

100 **AWESOME** WINES

ASSOCIATION OF  
WINE EDUCATORS

**2019**



from the  
Association of Wine Educators



## 100 great value wines as recommended by wine professionals

If you have ever wished you knew a little more about wine but haven't known where to start, checking out the Association of Wine Educators would be a very good place.

Our members are qualified to at least Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Diploma, several are Masters of Wine, and all have been assessed for their teaching and presenting skills. We are located all over the country, and overseas, running courses, classes and tastings and you can find your most local wine educator very easily by searching the AWE website: [www.wineeducators.com](http://www.wineeducators.com)

This popular brochure, now in its fifth year, is a list of wines which our members recommend to you as being some of the best value wines they have found on the market, whether under a tenner or £25. These are wines they have enjoyed presenting at tastings or drinking themselves and which they believe to hit that all important quality versus price sweet spot.

We hope that the brochure will encourage you to try different styles of wines, possibly to spend a little more than you normally might, in the knowledge that a wine professional, who tastes hundreds of wines a year, thinks it's pretty smart.

The brochure is also available online so please share it with your wine-loving friends: <http://wineeducators.com/100-awesome-wines/>

Laura Clay

AWE Chairman



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### Charles Metcalfe

Author, educator and  
Honorary President of  
the AWE

“The Association of Wine Educators are an amazing bunch. They are dedicated to helping everyone find out more about wine, and get more enjoyment from it. AWE members really know their winery stuff, and are very skilled at spreading the winery word. In fact, they are AWESome. By the way, this is a really handy booklet of wines.”

## Our 100 AWESOME WINES

### White under £10

- 1. Verdicchio Classico Superiore, Villa Bucci 2016, Marche, Italy: The Wine Society (half bottle) £6.75** Villa Bucci wines always have elegance, purity and great depth of fruit. Verdicchio in the right hands is one of Italy's very best white grape varieties. It's softly golden in colour, dry, fresh and zingy, with white peach fruit flavours. Fantastic with seafood or on its own. A delicious bargain and organic too, it's only available in the UK in half bottles, so buy two! (Paul Howard)
- 2. Winemakers Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2017, Awatere, New Zealand: Lidl £6.99** Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc may not be the most original choice to feature here but there is a reason that it has become so popular – some of it is really good. From Marlborough's top sub-region, the Awatere Valley, this is highly expressive Sauvignon yet with above average verve and energy. (Richard Bampfield MW)
- 3. Grillo 2017, Sicily, Italy: Marks & Spencer €11 ROI/£7** Very enjoyable wine at a fantastic price. Textured honeysuckle styling makes this approachable to either drink on its own or to pair it up with rich flavours such as a goat's cheese or smoked bacon. (Kevin Ecock)
- 4. Zalze Bush Vine Chenin Blanc 2017/2018, Coastal Region, South Africa: Morrisons £7.25** An excellent example of easy-drinking New World Chenin Blanc. Dry, unoaked with ripe tropical fruit and accents of lime zest, lemon custard and mango supported with racy acidity. Medium-bodied, refreshing wine, great as an aperitif or with seafood or poultry. (Patricia Stefanowicz MW)
- 5. Carpinus Hárslevelu Dry White 2017, Hungary: Lidl £7.99** A superb price for this rare grape. Deliciously citric aromas with pear and grapefruit notes, sweet sour flavours in a rich sappy mineral style made by the Bai family – it makes a really unusual aperitif. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)
- 6. Navajas Blanco Crianza, Rioja 2015, Spain: The Wine Society £8.50** Yes, a white Rioja, and this one is as delicious as red Rioja. Huge flavour for the money, you'll need to like oak; it is nutty and toasty, with lashings of vanilla. Perfect with creamy chicken. (Rob Price)
- 7. Stellenrust Chenin Blanc 2018, South Africa: Sainsbury's £8.50** Chenin Blanc is South Africa's classic variety grown here on old vines in the famous region of Stellenbosch. It is a wine of grapefruit and lime flavours working beautifully alongside a more tropical fruit character. One of its attributes is its versatility to match with many different dishes such as chicken fricassée or pork and apple, salads and Chinese food. Another is its propensity to slip down easily on its own. An absolute steal at this price. (Laura Clay)
- 8. Picpoul de Pinet Domaine Saint-Peyre 2017 Côteaux du Languedoc, France: Staintons Wines £8.95** Fresh summer fruits with floral aromas and herbaceous undertones. Alert, crisp and crunchy white wine that goes perfectly with modern cuisine. (Paul Quinn)
- 9. Waitrose Foundation Chenin Blanc Cederberg 2018, South Africa: Waitrose £8.99** A crisp, dry white to celebrate giving money to an extremely worthy cause, the Waitrose Foundation. This provides grants to agricultural communities for education, health care and many other positive projects, funded by some of what you pay for the wine.

