



HOME > FOOD AND DRINK > WINE

The best wines to drink this summer

Victoria Moore shares her selection of summer wines: crisp, icy whites for balmy evenings, full-bodied reds for the barbecue and a Provence rosé to die for



Victoria Moore enjoying a crisp white wine outside Photo: CLARA MOLDEN

By Victoria Moore
9:00AM BST 27 Jun 2015

[Follow](#) 14.8K followers

Long evenings, sunny days, summer food, dinners outside, picnics in the park – these are the fantasies we have of the current season. The reality – winter coats out in July, barbecuing under umbrellas, swamped festivals – hardly matters. We still want to buy the wines that will go with the dream, even if jumpers are only cast aside because someone has caved in and put the heating on. And who knows, maybe we'll be lucky and see some sun.

The wines I've picked here are all chosen to set a summer mood. There are light-bodied reds from the Loire that can be popped in the fridge and drunk slightly chilled; whites with an icicle edge or giddy scent of blossom; sturdier reds from Chile and Argentina that I've included here with charred food and barbecue marinades in mind...



Victoria tests out a selection of wines (CLARA MOLDEN)

One thing that struck me as I put this list together was how many more wines from independent shops I had jostling for a place than wines from supermarkets. If I hadn't made an effort to include more high street wines, this list might easily have been 25 per cent supermarket, 75 per cent not. This is partly a reflection of the fact that places such as The Wine Society and a host of smaller wine merchants dotted up and down the country now have such great – and great value – wines. It's partly also because many delicious supermarket wines are overpriced when they are not on promotion, so timing is everything. Still, all those buyers out there are doing a great job. I hope you enjoy the fruits of their work.

One final thing. As the take-up on my Secret List of wines was so enthusiastic at Christmas, I've prepared one for this Summer Collection. It will be particularly useful for anyone thinking of placing an order with a new wine merchant for the first time, who wants to spread their risk by choosing a mixed case of recommendations from me rather than buying six bottles of one recommended here. Go to howtodrink.co.uk and leave a comment asking for the list to be emailed and I will send it to you. Happy drinking!

Stars of the season: my top 10

Star whites

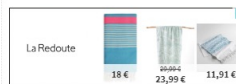
1. SUMMER STANDBY

Tesco Côtes de Gascogne Blanc 2014 France (11%, **Tesco**, £4.69)

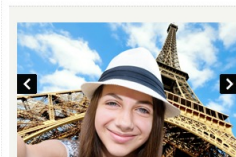
Chill this colombard/ugni blanc blend right down and you have a wine reminiscent of a juicy, ice-cold pear, peach and melon cooler, with a waft of blossom. One to wallop back while watching cricket/tennis/children fighting or add fizzy water for a lovely spritz.



Telegraphwine [Buy wine](#)



More From The Web



Postgraduate degree programmes in Europe – enrolling now
Search all programmes available in Europe and apply now

Paid content





2. PICNIC WHITE

Quinta de Azevedo 2014 Vinho Verde Portugal (10.5%; **Telegraph Wine** from **Waitrose**, £8.29, **Majestic**, £6.66 down from £9.99 when you mix and match two bottles)

Spritzzy and light (the alcohol is just 10.5%), this is like a white wine version of Badoit. Not bone dry, but almost dry, and made from loureiro in northern Portugal.



3. GRAVES EAT YOUR HEART OUT

Chateau Beaumont Les Pierrières Blanc 2013 France (13%; **Lea & Sandeman**, £8.50/8.95)

White bordeaux is hugely underrated and this one's a cracker. It tastes like a miniature fine wine at an ordinary wine price. The grapes, from Blaye and Bourg, are fermented in the barrels used later to make Ch Beaumont red.



4. PIEMONTESE FRIDGE-DOOR BARGAIN

Taste the Difference Gavi 2014 Italy (11.5%; **Sainsbury's**, £6 down from £8 until June 30)

Vivid, sharp citrus – like the juice and rinds of pink and white grapefruits and preserved lemons. A pithy, direct light, crisp white made from cortese grapes in Piemonte.



5. SLEEK WHITE

Domaine Raffault Chinon Blanc 2014 France (12.5%; **Yapp**, £13.50)

A rare and extremely good white chinon. Lithe and elegant, this chenin blanc from the Loire races through your mouth. I can't get enough of its luminous acidity – riesling and sauvignon drinkers might like to try it. Utterly mesmerising summer drinking.



Star reds

6. STAR BUY

Taste the Difference Barbera d'Asti 2013 Italy (13.5%; **Sainsbury's**, £6 down from £8 until June 30)

Juicy but also taut, with a compact, silky texture, this is a bright barbera from north-west Italy that's reminiscent of red and black cherries. Lovely. A real bargain at this price. Bring out the home-made pizza or a veal chop.



