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## Happy International Rosé Day: 20 top rosé wines to try

It's the weekend, and Friday 26 June 2020 is International Rosé Day – what better excuse to crack open some of the best bottles around? We recommend 20 top picks for long summer days...



Amy Wislocki  
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Enjoy rosés from Provence and beyond this summer Credit: Ian Shaw / Alamy Stock Photo

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The popularity of rosé shows no sign of abating, with sales soaring alongside the temperatures. It seems wine drinkers can't get enough, and like to share their rosé

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experience too – there are more than 4.5 million Instagram snaps tagged #rosé.

So what makes the perfect rosé? Firstly, don't get too hung up on the colour. **It's a fallacy that pale equals better.** Yes, most Provence rosé is a paler shade of pink, but that shade is certainly no guarantee of quality – or character.

Which brings us neatly on to the next point. While we may not demand complexity from a wine that we'll likely be enjoying in the sunshine, we should demand character. Some rosés are just too neutral for their own good. A weight of juicy fruit balanced by crisp acidity: that's the secret of many a successful rosé.

Freshness is key in any style of rosé, whether it's meant to be lean and elegant or more robust. If a rosé wine isn't refreshing, it has lost its *raison d'être*. For this reason, it's a good rule of thumb to seek out the youngest vintage possible. The round-up below includes a wine from 2016 which displays great complexity and retains freshness – it's probably the exception rather than the rule, however.

Most rosés go nowhere near a barrel, vinified in stainless steel to maximise clean, fresh flavours. But you do find the occasional rosé that has spent some time in large, old oak barrels – it can add texture and complexity, and can make for a more gastronomic style. Perfect as an aperitif, rosé in general can also be a **great food match** – including for tapas, charcuterie, Asian dishes, fish and chicken dishes.

Provence still holds sway in the rosé kingdom, with wines made principally from Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah. Typically you'll find notes of red berry fruit, (grapefruit) citrus and white flowers in these wines, and a crisp elegance. But take off your Provence rosé blinkers and there's a world of other exciting rosé waiting to be discovered. Pinot Noir from England, Malbec from Argentina, Sangiovese from Tuscany. And more. We've listed 20 rosés below to help you explore.

Look out for the Provence rosé panel tasting in the August issue of Decanter, on sale 1 July.

## 20 of the best rosé wines to try this summer



### Masi, Rosa dei Masi Rosato, Veneto, Italy, 2019

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Fresh raspberry aromas, with earthy-phenolic notes. Juicy palate with texture and a long, complex, aromatic finish. Made with a percentage of partially dried grapes.

Points 93



### Domaine la Croix Belle, Le Champ des Grillons, Côtes de Thongue, 2019

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Beautiful blush, very pale pink colour. Lovely fresh appeal, a real crowd pleaser in that it's easy drinking and would be wonderful ice cold on a warm summer's day but it's got a nice depth of strawberry fruits that lingers on the tongue. Very balanced, dry with subtle acidity that...

Points 91



### Domaine Lafage, Miraflores Rosé, Côtes du Roussillon, 2019

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It's always nice to find a delicious, light, juicy rosé outside of Provence. Formed from Grenache Blanc and Malbec grapes, this is a really nice

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sourced from Grenache Gris and Noir vines some nearing 80-years-old, together with a portion of younger Mourvèdre, this is made from early-picked grapes to ensure a fresher style and pressed without crushing for an incredibly pale hue....

Points 91

### Mirabeau, Etoile, Côtes de Provence, Provence, 2019

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A fruit-forward nose with soft, green apple and pear notes coming through alongside lemon and ripe apricot. It's definitely a different style to the Pure and Classic wines in Mirabeau's range, with a tangy acidity giving freshness and energy, plus a focus on stone fruit and crunchy citrus flavours. This...

Points 91

### Barone Ricasoli, Albia, Tuscany, Italy, 2019

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New on the shelves at Waitrose, this Tuscan blend of Sangiovese and Merlot is quite a serious style of rosé. An attractive pale rose gold in the glass, it's pretty on the nose, citrusy, floral and juicy to taste, with red berry fruit, and good acidity. Delicious as an aperitif...

Points 90

### Château des Ferrages, Roumery Rosé, 2019

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This Provence estate is owned by the Rhône firm Chapoutier. Archetypal Provence stylistically, it's pale, crisp and elegant, with aromas of grapefruit, white flowers and redcurrants. The perfect aperitif on a warm summer's evening.

Points 90

### Costaripa, Molmenti, Valtènesi, Lombardy, Italy, 2016

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This is a fascinating wine. My heart sank when I saw the vintage on the label – a 2016 rosé?! Trust me, it's still fresh, and delicious, the evolution lending real complexity and interest. A coppery hue in the glass, then aromas of cherry, pot pourri, almost slightly nutty. There's...

