

# Bloomberg

## The 50 Best Wines Under \$50 Right Now, From Alto Adige to New Zealand

Of the 2,481 wines our columnist tasted this year, these are the best value.

My idea of a year end report means scrolling through all my tasting notes for the wines I would be happy to drink again—and that deliver quality at a seriously reasonable price.

This year, I found more good-value vino than ever while sampling 2,481—yes, I double-checked—red, white, rosé, orange and sparkling examples from Armenia to Uruguay.

So where to seek the best buys of 2022?

As in 2021, my top country for the sheer number of fascinating bargains is Italy. Whether you want light, zingy whites or juicy, savory reds—or even wines from unusual grapes (see *nascetta* and *kerner*, below)—Italy always has something of quality to offer at a good price. This is especially true in lesser-known regions such as Alto Adige.

In France, look to the south, especially the *Costières de Nîmes* region in the southern Rhône and in Roussillon, where young *vignerons* are hunting down old vines.

Riesling from just about everywhere is still woefully undervalued, as are wines from regions such as Alsace and Muscadet. Inexpensive reds and whites from Uruguay are just getting better and better.

The sparkling category is booming, too: Good value can be found among France's creamy-textured *crémants* and trendy *pétillant-naturel*, or *pét-nat*, sparklers from all over, despite supply chain problems.

Don't skip Bordeaux. The 2019 vintage now hitting retail shelves is excellent. Blends from smaller *châteaux* can be super buys, as can many of the region's whites.

The producers whose wines I've recommended in previous 50 under \$50 columns are still turning out go-to bottles, but here I've tried to highlight what's new.

Finally, take the opportunity to shop around and compare prices. The holiday season is a prime time for sales and discounts, particularly for bottles of bubbly.

## Fun Fizz

*Top sparklers now come from everywhere around the globe.*



Bottles of Bohigas Rosat Brut Cava, Miotto ProFondo Col Fondo Agricolo, Paula Kornell California Brut, Langlois Brut Crémant de Loire, Jansz Premium Cuvée Brut, and Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs Brut. *Source: Vendors. Background: Getty Images*

## NV Langlois Brut Crémant de Loire

French crémants, made by the traditional Champagne method in eight appellations, are surging in popularity. This light, lemony-fruity Loire example based on chenin blanc has creamy depth. \$25

## White Wines, for the Win

*From light, bright aperitifs to lusciously rich wines for a grand dinner.*



Bottles of Pacher Hof Kerner Alto Adige, Hillick & Hobbs Dry Riesling, Château de Bois-Brinçon Anjou Blanc Terre de Grès, Ponzi Vineyards Laurelwood District Chardonnay, Otronia 45 Rugientes Corte de Blancas, and Pieropan la Rocca Soave Classico. *Source: Vendors. Background: Getty Images*

## 2019 Ponzi Vineyards Laurelwood District Chardonnay

Oregon is more than pinot noir. What stands out in this distinctive, floral and ginger-scented white are its velvety texture and mineral finish. \$40