The grapes come from vines over 1000 metres in altitude, and the wine is tight, herby and intense. It's very young, and I'd keep it until summer 2019. (Charles Metcalfe)

10. **Dourthe La Grande Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc 2016/7, Bordeaux, France: Waitrose £9.49** Fresh, crisp and dry from the pioneers of modern Bordeaux wine-making. Herby, grassy with ripe fruit and hints of grapefruit. Aromatic, with satisfying depth of flavour. (Richard Esling)
11. **Château de Vallagon Touraine Sauvignon Blanc 2015, France: Taurus Wines £9.99** A typical grassy, apple-y and herbal-toned Sauvignon Blanc with a subtle underlying mineral flavour. This is a genuine rival to many a Sancerre and at a very good price. (David Timmons)
12. **Mâcon-Villages Les Pierres Blanches, Cave de Lugny, Bourgogne 2016, France: Majestic £9.99** Fresh, fruity style, with a very gentle buttery character (but there's no new oak) so a wine which is a great match for fish or pork dishes with light sauces. (Ian Symonds)

## Red under £10

13. **Marqués De Carano Gran Reservado, 2014, Spain: Tesco £5.50** It may be cheap, but it just slips down beautifully. Like a Rioja, but from the Cariñena region that offers wines at fabulous value. Lovely red fruits and hints of spice, it's soft, satisfying and silky



smooth. Marvellous with manchego cheese. (Rob Price)

14. **Côtes-du-Rhône Rive Droite, Rive Gauche 2017, France: The Wine Society £7.75** A perfect wine all year round. A Grenache and Syrah blend that is so juicy and full of fruit. The ultimate good value quaffable wine. Chill it in the summer with your barbeque or it's equally good as a robust match for a winter casserole. (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)
15. **Château Canada, Bordeaux Supérieur 2016, France: The Wine Society £7.95** As this soft, fruity blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon demonstrates, good red Bordeaux doesn't have to be expensive. A glass or two will enhance the simplest of meals. Enjoy it with richly sauced pasta, a plain grilled chop or steak, good British cheeses or your comfort food of the moment. (Sandy Leckie)
16. **Exquisite Collection Marqués de Carrión Rioja Reserva 2014, Spain: Aldi £7.99** Rioja is often a good price for a prestige wine but rarely is it as much of a bargain as this one. For well under a tenner you're rewarded with an impressive, rounded wine, silky-smooth with juicy cherry and vanilla flavours perfectly padded with mouth-filling tannins. (Laura Clay)
17. **Mon Plaisir de la Vallée Cabernet Franc 2015, Vin de France: Majestic £7.99** This is a fresh and easy drinking red. Very refreshing with crunchy raspberry and blackcurrant aromas, with a great hit of acidity and a touch of spice on the finish. Great value. (Paul Quinn)
18. **Poggiotondo Organic Chianti 2016 DOCG Chianti Cerreto Guidi, Italy: Waitrose £7.99** A traditional blend of 85% Sangiovese, 10% Canaiolo and 5% Colorino, with fragrant, lifted and lively

aromas of cherries, pepper, mocha and rosemary. The palate is medium bodied and very soft with a nice touch of fine grain tannins, lively red fruit and refreshing acidity giving balance and tension. (Quentin Sadler)

19. **Taste the Difference Zweigelt 2017, Huber, Austria: Sainsbury's £8** Hats off to Sainsbury's for continuing to champion off-piste wines through their excellent Taste the Difference range. This Zweigelt is a typical example with its bright, refreshing slightly savoury ripe cherry fruit. It takes chilling so well and drinks perfectly with anything from a picnic to a barbecue, making it an ideal summer red. (Pippa Hayward)
20. **Château d'Emeringes Beaujolais-Villages 2017 Vieilles Vignes, France: The Wine Society £8.50** Beaujolais is back in fashion. If you don't know where to start, start here. This is light yet intense and beautifully balanced with plenty of fruit and lovely minerality, doing everything you hope that Beaujolais-Villages will do, but better, in fact better than many of the *crus*! (Nina Cerullo)
21. **Cabaret Frank No 2, Old Vine Cabernet Franc 2016, Lodi, California, USA: Field & Fawcett £8.60** A red wine for those times when you don't want to take life too seriously. Medium-bodied and with aromas of blackberries, black cherries and hints of plum. With bags of flavour and very good length this wine epitomises the fun side of California. (Richard Goodacre)
22. **Morandé One to One Old Vines País 2016, Maule Valley, Chile: Majestic £8.99** Old vines, averaging 65 years old, make this an interesting light-bodied red with spicy blackcurrant and raspberry aromas. On tasting it has juicy acidity and light tannins bringing out lots of freshness with a persistent finish. If you like Beaujolais, you will love this. (Paul Quinn)
23. **Malbec Don David, Blend of Terroirs, Argentina: Co-op £9** Made by one of the largest producers in Argentina, meaning that they can call on grapes from all the major wine regions. This Malbec has good depth and structure but also retains the freshness and sheer drinkability that are the hallmarks of all good wine. One of the best-selling brands in Argentina itself. (Richard Bampfield MW)
24. **Frappato di Sicilia, Nicosia 2017, Italy: The Wine Society £9.95** I develop a real weakness for chilled, light-bodied, fragrant reds over the summer months – and this one fits the bill perfectly! (Anne Krebiehl MW)
25. **Primitivo Passitovo Appassimento, Paolo Leo 2015, Italy: Jeroboams £9.95** These Primitivo grapes are allowed to semi-raisin on the vine (rather than after picking) which intensifies the plump, spicy black fruit character. The tannins are mellow and there is a chocolate-y richness that is very appealing. Baby Amarone at a bargain price. (Patty Green)





