

**From:** The BrightWines Beacon ~~lighthouse@brightwines.com~~  
**Subject:** full list of in-stock French wines  
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Here is the FULL LIST on in-stock French wines, compiled from the newsletters of 7/26 and 7/29 listed in four sections: Vins de Soif, a deep Dive into the Rhone, Smart-buys from classic French wine regions, and Going for the Gold with some affordable luxury! (email orders preferred)

**\*\* Vins de Soif** (thirst-quenching French wines) **\*\***

This week's New York Times article by the insightful and ever popular Eric Asimov was perfectly timed for my current wine features...  
by Eric Asimov - July 22, 2024 - NYT

**"French Wines to Drink While Watching the Olympics!** These easygoing bottles... are perfect for relaxing and just right for watching the Paris games from afar. These sorts of bright, vibrant wines are made all over the world. But, since the Olympics are in France this year, why not embrace a French theme for the wines? I've spent the last few weeks exploring thirst-quenching French wines - vins de soif as the French say. What makes a vin de soif? All good wines ought to quench thirsts, but that is this category's primary attribute. What's more, vins de soif satisfy the thirst joyously. These wines make you feel good. If you don't find these particular bottles, plenty of others will do. Good wine shops will have other options with these characteristics." (NYT 7/24/24)

**(Editor's note:** none of the particular wines in the article seem to currently have local Twin Cities availability, but included among the listings there were multiple recommendations of roses and whites and red wines from regions like **Cahors**, and the wide range of the **Loire**, and the current darling of many wine critics, the wines of **Beaujolais**. So be sure to check out the offerings from these regions that BrightWine is proud to offer as part of this feature. — Dave)

*(dry rose)* **Ferme Gicon 2023 Cotes du Rhone Rose @ \$12.99 per bottle**  
very very pale color, but quite flavorful and refreshing Rose from a leading Cotes du Rhone winery, Laudun-Chusclan

*(dry rose)* **Domaine de Millet "La Cloche" 2023 Cotes de Gascogne @ \$12.99 per bottle**  
perfectly pink and interesting varietal mix Rose from the southwest, 50% Egiodola and 50% Syrah

*(dry rose)* **Nicolas Boudeau 2023 Beaujolais Villages "Grains Rosee" @ \$19.99 per bottle**  
As noted by Wine Enthusiast about a recent previous vintage: "Vineyards in the Brouilly appellation are the source of this fragrant rosé. With touches of pepper and red-currant freshness, it is ready to drink."

*(dry/serious meets fun/easy white)* **Domaine des Lauriers 2022 Picpoul de Pinet @ \$12.99 per bottle**  
the tiny, yet famous, AOC white for seafood, clams in particular, this "lip stinger" is the Languedoc answer to Loire's Muscadet for mussels.

*(dry/serious meets fun/easy white)* **"Les Pouches" 2022 Saumur @ \$14.99 per bottle**  
100% dry Chenin Blanc from a single vineyard site in Saumur/Loire by the Cave de Saumur, independent vigneron.

*(dry/serious meets fun/easy white)* **Dopf & Irion 2022 Alsace "les Crustaces" @ \$14.99 per bottle**  
a dry fun Alsace white blend of Sylvaner and Pinot Blanc, a perennial favorite here

*(dry/serious meets fun/easy white)* **"Le Versant" 2021 Pays d'Oc Chardonnay @ \$10.97 per bottle**  
a classic example of an un-oaked Chardonnay, a bargain by way of a good Languedoc co-op winery

*(dry/serious meets fun/easy white)* **Domaine R. de la Grange (Loire) 2020 Chardonnay @ \$12.99 per bottle**  
un-oaked Chardonnay from the Loire Valley, drinks like a Macon-Villages or similar Bourgogne Blanc

*(dry/serious meets fun/easy white)* **Chateau de Grand Jean 2023 Bordeaux Blanc @ \$14.99 per bottle**  
a perennial favorite from the Entre Deux Mers region, Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc with lime zest and stoney freshness

*(French reds that are nicely complex yet easygoing too)* **Domaine Chantepierre 2023 Côtes du Rhône @ \$12.99 per bottle**  
one of my favorite value producers in the southern Rhone, we need to wait for their Tavel to arrive, but this new Rhone red defines Vin de Soif

*(French reds that are nicely complex yet easygoing too)* **Chateau Julien 2019 Bordeaux superieur @ \$14.99 per bottle**  
from the same owners as the lovely Entre Deux Mers white listed above, this classy red is a classic claret with a sense of modernity too - and it's drinking quite well right now as it enters its 5 year-old prime drinking window for this level of Bordeaux.

