

There has never been a better time to drink wine. It is being produced in wide array of styles, offering an unprecedented level of fun and pleasure. Fathers are turning over their wineries to their sons and daughters who are embracing technology and their imaginations, reinventing varietals and regions. Staunch traditionalists are sticking to their guns, refusing to change and crafting wines of singular characteristic that continue to amaze. Mother Nature is doing her part creating perfect conditions for amazing vintages. New School producers are attempting to do it bigger and better than their neighbors. There is a quality revolution around the world and our wine program has been designed to make the most of this.

The wine list is organized by flavor profile, country and varietal. I realize it can all be very confusing but to help, the list is organized by weight (power) within each category and country. So if you want crisp and clean, turn to page 5; the lightest body wines from Germany begin the page and then they get progressively larger as you go down the page ending with California. This is true with every profile.

Finally, I encourage you to ask questions. Wine plays a large role in the dining experience and we are determined to get you the perfect bottle to compliment your food, mood and company so that your time at Mahogany House will be memorable.

Bubbles

Champagne

“In success you deserve it, and in defeat you need it.” Winston Churchill

The popping of a Champagne cork is the universal signal that the party has started and there is no better way to begin a meal. Legally, it may only come from the region of Champagne in northern France, at the limits for grape-ripening. The soil is chalk in which Chardonnay and Pinot Noir rule. The cool temperatures result in grapes with naturally high acidity which is ideal for the production of sparkling wine.

Farmer Fizz

These small grower-producers buck the trend in Champagne of growing and selling your grapes to large negotiants. In many cases, these farmers sell a portion of their harvest to the Big Guys but keep small parcels for themselves. These are special bottles that show there is very specific terroir within the Champagne region fighting the belief that the best Champagne is one blended across multiple departments.

Big Guys

Large negotiant houses that grow and buy grapes from all over Champagne. They produce millions of bottles and much of it is mediocre but there are a few who take great pride and produce special wines.

Sparkling Wine

Delicious sparkling wine is being made outside of Champagne's zip code. Prosecco in the Veneto. Cava, produced in Catalonia, is a source for inexpensive wines made using the “Méthode Champenoise”.

Bubbles

Champagne

Farmer Fizz

N.V. Diebolt-Vallois, Blanc des Blancs, Half Bottle	62
N.V. Alfred Gratien, Brut	88
N.V. Oudinet, Blanc des Blancs	90
N.V. Duval-Leroy, Brut	94
N.V. Egly-Ouriel, "Tradition", Brut, Grand Cru	184
N.V. Gonet-Medevile, Blanc des Noirs, 1er Cru	96
N.V. Stéphane Coquillet, "Carte d'Or", 1er Cru, Brut	98
N.V. Gonet-Medevile, Rosé, 1er Cru, Extra Brut	118
N.V. Philipponnat, Rosé, Brut	106
N.V. Stéphane Coquillet, "Marie Amer", Rosé	148
2003 Gonet-Medevile, "Cuvée Theophile", Extra Brut, Grand Cru, 1	196
2003 Saint-Chamant, "Integral", Blanc des Blancs, Epernay,	142
2004 Diebolt-Vallois, Blanc des Blancs	126

Big Guys

2000 Dom Perignon, Brut, Epernay	390
1996 Dom Perignon, Rosé	680

Worldly Bubbles

N.V. Nino Franco, "Rustico", Prosecco, Veneto, Italy	44
N.V. Coesel, "Riserva", Prosecco, Veneto, Italy	48
2007 Gramona, "Gran Cuvée", Cava	68
N.V. Coesel, "Pinot Rosa", Rosé, Prosecco, Veneto, Italy	56
N.V. François Montand, Rosé, Brut, Gascony, France	62
N.V. Henry of Pelham, "Cuvée Catherine", Rosé, Brut, Ontario, Canada	80
2006 Les Cretes, "Primetta", Rosé, Brut, Valle d'Aosta, Italy	98
N.V. The Chook, Sparkling Shiraz, South Australia	48

Crisp & Clean

Lean, Green & Mean

Oh the joys of Riesling. The greatest white grape on earth and the most food friendly wines produced anywhere. All you need to do is nose the wine and you begin to salivate. What better way to start a meal! It gets a bum rap as there is a lot of bad Riesling produced in the world but in passionate, intelligent hands it is a wine I dream about. Granny Smith apples, white peach, pear, apricot, candied lemon, lime skin and wet stone are some of the amazing flavors that can be found in these wines. And remember, not all Riesling is sweet. Australia and the U.S. produce juicy, dry versions.

Sauvignon Blanc is the quintessential dry, white wine. The limestone soils of the Loire produce classic flavors of freshly cut grass, goosberries, and minerals. New Zealand versions show more tropical fruits.

Spain has a number of regions producing vibrant, juicy whites that smell like the ocean and pair beautifully with seafood.

