

Introducing

100 AWESOME WINES

ASSOCIATION OF
WINE EDUCATORS



from the
Association of Wine Educators



Photo © Cephas / Diana Mewes

The Association of Wine Educators may be one of wine's best kept secrets.

The AWE's over 80 members usually quietly go about their business: communicating, educating and enthusing both the general public and the wine trade about wine. Collectively we run courses, present at wine trade and consumer shows, put on corporate entertainment events, run wine clubs - and a myriad of other wine-related activities. There is probably some kind of event involving an AWE member going on every day of the year. There is probably one near you – find out more about AWE at www.wineeducators.com.

All this activity, combined with our rigorous selection programme (we number 12 Masters of Wine amongst our members) means that, between us, we have almost unparalleled knowledge and enthusiasm for wine – and this list of our 100 AWESome wines showcases our members' expertise, while at the same time helping wine consumers towards some of the best value wines available to buy in the UK and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading about the wines and that it might encourage you to buy some of them.

Heather Dougherty
AWE Chairman



Charles Metcalfe

Author, educator and Honorary President of the AWE

"If you want to learn more about wine, the AWE has people who want to help you. Our members are passionate about wine, and have to pass a tough test to become an AWE member. Look at the countrywide network of AWE members, and you'll find someone near you who can give you all the wine answers you need."

Front cover photograph © CEPHAS / Diana Mewes

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Why 100 AWESome Wines? Sometimes when you are faced with row upon row of enticing wines from faraway places and with meaningless names, a little bit of guidance can be helpful. Or if you are in a rut buying the same few wines every week and really want to try something new but have no idea what, knowing what the professionals drink at home might encourage you to have a shot at a wine from a different grape, country or style.

These 100 wines have been selected by wine professionals who taste wine almost every day but still take great pleasure in buying and drinking wines at home. And they buy from the same places you do, they like value in their wines, just as you do, and probably spend about the same as you do. The principle in selecting the wines was simply that they must be great wines at great value so the red and white wines fall into two price brackets, under £10 and between £10 and £25, and sparkling wine at under £25.

These are wines which have excited and impressed members of the Association of Wine Educators who have enjoyed using them at tastings or drinking them at home over the last year. We recommend them to all wine lovers and hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

Laura Clay
100 AWESome Wines Co-ordinator

Jancis Robinson MW
www.jancisrobinson.com

"...some of the most dedicated wine educators in the world."



Photo © Heather Dougherty

Our 100AWESOME WINES

Under £10 White

1. Freeman's Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2013, New Zealand: ALDI, £5.89 Amazing value wine with a typical hint of gooseberries on the nose with a little bit of ripe sweetness on the palate but not too much. (Trudy Welsh)
2. Old Vines in Young Hands Branco 2013, Portugal: The Wine Society, £5.95 Super well-made budget-priced wine from field blends of old vines in the upper Douro. Amazing value drinking, with plenty of flavour and style built-in. The red is worth seeking out, too. (John Ducker)
3. A Fistful of Schist Reserve Chenin Blanc Coastal Region 2014, South Africa: The Wine Society, £5.95 Mostly old-vine Swartland fruit (a region on an all-time high), growing on schist / granite soil, this wine shows yellow-apple-like flavours, a trace of honey, impressive texture and fresh, lively acidity. Brilliant value and tailor-made to drink with prawns, or pasta with blue cheese and walnuts. (Neil Courtier)
4. Zarcillo Gewurztraminer 2014, Chile: The Wine Society, £6.50 Classic nose of lychees and ginger, off-dry, lush and rich, amazing value at this price. Just shows what the cool climate of Bio-Bio in Chile can produce. Try it with Thai or Indian food (Christos Ioannou)
5. The Society's Verdicchio DOC Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, Italy: The Wine Society, £6.95 An astonishing wine for the money. Made for the Society from 100% Verdicchio, one of the best white grapes in Italy. This wine is full of citrus and green apples with lots of zesty acidity and is a superb alternative to Sauvignon Blanc. (Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW)
6. Torres Viña Esmeralda 2014, Spain: Majestic, £6.99; Waitrose, £8.49 Fantastically aromatic wine, full of spring flowers and soft spice, refreshingly vibrant, the un-oaked light style at only 11% abv means you can enjoy a second (small) glass. Dry but not austere; delicious with Asian food. (Lindsay Oram)
7. Peter & Peter, Riesling Trocken 2013, Germany: Tesco, £7.99 A fabulously authentic wine, grown exclusively on the steep slate slopes of the Mosel. Dry and zingy, this is incredible value for money. (Anne Krebiehl MW)
8. Dourthe No.1 Sauvignon Blanc Bordeaux 2013, France: The Wine Society, £7.95 Carefully selected quality grapes obviously go into this wine. It has a lovely zesty, grapefruit character; attractive and elegant and worth eight pounds of anyone's money. (Laura Clay)
9. Les Vignes Retrouvées 2012, Saint Mont, France: The Wine Society, £7.95 Southwest France is home to a raft of ancient and original grape varieties which are rarely found outside the region. This is a blend of Gros Manseng, alongside Petit Courbu and Arrufiac which combine to give a hint of peach combined with zingy grapefruit acidity. (Heather Dougherty)
10. Camino del Sur Verdejo, Rueda 2012, Spain: Talking Wines, Cirencester, £7.99 This is the house white I drink in our local pub - The Seven Stars, Marsh Baldon. Talking Wines have supplied most of its wine since it became a community owned pub and therefore free to sell wines outside the usual pub company box. A vibrant fresh white with subtle fennel aromas and apple flavours. Fabulous with the pub's fish and chips! (Linda Simpson)
11. Brightwell Vineyard Oxford Flint, England: direct from the vineyard, £8.99 This is a fabulous example of an English wine, fermented to bone dry so no hiding behind residual sugar. A blend of Huxelrebe and Chardonnay grapes, it is flinty dry with crisp English fruit and tangy citrus tones and finished with a hint of grapefruit. (Linda Simpson)



