## Summer rosés

# Any colour, as long as it's... PINK



Like a Pantone colour chart, rosé comes in a myriad of shades

- and we all have our favourite hue. It's the perfect summer drink, but before you reach for the same old bottle, why not try something new? Over the page you'll find a selection of interesting rosés in colour order

- from palest blush to scarlet - together with tasting notes so you can compare flavours. It really couldn't be easier. →

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o you like a whiter shade of pale, a darker shade of candyfloss or somewhere in the salmon-tinged middle? I only ask because the colour spectrum of pink wines has grown wide, wider, widest... and it can be just a touch confusing. There's a perception that paler rosés are crisper and drier, darker rosés are fruitier and fuller, and moderately fruity pinks fill the middle ground. And up to a point that's true. It's hard, for example, to find a rosé from Provence that is anything but pale and dry. Equally, the two wines with the deepest colours are both bursting with juicy, ripe fruit and couldn't be more different in taste from the Provence rosés. But, just to throw a small spanner in the works, the organic Cabernet Sauvignon rosé from Chile is dark and dry, while the Petit Verdot from South Africa is dark but medium-dry.

Where does this take us? It takes us to the wine producer. The main dictator of colour for rosé isn't climate or vineyard terrain or grape varieties, it's the person who makes the wine. The colour comes from the skins of red grapes, so it depends when and how they're crushed or pressed and how long the juice (which is white) stays in contact with the colour-giving skins.

If it's all beginning to sound dangerously like a free-for-all in which colour is no guide to style and taste, breathe a sigh of relief because convention steps in here. Wine producers know we don't expect an ultrapale rosé to be exuberantly fruity and full bodied, or a shocking pink wine to be crisp, super-subtle and bone-dry, so they don't make them like that.



# WHISPERING ANGEL 2016 Côtes de Provence, France £16.99/75cl

Classic, pale, peach-tinged Provence rosé made at Château d'Esclans (famous for producing the world's most expensive rosé). Lovely, fresh spice and quince flavours alongside the red berry and cherry fruit and seductive, creamy texture.



#### LA CERISA PINOT GRIGIO ROSÉ 2016 Lombardy, Italy £7.99/75cl

Add some Pinot Noir to your Pinot Grigio grapes and you get this soft, dry, brightly fruity Italian with its candy floss-pink colouring and juicy, bon-bon aromas and red-fruit flavours. Does it taste of cherries, or is it just the name?



#### **CHÂTEAU DE BERNE 2016**

#### Côtes de Provence, France £10.49/75cl

Ultra-pale rosé with a scent of jasmine, the flavour of strawberries and a silky, supple texture. It comes from the Var hills where, surrounded by vines and trees, the beautiful 18th-century Château de Berne is now a 5-star hotel and spa.



# **JOHANN WOLF PINOT NOIR ROSÉ 2016\***

#### Pfalz, Germany £9.99/75cl

If you think of Germany as a white wine country, think again. It is getting into pink, too. This pale, copper-tinged Pinot Noir from the Rhine is off-dry and gently fruity with strawberry and pomegranate flavours and just a hint of spritz.



#### **PORCUPINE RIDGE ROSÉ 2016/2017** Western Cape, South Africa £7.99/75cl

A new wine from inspirational Marc Kent, the creator of the Boekenhoutskloof Winery and its iconic Chocolate Block wine. The pale copper-pink Syrah and Cinsault blend is dry and medium-bodied with juicy red-berry fruit and a hint of spice.



### **LA VIEILLE FERME 2016\***

#### Lubéron, France £7.99/75cl

A vibrant, dry, salmon-pink rosé packed with cherry, spice and a touch of orange. It's a Cinsault/Grenache/Syrah blend from the stellar 2016 vintage in the southern Rhône from the family behind Château de Beaucastel's famed Châteauneuf-du-Pape.



#### **MIRABEAU PURE 2016**

#### Côtes de Provence, France £12.99/75cl

A palest of pale rosé exuding purity and elegance through its blossomy perfume, wild-strawberry and cherry flavours and mineral undertow. It's a blend of Syrah and Grenache from sustainable vineyards sourced by English-owned Mirabeau.



# **MARQUESA DE LA CRUZ GARNACHA ROSADO 2016**

Campo de Borja, Spain £7.99/75cl

A full, dry, pretty pink rosado, brimful of raspberry, pepper, peach and vanilla flavours, a soft texture and a crisp, peppery finish. It's made by Master of Wine Norrel Robertson, known in Spain as El Escocés Volante (the flying Scotsman).



#### **RUSTENBERG PETIT VERDOT ROSÉ 2016\*** Stellenbosch, South Africa £8.99/75cl

This stands out, not just because it's from one of the great names of Cape wine and a grape variety on a roll, but because it's big, bold and dark. It's also medium-dry, with exuberant crème de cassis and raspberry flavours, off-set by spice.



#### LAS MULAS ORGANIC CABERNET SAUVIGNON ROSÉ 2016 Central Valley, Chile £9.99/75cl

Bursting with strawberry and blackcurrant flavours, this vivid, organic Chilean is as dark as rosé gets before it becomes light red. There's a hint of tannin, too, to give a suggestion of red wine chewiness and notes of fennel, currant leaf and orange. WD