Crisp & Clean

Germany

2007 Rudolf Müller, <i>Riesling</i> , Kabinett, Rheinhessen	46
2009 Dr. H. Tanisch, <i>Riesling</i> , Kabinett, Mosel	44
2007 J.J. Prum, <i>Riesling</i> , Kabinett, Mosel	76
2009 Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler, <i>Riesling</i> , Kabinett, Mosel	54
2008 J.J. Prum, Wehlener Sonnenhur, <i>Riesling</i> , Spätlese, Mosel	98
2007 Kuhling-Gillot, "Sackträger", <i>Riesling</i> , G.G., Rheinhessen	92

France

2007 Alphonse Mellot, "La Moussière", <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> Sancerre	70
2009 Pascal Cotat, "Les Monts Damnés", <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> Sancerre	78
2009 Pascal Cotat, "La Grande Côte", <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> Sancerre	96
2010 Hippolyte-Reverdy, <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> Sancerre	74

New Zealand

2009 TENZ, <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> , Marlborough	48
2010 Matua, <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> , Marlborough	44

Greece

2010 Boutari, <i>Moschofilero</i> , Montinia	32
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Australia

2010 d'Arenberg, "The Stump Jump", <i>Riesling/Marsanne</i> , McLaren Vale	32
2009 Betts & Scholl, <i>Riesling</i> , Eden Valley	46
2009 Pikes, <i>Riesling</i> , Clare Valley	40

Argentina

2009 Crios de Susana Balboa, <i>Torrentes</i> , Mendoza	46
2011 Mapema, <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> , Mendoza	36

Italy

2010 Falesco, "Vitiano", <i>Verdicchio/Vermentino</i> , Umbria	34
2010 Venica & Venica, "Ronco delle Mele", <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> Friuli	98
2009 COS, "Rami", <i>Insolia</i> , Sicily	58

Portugal

2009 Niepoort, "Tiara", <i>Codega/Ribigato</i> , Douro	56
2008 Niepoort, "Redoma", <i>Codega/Ribigato</i> , Douro	84

Spain

2009 Sitios de Bodega, "Con Class", <i>Verdejo/Viura</i> , Rueda	40
2010 Espelt, "Violet", <i>Garnacha Blanc/Macabeo</i> , Empordà	36
2008 Pazo San Mauro, <i>Albariño</i> , Rias Bixas	38
2010 Nora, <i>Albariño</i> , Rias Bixas	44
2008 Hispano Suizas, "Impromptu", <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> Utiel-Requena	56
2009 Beso de Vino, <i>Macabeo</i> , Cariñena	38
2009 Shaya, <i>Verdejo</i> , Rueda	52

US

2010 Charles Smith, "Kung Fu Girl", <i>Riesling</i> , Columbia Valley	42
2009 Joel Gott, <i>Riesling</i> , Columbia Valley	32
2008 Lemelson, <i>Riesling</i> , Willamette Valley	58
2009 Cliff Lede, <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i> , Napa Valley	60

Floral & Aromatic

Perfume

These are wines with fragrances of honeysuckle and rose, peaches and apricots, ginger and acacia. Wines with such an enticing bouquet that you swear you could dab a little behind your ears and savor the aromas for the entire evening taking a little of them with you when you leave.

They make you swoon from their perfume but also pack a punch. They are vinified dry but can be full-bodied with fantastic texture.

Grüner Veltliner is the workhorse grape of Austria and one of my favorite grapes. Peach, sweet pea and white pepper with a rich, oily mouthfeel makes Grüner a fantastic food wine. If you are a vegetarian then embrace Grüner as it pairs better with vegetables than any other grape.

Floral & Aromatic

Austria

2009 Leth, <i>Grüner Veltliner</i> , Wagram	46
2009 Karl Lagler, "Burberg", <i>Grüner Veltliner</i> , Wachau	42
2010 Loimer, <i>Grüner Veltliner</i> , Kamptal	48

France

2009 Domaine Remy Grasser, "Kritt", <i>Pinot Blanc</i> , Alsace	50
2008 Domaine Remy Grasser, "Kritt", <i>Riesling</i> , Alsace	54
2005 Domaine Remy Grasser, "Kastelberg", Grand Cru, <i>Riesling</i> , Alsace, Grand Cru	110
2009 Chapoutier, "La Petite Ruche", <i>Marsanne</i> , Crozes-Hermitage	62
2005 Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, Rangen de Thann, Clos St. Urban, <i>Riesling</i> , Grand Cru, Alsace	148
2006 Domaine Georges Vernay, "Las Chaillees de L'Enfer", <i>Viognier</i> , Condrieu, Rhône Valley	188
2006 Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, "Herrenweg", <i>Gewürztraminer</i> , Alsace	94

Italy

2010 Botromagno, Gravina, <i>Greco/Malvasia</i> , Puglia	38
2009 Dei Feudi di San Gregorio, <i>Fiano</i> , Fiano di Avellino	54
2009 Livio Felluga, <i>Pinot Grigio</i> , Friuli	50
2010 Alois Legeder, "Riff", <i>Pinot Grigio</i> , Friuli	38
2007 Villa Sparina, "Monterotondo", <i>Cortese</i> , Piedmont, Italy	72
2009 Les Crêtes, "Vigne Champorette", <i>Petite Arvine</i> , Valle d'Aosta	98
2005 J. Hofstätter, "Kolbenhof", <i>Gewürztraminer</i> , Alto Adige	128
2006 Primosic, "Klin", Reserve, Friulano/Chardonnay/Ribolla, Collio	70