7. STAR BUY

Domaine Les Yeuses Merlot 2013 Languedoc-Roussillon, France (13%; **Lea & Sandeman**, £7.25/£7.95)

I am not exactly a merlot person and yet this is a favourite all-rounder red. It's merlot made precisely a point, there's a juicy generosity, but also a refreshing leafiness: redcurrant leaves and lightly stewed damsons.



8. ATMOSPHERIC RED

Domaine Jones Mlle Jones Fitou 2013 France (14.5%; **Majestic**, £13.99)

Katie Jones moved to France two decades ago and now owns seven rugged hectares in the Languedoc. A mouth-watering red: scented, craggy, generous, hawthorn, sloes and olive leaves. Carignan, grenache and syrah.



9. SUMMER 'CLARET'

Domaine Druet 'Cent Boisselées' 2009 Bourgueil France (12.5%; **Yapp**, £14.25)

Bourgueil produces some of the best summer reds in the Loire. This cabernet franc is from a warm year, ampler than some Loire reds (a good thing), while those few years of age give a delicious, shiitake-savoury edge to the redcurrants.



10. GROWN-UP RED

Cigliuti Langhe Nebbiolo 2013 Italy (13.5%; **Lea & Sandeman**, £16.50)

A spellbinding wine made from the barolo grape in Piemonte. A fragrance of dried rose petals and sandalwood (from 18 months in Slavonian oak), tannins clipping at your tongue like a fragrant black tea. Black truffles or

viteilo tonnato would work.



The best of the rest

WHITES

1. **Finca Lallana Verdejo 2014** Rueda, Spain (13%, **The Wine Society**, £7.75)

"Friendly but uncomplicated," said TWS buyer Pierre Mansour of this taut fridge-door white, made from Spain's answer to sauvignon blanc. Peach with a few salad leaves.



2. **Domaine Gayda Viognier 2014** Pays d'Oc, France (13%, **Haynes, Hanson & Clark**, £9/£8.08)

When it's right, viognier makes fragrant wine reminiscent of dusk in a summer garden in Provence. I've found two good ones for this list. This first one's unoaked – very much on the lighter, more citrusy side of viognier, but with a tender, almond-blossom-like scent. Lovely.



3. **Jacky Marteau Touraine Sauvignon Blanc 2014** France (13.5%, **M&S**, £9)

2014 was a tip-top vintage in the Loire so if you're a fan of the herbaceous, flinty Sancerre style of sauvignon blanc now is the time to go Loire sauvignon mad (I'll be writing up some more recommendations for 2014 Loire whites soon). This one is more boisterous than Sancerre but still has the freshly mown grass scent.



4. **Semeli Mantinia Nasiakos 2014** Greece (12%, **The Wine Society**, £9.50)

Oh but this is pretty. Lightly textured, tasting of roses and lemon grass, made on the Peloponnese from moschofilero grapes.





5. Pikes Hills & Valleys Riesling 2014 Clare Valley, Australia (10.5%; **Jeroboams, The Oxford Wine Company**, £12.99)

Pikes make beautiful whites (check out their White Mullet, a blend of viognier, riesling and chenin blanc) and this is no exception. Dry and light in alcohol, it's all lemon and lime, like a daiquiri.



6. Yalumba Viognier 2014 Eden Valley, Australia (13%; **Telegraph Wine from Waitrose**, £12.99)

Incredibly heady. From Australia's master viognier-makers, this is richer than the French viognier above, it's oaked, and falls like heavy swags of perfumed blossom scented with apricot skins. A Scheherazade of a wine.



7. Robert Oatley Margaret River Chardonnay 2012/13 Australia (12.5%; **Oddbins** £13.25; **Tesco** Wine by the Case online only, £90 per case of six, equivalent to £15 a bottle)

Chiselled, sleek, with highlights of white peach and lemon and glimmers of toasty oak. Bring on the buttery garlic prawns.



REDS

8. La Nonna Rioja Joven 2013 Spain (12.5%; **Tesco**, £4.29)

An easy, smooth blend of tempranillo and garnacha that's good for parties, barbecues and for making great jugs full of sangria.



9. Waitrose Soft and Juicy Chilean Red NV Central Valley, Chile (13%; **Telegraph Wine from Waitrose**, £4.99)

A non-vintage cheapie that smells distinctively Chilean. A merlot-cabernet blend that's all crunchy red and green capsicums and wet tobacco with a vestigial waft of tar. Delicious drunk outside.



10. Domaine du Colombier Chinon 2012 France (12.5%; **Sainsbury's**, £7)

A very light-bodied, delicate red made from cabernet franc in the Loire, it smells of summer pudding, and woodland. Give it 20 minutes in the fridge before drinking.



11. Casa Silva Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenere 2013 Chile (14%; **Lea & Sandeman**, £7.50/£7.95)

Made from 70 per cent cabernet sauvignon and 30 per cent carmenere, with a gentle touch of French oak. I long for its succulent depth and light tobacco scent every time I make home-made burgers.