Photo © Albert Bichot

12. Caruso & Minini Terre di Giumara Greccanico 2013, Sicily: Exel Wines, £7.92 (£47.52 for 6) Bright pale gold with an inviting bouquet of honeysuckle and, yes, Sicilian lemons! Dry, with fresh acidity, good mouthfeel, completed by a powerful finish. Enjoy as an aperitif, with seafood and sunshine. (Brett Jones)
13. Gaba do Xil Godello, Valdeorras 2013, Spain: The Wine Society, £9.50 Those who love Albariño from Rias Baixas will like this: the Godello grape gives slightly fuller wines, but still has a slight mineral edge with extra richness and intensity. A wine to be drunk on its own or with fish. (Brian Davis)
14. Jurançon sec 'Chant des Vignes', Domaine Cauhapé 2013, France: The Wine Society £4.95 (375ml) This is a full flavoured Pyrenean white from the well-known grower Domaine Cauhapé. The wines from Jurançon always deliver and this is no exception. Unoaked, dry but full-bodied with grapefruit and apple notes, it is full flavoured and long. Made from Gros Manseng and Camaralet, it is a wonderful introduction to the wines from this area. (Brian Davis)
15. Domaine de Mandeville Viognier, Pays d'OC 2013, France: M&S, €11.49 (Republic of Ireland), £8 in UK Marks and Spencer continue to quietly slip interesting wines onto its shelves. Viognier needs good winemaking to show off its perfumed intensity and soft, rich palate. Domaine de Mandeville introduces the grape brilliantly at a price that continues to amaze. (Kevin Ecock)
16. Julian Reynolds Reserve Alentejo 2008, Portugal: Uvinum, £7.60 This Julian Reserve, featuring a blend of Alicante Bouschet, Trincadeira and Touriga Nacional has been fermented and stored in French oak and is more than worthy of its price tag. Deep red in colour with a nose of black fruits; the palate dances with the same fruits and has a long finish. (Brian Davis)
17. M&S Negroamaro 2013, Italy: M&S, £7.49 This is a fabulous wine from Puglia in Southern Italy. Full of vibrant fruit and lovely chocolate flavours. I chose this wine as it shows off what southern Italy can do with indigenous grapes and you get such a lot for your money. Olly Smith, Mail on Sunday, agrees! "Dark and fruity, massive mulberry with a bit of lead in its pencil". (Linda Simpson)
18. Tesco Finest Côtes Catalanes Grenache 2013, France: £7.49 Tesco, £7.49 Concentrated, smooth, luscious flavours of plum and black cherry with hints of dark chocolate and treacle. A rich, deep, warming finish. Excellent value at the normal price but regularly on promotion at around £6 when it is a 'steal'. (David Timmons)
19. Morrisons Signature Valpolicella Ripasso 2012, Italy: Morrisons, £7.49 I've always loved good Valpolicella, and the Ripasso style strikes a perfect balance between the lightness of Valpolicella normale and the super-charged weight (and alcohol) of Amarone della Valpolicella. Lovely balance, with bags of bright, herby, sour cherry fruit. (Charles Metcalfe)
20. Bricco Rosso Suagnà Langhe Rosso 2009: £7.95 The Wine Society, £7.95 A lovely barrel-aged blend of Dolcetto and Nebbiolo. Ripe, full and mellow, and fantastic value for money. Great with your mid-week pasta dish! (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)
21. Chateau Tour des Gendres, Bergerac 2014, France: The Wine Society, £7.95 (from mid-June); 2013, Caves de Pyrène, £10.99 Luc de Conti has made the best wine in Bergerac for twenty years. This generously fruity, Merlot-dominated red, given complexity and body by a dollop of Malbec, is a striking testament to his skill. And it's outstandingly good value. (Helen Savage)
22. Marcillac Domaine du Cros 'Lo Sang del País' 2013, France: £8.50 The Wine Society, £8.50 You may never have heard of the region, Marcillac, a quiet corner of Southwest France. The grape may be a mystery to you, the rare Fer Servadou (known here as Mansois). But all you really need to know is that this is a brilliant wine bar or tapas wine with juicy, bright fruit and a wisp of twiggy, earthy tannin. (Heather Dougherty)
23. Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Douro Red 2015, Portugal: Sainsbury's, £8.25 If you've never tried a wine from the Douro Valley, home of Port, then pick up a bottle of this. Made by renowned producer Quinta do Crasto, it combines intense ripe fruit with a delicious overture of spice and a refreshingly clean finish. (Heather Dougherty)
24. La Grille Pinot Noir 2012, France: at selected Majestic stores, £8.99 Delicious and affordable fruity and fragrant Pinot Noir, bursting with redcurrant, strawberries and zippy acidity. Wonderful lunchtime red; light