Points 90



### Domaine de Triennes, Rosé, Méditerranée IGP, 2018

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Domaine de Triennes is a partnership between two great names in Burgundy: Jacques Seyss of Domaine Dujac and Aubert de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée Conti. So the quality is unsurprising. Cinsault-dominated, this offers the perfect balance between fresh red berry fruit and citrus, crisp acidity and elegance. Vibrant...

Points 90



### Santa Tresa, Rosa di Santa Tresa, Terre Siciliane, 2019

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This 50/50 blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato comes from a small organic estate in southeastern Sicily. A pretty onion-skin copper-pink, with fruity aromas of strawberry, peach and melon. That Sicilian sunshine adds riper notes of stone fruit alongside strawberry and cherry, all balanced by fresh lemon-and-lime acidity. Lees-ageing...

Points 90



### Simpsons Wine Estate, Pinot Noir Rosé, England, 2019

+ Add to My Wines

You'd be hard pressed to put this in England if tasted blind. Charles and Ruth Simpson have been making wine in southern France for 18 years, and returned to the UK in 2012 to buy this estate in Kent's chalky North Downs. Their impressive rosé is full of soft, juicy...

Points 90



### Blackbook Winery, I'd Rather Be A Rebel Pinot Noir Rosé

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The label should give you a clue that this is an unconventional wine. Blackbook Winery is an urban winery that operates from under a railway arch in Battersea, London. The fruit for this strawberry-scented rosé came from a south-facing vineyard in Essex planted in 2006, and the wine was vinified...

Points 89



### Château de Minière, Rosé de Minière, Loire, France, 2019

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If you're bored with Provençal rosé, why not try this classy organic Cabernet Franc rosé from Bourgueil in the Loire? There's a lovely weight of juicy, tangy red berry fruit - think wild strawberries - citrus, almost a saline edge, and good acidity. Cool-climate rosé, competitively priced.

Points 89



### Cune, Rioja Rosada, Rioja, Spain, 2018

+ Add to My Wines

This blend of Viura and Tempranillo is a real crowd-pleaser for summer parties. Appealing strawberry and citrus aromas lead to a fresh and fruity palate with really zingy acidity. Lots of strawberry fruit on the palate, with crisp grapefruit on the finish.

Points 89



### Joseph Mellot, Sancerre Rosé Le Rabault, Sancerre, 2019

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The Mellot family owns vineyards across the Loire, and have been involved in winemaking for five centuries. Made from 20-year-old Pinot Noir vines grown on clay-limestone soils, this Sancerre rosé is packed with cherry and strawberry fruit, fresh and balanced with good acidity. Would be delicious served with charcuterie or...

Points 89



### Pierre Jaurant, Languedoc Rosé, Languedoc-Roussillon, 2019

+ Add to My Wines

Pale rose pink in colour, this blend of mainly Grenache and Cinsault is dry, with juicy, wild strawberry and floral aromas. Sit in the garden on a sunny evening, open this with a tuna niçoise salad, and pretend you're in the South of France...

Points 89



### Ruffino, Aqua di Venus Rosé, Tuscany, Italy, 2019

+ Add to My Wines

True wine lovers shouldn't be overly influenced by packaging, but what a beauty this bottle is, inspired by Botticelli's Birth of Venus. Happily, this Tuscan rosé is a pleasure to drink too. A blend of Syrah, Sangiovese and Pinot Grigio, it's restrained and Provençal in style, bone-dry, with expressive aromas...

Points 89



### Tesco, Finest Argentinian Malbec Rosé, Mendoza, 2019

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Tesco has two Argentinian Malbec rosés, both at the same price – this one, part of its Finest range, is the superior one. Made by leading producer Catena, it has a small amount of Torrontes blended in, and lots of juicy, red berry fruit. Decent length.

Points 89



### Tesco, Roseline Prestige Côtes de Provence Rosé, 2019

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New in Tesco's range this summer, this blend of Grenache and Cinsault with a little Syrah is Tesco's priciest rosé after Miraval. The packaging gives a clue to the style – this is elegant but with a good weight in the mouth. Attractive coral colour in the glass, then lots...

Points 89



### E Guigal, Côtes du Rhône Rosé, Côtes du Rhône, 2018

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A fairly full-bodied style, as rosés go. Salmon pink in the glass, then lots of ripe strawberry fruit flavours. Full of the warmth of the southern Rhône, it could do with a touch more acidity but is well made, as you'd expect from Guigal, one of the Rhône's leading families.

Points 88



### Tesco, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence, Provence, France, 2019

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Any wine at around the £7 mark with Provence on the label is bound to generate interest (or ring alarm bells!). This isn't going to win any prizes for complexity, but it's certainly good value for the price. Pale rose in the glass, it's juicy, dry and fruit-forward with aromas...

Points 88

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