pinot Gris, "Reserve", Alsace, France, 2011 ............................................................................. 78

Italy
592 Dragani, Pinot Grigio, Terre di Chieti, Abruzzi, Italy, 2017 ................................................................................ 20
518 Dragani, Pinot Grigio, Terre di Chieti, Abruzzi, Italy, 2016 ........................................................................... 20
257 Folonari, Pinot Grigio, Delle Venezie, Italy, 2016 ......................................................................................... 20
740 Gaierhof, Pinot Grigio, Trentino, Italy, 2014 ................................................................................................. 27
628 Secoli, Pinot Grigio, Venezia, Veneto, Italy, 2016 ......................................................................................... 20
Pinot Noir

Known as the “headache” grape because of its fragile quality, Pinot Noir is difficult to grow and work with. The great grape of the Burgundy region of France is also one of the principal grapes in French Champagne. In California, many years of experimentation in finding the right location to plant the Pinot Noir and perfect the fermentation techniques have elevated some of the Pinot Noirs to the status of great wines. It produces only ordinary wines in Germany and northern Italy, but the cooler districts of Australia, California, and Oregon have produced some fine Pinot Noirs. Pinot Noir is usually less tannic than Cabernet and matures more quickly, generally in two to five years. Because of all the extra expense involved in growing this grape, the best examples of Pinot Noirs from California may cost more than other varietals. Pinot Noir has no single recognizable flavor. Aroma descriptors includes intense fresh berry (strawberry, raspberry, black currant), berry jam (strawberry, raspberry, blackberry), cherry, spicy (black pepper, cloves), with vegetable (green tea), leather, smoke/tar, peppermint, and cherry also found; bottle bouquet suggests violets, game or truffles.

USA

162 Acrobat, Pinot Gris, Oregon, 2015
21 Robert Mondavi Private Selection, Pinot Grigio, California, 2019
23 Sterling Vineyards, Pinot Grigio, “Vintner’s Collection”, Central Coast, California, 2015

Pinot Noir

Austria

475 Loimer, Pinot Noir, “Langenlois”, Niederösterreich, Austria, 2006

Chile

256 Tacora, Pinot Noir, “Tacora Reserva”, Limari Valley, Coquimbo, Chile, 2011

France

475 Jean Chartron, Pinot Noir, “Clos de la Combe”, Bourgogne, Burgundy, France, 2013
136 Joseph Drouhin, Pinot Noir, Bourgogne, Burgundy, France, 2011
667 Joseph Faiveley, Gevrey-Chambertin, Burgundy, France, 2012
373 Joseph Faiveley, Gevrey-Chambertin, Burgundy, France, 2012
254 Labouré-Roi, Pinot Noir, Vin de Pays d’Oc, Languedoc, France, 2010
665 Roger Peguet, Charmes-Chambertin, “Chb”, Burgundy, France, 2014

Germany

120 Weingut Spiess, Spätburgunder, Halbtrocken, Rheinhessen, Germany, 2013

New Zealand

547 Kim Crawford, Pinot Noir, “SP Rise and Shine Creek”, Central Otago, New Zealand, 2006

USA

316 Elk Cove Vineyards, Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon, 2014
67 Folie à Deux, Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, California, 2018
187 Hinman Vineyards, Pinot Noir, Oregon, 2011
574 J Vineyards & Winery, Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, California, 2013
Rkatsiteli

According to Willy Frank, Rkatsiteli is one of the world’s oldest and most esteemed grape varieties, and was found originally on the slopes of Mt. Ararat in Turkey, where winemaking began thousands of years ago. This is a fruity wine with herbed notes. We prefer it with smoked salmon, roasted salmon, shellfish, and other dishes that would be too strong for other white wines. This also is an excellent aperitif wine.

USA

271 Dr. Konstantin Frank, Rkatsiteli, Finger Lakes, New York, 2014.................................................................27

Riesling

Riesling wines are often described as floral, fruity (citrus, peach, apricot, pineapple), and honey-like. These wines range from dry to very, very sweet, and elegant dessert wines may be made from Botrytis-affected fruit; lower alcohol levels are typical. Behind the entire flavor (in top Rieslings) is a steely, zesty, vibrant natural fruit acidity that gives these wines exceptional degree of clarity and focus. German Rieslings are generally sweeter with less alcohol as opposed to Alsace Rieslings, which are totally dry and higher in alcohol content.