bodied uncomplicated wine that can be enjoyed chilled. (Lindsay Oram)

25. '4 Meses' Monastrell Bodega Juan Gil 2012, Spain: Woodwinters, Bridge of Allan; Aitken Wines, Dundee, £8.99 A perfect example of the great value to be found in Spain's lesser known regions. For those who love Big Reds, this big dark plummy rich velvet-toned, softly tannic Monastrell (the same grape as Mourvèdre and Mataro) from 40 year old vines, is a serious bargain at under tenner. I have shown this at several tastings and it always comes out a winner. Just watch the high alcohol level: 15% in 2012. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)
26. Domaine Magellan Le Fruit Défendu 2014, France: Villeneuve Wines, Edinburgh, £9 Thumbing its nose at those who claim the Cinsault grape can't make good wine this delivers all you could want from the south of France at this price point. Flavours of juicy boysenberry and savoury Provençal herbs make for a wine that combines character with pure gluggability. (Doug Bond)
27. Saserello Sicilia IGP 2013, Italy: Laithwaites, £9.99 Every vintage I have had of this wine has been fantastic – rich, ripe Sicilian red, full of chocolate and Morello cherry flavour. (Trudy Welsh)
28. Deen de Bortoli Vat 8 Shiraz 2010, Australia: Amazon, £9.46 (when buying case of 6) This isn't an in-your-face chunky Aussie Shiraz. Mid ruby, raspberry pavlova, dry, good tannins with broad blackberry and plum flavours. Medium-bodied with a long finish. Serve with pasta, lamb and bbq dishes. (Brett Jones)
29. Paul Mas Estate Carignan Pezénas, Languedoc 2013, France: Winetime, Carnforth, Cumbria, £9.50; Majestic, £9.99 Made from low-yielding vines, this is an unfiltered wine that is concentrated, opulent and rich. Elegant tannins with soft black fruit black with a refreshing acidity running through the body of this wine. I have shown this wine at many events with a brilliant response. (Paul Quinn)
30. 'Momo' Vendimia Seleccionada Bodegas Bohórquez 2011, Spain: The Wine Society, £9.95 Born in the high-sierra vineyards of Spain's Ribera del Duero this is a beautifully balanced low-yield Tempranillo (tinto del país) – deep, warm and richly fruited, yet with the freshness, poise and well-controlled alcohol that speaks of the most careful winemaking. (John Ducker)



Photo © Carol Brown

31. Ravenswood Old Vine Zinfandel, Lodi, California 2012, USA: The Wine Society, £9.50 This is my go to Zin for courses and tastings and it's always well received. Great value for money, it is a full-bodied, mellow glassful of brambles, spice, raspberry and well-tuned oak. (Carol Brown)
32. Château de Panigon, Cru Bourgeois, Médoc 2009, France: The Wine Society, £9.95 What you get from this is a wine which tastes very much of its Bordeaux roots and classification, but at a price point half what you'd expect to have to pay. Firm, but balanced with attractive black fruit and pleasant complementary oak. (Laura Clay)
33. Nebbiolo d'Alba 'La Riddolina' Cascina Saria 2011, Italy: The Big Red Wine Company, £9.96 This Nebbiolo is a mini Barbaresco at a fraction of the price. Deliciously fragrant and with an abundance of fruit, dry and with firm tannins without being too powerful. A great introduction to Nebbiolo. (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)
34. Helderberg Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon 2012, South Africa: M&S, £9.99 A great value example of M&S working hand in hand with wine makers. Text book South African ripe cassis but savoury Cabernet Sauvignon raised elegantly in French oak, from the beautiful Helderberg vineyards in Stellenbosch. (Stephen Rosser)
35. Chateau Ksara Clos St Alphonse, Bekaa Valley 2011, Lebanon: M&S, £9.99 The Rhône meets Bordeaux in this Lebanese blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. It combines dark berry fruits, a savoury edge, balance and elegance so typical of Bekaa Valley wines from vineyards at high altitude. A must with lamb kebabs! (Carol Brown)