26. **Teroldego Rotaliano Riserva Castel Firmian Mezzacorona 2013, Italy: The Wine Society £9.95** This wine punches well above its price point and offers an alternative to the more well-known Italian varieties and regions. From Trentino in North East Italy it displays bright cherry fruit and subtle spice, a perfect everyday red for your pizza. (Lydia Harrison)
27. **Syrah, Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2017, France: Majestic £9.99** I love a wine with a story and pedigree and this wine has both, coming from a long-standing family business which goes back to the early nineteenth century and includes great wines such as La Chapelle 1961, yet here is a taste of classic Syrah for under £10! Typical Syrah characters of blackcurrant and liquorice with subtle wild shrub characters and pepper. What's not to love! (Linda Simpson)
28. **Domaine les Roches Bleues, Côte de Brouilly 2016, Beaujolais, France: Askew Wines £9.99** The Gamay grape creates a fresh, crisp and fruity red wine and this is a typical example of the modern improved style from Beaujolais. An ideal wine served chilled for summer picnics or it can be paired with poultry and fruity sauces. (Vivienne Franks)

## Rosé under £10

29. **Côte Garrigue 2017 AOP Languedoc, France: Lidl £5.99** The south of France produces some fantastic dry rosés, but whilst those from Provence are well known, a short trip west to Languedoc finds some stunning rosés at keener prices. Côte Garrigue comes from the smallish house of Ferdinand Labarthe. A beautiful salmon pink colour, it has elegant red fruits on the nose and a lovely clean bite. Perfect with a wide range of foods including lightly-spiced curries. (Dr Gareth Morgan)
30. **Porcupine Ridge Rosé 2018, Swartland, South Africa: Waitrose Wine £7.99** For me, this wine is particularly attractive as it is one of the first 2018 wines available, which will keep it fresh and lively throughout 2019. A blend of Syrah for strength and acidity with Cinsault for red-fruited charm. (Gilbert Winfield)
31. **Ramon Bilbao El Viaje Rosé 2017, Rioja, Spain: Co-op £8** There's a lot of forgettable rosé around, but this is a real delight from Rioja. It's made from Garnacha (the original version of southern France's Grenache Noir), fashionably pale in colour, and packed with fresh, juicy fragrance. It has crisp acidity and lovely delicate, red fruit flavours, truly a pink to purr over when the summer sun arrives. (Charles Metcalfe)

## White £10-25

32. **Tblvino Qvevris 2015, Georgia, Marks & Spencer £10/bottle (case of 6 online)** If you want to experiment with the orange wine trend but don't want any flavours that are too unusual this is a great option. Made in the traditional Qvevri (clay amphora) with skin contact this more deeply coloured white has quince fruit flavours with a lovely texture. A great food wine. (Lydia Harrison)

33. **Domaine des Forges, Moulin de Gué, Savennières 2014, France: Co-op £10.49** For me, the Loire in France is where the Chenin Blanc grape reaches its zenith. From the small enclave of Savennières in Anjou, a dry Chenin can age for decades. This example is riper and fruitier than many rivals, without the youthful austerity of some more celebrated estates. Bone dry and with the typical smell of damp straw, plus welcome tangerine and honey notes from botrytis. Full bodied with zingy acidity and mineral notes. Irresistible at this price and vegan too. (Paul Howard)
34. **Villa Flora Lugana 2017 Zenato Peschiera del Garda, Italy: Waitrose £10.99** The nose of this wine is understated, taut and delicately fruity with wafts of light white peach, apricot and blossom. There are herbs and nuts too, as well as straw and a tight, stony quality. The palate is reasonably full with some texture and even a hint of cream. A delicious wine that goes with all manner of light dishes, fish, chicken or whatever takes your fancy. (Quentin Sadler)
35. **Dashwood Pinot Gris Marlborough 2017, New Zealand: Templeton Direct £11.29** Embracing a flavour profile across apple and citrus, and backed with subtle aromatic spice, this wine has crystalline purity and presence in the glass. This virtuous Kiwi Pinot Gris also proves itself a star as a food match, particularly alongside Chinese/Asian dishes. (John Ducker)
36. **McManis Family Lodi Viognier, California 2016, USA: The Wine Society £11.50** A rich, round mouthful of flavours backed up with balancing acidity. A wine dominated by lovely ripe apricot flavours, with a touch of spice and fragrance. A Viognier with the WOW factor. (Helen Duddridge)
37. **Santa Rita Medalla Real Chardonnay 2017, Leyda Valley, Chile: Majestic £11.99** This northern wine producing region of Chile is cooled by sea breezes which provide a fresh clean style of Chardonnay with crisp acidity. Bright, golden in colour with vibrant aromas of citrus, apple and stone fruit. The barrel fermentation and regular lees stirring add weight and creaminess to the palate. This is a really classy Chardonnay and sits happily alongside many AC Burgundy wines. (Linda Simpson)
38. **Davy's White Burgundy, Domaine Chêne NV, France: www.davy.co.uk £12.95** From a single domaine in the south of the Mâcon district with riper fruit than the norm from extended hang-time. Silky smooth, lightly creamy Chardonnay flecked with mineral notes and roasted nut richness. A cut above most Mâcon. (Patty Green)
39. **Dr Loosen Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett 2016 Mosel, Germany: Sainsbury's £13** Riesling's homeland is Germany where it makes many styles of wine. The Mosel offers some of the best soils and climate for it. This style is light, delicate, minerally and