Australia

2009 d'Arenberg, "The Hermit Crab", <i>Viognier/Roussane</i> , Adelaide	44
2009 Torbreck, "Woodcutter's", <i>Semillon</i> , Barossa Valley	48

Slovenia

2005 Movia, "Veliko", <i>Ribolla Gialla/Pinot Grigio/Sauvignon Blanc</i> , Brda	88
2007 Movia, "Lunar", <i>Ribolla Gialla</i> , Brda	78

Spain

2008 Muga, <i>Garnacha Blanc</i> , Rioja	56
2009 Sonclodio, <i>Treixadura/Godello/Loureira</i> , Ribeiro	48
2010 Izadi, <i>Viura/Malvasia</i> , Rioja	62
2009 Acústic Cellers, <i>Garnacha Blanc/Macabeo</i> , Montsant	58
2002 Can Ràfols dels Caus, "El Rocallís", <i>Incrozia Manzoni</i> , Penedès	88
2003 Can Ràfols dels Caus, "La Calma", <i>Chenin Blanc</i> , Penedès	74
2004 Can Ràfols dels Caus, "Xarel-lo Pairal", <i>Xarel-lo</i> , Penedès, Spain	66

US

2010 Luna, <i>Pinot Grigio</i> , Napa Valley, California	44
2007 Penner-Ash, <i>Viognier</i> , Willamette Valley, Oregon	70
2009 Alban, <i>Viognier</i> , Central Coast, California	64
2009 K Vintners, <i>Viognier</i> , Columbia Valley, Washington State	68
2008 Booker, <i>Viognier/Roussane</i> , Paso Robles	94

Rich & Round

Chardonnay

Chardonnay is a grape that adapts to many different climates and soils and because of that, is grown in almost every wine producing country. It is a neutral grape that is highly influenced by climate and winemaking decisions.

Old World

Burgundy is the home of Chardonnay and produces some of the most profound wines in the world. The style varies with added concentration for the Premier and Grand Crus, but white Burgundy should always be a blend of floral and fruit aromas - white peaches, melon, hawthorn, baked apples and spice. Chablis is a different animal due to its cool climate and Kimmeridgian soil where the wines are floral, fresh, flinty with brighter fruit flavors.

New World

Old World Chardonnay is about subtly and nuance with acid at the forefront balanced by ripe fruit. New World Chardonnay is all about big explosive tropical fruit flavors and new oak (more fruit, less acid). California producers tend to get a bit crazy with oak and alcohol producing a lot of flabby, awful Chard but when grown in cooler, coastal vineyards the wines can be amazing.

Rich & Round

Old World

France

2009 William Fèvre, “Champs Royaux”, Chablis	48
2008 Verget, “Fourchaume”, 1er Cru, Vieilles Vignes Vauloren, Chablis	88
2008 Maison Faiveley, “Fourchaume”, 1er Cru, Chablis	106
2008 Jean-Marc Brocard, “Les Clos”, Grand Cru, Chablis	120
2009 Moreau, “Valmur”, 1er Cru, Chablis	160
2007 Les Heritiers Comte Lafon, “Le Monsard”, Macon-Bussieres	60
2005 Guffens-Heynen, “Tri des 25 ans de Chavigne”, Macon-Pierreclos	84
2006 Guffens-Heynen, “1er Jus des Hauts de Vignes”, Pouilly-Fuisse	96
2009 Verget, Puligny-Montrachet	100
2007 Patrice Rion, “Terres Blanches”, 1er Cru, Nuits-St.-Georges	112
2005 François & Antoine Jobard, “Poruzots”, 1er Cru, Meursault	164
2009 Verget, Meursault	80
2009 Yves Boyer-Martenot, “Les Tillets”, Meursault	110
2006 Verget, Grand Cru, Corton-Charlamagne	128

New World

Italy

2009 Les Cretes, Valle d’Aosta	94
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Chile

2010 Casa Lapostolle, Casablanca	48
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Argentina

2007 Luca, Uco Valley	76
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US

2010 Charles Smith, “Eve”, Columbia Valley	40
2009 Au Bon Climat, Santa Barbara	58
2008 Macrostie, Sonoma Coast	64
2008 Landmark, “Overlook”, Sonoma	70
2006 Auteur, “Donum Vineyard”, Carneros, Sonoma	90
2006 Radio Coteau, “Savoy”, Anderson Valley	110
2007 Walter Hansel, “The North Slope Vineyard”, Russian River Valley	96
2008 Littorai, Sonoma Coast	88
2008 Pahlmeyer, Sonoma	98
2008 DuMol, Russian River Valley	126
2007 Kongsgaard, Napa Valley	176

Rich & Round

Rosé Revival

Rosé has a terrible image problem and it is time for a revival. They are not wines to dwell over too long, but are best glugged joyfully. They have incredible versatility when pairing with food as they are soft enough to go with fish yet rich enough to hold their own with duck. They should be fruity but that does not mean sweet. These rosés are all vinified dry but that dryness is balanced by beautiful ripe fruit and tangy acidity to keep them fresh and balanced. Some are more serious than others.