36. De Notari Cesanese 2012 Italy: Secret Cellar, Tunbridge Wells, £10 Cesanese is Lazio's indigenous variety originating from Roman times. Originally made as a sparkling wine, modern winemaking practices have made production of still wines possible. A lovely deep ruby colour, the nose is full of warm black cherry and ripe raspberry alongside sweet vanilla notes. A classically Italian palate – medium-bodied but packed with flavour, clean acidity and a persistent finish. (David Timmons)

37. Doña Paula Estate Malbec 2012 Uco Valley, Argentina: O'Briens (Rep of Ireland) €15.99; Invinity Wines, £9.99; 2013 from Strictly Wine, £10.99 Consistency of quality and value is the hallmark of this wine. One of the best red 'wedding wines' around. A crowd pleaser. Doña Paula's viticulturist, Martin Kaiser, is producing brilliant results as he explores new ways to understand Malbec and the high Andes he grows them on. (Kevin Ecock)

£10-£25 White

38. Château Le Coin Sauvignon Gris 2014, Bordeaux, France: Laithwaites, £10.49 Unusually dominated by 90% Sauvignon Gris in a white Bordeaux, this wine has a really cool flavour of refreshingly green fruit with a racy crisp acidity. (Vivienne Franks)
39. Sainsbury's Taste The Difference Greco di Tufo, Campania, 2010 Italy: Sainsbury's, £10.50 A superb value Greco from its homeland in Campania. A perfect food wine which offers refreshing pear, lemon and toasted almond flavour and crisp acidity. When it's on offer I buy it by the case! (Nina Cerullo)
40. Atlantis Assyrtiko, PGI Cyclades, Santorini 2013, Greece: M&S, £10.50 A good introduction to Greek wine and a great example of the influence of volcanic soils – fresh and minerally with citrus characters. Spot on with seafood mezze! (Carol Brown)
41. Cave de Beblenheim Pinot Gris Réserve, Alsace 2013, France: Waitrose, £10.95 I selected this wine because it delivers such a pure expression of the varietal character and of the region. And because it is so darn delicious! (Nancy Gilchrist MW)
42. Tre Fiori Greco di Tufo DOCG 2013, Italy: Waitrose, £10.99 This is a delightful wine - full of apricot and ripe pear aromas, good intensity on the palate with the most
43. Dominio del Plata 'Ben Marco' Torrontés 2013, Argentina: Hennings Wine Merchant, £12.99 Part barrel-fermented but still an unusually elegant, fresh and uplifting style of this difficult-to-get-right variety. Produced by the Queen of Torrontés herself, Susana Balbo. (Patty Green)
44. Dominio del Plata Zohar Fiano 2012 Argentina: Christopher Piper Wines, £11.72 A really stunning dry white from a tiny 2ha plot in Mendoza and made by the legendary Susana Balbo. This truly is class in a glass – full textured and lushly fruited with fresh pineapple, honey notes and sweet spice. (David Timmons)
45. Hatzidakis Santorini 2013, Greece: Waitrose, £12.99 Lemony, minerally, floral nose, dry with mouthwatering acidity, an excellent example of Greece's best white grape Assyrtiko from the extraordinary volcanic island of Santorini. A perfect match for fish and seafood (Christos Ioannou)
46. Schloss Gobelsburger vom Urgestein Riesling Kamptal 2013, Austria: The Wine Society, £11.95 A perfect example of how good Austrian Riesling distinctively combines power and elegance, with a wonderful purity of fruit. Citrus, dry and without a hint of kerosene. (Helen Savage)
47. Columbia Valley Dry Riesling 2012 Chateau Sainte Michelle USA: Asda; Provenance Wines, Edinburgh, £11.99-£13.99 A remarkably good just-off-dry Riesling from Columbia Valley, on the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains in northwest USA. Limely and minerally on the palate with good natural acidity – a very versatile wine to serve as an aperitif or with grilled salmon, smoked salmon – or as the producers suggest: Chinese plum chicken wontons. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)
48. Domaine Schlumberger Les Princes Abbés Riesling, Alsace 2011, France: selected Majestic stores, £13.49 Bone dry, zesty and fresh with bright citrus fruit. Perfect with shellfish and a steal when on special offer! (Nina Cerullo)
49. The Society's Exhibition Albariño Rias Baixas 2013 Spain: The Wine Society, £12.95 Produced by Pazo de Señorans, this is my favourite Albariño – undoubtedly influenced by visiting the estate in 2013 – but it combines freshness and assertiveness with

refreshing finish with lifting acidity and a touch of minerality. (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)