Austria

466 Loimer, Riesling, Kamptal, Niederösterreich, Austria, 2008.................................................................33
497 Wieninger, Riesling, "Riedencuvée", Qualitätswein, Wien, Austria, 2008.........................................................36

Chile

728 Viña Cono Sur, Riesling, "Bicicleta", Bio Bio Valley, Chile, 2015.................................................................20

France

509 Cleebourg, Riesling, Alsace, France, 2014 ........................................................................................................25
510 Domaine Robert Klingenfus, Riesling, "Signature", Alsace, France, 2016......................................................27
850 Hugel, White, "Gentil", Alsace, France, 2015.................................................................................................24
308 Hugel, White, "Gentil", Alsace, France, 2013.................................................................................................25
575 Kuentz-Bas, Riesling, Alsace, France, 2015.................................................................................................24
748 Kuentz-Bas, Riesling, Alsace, France, 2014.................................................................................................27
687 Kuentz-Bas, Riesling, Alsace, France, 2013.................................................................................................27
105 Michel Fonné, Riesling, "Tradition", Alsace, France, 2013 ...........................................................................29
364 Trimbach, Riesling, "Réserve", Alsace, France, 2013.....................................................................................35
223 Zind-Humbrecht, Riesling, Alsace, France, 2006.........................................................................................77
Germany

Dr. Loosen, Riesling, Kabinett, "Blue Slate", Mosel, Germany, 2014 .................................................. 29
Leitz, Riesling, Spätlese, "Rüdesheimer Magdalenenkreuz", Rheingau, Germany, 2010 .................. 45
Nik Weis St. Urbans-Hof, Riesling, Kabinett, "Goldtröpfchen", Mosel, Germany, 2017 .................. 38
Prinz Salm, Riesling, Trocken, "Prinzsalm", Rheinhessen, Germany, 2012 .................................... 37
St.-Urbans-Hof, Riesling, Spätlese, "Piesport Goldtröpfchen", Mosel, Germany, 2012 ............... 56

USA

Fess Parker, Riesling, Dry, "Rodney’s Vineyard", Santa Barbara County, California, 2013 .......... 30

Sangiovese

In America, the most famous Italian red wine is Chianti, made with the Sangiovese grape in Tuscany. Chianti must contain at least 80% Sangiovese grapes. There are three quality levels: Chianti and Chianti Classico, both from the best region; and Chianti Classico Riserva aged at the winery.

Italy

Borgo Pretale, Chianti Classico, "Le Crete", Tuscany, Italy, 2014 .................................................. 28
Lunadoro, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Tuscany, Italy, 2011 .............................................. 36
Querceto, Chianti, Tuscany, Italy, 2012 ................................................................. 39
Ruffino, Brunello di Montalcino, "Tenuta Greppone Mazzi", Tuscany, Italy, 2003 ..................... 90
Tenuta di Arceno, Toscana, "Ataison", Tuscany, Italy, 2002 .................................................. 63
Terre Di Nano, Sangiovese, Chianti Colli Senesi, Tuscany, Italy, 2007 ...................................... 24
Trambusti, Chianti, "Badiolo", Riserva, Tuscany, Italy, 2008 .................................................. 29
Villa Calcinaia, Chianti Classico, Riserva, Tuscany, Italy, 2004 ............................................. 86
Villa Puccini, Toscana, Tuscany, Italy, 2012 ................................................................. 21
Vino dei Fratelli, Primitivo, Puglia, Italy, 2012 ................................................................. 26
Zingara, Sangiovese, Toscana, Tuscany, Italy, 2011 .......................................................... 28
Antinori, Vin Santo del Chianti Classico, "Marchesi Antinori", Tuscany, Italy, 2009, 500ml .... 52

USA

Di Bruno, Sangiovese, "Stolpman Vineyards", Santa Barbara County, California, 2004 ............ 32
Eberle, Sangiovese, Paso Robles, California, 2007 ................................................................. 35
Luna, Sangiovese, Napa Valley, California, 2012 ................................................................. 24
Sauvignon Blanc

Sometimes labeled Fumé Blanc, this is one of the grapes used in making the dry white wines of the Graves region of Bordeaux, and the white wines of Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé in the Loire Valley of France. This grape is capable of producing as good a wine in California as it does in France. It is sometimes aged in small oak barrels. Sauvignon Blanc is described as floral, fruity (citrus, peach, apricot) to vegetative (bell pepper, asparagus), green olive/herbaceous, and smoky. The name Fumé Blanc is used for dry California Sauvignon Blanc. Current styles emphasize fruity rather than herbaceous character. The leaf removal in the vineyard reduces herbaceous aromas. Sauvignon Blanc seems less fruity and tart as it ages.