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- floral. The slight sweetness, combined with racy acidity, makes this a good accompaniment to rich, oily/fatty foods like soft cheeses and dishes with spicy ingredients. (John Callow)
40. **Rüdesheimer Magdalenenkreuz Riesling Kabinett 2017, Weingut Leitz, Germany: Waitrose £13.99** A textbook Rheingau Kabinett which I use regularly for teaching. Trouble is, I can never resist a second bottle just for me. Intense lemon and honey aromas and a perfect balance of ripe fruit and mouth-watering acidity. (Helen Savage)
  41. **Old Vine Auxerrois, Domaine Paul Blanck, 2016, Alsace, France: Waitrose £14.99** Although a fair amount of Auxerrois is grown in Alsace, most of it is either blended with Pinot Blanc or used to make sparkling wine. Straight Auxerrois is a bit of a rarity. Just off dry with soft peachy fruit, zesty citrus peel and a hint of spice, this is a great example. Drink well chilled as an aperitif or enjoy with crab, prawns, fish or white meat in creamy sauces or hard cheeses. (Sandy Leckie)
  42. **Chafor Estate Bacchus 2016/2017, Buckinghamshire, England: From the vineyard and Waitrose £14.99** Elegant, this wine shows the purity and crisp acidity of the Bacchus variety. Like a gentler version of Sauvignon Blanc with lime and greengage aromas and flavours and overtones of elderflower and English flower garden. A very pretty wine, perfect as an aperitif or with lighter dishes. (Patricia Stefanowicz MW)
  43. **Grenache Gris Côtes Catalanes 2015 Domaine Jones, France: The Wine Society £16** A rich full-bodied white wine from old vineyards in Roussillon. This is a match for food with its dry and herbal notes and its good depth of flavour and really long finish. Or you can simply savour its delicious complexity on its own. (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)
  44. **Soalheiro Classic Alvarinho 2017, Vinho Verde, Portugal: The Wine Society £16.50** A fabulous example of varietal Alvarinho from the top producer in northern Vinho Verde in the most northerly vineyards of Portugal. Lovely pure fragrance with floral notes, limey minerality, crisp, zingy and dry, well rounded with impressive long length. It can age surprisingly well too if you tuck a few bottles away in the cellar for a few years. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)
  45. **Mac Forbes RS19 Strathbogie Ranges Riesling 2017, Australia: The Wine Society £17** A brilliantly pure Riesling with tonnes of sharp citrus fruit and aromatic floral notes, beautifully balanced with just a touch of sugar this wine is immediately enjoyable but could also age. One for a perfect summer's day and sharing with good friends! (Lydia Harrison)
  46. **Grüner Veltliner Der Ott 2016, Bernhard Ott, Wagram, Austria: Savage Selection £19.80** A beautifully fresh, lively, textbook expression of Grüner Veltliner. Focused stone fruit flavours and real vitality on the palate, finishing with very good length. The 2016 was not an easy year in Austria but this wine shows genuine style and elegance. (Nancy Gilchrist MW)
  47. **Trinity Hill 'Gimblett Gravels' Marsanne/Viognier 2016, New Zealand: nzhouseofwine.co.uk £20.99** Silky texture and succulent stone fruit opulence flecked with exotic jasmine makes this Kiwi 'Rhône Ranger' stand out. Super stylish and with curves that will man up to richer dishes. Treat yourself! (Patty Green)
  48. **Lapola Dominio do Bibeí, 2015 Ribeira Sacra, Galicia, Spain: The Good Wine Shop £21** From Ribeira Sacra, one of Galicia's inland wine regions where tiny

plots of vines cling to the steep slopes of the River Sil, and Dominio do Bibei is one of the very best bodegas here. The blend is mostly Godello with a bit of Albariño and Dona Blanca. The wine has a beguilingly rich texture with layers of quince, apple and stone fruit flavours, while a very Galician thread of acidity and minerality keeps the tension perfectly. (Pippa Hayward)

