

Wine Recommendations, 2017

The following wines are recommended because they are good examples of their respective grape varieties, are readily available, and are excellent values. They are presented in order of increasing body. The selections in **bold** are wines I particularly like. Where a price range is given, the first is a discounted sale price while the second is the normal retail price. All prices are from the Somerville Supersaver Wine & Spirits website at: <https://www.wineemporia.com/>.

Whites

Pinot Grigio

Cavit Pinot Grigio, \$8-10 (It); Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio, \$9-11 (It);
Robert Mondavi, Private Selection Pinot Grigio (Cal).

Riesling

Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Dry Riesling, \$9-11 (Wash); Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Riesling (Cal); Robert Mondavi, Private Selection Riesling (Cal).

Gewurztraminer

Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley, \$9-10 (Wash.)

Sauvignon Blanc

Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Sauvignon Blanc \$10-12 (Wash); Mouton Cadet White (Fr); Casa Lapostolle Sauvignon Blanc (Chile).

Chardonnay

Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay \$10-12 (Wash); Beringer, Founder's Reserve Chardonnay \$9-11 (Cal); Los Vascos Chardonnay, \$9-11 (Chile).

Reds

Gamay Beaujolais

George Duboeuf, Beaujolais-Villages, \$13-17 (Fr); Louis Jadot, Beaujolais-Villages, \$11-14 (Fr).

Pinot Noir

Mark West Pinot Noir (Orange Label), \$10-13 (Cal); Love Noir, \$10-15 (Cal); Robert Mondavi, Private Selection Pinot Noir (Cal).

Italian Sangiovese and Blends

Falesco Vitiano, \$10 (It); Masciarelli Montipulciano D'Abruzzo, \$10 (It); Castello Gabbiano Chianti Classico, \$10 (It); **Villa Puccini – Toscana, \$11 (It); Carpineto Dogajolo Tuscano, \$12 (It); Allegrini, Palazzo della Torre, \$17-22 (It);** Rufino Chianti Classico (Tan Label), \$20-26 (It).

Merlot

Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Merlot \$14-17 (Wash); George Duboeuf Merlot (Fr); Beringer Founder's Reserve Merlot \$9-11 (Ca);

Cabernet Sauvignon

Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon \$14-17 (Wash); Beringer, Founder's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon \$9-11 (Cal); Robert Mondavi, Private Selection Cabernet Sauvignon \$9-12 (Cal.); Concha e Toro, Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon, \$17-20 (Chile)

Malbec

Trivento Malbec Reserve, \$12 (Arg); Trapiche Malbec Oak Cask, \$12 (Arg).

Syrah/Shiraz

Jacob's Creek Reserve Shiraz, \$7-10 (Au); **E. Guigal - Côtes du Rhône, \$13-16 (Fr); also, Mas de Gourgonnier, Les Baux-De-Provence, (a red blend), \$13 (Fr.)**

Notes:

The same grape variety can exhibit different styles depending on where it is made. European and American styles are sometimes distinctively different. The European and South American vintners in the above list tend to have more acid and tannin with subtle fruitiness while the American and Australian vintners have more fruitiness, less acid and subtle tannin. This is most obvious in the Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon varieties. The recommendations help you compare the styles and determine which you prefer.

Some vintners like Robert Mondavi, Beringer, and Concha e Toro have several "lines" of wine differing in cost and quality. For example:

Robert Mondavi: Woodbridge (\$7-9), Private Selection (\$9-12), Napa Valley (\$18-30).

In the list above the vintners name is first (eg, Robert Mondavi) followed by the line designation, if any (eg, Private Selection) and the grape variety (eg, Cabernet Sauvignon). One way of exploring quality levels is to compare the offerings of a favorite vintner.

S. Csontos, revised 4 March 2017.