Chile
714 Tacora, Sauvignon Blanc, "Reserva", Curicó Valley, Chile, 2012 .................................................................32

New Zealand
344 Cloudy Bay, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2016 .................................................................39

USA
960 Jack Henry, Sauvignon Blanc, Potter Valley, California, 2015 .................................................................22
478 Robert Mondavi Winery, Fumé Blanc, Napa Valley, California, 2014......................................................27
302 Robert Mondavi Winery, Fumé Blanc, "To Kalon Vineyard", Napa Valley, Reserve, California, 2013 .....................61
981 Rombauer, Sauvignon Blanc, Napa-Sonoma Counties, California, 2020.....................................................35
175 Robert Mondavi Winery, Sauvignon Blanc, Late Harvest, "Botrytis", Napa Valley, California, 2001, 375ml .................................................................91

Sémillon

The Sémillon grape makes a somewhat softer, fuller bodied white wine and is frequently married with Sauvignon Blanc to produce a less assertive and more complex white wine. Sauvignon Blanc/Sémillon blends are sometimes labeled Meritage. Sémillon can be bottled as a dry varietal wine and some winemakers craft a sweet botrytis infected Sémillon in the style of Sauternes. Chateau d’Yquem, a Sauterne, is among the most expensive wines produced in the world today.

USA
595 Dolce, Late Harvest, Napa Valley, California, 2012, 375ml .................................................................90
607 Dolce, Sémillon/Sauvignon Blanc, Late Harvest, Napa Valley, California, 1994, 375ml...............................186

St. Laurent

St. Laurent (sometimes written in French as Saint Laurent or in German as Sankt Laurent) is a highly aromatic dark-skinned wine grape variety. It is the most widely planted red grape variety in the Czech Republic, growing in all wine subregions in both Moravia and Bohemia. It comprises approximately 9% of total vineyards. In Austria, St. Laurent is the third most popular red grape variety and is primarily grown in Lower Austria and Burgenland.

Austria
430 Gernot Heinrich, Saint Laurent, Burgenland, Austria, 2006 .................................................................51
739 Paul Achs, St. Laurent, Burgenland, Austria, 2013 .................................................................34
Syrah / Shiraz

In Hermitage and Cote Rotie in the northern Rhone Valley of France, Syrah is made into wines that rival the best Bordeaux clarets and red Burgundies. Shiraz is the most important red-grape variety in Australia and is blended with Cabernet Sauvignon. The aroma and flavor derived from wine made from Syrah grapes are described as being intense blackberry, cassis, black pepper, violets, smoke, and tar. The wines are dark, dense, tannic, and capable of maturing for many years.

Australia

527  Domaine Terlato & Chapoutier, Shiraz/Viognier, Victoria, Australia, 2006 .............................................. 35
248  Penfolds, Shiraz, "Kalimna Bin 28", South Australia, 2012 ................................................................. 41
289  Tait, Shiraz, "The Border Crossing", McLaren Vale, South Australia, 2014 ........................................ 30
259  Two Hands, Shiraz, "Lily's Garden", McLaren Vale, South Australia, 2014 ........................................ 74
258  Two Hands, Shiraz, "Lily's Garden", McLaren Vale, South Australia, 2013 ........................................ 73
561  Two Hands, Shiraz, "Max's Garden", Heathcote, Victoria, Australia, 2005 ........................................... 83

France

292  Château de Beaucastel, Côtes du Rhône, "Coudoulet de Beaucastel", Rhône, France, 2011 .............. 45
471  E. Guigal, Ermitage, "Ex Voto", Rhône, France, 2007 ................................................................. 366

South Africa

973  Babylon's Peak, Shiraz/Carignan, Swartland, South Africa, 2015 .................................................. 24

USA

140  Eberle, Syrah, Rosé, "Steinbeck Vineyard", Paso Robles, California, 2010 ............................................. 32
361  Cougar Crest, Syrah, "Reserve", Walla Walla Valley, Washington, 2006 ........................................ 48
813  Gloria Ferrer, Syrah, Carneros, California, 2000 .................................................................................... 35
262  Protest, Red Blend, Sonoma County, California, 2015 ........................................................... 29

Tempranillo

This red grape varietal produces a straightforward, aromatic wine with long lasting ruby color. The bouquet often exhibits an intense black raspberry character. These wines are fresh and fruity when young and are considered excellent aging wines, developing into smooth, complex, refined wines when mature.