## Red £10-£25

49. **The Society's Exhibition Pinotage 2015, Stellenbosch, South Africa: The Wine Society £10.50** This is a very bold example of this grape with baked red plum flavours backed up with leathery, smoky overtones. A robust wine to partner strong flavours and an ideal representation for students learning about wine. (Helen Duddridge)
50. **Domaine de la Noblaie Chinon 'Le Temps des Cerises' 2017 Loire Valley, France: The Wine Society £10.95** This is an absolute cracker. 100% Cabernet Franc from the Loire Valley, unoaked to let the exuberant, juicy raspberry and cherry fruit shine, it has just a hint of the classic Cabernet Franc pencil shaving
51. **Koyle 'El Peuco' Alto Colchagua Tempranillo-Mourvèdre 2014, Chile: The Wine Society £11.50** Silky, spicy and seductive. An attack of dark red fruits, mocha coffee and well integrated oak last on the palate for some time. El Peuco is a Harris Hawk and an appropriate name for a wine that soars and persists. Very good value for money. (Richard Goodacre)
52. **Wild Flower Pinot Noir 2017, Cramele Recas, Romania: O'Briens Wines Ireland €13.95** An inexpensive Pinot Noir that actually tastes like Pinot Noir. Light ruby colour, full ripe red berry bouquet tinged with an edge of balsam and ripe tomato. Fine, well-balanced juice-filled palate. (Kevin Ecock)
53. **Diablo Dark Red 2015 Chile: Sainsbury's £12** This is Concha y Toro's star wine – an unusual concentrated blend of beautiful, ripe almost port-like Syrah and also Malbec which adds a touch of rich, ripe plums. An absolutely delicious wine ready to drink right away

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- or in a few years' time, if preferred. (Trudy Welsh)
54. **Château Le Coin, Bordeaux Rouge 2016/17 France: Laithwaites £12.49** A really lovely Merlot-based claret with ripe, plummy fruit, a hint of cassis and just the right amount of silky smooth, ripe tannins. Made to drink young but with the ability to age, too. (Trudy Welsh)
55. **Mondeuse Domaine de l'Idylle, Tiollier 2016 Savoie, France: Yapp Brothers £13.75** French alpine freshness from Haute-Savoie in a lighter-style sappy red wine apt to be enjoyed slightly chilled, alongside a fondue, raclette or even pasta. Dark in colour though translucent, Mondeuse has distinctive hedgerow-berry fruit characteristics with the same style and weight some associate with Cabernet Franc wines from the Loire. (John Ducker)
56. **Ritual Pinot Noir 2015, Casablanca, Chile: Oddbins and Slaye Village Shop £14.50** The best Chilean Pinot I've tasted – rich, mouth-filling black and bitter cherry fruit balanced by silky tannins and just enough acidity. It's a bargain. (Helen Savage)
57. **Medici Riccardi Carmignano DOCG 2015, Italy: Lidl Ireland €16.99** A well-priced powerhouse of rich, soft, generous and exciting fruit. This is a structured wine supporting a great blend of Tuscan fruits that combine really well in a long finish, rich with mature tannins and layers of interest. Super to see it widely available. (Kevin Ecock)
58. **Domaine la Cabotte Côtes du Rhône Villages Massif d'Uchaux 2016, France: Virgin Wines £14.99** This organic and biodynamic wine is a classic blend of 50% Grenache with the rest Syrah and Mourvèdre. The purity and density of fruit is a delight, and, coupled with the freshness of the 2016 vintage, it's a real charmer. (Heather Dougherty)
59. **Autòcton Vinyes Velles, Sumoll/Ull de Llebre 2015, Catalonia, Spain: Lea and Sandeman £15.25** Quite a mouthful to pronounce and a gorgeous mouthful to taste! This is a blend of Tempranillo (masquerading as Ull de Llebre in Catalonia) with the local Sumoll grape. It's a brilliant expression of all that is good about New Spain reds with its focus on variety and vineyards – beautiful, cool, red fruit with mulberry and plums, fresh and elegant with very gentle tannins yet intense and satisfying. Drink with lamb or roast autumnal root vegetables with herbs and some light goat cheese. (Pippa Hayward)
60. **Fitou Domaine Jones 2015, France: The Wine Society £15.50** Languedoc-Roussillon by way of Ashby-de-la-Zouch from the award-winning Katie Jones. Fast becoming quite the cult classic, this Grenache-based blend is all untamed bramble fruits, spice and wild herb flavours. Packing a deceptive jab rather than a punch, the grapes come from gnarled old vines which give as much in the way of elegance as they do boldness of flavour. (Deborah Zbinden)
61. **Chateau Ste Michelle Columbia Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon 2015, USA: Hailsham Cellars £15.50** This was an ideal year in eastern Washington for growing Cabernet Sauvignon. This is an inviting wine from one of the State's most respected winemakers. There is plenty of complexity and structure with silky tannins. (David Timmons)
62. **Don Guerino 'Vintage' Malbec 2016, Brazil: www.gobrazilwines.com £16** Malbec from Brazil? Yes and this is very good – fragrant with dark fruit, raspberries, spice and savoury oak (it spends around six months in French and American oak). It's full, very smooth with plum and underlying raspberry and red cherry flavours, soft tannins and subtle oak. (Carol Brown)

