



Jamie Goode

Our expert toasts his top 30 red wines

This week I've gathered together a list of my favourite red wines (I'll be focusing on whites next time). There are some excellent bottles here; all are available from major retailers and most are quite affordable.

I've tried to cater for all tastes, keeping value for money in mind, but you'll probably notice that some styles and regions crop up a few times. That's because I like them a lot – and I'm pretty sure you will, too.

STAR WINE
Domaines Paul
Mas Vignes de Nicole
2010 Pays d'Oc, France
£9.99, Majestic, 14% alcohol
A stylish, rich, modern
wine with blackcurrant
and blackberry
fruits.



Viñalta Gran Reserva Malbec 2010, Mendoza, Argentina
£6.99, M&S, 14.5% alcohol
Argentine malbec is pretty reliable and offers great value for money. This shows pure, ripe blackberry and a hint of spicy oak. It's calling out for a rich beef stew.



Paolo Leo Primitivo di Manduria 2009, Italy
£9.99 or £7.49 from December 7 to January 3, Waitrose, 14.5% alcohol
Made with grapes from 40-year-old bush vines, this is a rich wine with lush black cherry and blackberry fruit, complemented by spice, herb and tea notes.



Asda Extra Special Crozes Hermitage 2008, Northern Rhône, France
£6.50, Asda, 12.5% alcohol
I think this is fabulous but it's a very fresh red wine that some will love and some will hate. Aromatic, sappy and peppery, it shows elegant, light cherry fruit with good acidity.



Crasto Douro Red 2009, Portugal
£9.99, Majestic, 14.5% alcohol
I really like this deliciously fruit-driven Douro red, with its ripe blackberry and black cherry flavours showing admirable purity and a bit of lushness. It works really well with spicy dishes such as cured meats and paella.



The Liberator 2009, Voor Paardeberg, South Africa £9.95, The Wine Society (01438 741177, www.thewinesociety.com), 14.5% alcohol
This gutsy wine shows dense, sweet blackberry and black cherry fruit with a bit of grip and some spicy notes.



Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2010, France
£6.99, Sainsbury's, 14.5% alcohol
I like the way this Rhône red aims at elegance rather than power: it's light and fruity but it also has some peppery, spicy seriousness.



Boschendal 1685 Merlot 2009, Coastal Region, South Africa
£8.50, The Wine Society, 14% alcohol
I'm not usually a huge fan of merlot but this is really good: fresh blackberry and blackcurrant fruit dominate, with a chalky, slightly green edge adding savoury interest.



Cellier des Dauphins "Les Dauphins" Côtes du Rhône Villages 2010, France
£6.99, Asda, Waitrose, 13.5% alcohol
The southern Rhône is a good source of sweetly fruited reds like this. Cherry and berry fruits are complemented by spice, mineral and pepper notes.



Viñalba Malbec Reserva 2009, Patagonia, Argentina
£10.99, Sainsbury's, 14.5% alcohol
Argentine malbec at its best, this very well-balanced red offers ripe cherry and blackberry fruit with a spicy, savoury twist.



Ogier Lirac Reserve 2010, Rhône, France
£8.99, Co-op, 15% alcohol
A rich, well-balanced red showing lush berry fruits with a grainy, mineral undercurrent and some fresh pepper notes. Try it with lamb tagine or a similar, strongly flavoured dish.



Château de Chénas Moulin-à-Vent 2009, Beaujolais, France
£10.99, Waitrose, 13% alcohol
Beaujolais just as it should be – fresh, fun and lively with rounded, elegant cherry and berry fruits. This wonderful wine is great for sipping on its own in front of the TV.



Descendientes de J Palacios Pétalos Bierzo 2009, Spain
£15.99 or £13.99 each for two, Majestic, 14% alcohol
A brilliant expression of the mencia grape variety from northwest Spain, offering vibrant blackberry and raspberry fruit with good structure and acidity.



Les Nivières Saumur 2010, Loire, France
£7.99, Waitrose, 13% alcohol
Loire reds are delicious, and good ones – like this bright cherry example – are well worth seeking out. It's a lighter, fresher style of red wine with some sappy green character in the background.



