



“One of the most gratifying aspects of being a wine critic is discovering those under-the-radar, superb wine bargains that taste as if they should cost two or three times the price but don’t. I taste thousands of wines every year, and most of my colleagues have been tasting wine for twenty or more years. This book has long been in the works, and it seems that it could not have come out a more appropriate time, given the world economic crisis and downsizing of everyone’s net worth. This book focuses on wines that, given current exchange rates with the dollar and what domestic wineries are charging, are priced at \$25 or below per bottle. The myth is that wines that cost \$25 or less are worth just what you pay for them and are never terribly interesting. This is totally untrue, and with work, one can unearth these small treasures that deliver seriously good wine at remarkably fair prices.”

ROBERT PARKER

FRANCE

ROUSSILLON

Domaine Cabirau

Serge & Nicolas (Grenache)

What this wine from importer Dan Kravitz’s property in Maury might lack in complexity, it makes up for in sheer mouth-filling generosity of fruit and a lip-smacking finish.

Cuvée de Peña

Rouge

The wines of this small co-op are nearly impossible to beat for value, and this Syrah-Carignan-Grenache displays resinous, smoky aromatic pungency; ripe purple plum and blackberry; and a lip-smacking if slightly chewy finish.

Cuvée de Peña

Rosé

This pink blend of Grenache and Syrah brims with strawberries, cherries, herbs, almonds, and stones and offers sappy, juicy, lip-smacking palate saturation and length.

Cuvée de Peña

Viognier

Full of acacia, peach, pear, and tropical fruits, juicy and lush on the palate with invigorating saltiness and a faintly peppery nip, this lingers with wafting florality.

LANGUEDOC

La Noble Chardonnay

This Chardonnay from the Aube represents a consistently amazing value. Fresh green apple, thyme, clover and salted almond inform a bright, juicy palate with a surprising sense of textural richness.

Château du Donjon Grande Tradition

This Grenache-based blend offers a pungently smoky and satisfyingly ripe amalgam of crushed stone, charred wood, blackberry, and cassis. Polished in feel, with medicinal-herbal bitterness, it offers surprising lift and impressive cling.

Château du Donjon Prestige

This barrel-aged Syrah-Grenache is like a black-fruited elixir mingled with chocolate, resinous herbs, walnut oil, and beef stock. It finishes with sap and stamina.

Château du Donjon Rosé

Brimming with red fruits and melon; tinged with herbs, salt and pepper; and silken in texture, this is so lusciously fruit juice-like you'll swear it contains a hint of residual sugar, but it's bone dry.

La Galinière Merlot

Offering consistently lovely bittersweet fruit, herbs, and pepper, and a juicy, sappy, clean and soft-textured palate, this wine, with its genuinely ripe and quite vivacious finish, is a great choice if one insists on Merlot.

La Galinière Cabernet Sauvignon

Amazingly- given the spotty results for this grape in the Languedoc- this is ripe, polished, and refreshing, emphasizing cassis, cherry, green peppercorns, and leafy herbs.

Château de Lancyre Vieilles Vignes

This deep, sappy, seamless Syrah-Grenache is typically loaded with plum, black cherry, and grenadine and tinged with pungent, resinous herbs, wood smoke, crushed stone, and iodine.

Château de Lancyre Rosé

Simply one of the finest pinks on the planet, with enough grip to reach out of the glass and throttle you were you to be overheard disrespecting rosé! Tart red fruits, pungent herbs, smoked meat, and minerals make for thinking as well as reflexively drinking.

Domaine de Lancyre Roussanne

This offers strikingly penetrating floral, herbal, musk and citrus zest aromas; a firm, bright palate full of peach fuzz; and a multifaceted fan of a finish.

Domaine Massamier la Mignarde Cuvée des Oliviers Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc this ripe and juicy-featuring mint, lemon, flowers, and hints of peach and melon-is not easy in the Languedoc, and at this price, it's incredible!

Domaine Massamier la Mignarde Cuvée Aubin

This Grenache-dominated cuvee fills the mouth with salt- and pepper-dusted ripe black fruits, heady floral perfume, scrubby herbs, and meat juices.

Domaine Massamier la Mignarde **Expression de Massamier Carignan**

This dense, yet infectiously juicy barrel-fermented Carignan features walnut oil, dark chocolate, resin, and sweetly ripe black fruits tinged with salt and chalk.

Mourrel Azurat **Fitou**

From the talented team of Massamier la Mignarde (see above), this offers amazing value. Ripe plum, pungent herbs, leather, and saline and stony mineral notes make for complexity on the cheap!

Puydeval **Rouge**

A soft, satisfyingly mouth-filling, unusual blend of Cabernet Franc with some Syrah and Merlot features mulberry, walnut oil, beetroot, fennel, and a hint of bitter fruit pit.

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Plan Pegau

A fine *vin de table*. Spicy, deep, and richly fruity, it can drink nicely for 2-3 years.