Rich & Round

Rosé Revival

France

2009 Clos de la Briderie, Vieilles Vignes, Touraine-Meslane, Loire Valley 46

Spain

2007 Can Ráfols dels Caus, Petit Caus, Penedès 32

2009 Muga, Rioja 38

2010 Beso de Vino, Cariñena 40

US

2008 Bonny Doon, “Vin Gris de Cigare”, California 40

2009 Pisoni, “Juicy Lucy”, Santa Lucia Highlands, California 44

2010 A to Z, Oregon 32

Sexy & Silky

Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir is the most feminine of all red grapes and has been called “a seductive, fickle mistress”. It is arguably the most finicky and difficult varietal in both the vineyard and winery. It is sensitive to wind and frost, cropping levels, soil types and pruning techniques. Sensitive to fermentation methods, yeast strains and is highly reflective of terroir with different regions producing very different wines. But when you give her the love and nurturing she needs and listen to what she is telling you each vintage, breathtaking wine is produced.

Old World

In the right hands, fine red Burgundy can be the most seductive of all red wines. When young, it should be fragrant and fruity, with tones of raspberry, strawberry, cherry or plum, sometimes with a hint of chocolate and often a touch of new oak. As it matures, primary fruits give way to flavors from the soil, showing the terroir, mingling with aromas of undergrowth, truffles and game.

New World

Pinot Noir requires a cool climate in order to thrive. In France, the climate is Burgundy, where cool temperatures sweep in from the core of continental Europe. In the new world, the moderator of summer’s heat is the ocean. When Pinot Noir is grown successfully on the western coast of America it does so because of its relationship with the Pacific.

Sexy & Silky

Old World

France

2005 Alphonse Mellot, "Génération XIX", Sancerre	188
2006 Charles Audoin, "Les Longeroies", Marsannay	76
2006 La Pousse d'Or, "Clos de La Bousse", 1er Cru, Volnay	98
2006 Perrot-Minot, "La Combe d'Orveau", Ultra Vieilles Vignes, 1er Cru, Chambolle-Musigny	256
2007 Perrot-Minot, Vieilles Vignes, Chambolle-Musigny	144
2007 Patrice Rion, "Les Charmes", 1er Cru, Chambolle-Musigny,	168
2007 Perrot-Minot, "Les Exchanges", 1er Cru, Chambolle-Musigny,	260
2007 Perrot-Minot, "Les Beaux Monts", V.V., 1er Cru, Vosne-Romanee	244
2006 Robert Groffier, Gevrey-Chambertin	92
2006 Denis Mortet, "Lavaux St-Jacques", 1er Cru, Gevrey-Chambertin	266
2006 Michel Magnien, "Cazetiers", 1er Cru, Gevrey-Chambertin	104
2007 Perrot-Minot, Gevrey-Chambertin	134
2006 Frederick Magnien, "Les Ruchots", 1er Cru, Morey-St.-Denis	116
2006 Emmanuel Rouget, Echézeaux (Georges Jayet)	298
2002 Domaine Romanée-Conti, Grands-Echézeaux, Burgundy 6 Liter	6,872
2007 Patrice Rion, "Clos Saint Marc", 1er Cru, Nuits-St.-Georges	160
2007 Perrot-Minot, "La Richemone", V.V., 1er Cru, Nuits-St.-Georges	220
2006 Perrot-Minot, "Clos de Beze", Chambertin, Grand Cru	398
2007 Denis Mortet, Chambertin, Grand Cru	580
2006 Perrot-Minot, Vieilles Vignes, Chapelle-Chambertin, Grand Cru	296