- elegance and concentration. Its peachy aromas and minerality give the wine a true persistence of flavours on the palate, that leave other Albariño wines just standing. (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)
- 50. Anselmo Mendes Alvarinho Contacto 2013 Portugal: The Wine Society, £12.95** Anselmo Mendes has been the guiding light in Alvarinho production south of the Spanish/Portuguese border for decades. He started as the go-to consultant, and now has his own wine range. He's always experimenting, and this wine has extra aromatic richness from skin-contact before pressing and fermentation. (Charles Metcalfe)
- 51. Langhe DOC Arneis 2012 Ascheri Italy: M&S, £12.99** Formerly obscure, the Piedmontese classic Arneis grape gets state-of-the art treatment here. Un-oaked, with elegance aplenty, a lime-blossom nose leads to spicy stone fruit on the palate, plus a really long finish. A really great food partner too. (John Ducker)
- 52. Pouilly-Fumé Les Princes Ermités 2013, France: The Wine Society, £13.95** Every so often a wine hits you with a gentle smack of surprise. It's no wonder this wine is as good as it is with its exotic fruit aromas and perfect balance as it is made by Château de Tracy, a top Pouilly producer, has a Sauvignon specialist as its wine-maker and is sold by The Wine Society. You can't go wrong with that pedigree. (Laura Clay)
- 53. Rustenberg Sauvignon Blanc, 2014 South Africa: Majestic, £13.49** To be honest, I could have selected any Rustenberg wine. I tend to buy them when on special offer, knowing that I will use them in the course of the year. In my opinion, South Africa produces better whites than reds and I think this is exceptional – classic Sauvignon, but with a complex, savoury note that presumably comes from a little oak ageing. (Richard Bampfield MW)
- 54. Stift Göttweig Grüner Veltliner Göttweiger Berg 2012 Austria: Laithwaites, £14.99** A master stroke of genius from winemaker Fritz Miesbauer. Steely, minerally, complex and an outstanding density. (Linda Simpson)
- 55. Greywacke Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand 2014: Roberson, £17.95** A little lemon and gooseberry on the nose, both in gentle balance. Dry, good acidity, understated fruit and minerality, with flavours that just grow in the mouth. Great with shellfish and oysters, and goat's cheese too! (Brett Jones)
- 56. Fino Tio Pepe En Rama, Jerez, Spain: widely available around £15** This dry Fino sherry is released each year. It is fresh, salty and citrussy at first, developing richer bread and almond flavours after a few months in bottle. Try it with green olives for the perfect aperitif; so much cheaper than Champagne! (Doug Bond)
- 57. Klein Constansia Metis Sauvignon Blanc 2013, South Africa: SAwinesonline, £19.99; Handford Wines, £21.95** This wine provides an excellent and very new example of the potential of Sauvignon Blanc in the Cape. It raises the bar for what we can expect from South Africa. (Nancy Gilchrist MW)
- 58. Cantina Lunae Liguria, Vermentino Etichetta Nera 2013, Italy: Hedonism Wines, £20.80; (2009 vintage, Fareham Wine Cellar, £13.25)** Want to explore Liguria? This and other wines by this producer are all marvellous. (Erica Dent)
- 59. Bourgogne Blanc Les Setilles Olivier Leflaive 2011, France: Salut Wines, Manchester, £20** Discovering quality and value in Burgundy is never easy. Olivier Leflaive's bottle may look humble with a generic Bourgogne label, but he has produced this very fine unoaked Chardonnay from fruit which originates from parcels of vines selected from some of the most prestigious vineyards in Burgundy, namely Meursault and Puligny. The resulting wine is creamy, minerally and elegant proving that Olivier is the master of the Côte de Beaune. (Stephen Rosser)
- 60. Soalheiro Primeiras Vinhas Alvarinho, Vinho Verde 2012 Portugal: The Wine Society, £20** This is Vinho Verde like you've never tasted before – beautifully intense stone fruit flavours from 30 year old vines buttressed by fine acidity and piercing length. It's as fine an Alvarinho as I have ever tried – and I'm indebted to the lovely, but rather flaky Portuguese waitress who served it to me by mistake on a recent escape to Lisbon. (Pippa Hayward)
- 61. Dom Daniel Barraud Pouilly-Fuissé 'Sur La Roche' 2013: Howard Ripley £20** This producer is so consistent and his Pouilly-Fuissé offers everything that I look for in this style of wine. An excellent, text book example. (Nancy Gilchrist MW)
- 62. André Kientzler, Riesling Grand Cru Osterberg, Alsace 2007, France: Stone, Vine & Sun, £20.95** Thrilling, racy, bone-dry