Plume Bleue **Grenache/Syrah**

A classic, Provençal wine offering roasted herb, new saddle leather, black cherry, currant, and loamy soil characteristic, it is a tasty, earthy effort with loads of personality.

Sélection Laurence Féraud **Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret**

A terrific wine from this village, with loads of fruit, pepper and spice as well as good Provençal typicity.

Les Vignerons d'Estezargues **Terre de Mistral**

A terrific Côtes du Rhône that sells for a song, this wine possesses sweetness as well as loads of pepper, lavender, *garrigue*, kirsch, and licorice.

Les Vignerons d'Estezargues **Cuvée des Galets**

Revealing plenty of Grenache characteristic in its sweet cherry-, pepper-, and spice-scented nose, this good bistro-style red exhibits luscious fruit in its medium-bodied, easygoing style.

Le Plan-Vermeersch **Classic Red**

Composed of primarily Grenache and a small amount of Carignan, this wine possesses copious amounts of ground black pepper, black cherries, currants, and leafy, sandy earthy notes.

Le Plan-Vermeersch **Classic White**

A crisp, lemon- and apple-scented wine displaying a hint of white currant as well as zesty acidity, this fresh, lively wine is best drunk in its first year.

Le Plan-Vermeersch **GT-V**

The GT-V (100% Viognier) from the Coteaux du Tricastin reveals a surprisingly stylish, elegant bouquet of white peaches and underripe apricots, good acidity, and excellent freshness.

PROVENÇE

Commanderie de la Bargemone Rosé

This has long been one of France's most delicious rosés. Drink it within its first 6-9 months of release.

Commanderie de la Bargemone White

The Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence white exhibits crisp, white fruit and citrus notes, fresh acidity, light to medium body, and a good finish.

Commanderie de la Bargemone Cuvée Marina Rosé

A new cuvee for this estate, the Cuvée Marina is a bit fuller...and includes slightly more Syrah in the blend.

Commanderie de la Bargemone Cuvée Marina White

The Cuvée Marina white offers up aromas of lemon blossoms, quince, licorice, and white currants in an attractive, light- to medium-bodied style.

Commanderie de la Bargemone Cuvée Marina Red

The Cuvée Marina red displays a touch of oak along with good stuffing, attractive berry fruit, a hint of wet stones, and a spicy finish.

SAVOIE

Pierre Boniface-Les Rocailles Apremont

A floral, zesty, chalky Jacquère-based refresher betraying no underripeness, even in rained-on vintages.

Pierre Boniface-Les Rocailles Apremont Prestige

More mouth filling and minerally nuanced than Boniface's regular bottling, yet always refreshingly lip-smacking.

Pierre Boniface-Les Rocailles Roussette de Savoie

Scents of buckwheat, lemon oil, white pepper, and flowers lead to a zesty and subtly oily palate.

BURGUNDY

Domaine Michel Goubard et Fils Mont-Avril Rouge

Full of high-toned, tart red fruits with surprisingly saline, meaty, anything-but-sweet undertones and flatteringly silken, this manages to be expansive despite its relatively light weight.

Domaine Michel Goubard et Fils Mont-Avril Rouge Cuvée Fût de Chêne

Goubard's top cuvee is subtly marked by its stay in barrel; the nose and flavors and slightly gamy and the texture subtly grainy, with salt-tinged, tart-red or black fruits leading to an invigoratingly gripping finish.

BORDEAUX

Château Haut Beyzac Haut-Medoc du Haut Beyzac

Exhibiting attractive aromas of cedar, red currant, damp earthy, and spice box, this medium bodied, pure, soft wine should drink well for 4-5 years.

Château Haut Beyzac I Second

This red offers blacker fruits as well as more depth and richness, medium to full body, and excellent ripeness, purity, and length. Consumer it over the first 7-8 years.

ALSACE

Gérard Weinzorn L'Oriel

This blend of Riesling, Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer, and Muscat boasts soothing richness, with pit fruits, citrus cream, nut oils, honey, rose petal, and smoked meats backed by discreet sweetness.

Gérard Weinzorn Riesling

Full of ripe white peach and luscious citrus; depending on vintage perhaps laced with honey, white truffle, or narcissus. Even when oily, soft, and plush on the plate, this keeps its freshness.

ARGENTINA

MENDOZA

Alfredo Roca Chenin Blanc

...offers up a pleasant nose of melon and floral notes leading to a smooth-textured, easygoing Chenin with decent acidity and modest length. Drink it during its first 12-18 months.

Alfredo Roca Malbec-Merlot

The Malbec-Merlot has aromas of spice box, cassis, black cherry, and violet. This is followed by a medium-bodied wine with spicy, savory flavors, good balance, and a fruit-filled finish.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Travis Monterey Chardonnay

This unoaked Chardonnay exhibits plenty of crisp acidity, as well as loads of tropical fruit in its medium-bodied, honeyed, rich, pure personality.

Contact us for more information:

HAND PICKED SELECTIONS, INC.

36 N Fifth Street, Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel (540) 347-9400; Fax (540) 349-0967



Character Counts!

www.handpickedselections.com