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Sexy & Silky

New World

New Zealand

2009 Momo, Marlborough 60

Oregon

2008 Soter, "North Valley", Willamette Valley 78

2008 Siduri, "Chehalem Mountain", Willamette Valley 64

2009 Lemelson, "Thea's Vineyard", Willamette Valley 72

2008 Lemelson, "Jerome's Reserve", Willamette Valley 114

California

2009 Block 9, "Caiden's Vineyards", California 46

2009 Row Eleven, "Viñas 3", California 52

2007 Au Bon Climat, "La Bauge Au-desseus", Santa Maria Valley 74

2008 Siduri, Santa Lucia Highlands 64

2009 Siduri, Russian River Valley 70

2009 Red Car, "Boxcar", Sonoma Coast 68

2009 Hirsch Vineyards, "The Bohan-Dillon", Sonoma Coast 82

2006 L'Angevin, "Sonoma Stage Vineyard", Sonoma Coast 124

2009 Failla, Sonoma Coast 88

2007 Failla, "Hirsch Vineyard", Sonoma Coast 114

2007 Littorai, Sonoma Coast 94

2006 Littorai, "B.A. Thieriot Vineyard", Sonoma Coast 128

2007 Auteur, "Sonoma Stage Vineyard", Sonoma Coast 90

2008 Walter Hansel, "Cahill Lane Vineyard", Russian River Valley 102

2008 Rochioli, Russian River Valley 136

Big & Bold

Rhône Varietals

Syrah

A very dark colored grape suited to warm climates and making rich, powerful wine with meaty, smoky, spicy aromas and concentrated black fruit flavor. In the Old World it is at its best in the northern Rhône and it adds backbone and style to the Grenache based wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and other southern Rhône regions. Equally famous for producing rich, intensely fruity, long-lasting wines in Australia, where it is known as Shiraz. I prefer the Old World style so I purposefully seek out New World producers who are students of the Rhône and are combining the best of both worlds.

Grenache

Grenache (Garnacha in Spain) is one of the most widely planted red varietals in the world. It ripens late, so it needs hot, dry conditions such as those found in Spain, south of France, Australia and California. With its rich red berry fruit and spicy personality it is used primarily as a blending grape as it needs Syrah or Mourvedre to give it some guts. When produced from old vines with low yields the wines are deep, dark and brooding.

Big & Bold

Old World

France

2004 Château Terre Forte, “Signargues”, Côtes-du-Rhône-Village	38
2004 Roche-Audran, Côtes-du-Rhône-Village Visan	44
2009 Domaine de la Janasse, Côtes-du-Rhône	48
2010 Domaine la Garrigue, “Cuvée Romaine”, Côtes-du-Rhône	50
2003 Château des Tours, Vacquerayes	70
1995 Domaine du Pégau, “Cuvée Reservée”, Châteauneuf-du-Pape Double Magnum	1,198
2000 Domaine du Pégau, “Cuvée Capo”, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Double Magnum	6,480
1999 Château Beaucastel, “Hommage à Jacques Perrin”, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Double Magnum	3,880
2001 André Brunel, “Cuvée Centenaire”, Châteauneuf-du-Pape,	298
2003 Domaine de la Mordorée, “Cuvée de la Reine des Bois”, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	212
2007 Féraud-Brunel, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	68
2007 St. Cosme, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	90
2008 Le Clos du Caillou, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	96
2005 Domaine Georges Vernay, “Fleurs de Mai”	60
2007 Gilles Robin, “Cuvée Papillon”, Crozes-Hermitage	54
2007 Gilles Robin, “Cuvee Alberic Bouvet”, Crozes-Hermitage	74
2005 Domaine Georges Vernay, “Maison Rouge”, Côte-Rotie	192
1989 Paul Jaboulet Aine, “La Chapelle”, Hermitage, Magnum	960

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Big & Bold

New World

Italy

N.V. Les Crêtes, “Coteau La Tour”, *Syrah*, Valle d’Aosta 76

Spain

2010 Altovinum, “Evodia”, *Grenache*, Calatayud 40
2009 Beso de Vino, *Grenache*, Cariñena 38
2005 Mas Estela, “Quindals”, *Grenache*, Emporda 50
2008 Juan Gill, *Mourvedre*, Jumilla 48
2009 Castaño, “Hécula”, *Mourvedre*, Yecla 44
2009 Celler de Capçanes, “Mas Donis”, *Grenache/Syrah*, Montsant 48
2008 Can Blau, *Carignane/Grenache/Syrah*, Montsant 50
2008 Bodegas Alto Mancoya, “Veraton”, *Grenache*, Camp de Borja 88
2009 Beso de Vino, “Selección”, *Syrah*, Cariñena 40
2005 Elix, *Grenache/Cabernet/Carignan*, Priorat 94
2005 Osmin, *Grenache/Cabernet/Carignan*, Priorat 88
2007 Acústic Cellers, “Braó”, *Grenache/Carignane*, Montsant 76
2006 Acústic Cellers, “Auditori”, *Grenache*, Montsant 136

California

2007 Bonny Doon, “La Pousseur”, *Syrah*, Central Coast 56
2004 Behrens & Hitchcock, “4 Blocks”, *Syrah*, Napa 110
2006 Lewis Cellars, “Hudson Vineyard”, *Syrah*, Sonoma 124
2008 Lewis Cellars, “Alec’s Blend”, *Syrah/Merlot/Cabernet*, Napa 88
2006 Radio-Coteau, “Las Colinas”, *Syrah*, Sonoma Coast 98
2007 DuMol, *Syrah*, Russian River Valley 122
2007 Ojai, *Syrah*, Santa Barbara County 68
2008 Linne-Calodo, “Slacker”, *Syrah/Grenache*, Paso Robles 96

Australia

2009 d’Arenberg, “The Stump Jump”, *Grenache/Shiraz*, McLaren Vale 34
2009 Torbreck, “Cuvee Juveniles”, *Grenache/Shiraz*, Barossa Valley 66
2005 Massena, “Moonlight Run”, *Grenache/Shiraz*, Barossa Valley 78
2006 Slipstream, *Grenache*, Southeast Australia 58
2007 Betts & Scholl, “The O.G.”, *Grenache*, Barossa Valley 60
2008 d’Arenberg, “The Laughing Magpie”, *Shiraz/Viognier*, McLaren 70
2007 Kaesler, “The Bogan”, *Shiraz*, Barossa Valley 116

Big & Bold

Cabernet, Merlot, Etc.