- Riesling from a great producer. Best with a few years bottle age. Seriously good. (Hugo Read)
- 63. Crystallum Clay Shales Chardonnay 2013 South Africa: Winesandchampagnes.co.uk, £21.95; invinitywines.co.uk, £22.99** I could have selected any wine which bore the name Crystallum; these guys are making truly great wines and proving that South Africa is a wine region to rival any other. This is stunning stuff – tight and citrus with a light smoky oaky toastiness. Love it! (Laura Clay)
- 64. Clos Clare Watervale Riesling 2013, Australia: Handford Wines (2012), £22.95; North and South Wines (2012), £25.99** This was my star buy from Matthew Jukes' 100 Best Australian wines for 2014: an incredible iconic dry Riesling from a tiny 5 acre vineyard (once part of the Florita vineyard) now run by (The Armagh) Jim Barry's grandsons, Tom and Sam. 2013 was a very good vintage in Clare and this has such superb poised limey fruits, perfectly judged acidity and mouth-watering freshness. Only 500 cases are made, so snap it up whilst you can. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)
- 65. Litmus Element 20 England: Harvey Nichols, £22** A simply gorgeous English wine that I could almost swear is a top white Burgundy. (Bryony Wright)
- 66. Clos Bagatelle Blanc Saint-Chinian 2013, France: Dusty Road Wines, £14.60** Christine Deleuze has crafted an elegant wine that's beautifully focused on aroma & fruit intensity, made from old-vine Carignan Blanc, Roussanne & Grenache Blanc. Drink with scallops. (Neil Courtier)
- ## £10–£25 Red
- 67. Koyle El Peuco Alto Colchagua Tempranillo-Mourvedre, Alto Colchagua 2011, Chile: The Wine Society, £11.50** More like Ribera del Duero than Rioja, but altogether brighter, with slightly balsamic acidity underpinned by firm tannins. It's a great example of the new face of Chilean wine – fascinating flavours, complex, satisfying, and keenly priced. (Helen Savage)
- 68. Mas du Libian Côtes du Rhône 2011, France: The Wine Society, £11.50** Richly fruited, deep, hearty, and with a beautiful expression of southern Rhône fruit, a 'winter warmer' red at a very reasonable price for the sheer quality of the winemaking. (John Ducker)
- 69. Santa Rita Medalla Real Cabernet Sauvignon 2010, Chile: Majestic, £11.99** All wine educators know that it can be hard to find red wines that show as easily as whites do – the tannin can get in the way for inexperienced tasters. So it is important to have "go to" producers and I find both Concha y Toro and Santa Rita in Chile very reliable. This is textbook, cassis-driven Cabernet which also has a touch of Cabernet class. (Richard Bampfield MW)
- 70. Meerlust Estate Red, Stellenbosch 2011 South Africa: Scatcharts Liverpool, £12.00** The great Rubicon was not made in 2011, so all of those grapes went into making this Meerlust Estate Red instead. A Bordeaux blend from young vines that has pronounced dark fruit on the nose, with green leaf and cloves, but the palate is full of sweet concentrated fruit and crisp acidity. (Paul Quinn)
- 71. Weinert Cavas de Weinert 2004, Argentina: The Wine Society, £12.95** I first tasted this wine when doing an Argentinian Tasting and it was wine of the night then and is still talked about by the group. A blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, it has bottle age having been aged for 2–5 years in old foudres and a granite cellar, so you get those lovely tertiary characters of leather, tobacco and cedar. (Linda Simpson)
- 72. Duas Quintas Tinto, Douro, Ramos Pinto 2011, Portugal: C&O Wines, Cheshire, £11.16** Ramos Pinto are one of the leading Portuguese Port makers, who in recent years demonstrated that the Douro valley can also produce excellent un-fortified wines as well as fine Ports. This is a full bodied wine which is full of very ripe black and blue fruits with floral aromas of violets, produced from an array of indigenous Portuguese grape varieties, such as Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca. (Stephen Rosser)
- 73. Pinotage Greywacke Cape Chamonix 2011, South Africa: The Wine Society; sawinesonline.com; Cornelius Wines, Edinburgh; WineRak, Aberdeen; Lockett Bros, N Berwick; Champany Inn Wine Shop, Linlithgow; Old Bridge Wine Co, Huntingdon, £13–£16** This is the only Pinotage I have ever really liked. Cape Chamonix Winemaker Gottfried Mocke really understands what is needed with this rustic grape. In 2007 he completely changed the way he made his Pinotage – and now uses a mix of early picked and desiccated grapes. Herby, wild and briary