St Hallett Faith Shiraz 2009, Barossa Valley, Australia
£9.99, Co-op, 14.5% alcohol
This is a superb Barossa Valley shiraz with lovely ripe berry fruits plus an almost liqueur-like purity and softness of texture. Ripe but not overblown.



Sainsbury's House Pinot Noir NV, Romania

£4.49, Sainsbury's, 13% alcohol
This is pale in colour – as pinot noir should be – and has sweet berry and cherry fruit with a hint of sappy greenness.



Castelmaure Corbières 2009, France

£6.99, Morrisons, 13.5% alcohol
A southern French red with seductive sweet berry fruits, a smooth structure and a hint of herbiness, this is very stylish for the price and perfect with lamb tagine.



Mayu Syrah Reserva 2007, Elqui Valley, Chile

£7.98, Asda, 14% alcohol
Ripe, sweet and meaty, this Chilean syrah shows lush black fruits with fresh, peppery notes on the finish. It's ripe and full, yet still fresh.



Tons de Duorum 2009, Douro, Portugal

£8.49, The Real Wine Company (0800 322992, www.the-realwinco.co.uk), 13.5% alcohol
This is highly aromatic with black cherries and blackberries, lovely fruit purity and freshness.



Chapel Hill Pinot Noir 2009, Dunántúl, Hungary

£6.99, Waitrose, 12.5% alcohol
A good pinot noir at an affordable price, this is fresh, light and cherry flavoured with some greenness and sweet fruit.



Anakena Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2010, Leyda Valley, Chile

£8.74 or £6.99 each for two, Majestic, 13.5% alcohol
Aromatic with fresh cherry and herb notes, this is a supple, fresh expression of the pinot noir grape that really impresses.



Asda Extra Special Beaujolais-Villages 2010, France

£5.97, Asda, 13% alcohol
We should drink more Beaujolais, and in recent vintages the quality has been rising. This is perfumed and smooth with sweet fruit. It's full of joy, as Beaujolais should be.



Marks & Spencer Palataia Pinot Noir 2010, Pfalz, Germany

£8.99, M&S, 13.5% alcohol
A German pinot noir? Yes, they make quite a bit actually, and this is lovely, with sweet cherry and berry fruit and an attractive slightly sweet-and-sour character.



Altano Organic 2010, Douro, Portugal

£9.99, Waitrose, 13% alcohol
This is a brilliant example of the new wave of red wines coming from Portugal's Douro Valley. There are vibrant flavours of raspberry and black cherry fruit with ample spicy structure.



Saintsbury Pinot Noir 2007, Carneros, California

£19.99 or £14.99 each for two, Majestic, 13.5% alcohol
A thoroughly delicious pinot noir with ripe cherry and plum fruit flavour along with some warm, spicy notes.



Domaine Les Yeuses 'Les Epices' Syrah 2008, Pays d'Oc, France

£8.99 or £7.49 each for two, Majestic, 13.5% alcohol
Ripe, dense and meaty, this French syrah has lovely dark fruits framed by notes of olives and meat.



Brancott Estate Pinot Noir 2010, Marlborough, New Zealand

£10.99, Tesco, Asda, 13.5% alcohol
A really good example of New Zealand pinot noir from a very good vintage, this shows lovely supple black cherry fruit with nice freshness and more than a hint of elegance.



Château Aydie 2007, Madiran, France

£13.49, Waitrose, 14.5% alcohol
Madiran, in the southwest of France, makes robust red wines from the tannat grape variety. This is dense and chunky, with lovely sweet berry fruits. It would be perfect with pork.



Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Crozes-Hermitage 2009, Northern Rhône, France

£9.49, Sainsbury's, 13% alcohol
Raspberry, cherry and plum fruit dominate this polished syrah. It's quite delicious, and a good match for rib-eye steak.



Chapoutier Petite Ruche Crozes-Hermitage 2009, Northern Rhône, France

£14.99, Waitrose, 13% alcohol
A brilliant cool-climate syrah, this is ripe and brooding with lovely blackberry and black cherry fruit, along with a peppery twist.

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