Blue Chip Bordeaux Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petite Verdot are the five Bordeaux varietals. The wines produced from them in Bordeaux and in the Napa Valley are the commodities of the wine world. Right or wrong, they are the standard by which all other red wines are judged.

Cabernet

The Left Bank

Bordeaux is created from water. Its vineyards were reclaimed from the sea. The sweet wines of Sauternes are born in the misty interactions of waterways and the Atlantic Ocean is responsible for the region's moderate climate. Water also divides the region. The Gironde Estuary divides the region between The Left and Right Banks; between the Cabernet based wines of the Medoc and the Merlot inspired blends of St. Emilion and Pomerol. This dichotomy between the two banks is essential to both an understanding of Bordeaux and the difference between Cabernet and Merlot.

The Medoc is the youngest of France's great wine regions. The gravelly vineyards didn't emerge until the estuary was dredged by the Dutch in the 1600's. This move transformed mere marshland into the prime real estate of the viticultural world. The wines from the appellations of St. Estephe, Pauillac, St. Julien, and Margaux are the essence of Cabernet. Drinking them allows us to understand the grape. They smell of cassis, sweet Cuban tobacco, and pencil shavings. Their powerful, fine tannins are buffered by dark red fruits. They are delicious in their youth but capable of aging for up to one hundred years.

Big & Bold

Bordeaux

2005 Tour Seran, Médoc, Bordeaux	80
2008 Château Aney, Haut-Médoc	76
2006 The Winemakers Collection Denis Dubordieu, Cuvee #2, Médoc	82
2008 The Winemakers Collection, Stephane Derenoncourt, Cuvee #4 Médoc	70
2006 Segla, Margaux, Half Bottle	58
1990 Château Gruaud-Larose, St. Julien	464
2006 Ducru-Beaucaillou, St. Julien	298
2005 Château Montrose, St. Estephe	268
2006 Château Montrose, St. Estephe	194
1995 Château Pichon-Lalande de Longueville, Pauillac, Magnum	990
2006 Château Pichon-Lalande de Longueville, Pauillac	310
2005 Château Pichon Baron, Pauillac	330
2006 Château Batailley, Pauillac	120
2004 Château Pape Clement, Pessac-Leognan	192
2006 Château Smith Haut-Lafite, Pessac-Leognan	158
2008 Château Smith Haut-Lafite, Pessac-Leognan	120

Chile

2009 Odfjell, "Armador", Maipo Valley	48
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Argentina

2009 Crios de Susana Balbo, Mendoza	46
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U.S.

2009 The Show, California	44
2009 Charles Smith, "Chateau Smith", Columbia Valley	50
2006 Dunn, Napa Valley	188
2006 Bridesmaid, Napa Valley	88
2006 Blackbird, "Paramour", Napa Valley	148
2007 Blackbird, "Illustration", Napa Valley	192
2006 Cliff Lede, "Poetry", Stag's Leap District, Napa Valley	262
2006 Lewis Vineyards, "Cuvee L", Napa Valley	360
2006 O'Shaughnessy, Howell Mountain, Napa Valley	140
2006 Seavey, Napa Valley	176
2007 Phillip Togni, Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	212

Italy

2000 Benanti, "Lamorémio", Sicily	80
2008 Tenuta Guado Al Tasso, "Il Bruciato", Bolgheri	74
2006 Felsina, "Maestro Raro", Tuscany	118

Big & Bold

Merlot & Cabernet Franc

The Right Bank

The right bank refers to the land that lies to the east of the Gironde Esuary and the great appellations of St. Emillion and Pomerol. The scene, and the wines themselves, starkly contrast the structured culture of the Medoc. Many of the Medoc's chateaus occupy areas of land larger than the appellation of Hermitage, while the wines of Pomerol are often produced from holdings of only a few acres. The wines of the Medoc are conservatively tethered to a systematic classification dating back to 1855 while the wines of Pomerol are only defined by the extravagant prices they can command in the market.

The differences are just as stark in the wines themselves. Cabernet is bridled by its structure but Merlot knows no such bounds. The Merlot and Cabernet Franc based wines of St. Emillion and Pomerol are the apogee of hedonism. They smell of coffee, ripe plums, and creamy chocolate. Though these wines are capable of aging as well as Cabernet they do so with a more fluid sense of structure.

Bordeaux isn't the only place that produces great Merlot. Italy is becoming an increasingly important place for this varietal. Merlot from the Tuscany Coast combines the aromatics of Pomerol with the sheer ripeness of wine from the Napa Valley.