- Pinotage with a soft luscious glycerol feel – this is exciting stuff. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)
- 74. Pierre-Jacques Druet, Les Cent Boisselées, Bourgueil, Loire 2009, France: Yapp Brothers, £14.25** A classic mid weight 100% Cabernet Franc from the central Loire, with fresh, juicy fruit flavours but also with a good savoury tannic grip. (Hugo Read)
- 75. Maury Solera 1928 cask no 860 France: The Wine Society, £14.95 (500ml)** Unusual, great value sweet fortified red wine, jam packed with raisins, coffee and savoury spice. Very seductive with a texture of satin: a wine to sit and contemplate with alone, or with a lover. (Lindsay Oram)
- 76. Coyam Emiliana 2010, Chile: The Wine Society, £14.95** Consistently for ten years or so, this red blend of Syrah, Carmenère, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and a smidgeon of Malbec and Mourvèdre grown in the bountiful Colchagua Valley has shown what quality Chile is capable of offering at over £10. From a pioneering biodynamic winery this blend represents the soul of Chile and offers real value. (Wink Lorch)
- 77. One Tree Pinot Noir Capricorn Wine Estates, Central Otago 2008, New Zealand: Fareham Wine Cellar, £15.00** Great example of a New Zealand Pinot Noir showing tasty savoury flavours alongside juicy fruit – bit of a bargain! (Erica Dent)
- 78. Poggerino, Chianti Classico, Tuscany 2011, Italy: Lea & Sandeman, £15.95** A lovely lip-smacking 100% Sangiovese Chianti Classico to have with your roast chicken on Sunday. Loads of crunchy sour cherry fruit enveloped in a crisp tannic frame. Yum. (Hugo Read)
- 79. Riecine Chianti Classico 2012, Italy: Tanners, Goedhuis and thewinemakersclub.com, £16** I love a good Chianti that is not over-extracted, but classy and elegant to let the fruit shine through. This really hits the spot. (Bryony Wright)
- 80. Stepp Pinot Noir 2012, Germany: Noel Young Wines, £16.99; The Sampler (2013), £14.85** The holy grail, a German Pinot Noir that totally sums up why this is arguably the best red grape variety in the world. (Bryony Wright)
- 81. Chianti Classico DOCG Fontodi 2010/2011, Italy: The Four Walls Wine Co., £16.75; The Wine Society, £17; Slurp.com, £18.95** A standard in my house. The wine has structure with a core of ripe red cherries, dried herbs and mushrooms with just a touch of oak. A
- classic expression of Sangiovese. (Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW)
- 82. De Martino La Aguada Old Vine Field Blend, Maipo 2011, Chile: Caves de Pyrène, £22.49** Chile made its name with predictably well-made wines from international varieties. Here's an example of the "new old", more exciting side of Chile. Old bush vines co-planted with 85% Carignan and a little Malbec and Cinsault are fashioned into a fascinating wine by an Iron Maiden-loving winemaker who has found the confidence to re-discover a more authentically Chilean style. Deep dark flavours from the Carignan are balanced with the light, bright fruit of the Cinsault – like a bitter chocolate filled with red fruit fondant. (Heather Dougherty)
- 83. Fattoria Basciano Chianti Rufina Riserva 2010 Italy: All About Wine, £17** Chianti Rufina has a floral, herbal quality rarely found in Classico. Basciano does it most beautifully! Juicy and ripe black cherries with finely balanced tannins and that lovely floral, herbal scent. (Nina Cerullo)
- 84. Rubin Carnuntum 2010, Weingut Markowitz Carnuntum, Austria: Alpine Wines, £18.12** Weingut Markowitz make their version of this red wine using only the Zweigelt grape. Being the most widely grown red grape in Austria the Zweigelt is often described as a "workhorse" variety but in the hands of the talented Markowitz team this wine is a true thoroughbred. Some barrel ageing adds an extra dimension to the rich black fruit aromas and savoury palate. A classy wine that goes well with classy food (venison is a particularly good match) it also accompanies simple tomato based pasta dishes just as well. (Richard Goodacre)
- 85. Warwick Estate 'Trilogy' 2009 South Africa: Bon Coeur Fine Wines, £18.99** A Bordeaux-like blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and a dash of Merlot. It was matured for 26 months in classic style, in small oak barrels, over half of which were new. Despite this the fruit is forward, fresh and focussed. The firm but very silky tannins give it great texture and length. Few wines from Bordeaux itself can match it at this price. (Helen Savage)
- 86. Alcyone Tannat Dessert Wine Uruguay: Wines of Uruguay, £19.00 (500ml); Taurus Wines, £24.99** Wonderful voluptuous dessert wine with polished tannins and flavours of chocolate, ripe cherries and vanilla bean. This has a honey like texture which caresses the throat. A wicked little number for a log fire. (Maggie Smith)