12. Weinert Carrascal 2009 Argentina (14%; **The Wine Society**, £7.95)

Based on malbec with 35 per cent cabernet sauvignon and 25 per cent merlot, this tastes like an expensive but flawed claret. The confusing factor is the presence of a yeast called Brettanomyces which gives the wine a leathery, farmyard scent. Great for barbecues or summer roast beef.



13. Domaine Lombard Vin de Pays de la Drôme La Côte 2013 France (12%; **Yapp**, £10.95)

Casual, juicy red made midway between Avignon and Lyon. Some of the vineyards are in the Brézème Côtes du Rhône appellation, some are vins de pays, so the whole wine is declassified. Tastes a bit like a clean natural wine – a really super drink.



14. Nicosia Etna Rosso 2013 Sicily, Italy (13%, [M&S](#), £10)

Etna wines, made from grapes grown on the slopes of the volcano itself, are now super-fashionable but they usually cost more than a tenner. This one is lightish-bodied, but like riding bareback: you can feel every twitch.



15. Domaine Vallet 'Muletiers' St Joseph 2012 France (% Haynes, [Hanson & Clark](#), £17.42/£19.50)

Wonderful syrah from the northern Rhône: this doesn't need keeping as it's joyful and accessible right now. Smells thick and attractive, of green peppercorns and white pepper – and leather, too.



16. Hedonist Shiraz McLaren Vale 2013 Australia (13.5%, [Telegraph Wine from Waitrose](#), £13.99)

A delicious, cushioned ample syrah from Australia's McLaren Vale.



PINKS

17. Muga Rosado 2014 Spain (13%, [Telegraph Wine from Waitrose](#), £9.99)

I have been all over rosé in a recent piece so I'm not going to town on it here. This is thicker and creamier than those from Provence (speaking of which, a good cheapie is Aldi's Exquisite Collection Côtes de Provence Rosé, £5.99)



18. Mirabeau Pure Provence Rosé 2014 Côtes de Provence (13%, [Telegraph Wine from Waitrose](#), £12.99 or £9.74 from July 1-21)

Very pale pink wine that presses all the right buttons.



19. MiP* Made in Provence Classic Rosé Domaine Sainte Lucie 2014
Côtes de Provence, France (12.5%; £10.95/£11.95, [Lea & Sandeman](#))

I've recommended this pale rosé once already this summer, but it's the best, so here it is again.



ESOTERICA

20. Lambrusco Secco Reggiano NV Italy (11%; [M&S](#), £9)

Hooray! Dry red lambrusco is back in M&S after a few years' absence. And it's a goody, a deep, purplish-crimson, effervescent wine that tastes of rich red fruit and dried cherries and dust and incense. Just lovely. Drink it out of beakers with a big plank of charcuterie.



21. Navazos Fino Saca de Mayo NV Spain (15%, around £10, [STOCKISTS](#) t/c)

Bottled directly with no filtering so drinking it tastes like drinking a mouthful of sherry straight out of the barrel in the cellar. Incredible stuff, very intense, it tastes like toasted almonds and sea salt: super-dry and rope-taut.



Many readers of this column are – quite rightly – always on the lookout for offers on Tesco's excellent own-label picpoul de pinet and Bisol prosecco. The saline, refreshing white and the feather-light Bisol are both on offer right now. I haven't put them in my "top" list as they've both been in so many times before; but here are the deals for those who love them.

finest* Picpoul de Pinet 2014 (12.5%; [Tesco](#), £5.99 down from £7.99 until July 14)

finest* Bisol prosecco NV Italy (11.5%; [Tesco](#), £7.49 down from £8.99 until July 14)

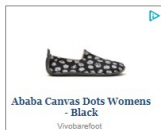
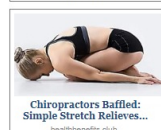
• [Telegraph Wine from Waitrose: Find other great summer wines](#)



The Telegraph

Like Page 4.4M likes

Paid content



Recommended by Outbrain





Quelles offres exclusives
cette semaine chez Lidl ?

Lidl



Filet de pêche

THEMA DECO




Organiseur chaussures - lots

Blancheporte

[Read More From Telegraph Food](#)


NEWS



The latest news, opinion and analysis

[View](#)


FOOTBALL



Catch up on all the latest football news and results

[View](#)


FILM



All the latest film trailers, reviews and features

[View](#)

COMPETITIONS



Enter one of our exciting new competitions

[View](#)

[Back to top](#)

T

HOME
Motoring
Motoring News

Food and Drink
Recipes
Restaurants

Women
Women's Life
Sex
Family and Parenting

Gardening
Gardening Advice
Gardening Pictures

History
Expat

Crossword
Blogs
Dating

Contact us
Privacy and Cookies
Advertising
Fantasy Football

Tickets
Announcements
Reader Prints

Follow Us
Apps
Epaper
Expat

Promotions
Subscriber
Syndication

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2019

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Today's News](#)

[Archive](#)

[Style Book](#)

[Weather Forecast](#)