Big & Bold

Bordeaux

2006 Domaine de Courteillac, Bordeaux Superior	58
2004 Clos Les Lunelles, Côtes du Castillon	110
2006 Ampelia, Côtes du Castillon	66
2007 Chateau de Bellevue Lussac, St.-Emilion	76
1998 Château Quinault l'Enclos, St.-Emilion	232
2000 Château Canon, St.-Emilion	266
2000 Château La Mondotte, St-Emillon, Double Magnum	3,110
2001 Château Monbousquet, St.-Emilion	148
2001 Château Peby-Faugeres, St.-Emilion	314
2004 Château Pavie-Decesse, St.-Emilion	260
2005 Château Beausejour-Becot, St.-Emilion	188
2006 Château Canon La Gaffeliere, St.-Emilion	176
2007 Larcis Ducasse, St-Emillon	156

Loire Valley

2009 Charles Joguet, "Cuvée Terroir", Chinon	74
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Chile

2009 Odfjell, "Aramador", Maipo Valley	48
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Slovenia

2003 Movia, "Veliko", Brda, Slovenia	94
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Italy

2009 Falesco, "Vitiano", Umbria	34
2005 Vitalonge, "Confine", Umbria	58
2004 Rocca di Montegrossi, "Geremia", Tuscany	80
2006 Tenuta di Trinoro, "Le Cupole", Tuscany	78
2005 Avignonesi, "Desiderio", Tuscany	112
2006 Le Macchiole, "Messorio", Tuscany	490

Spain

1998 Can Ràfols des Caus, "Caus Lubis", Penedès	58
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U.S.

2009 Charles Smith, "The Velvet Devil", Comubia Valley, Washington	48
2005 Arietta, "Variation One", Napa, California	142
2005 Blankiet, Napa, California	278
2006 Blackbird, "Arise", Napa, California	134
2008 Leonetti, Walla Walla, Washington	140

Big & Bold

Italy Sangiovese

Sangiovese is the most planted red variety in Italy's vineyards. It's the lifeblood of red wine production in the central regions of Tuscany and Umbria. It is the major grape of Chianti and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, and the only variety allowed in Brunello di Montalcino. It produces a wide range of styles from light and quaffable to the full, complex, refined and very long-lived.

Nebbiolo

Barolo has a rich winemaking tradition. Barolo is made from Nebbiolo grapes planted on the hillside vineyards of Piedmont and not long ago it was considered The King of red varieties. These vineyards yield long-lived red wines in a distinctive style. They are aged in wood for many years before release, creating wines that emphasize flavors of earth, english saddle leather, and spice.

Big & Bold

2007 Le Berne, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	58
2008 Rocca di Montegrossi, Chianti Classico, <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	50
2006 Felsina, "Fontalloro", <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	120
2007 Felsina, Chianti Classico, <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	68
2007 Felsina, "Rancia", Chianti Classico, Riserva, <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	82
2008 Antinori, "Tignanello", <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	136
2006 Casanova di Neri, Brunello di Montalcino, <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	102
2004 Casanova di Neri, "Cerratalto", Brunello di Montalcino, <i>Sangiovese</i> , Tuscany	360
2007 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona, "Pianrosso", <i>Sangiovese</i> , Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany	144
2008 Matteo Correggia, <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Piedmont	58
2007 Vietti, "Perbacco", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Piedmont	70
2004 Vietti, "Masseria", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Barbaresco, Piedmont	212
1998 Bruno Giacosa, "Felleto", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Barolo, Piedmont, Double Magnum	1,694
2004 E. Pira, "Cannubi Boschis", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Barolo, Piedmont	188
2004 La Spinetta, "Campe", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Barolo, Piedmont	264
2006 Vietti, "Lazzarito", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Barolo, Piedmont	198
2006 Vietti, "Rocche", <i>Nebbiolo</i> , Barolo, Piedmont	228

Big & Bold

Italy

Italian producers have moved rapidly to the forefront of world enology, improving techniques to create wines of undeniable class in every region, north and south. Their wines derive not only from native vines, which represent an enormous array, but also from a complete range of international varieties. This section of the list focuses on those amazing indigenous varietals that make Italian wine so diverse.

The northern regions of Italy are higher in altitude and cooler in climate than the south so the wines tend to be softer in tannin (except for Nebbiolo) and higher in acidity. Barbera is deliciously juicy with vivid red fruits and spice. Dolcetto is soft, fruity and lightweight. Corvina-based wines from the Veneto are medium in body and rustic, tasting of red cherries, leather and earth.

Things are warmer in the South so the wines tend to be bigger and heartier with more tannin. Nero d'Avola is one of the greatest grapes in all of Italy and thrives in the volcanic soils of Sicily. It makes deeply colored, age-worthy wines that are full-bodied with heady flavors of smoky black fruits and herbs. Aglianco is the most important red grape of Campania and can rival Cabernet with its rich black fruits, coffee, smoke and tobacco. Frappato is polished and silky with wild strawberries, candied orange peel and light spice.