- 87. Navajas Gran Reserva Rioja 2005, Spain: slurp.co.uk, £23.95** Sweet berry fruit, vanilla and leather, soft and round with ripe tannins, a wonderful example of mature Rioja from an outstanding vintage. A succulent shoulder of lamb would complement this. (Christos Ioannou)
- 88. Weingut Claus Schneider, Weiler Schlip Spätburgunder 'CS' 2010, Germany: The Wine Library, £20.99** A very elegant, earthy German Pinot Noir – perfect with game and so delish. (Anne Krebiehl MW)
- 89. Rioja Gran Reserva, Luis Cañas 2007, Spain: The Vinorium, £21.95** I have become increasingly frustrated with the quality of Rioja over the last few years but Luis Cañas in all categories consistently delivers. It is the Gran Reserva that really impresses however, always stopping me and my students in our tracks and (almost) lost for words! Typicity from warm, spicy oak, prunes and plum fruit delivers everything that quality Rioja should be. (Claire Blackler)
- 90. Pulenta Estate Gran Cabernet Franc Mendoza 2010, Argentina: winedirect.co.uk, £21.95; AG wines; Wine Trust 100 (2011), £25** Argentina produces some fabulous Cabernet Franc wines – try this for starters. (Erica Dent)
- 91. Springfield Estate Whole Berry Cabernet Sauvignon, Robertson 2010, South Africa: (Ireland) £27.99; Slurp.co.uk, (2013) £12.95** Abrie and Jeanette Bruwer continue to defy commercial logic, wine making technique or indeed basic common sense. They also continue to produce tantalising brilliant examples of wines that explore fruit flavours and a sense of place in a special way. Natural yeast only; a whole berry ferment; 3 months of racking; unfiltered and unfined; a gentle giant of a wine. (Kevin Ecock)
- ### UNDER £25 Sparkling Wines
- 92. Philippe Michel, Crémant du Jura, France: Aldi, £7.29** 100% Chardonnay, this clean, crisp, apple and lemony sparkler has great flavour and firm persistent bubbles. Quite possibly the best value sparkling wine in the UK. (Laura Clay)
- 93. Crémant d'Alsace, Blanc de Blancs, France: Lidl, £7.99** Knock spots off Prosecco with this classy sparkler. Zesty yet delicate, with apple blossom fragrance. (John Ducker)
- 94. Vin du Bugey 'Cerdon' Renardat-Fache NV Methode Ancestrale, France: Raeburn Fine Wines Edinburgh, £13.99 Demi-Sec** sparkling rosé is "springtime in a glass" perfect balance of sweetness and lightness with strawberry shortcake yummy notes. Great for a picnic but better still for Christmas morning with brioche and at only 8% abv is a perfect Christmas pick me up! (Maggie Smith)
- 95. Champalou Sparkling Vouvray, France: slurp.co.uk, £13.95** A wonderfully elegant example of sparkling Chenin Blanc. Dry, but not austere and rather less pressure than some. It has the depth of flavour to partner lots of dishes too. (Helen Savage)
- 96. Champagne Louvel Fontaine Rosé Brut NV France: Asda, £14 (regularly promoted at this price)** Great value Champagne with strawberry notes, a delicate mousse, lightly toasty with a fresh fruity style and creamy finish. (Vivienne Franks)
- 97. Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore DOCG Riva di San Floriano Brut, Nino Franco, Italy: sommelierschoice.com, £18** An elegant wine with intense perfume and concentration. Sourced from an old vineyard above the village, this wine will make you see Prosecco in a new light. (Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW)
- 98. Tesco 1er Cru NV Champagne, France: Tesco, £19.99** Always a winner. At tastings it comes out top whether people know what it is or not, it's great for parties and special occasions but actually there is plenty of character and depth to this wine making it work perfectly through dinner as well. (Laura Clay)

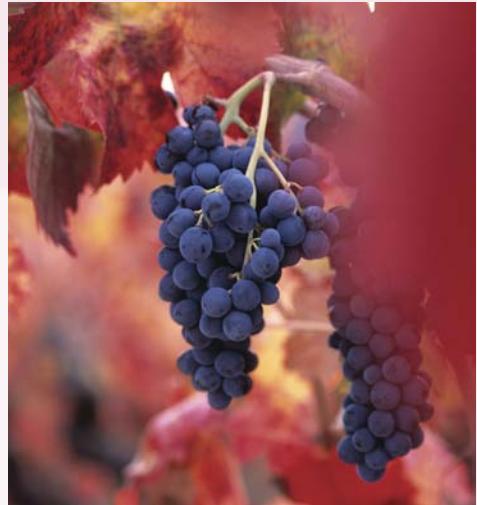


Photo © Cophas



Photo © Carolyn Bosworth-Davies

99. **Bluebell Vineyard Hindleap Brut Rosé 2010, England: Waitrose Cellar, £24.99** From the South Downs, East Sussex, the sparkling wines from Bluebell Vineyard really impressed me at this year's English Wine Tasting. Great to see another newcomer adding to the list of great English sparkling wine producers. The 2010 is really a Blanc de Noirs – from Pinot Noir principally and Pinot Meunier. Pale salmon pink, with good bubbles, great red fruit flavours of strawberries and redcurrants with a good citrus palate. The layered, buttery and rich flavours across the palate give this

rosé true complexity, and a long persistent finish. (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)

100. **Ridgeview Merret Bloomsbury Sparkling Wine 2011, England: Waitrose, £24.99**
I simply love showing English sparkling wines at tastings and am proud to do so when the quality is as consistently high as with this one. I normally buy it a few months in advance because I find it benefits from a little bottle age. Always shows well and compares favourably if paired with similarly priced Champagnes. (Richard Bampfield MW)

Contact a local AWE member:

Contacting AWE

The AWE has members in most regions of the UK, and increasingly in other parts of the world. Further information about the association, all its members and how to book a wine tasting can be obtained either at the AWE website, or through the AWE Administrator, Andrea Warren.

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