

Robb Report

FOOD & DRINK / WINE

22 Intoxicating Holiday Gifts for Wine Lovers

Get oenophiles on your list what they really want.

For so many people in your life, wine can be the perfect gift. Especially as we get back to holiday parties this year, it's one of the best things you can bring for the host of the next soiree you attend. However, the world of wine and personal tastes can feel infinite. So we've created a guide of wines to gift that's filled with different varietals, styles, accessories and books to help you pick out just the right present for whomever you're shopping for.



Realm Cellars 2018 The Bard, Napa Valley

From co-owner and CEO Scott Becker and superstar winemaker Benoit Touquette, working with consultant Michel Rolland, The Bard is a terrific intro to the acclaimed (and elusive) Realm Cellars portfolio. A complicated blend from vineyard sites up and down Napa Valley, from Calistoga to Coombsville, the Cabernet-dominant red (with splashes of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Petite Sirah, for good measure) is a showcase of the stellar 2018 vintage as opposed to a snapshot of a single site, as other Realm bottles are. And it's a balanced, complex, seamless beauty. Expressive, high-toned aromas mix cassis and violets with earth and crushed rock. Vibrant, juicy boysenberry and plum flavors are layered with hints of dark chocolate and spice on a palate that's full-bodied but far from heavy. Freshness balances plushness, and acidity melds with structure.



Château La Fleur-Pétrus 2016, Pomerol

As confusing as it sounds, think of Château La Fleur-Pétrus as Pétrus-adjacent, situated as it is between Châteaux Lafleur and Pétrus on Bordeaux's Right Bank. And balanced perfectly between elegance and power, the 2016 (a blend of 91 percent Merlot and 9 percent Cabernet Franc) offers character worthy of the address. Gravelly notes lurk under intriguing layers of delicate violets, black currant, anise, mint and pipe tobacco on the nose. Beautifully intense red and black fruit follows, from red currant to black cherry, on a tannin structure that's both sinewy and silky.



Ornellaia 2018 La Grazia, Bolgheri, Italy

Napa isn't the only winemaking region where 2018 is proving an excellent vintage. Tuscany also benefited from a return to more normal climatic conditions, producing a strong yield and some very healthy grapes, as evidenced by this beautiful new edition from Ornellaia, which estate director Axel Heinz has called "La Grazia," or grace. The wine is a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and a splash of Petit Verdot, a classic Bordeaux mix that has the vivid freshness lately seen in the best years from Bolgheri, near Tuscany's coast. The estate handpicked and sorted the grapes, with each varietal and vineyard block vinified separately, aging in oak for about 12 months. Only then was the balance between each varietal conceived and married, and once again returned to barriques for another six months before aging for a further year once bottled, producing silky-smooth tannins and a long finish. The wine tastes more of red fruit than black, but it's still rich, dense and savory with herbal notes and a whiff of wild fennel. Winemaker Olga Fusari points to its "intense aromatic expression" as a hallmark of the vintage.

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