Big & Bold

North

2007 Villa Sparina, “Maioli” <i>Dolcetto</i> , Piedmont	48
2009 E. Pira, <i>Dolcetto d’Alba, Dolcetto</i> , Piedmont	56
2002 Villa Sparina, “Rivalta”, <i>Barbera</i> , Piedmont	60
2008 Vietti, “Tre Vigne”, <i>Barbera d’Asti</i> , Piedmont	52
2009 Moccagatta, <i>Barbera d’Alba</i> , Piedmont	66
2005 Les Crêtes, <i>Fumin</i> , Valle d’Aosta	92
2005 Ca’La Bionda, “Campo Caselvegri”, <i>Corvina/Rondinella</i> , Valpolicella, Veneto,	88
2005 Ca’La Bionda, “Vignetti di Ravazzol”, <i>Corvina/Rondinella</i> , Amarone di Valpolicella, Veneto	112
2006 Tenuta Sant’Antonio, “Selezione Antonio Castagnedi”, <i>Corvina/Rondinella</i> , Amarone di Valpolicella, Veneto	124
2004 Volpe Pasini, “Zuc di Volpe”, <i>Refosco</i> , Friuli	44

South

2005 Avide, Cerasuola di Vittoria, <i>Frappato</i> , Sicily	48
2008 COS, Cerasuola di Vittoria, <i>Frappato</i> , Sicily	64
2008 COS, <i>Frappato</i> , Sicily	80
2001 COS, “Scyri”, <i>Nero d’Avola</i> , Sicily	84
2008 COS, “Nero di Lupo”, <i>Nero d’Avola</i> , Sicily	76
2003 Benanti, “Il Drappo”, <i>Nero d’Avola</i> , Sicily	70
2000 Benanti, “Lamorémio”, <i>Nero d’Avola/Norello Moscellese</i> , Sicily	92
2009 Quattro Mani, <i>Montepulciano d’Abruzzo</i>	40
2008 Dei Feudi di San Gregorio, “Rubrato”, <i>Aglianico</i> , Campania	52
2003 Benanti, “Serra della Contessa”, <i>Norello Moscellese</i> , Etna	84
2004 Palari, “Faro”, <i>Norello Moscellese</i> , Sicily	110
2007 Trinoro, “Passopisciara”, <i>Norello Moscellese</i> , Sicily	78

Big & Bold

Leftovers

Well if you have made it to the last page then you are either an avid reader or still cannot make up your mind so here are a handful of grapes and blends that I couldn't fit into any of the other categories but are delicious nonetheless.

Tempranillo (called Tinta Roriz in Portugal) is best known as the dominant grape of red Rioja, Spain's most famous wine. It is essentially savory rather than sweet smelling of tobacco, leather, vanilla and herbs. It is sappy, fresh and masculine producing long lived wines.

Malbec is a Bordeaux varietal that thrives in the high-altitude vineyards of Argentina. It likes the heat and is typically full-bodied with jammy black fruits and fine, gritty tannins.

The other wines are crazy, interesting field blends coming from winemakers who are pushing the envelope and making us rethink what goes with what.

Big & Bold

Italy

2005 La Spinetta, "Pin", <i>Nebbiolo/Barbera</i> , Piedmont	96
2007 Ciacci di Piccolimini, "Ateo", <i>Sangiovese/Cabernet</i> , Tuscany	60

Spain

2007 Huerta de Albalá, "Taberner No.1", <i>Syrah/Merlot</i> , Cádiz	144
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Portugal

2005 Niepoort, "Batuta", <i>Tinta Roriz/Touriga Franca</i> , Douro	128
2007 Niepoort, "Charme", <i>Tinta Roriz/Touriga Franca</i> , Douro	146

Australia

2005 Massena, "Howling Dog", <i>Petite Sirah</i> , Barossa Valley	98
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California

2008 Linne-Calodo, "Cherry Red", <i>Zinfandel/Mourvedre</i> , Paso Robles	128
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Spain

2001 Primicia, "Curium", <i>Tempranillo</i> , Rioja	188
2004 Osoti, Crianza, <i>Tempranillo</i> , Rioja	52
2004 Osoti, "La Era", <i>Tempranillo</i> , Rioja	70
2008 Izadi, Reserva, <i>Tempranillo</i> , Rioja	58
2005 Muga, "Torre Muga", <i>Tempranillo</i> , Rioja	190
2006 Ramirez de la Piscina, "Seleccion", <i>Tempranillo</i> , Rioja, Spain	60
2006 Emilio Moro, "Malleolus", <i>Tempranillo</i> , Ribera del Duero	178
2008 Ossiam, Utiel-Requena, <i>Tempranillo</i> , Spain	38

Argentina

2006 Chateau du Cedre, <i>Malbec</i> , Cahors, France	56
2006 Chateau du Cedre, "Le Cedre", <i>Malbec</i> , Cahors, France	102
2009 Ben Marco, <i>Malbec</i> , Mendoza, Argentina	48
2009 Tikal, "Natural", <i>Malbec</i> , Mendoza, Argentina	64