63. **Moss Wood Amy's Blend 2016, Margaret River, Australia: Waitrose Cellar £16.49** This wine is a blend of Bordeaux varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot). The palate is rich and velvety with hints of blackcurrants and plums. A stunning wine ready to drink now but equally, there's no rush. (Trudy Welsh)

64. **Cerasuolo di Vittoria 2016, Planeta, Sicily, Italy: Great Western Wines £16.75** Unusual Sicilian wine from the native Nero d'Avola and Frappato grapes: spicy black fruit from the Nero d'Avola, with intriguing wild strawberry and pomegranate flavours from the Frappato grown in Sicily's volcanic soils. (Gilbert Winfield)

65. **Bessa Valley Winery, Enira Reserve 2013, Thracian Valley, Bulgaria: www.theoldcellar.com £16.95** A delicious blend of Petit Verdot, Syrah, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, which shows real potential from an up-and-coming Bulgarian wine region. Intense black fruit with rich complexity and balance, a great find. (Vivienne Franks)

66. **Rustenberg Buzzard Kloof Syrah Stellenbosch, 2015 South Africa: Lea & Sandeman £17.25** Loads of brambly, blackberry fruit with toasty oak; on the palate savoury black fruit, firm tannins, and a long, peppery finish. The quality of possibly South Africa's greatest ever vintage shines through. A perfect match for venison or beef. (Christos Ioannou)

67. **Touriga Vai Nua Fitapreta Alentejo, 2017 Portugal: Swig £17.50** Made from one of Portugal's most revered red Port grapes and produced in the south on rocky schistous soils in the Alentejo. Full of crunchy red fruits and without any oak. It has lifted floral notes and minerality, and at the same time is vibrant and thirst quenching. If you like Rhône wines you will love this! (Carolyn Bosworth-Davies)



68. **La Lus Albarossa 2015 DOC Piemonte Castello Banfi Italy: Noel Young Wines £18.99** This is 100% Albarossa, one of only four such wines in the world, aged for 12 months in French oak barriques. Oh my, this is an enticing wine with a beautifully opaque plum colour, lifted aromas of cherries, plums and redcurrant. The palate is seductively soft, velvety smooth and round with lovely weight of concentrated fruit making it full-bodied and full-flavoured, but the freshness really shines through making it feel lively and balanced. The tannins are sinfully soft and the whole thing is utterly, utterly delicious. (Quentin Sadler)

69. **Canace Nero di Troia 2014 Cantina Diomede, Italy: Luvians, St Andrews; Valvona & Crolla, Edinburgh; Fine Wine Company £19.99-£23.99** With dried grapes added to the blend here, the result is delicious rich and raisiny with a glycerol feel. Black-fruited dense sweet powerful red with coffee, liquorice notes and a luscious mouthfeel – just a gorgeous wine which is always a winner at tastings. Made from 85% Nero di Troia with 15% Aglianico in north central Puglia and matured for 12 months in French oak. (Rose Murray-Brown MW)

70. **Côtes de Nuits-Villages Nicolas Potel, Bourgogne, 2016, France: Majestic £19.99** Lovely elegant Pinot, a great example of how light a Bourgogne can



be in colour yet with how much fruit flavour and a nice touch of tannin. Superb value for such a well-crafted wine. (Ian Symonds)

71. **Bóhorquez, Ribera del Duero 2009, Spain: The Wine Society £20** Stop-you-in-your-tracks aromas of fresh black fruits, tobacco smoke and spice, this fully mature 2009 Ribera del Duero has the concentrated depth of flavour and weight to be expected from this part of Spain but with refreshing acidity that lifts and carries the dark juicy flavours to a long lingering finish. (David Harker)
72. **Cline 'Ancient Vines' Mourvèdre 2015, Contra Costa County, California, USA: WoodWinters £20** This was a favourite at a recent Aberdeen Wine Appreciators meeting. Rich fruit cake and warm spice aromas link into a rich glassful. This really ripe Mourvèdre has raisin and liquorice notes, balanced oak and tannins with a lingering finish. (Carol Brown)
73. **Julian Reynolds Grande Reserva 2008, Portugal: Wright Wine Co Skipton £22** Deep colour with black fruit on the nose. Elegant but powerful, exhibiting sweet black fruit with a long finish. Capable of ageing. This is a blend of Alicante Bouschet with Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. A delightful wine worth seeking out. (Brian Davis)
74. **Leeuwin Estate Prelude Cabernet Merlot 2012, Australia: Wine Direct £22.95** Leeuwin Estate is one of the founding wineries in the now famous Margaret River district in Western Australia. The blend here is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 4% Malbec. A concentrated and dense bouquet with rich layers of ripe currants, dark cherries and plums. Immense length with silky fine tannins. (David Timmons)
75. **CVNE Imperial Rioja Reserva 2014, Spain: Co-op, Waitrose, Majestic, Morrisons £23-£25** Tempranillo-dominated with Graciano and Mazuelo in the blend too, this Rioja Reserva spends two years in French and American oak and then another two years in bottle before release. So vibrant with cherry, berry, spice and vanilla scents. In the mouth it's soft and so well-balanced with long lingering flavours of dark berries, brambles and spice. (Carol Brown)
76. **Les Mesjeans 2013, Jean-Luc Colombo, Cornas, France: Waitrose £24.99** Pure, perfumed, black pepper aromas and really, really fine silky tannins; particularly extraordinary for Cornas. This is the most gorgeously correct Syrah from a very small vintage in the northern Rhône. Super elegant wine. (Nancy Gilchrist MW)
77. **Petit Verdot Quinta da Romaneira 2015 Douro, Portugal: Lea & Sandeman £25.25 (£22.75 as part of a case of 12)** An 'understudy' grape comes into the limelight. Here's a rich, dense cornucopia of earthy, brambly, tobacco and herbal scents followed by complex flavours of spiced ripe cherry and blackberry on the palate. Beautifully structured, with balancing acidity and length aplenty, this is a class act from one of Portugal's oldest quintas. (John Ducker)