Spain

125  Bodega Torre San Millán, Tempranillo, "Gorrebusto", Rioja, Spain, 2007 .............................................. 35
130  Bodegas Briego, Ribera del Duero, "Tiempo", Crianza, Castilla Y León, Spain, 2009 ..................... 30
716  Casa Gualda, Tempranillo, La Mancha, Castile-La Mancha, Spain, 2009 ....................................... 26
694  Viña Bujanda, Rioja, Spain, 2014 ............................................................................................................. 53
163  Viñedos Alonso del Yerro, Ribera del Duero, Castilla Y León, Spain, 2010 ........................................ 38

Vernaccia

Minor white grape of ancient origin grown in the Tuscany region of Italy. Traditionally produces dry, lean white wines that soften after two or more years of bottle aging. This varietal can also be used to create sweet golden white wines.

Italy

456  Teruzzi & Puthod, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, "Rondolino", Tuscany, Italy, 1997 ....................... 32
Vidal / Vignoles

Intensely sweet and luscious, these American hybrid grapes, developed by Cornell University, are typically vinified in the manner of late-harvest and ice wine. More affordable than its German counterpart, Vidal wine is certain to delight the palate of the most sophisticated wine connoisseur.

USA

455 Hunt Country, Vignoles, Late Harvest, Finger Lakes, New York, 375ml ............................................ 44

Zinfandel

Zinfandel is the surprise grape of California. Over the past 15 years, it has developed into one of the best red varietal grapes. It is unique among grapes grown in the United States in that its European origin is unknown. Depending on the producer, the wines can range from big, rich, intensely-flavored types with substantial tannin, to very light, fruity wines. Aroma and flavor descriptors associated with Zinfandel include raspberries, berries, black pepper and raisins. Unlike Cabernet Sauvignon, flavor researchers have not been able to associate Zinfandel aromas and tastes with specific aromatic compounds.

USA

280 Beringer Main & Vine, White Zinfandel, California ................................................................. 20
993 Settler's Creek, White Zinfandel, 'Barrel Select', California, NV ................................................. 20
974 Sutter Home, White Zinfandel, California .................................................................................. 20
424 1000 Stories, Zinfandel, "Bourbon Barrel Aged", California, 2015 ................................................ 27
975 Bogle, Zinfandel, "Old Vine", California, 2018 ........................................................................... 23
635 Carol Shelton, Zinfandel, "Karma Zin Rue Vineyard Wood Rd. Old Vines", Russian River Valley, California, 2005 ............................................................ 47
636 Carol Shelton, Zinfandel, "Rocky Reserve Florence Vineyard", Rockpile, California, 2005 ......... 49
129 Decoy by Duckhorn, Zinfandel, Sonoma County, California, 2013 .............................................. 30
528 Francis Ford Coppola, Zinfandel, "Red Label Diamond Collection", California, 2013 ............... 43
288 Frog's Leap, Zinfandel, Napa Valley, California, 2013 ............................................................... 43
222 Lake Sonoma Winery, Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley, California, 2009 .......................................... 26
330 Quivira Vineyards, Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley, California, 2004 .............................................. 37
674 Renwood, Zinfandel, Fiddletown, California, 2002 ................................................................. 41
611 Renwood, Zinfandel, "Grandmère", Amador County, California, 1997 ........................................ 45
351 Ridge, Zinfandel, "Benito Dusi Ranch", Paso Robles, California, 2015 ........................................ 37
634 Ridge, Zinfandel, "Pagani Ranch", Sonoma Valley, California, 2002 .............................................. 100
176 Ridge, Zinfandel Blend, "Geyserville", Sonoma County, California, 2007 .................................... 75
717 Robert Biale Vineyards, Zinfandel, "Napa Ranches", Napa Valley, California, 2001 ................. 47
814 Robert Biale Vineyards, Zinfandel, "Spenker Vineyard", Lodi, California, 2000 ......................... 46
Zweigelt

Dr. Zweigelt’s great claim to fame is the crossing of St. Laurent and Blaufrankisch grapes. Zweigelt was head of the wine school in Klosterneuburg until 1945 when he was removed as part of the general purge of those who had held office under the Third Reich. With 7.9%, it is the most widely planted of Austria’s black grapes. It is a good crop, providing growers trim off bunches and keep the yields low. It can yield excellent cherry-scented wines.

Austria

502  Loimer, Rosé, Niederösterreich, Austria, 2009 .................................................................28
281  Ecker, Zweigelt, Austria, Landwein, 2013 .............................................................................26
463  Paul Achs, Zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria, 2017 .................................................................26
113  Paul Achs, Zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria, 2015 .................................................................26
181  Paul Achs, Zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria, 2014 .................................................................26
629  Paul Achs, Zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria, 2013 .................................................................34
843  Pöckl, Zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria, 2003 ...........................................................................35
467  Weinlaubenhof Kracher, "L11A Nouvelle Vague No. 2", Burgenland, Austria, 375ml ..........98