## Rosé £10-£25

### 78. **Mirabeau Classic Rosé 2017, Côtes de Provence, France: Waitrose £10.99**

Made from Grenache and Syrah grapes, the wine has a very pale peach-pink colour. Dry, refined, light bodied with aromas of wild strawberry and raspberry continuing onto the palate, framed by lively acidity, lingering finish. Perfect with seafood or salads. (Patricia Stefanowicz MW)

### 79. **Mirabeau Pure Rosé, Côtes de Provence 2017, France: Waitrose £13.99**

This classic Rosé is made by British ex-pats from 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah. A pink-salmon colour that has the satin-textured mouthfeel so typical of a Provençal pink. Some grassy and herby aromas are mixed in with red fruits, and there's a tropical hint too. A charming wine that's good at any time of year, whether served as an apéritif or with food. (Paul Howard)

## Sparkling

80. **Waitrose Cava Brut Castillo Perelada, Spain: Waitrose £9.99** Good Cava can be such great value and this is a real go-to as an affordable option for fizz. Made from the traditional Cava trio of Xarel-lo, Macabeo and Parellada this is bright, lifted and bursting with citrus flavours and nutty characters. Invaluable as a standby rack-filler for those occasions when only bubbles will do! (Deborah Zbinden)

81. **Juve y Camps Seleccion Reserva Vintage Cava 2016, Spain: Waitrose £11.99** Cava seems to be getting squeezed between Prosecco and Champagne, which is a real pity, because this one is as good as any fizz you can buy. Made by a family business, all handmade, it's fruity and refreshing but with some richness on the palate. Simply sit back and enjoy! (Rob Price)

82. **Graham Beck Brut NV, South Africa: Waitrose £14.99** This blend of pretty much 50/50 Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is a consistently good value sparkling wine, year in year out. It's made by the 'Méthode Cap Classique', i.e. the same way as Champagne, and offers some of the same yeasty, biscuity charms, alongside the apple-citrus fruit. (Heather Dougherty)

83. **Tesco Finest Franciacorta DOCG Brut, Lombardy, Italy: Tesco £15** Strict grape selection process, gentle pressing and a minimum of 18 months on lees, give this wine balance and structure. On the palate the flavours are bright, ripe citrus fruit and brioche with a fabulously dry finish. A top Italian sparkling fit for any celebration or to enjoy with seafood. (Linda Simpson)

84. **Montlouis-sur-Loire, Domaine des Liards Brut, Berger Frères, France: Yapp Brothers £16.25** I love this classy, organic, Loire fizz, with its toasty green apple aromas, linear acidity and dry, elegant finish. Champagne apart, it's my favourite sparkling wine by a country mile. (Helen Savage)

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85. **Champagne Les Pionniers Brut NV, France: Co-op £18.99** Outstanding Champagne that genuinely tastes like Champagnes that cost twice the price. A consistent award winner at blind tastings showing depth of flavour, balance and, above all, it's highly moreish. (Richard Bampfield MW)
86. **Special Reserve Brut Vintage Champagne 2007, France: Waitrose £25.99** This rich creamy Chardonnay-based Champagne with both Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier in the blend, is an elegant and flavoursome sparkling wine which is both a great aperitif wine and an excellent accompaniment to a celebratory dinner. (Vivienne Franks)
87. **Champagne de Barfontarc Brut Blanc de Noirs, France: Olivers Beer and Wine £26.50** Tremendous value Champagne from the Côte des Bar sub-region, this is 100% Pinot Noir, showing brioche on the nose from four years ageing and the use of six-year-old reserve wines. Sophistication and depth at an unbelievable price for the quality. (Richard Esling)
88. **Hambledon Classic Cuvée NV, Hampshire, England: Ministry of Drinks/WineTrust 100 £28** A wonderful example of English sparkling wine with aromas of brioche, baked apples and red berries. On the palate, broad and rich with a touch of yeastiness and fine balance. Tasted blind this has fooled me more than once in thinking that it was Champagne! (Christos Ioannou)
89. **Champagne Castelnau, Brut Réserve, France: The Wine Society £28** A Champagne that delivers so much in flavour and class that it tastes much more expensive than it is. The extra ageing this wine is given brings out a toasty maturity which stands well alongside its uplifting zestiness. A real pleasure to drink as an aperitif or with all sorts of dishes. (Laura Clay)
90. **Champagne AR Lenoble Brut Intense Mag 14, France: Stannary St Wine Co (when bought as a case of 6) £32.32** The brother and sister team, Anne and Antoine Malassagne at AR Lenoble are constantly innovating to produce wonderful wines. This is the first release of their Mag Intense, designed to preserve all the freshness of a great Champagne. It is bright with enough complexity to make you sit up and pay attention. Great value for such a beautiful wine. (Wendy Narby)
91. **Nyetimber Classic Cuvée, England – widely distributed, Waitrose (if you buy six) £32.99** The name is apt: it's become a classic with its creamy freshness. (Anne Krebiehl MW)

## Sweet Wine

92. **The Society's Exhibition Sauternes 2015, France: The Wine Society £20** Rich deep gold colour with great intensity of complex flavours. Packed with honey, saffron, apricot and candied citrus. Really sexy and lush texture and a long, long finish. The combination of opulent sweetness and razor acidity make this wine great with blue cheeses, pâté and desserts, but I just love it on its own and on my own. (Lindsay Oram)

## Fortified

93. **Taste the Difference 12-Year-Old Pedro Ximénez Sherry, Spain: Sainsbury's £8** Made by allowing the grapes to over ripen on the vine, then drying them under the scorching hot summer sun. One of the sweetest wines on Earth! This sticky, sweet sherry is great with dessert or blue cheese. Flavours of raisins, dried figs and prune, walnut, coffee and dark chocolate. Can be served over vanilla ice cream, traditionally with a shot of espresso. (John Callow)

94. **Barbadillo Solear Manzanilla, Spain:** **Waitrose £9.29** Sherry is such an underrated wine style. I love the way this bone dry wine with its intense salty tang just slaps your taste buds into action immediately you taste it. Fabulous as an aperitif, to enliven your palate and get all your juices running before a meal. This fresh dry wine has a unique personality in what can sometimes be a rather bland wine world. And all this for under a tenner! (Lindsay Oram)
95. **Gonzalez Byass Viña AB Amontillado Seco, Spain:** **Soho Wine Supply £14.50** A stylish, classy, 12 year old dry sherry. Hints of oak, a salty tang, with underlying dried fruit. Pale amber colour, medium bodied, almonds and hazelnuts, with a long, dry finish. (Richard Esling)
96. **Pedro's Almacenista Selection Oloroso, Spain:** **Majestic £14.99** For a sherry lover, no selection could be complete without one of these fortified beauties from the south of Spain. This is a wine sourced from an almacenista, someone who keeps a stock of barrels of sherry, maybe for himself and his friends, maybe for sale. This is a delicious dry oloroso, with aromas of caramel, toffee and wood, elegant and lighter in style than the rich bouquet suggests. (Charles Metcalfe)
97. **Leacock's Saint John Full Rich Madeira:** **Great Wines Direct £16.92** A fully mature aged wine with exotic fruit cake, molasses, roasted nuts, candied fruits, all refreshed by tangy, salty Atlantic freshness. Christmas in a glass! (Gilbert Winfield)
98. **Hidalgo Triana Pedro Ximénez, Spain:** **Majestic £16.99** Drop for syrupy drop, could this be the best value wine around? Who needs cake when you've got caramel, mocha and nuts all in one place with just a sip of this solera-aged treat? Densely concentrated with silky

layers, this takes sweetness to the extreme. Perfect for the classic pour over ice cream but well worth a parking space in the fridge door ready for when the mood takes you. (Deborah Zbinden)

## Sake

99. **Brewer's Perfection, Japan:** **sakestore.co.uk £20** Winner of the International Wine Challenge Futsushu trophy 2016 and 2017. This humble futsushu is just a gem of a sake with melon and pear flavours and so refreshing. Well-balanced and seriously delicious. Still one of my favourite sakes in the world both price wise and food matching wise. (Marie Cheong-Thong)
100. **Tatenokawa 50 'Stream', Japan:** **Tengusake tengusake.com £30** Winner of a Gold Award at the 2015 and 2016 Fine Sake Awards, this junmai daiginjo was created to appeal to white wine lovers. Using local dewasansan rice Tatenokawa have strived to make a semi-sweet, lighter style of sake. A fresh fruity fragrance is perfectly balanced by the subtle flavour and structure. (Marie Cheong-Thong)



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