*(French reds that are nicely complex yet easygoing too)* **Baudry-Dutour 2022 "Amaranthe" Chinon @ \$16.67 per bottle**  
100% Cabernet Franc from four parcels selected to emphasize the lush fruit and complexity with good body, but in a very approachable style for Loire Cab Franc. A Thomas Calder selection, and a Dave-fave too.

*(French reds that are nicely complex yet easygoing too)* **Clos la Coutale 2021 Cahors @ \$17.99 per bottle**  
the original version of "Malbec" by one of the best producers in the region of Cahors, drinks like petite chateau Bordeaux made from Malbec. A Kermit Lynch import and a Dave-fave.

*(French reds that are nicely complex yet easygoing too)* **Jean-Marc Burgaud 2022 Beaujolais-Lantignie @ \$19.99 per bottle**  
"one of the region's best winemakers, Jean-Marc Burgaud" (Vinous) This is a beautiful and bright, smooth and red-fruited, juicy and flavorful Gamay from the lieu dit Lantignie, which is a Beaujolais-Villages designation from Regnie. It's a perfect modern French red Burgundy, it's from a warm and ripe good quality Burgundy/Beaujolais vintage but has elegance and dryness and is a very modest 12.5% alcohol.

*(French reds that are nicely complex yet easygoing too)* **Pascal Janvier 2023 Coteaux du Loir "cuvée Rosier" @ \$24.99 per bottle**  
Made to the north of the Loire proper using the rare red variety called Pineau d'Aunis. So light it could almost be a dark rose, but so peppery with brightness and good tannin that you know it's a red. Imagine a very dry peppery Côtes du Rhône meets a delicate Bourgogne Rouge and it might taste something like this. This Kermit Lynch import stood out at a recent importer's trunk show. 12% abv.

**\*\* Diving into the Rhone:** a pool of good Rhone red wines priced from \$15.99 - \$33.33 per bottle \*\*

The Rhone remains one of the best quality, most reasonably-priced, and most consistent wine regions in all of France. Whether blends of mostly Syrah, or mostly Grenache, or something in between, the quality to value is hard to beat. This deep dive into the Rhone features 5 fantastic wines priced from \$15.99 - \$33.33 per bottle and covers famous regions of the southern Rhone, the northern Rhone (and something in between).

**Domaine Chantepierre 2021 Lirac cotes du rhone villages @ \$15.99 per bottle**

A longtime favorite producer, of Cotes du Rhone and Tavel and Lirac (two of the three are available currently for this feature). Lirac is the Cotes du Rhone Villages region that lies across the river from Chateauneuf du Pape and is one of the original top-tier Rhone AOC designations. The 2021 vintage is a dry and lighter-bodied vintage with plenty of spice and herb to go with black cherry fruit tones.

**J.L. Chave selection 2021 Cotes du Rhone "Mon Coeur" @ \$24.99 per bottle**

Always one of the best values in the Northern Rhone as it competes with Crozes-Hermitage and St-Joseph wines rather than most Côtes du Rhône because of the greatness of Chave. Wonderful peppery qualities with classic blueberry fruit tones. **Rated 90 points by Wine Spectator**, who notes: "Dark and brooding, with a dense core of black fruit and melted black licorice set against a savory wave of salty minerality and tapenade. Singed apple wood imparts an appealing smokiness, with spicy and meaty notes playing out on the medium-length finish."

**Chateau la Canorgue 2021 Luberon @ \$21.99 per bottle**

One of the very finest producers in the Luberon, the region that stretches between Avignon and Provence. This has wonderfully classic bacon fat and leather qualities - like the traditional style Rhone producer they are and as the label suggests.

**Guy Farge "Terroir de Granit" 2018 St-Joseph @ \$33.33 per bottle**

100% Syrah from the northern Rhone, just now entering its prime drinking years. **Rated 91-93 points** Wine Advocate, who notes: "Farge's 2018 Saint Joseph Terroir de Granit is really ripe and plush, yet it still shows elements of granitic restraint to its opulent black cherry fruit. It's full-bodied and supple yet with great focus and a long, silky finish." Also rated 90 points by Rhone expert Jeb Dunnuck, who says "**Lots of smoky blue and black fruits, violets, bouquet garni, and pepper emerge from the 2018 Saint Joseph Terroir De Granit.** Coming all from granite soils and brought up mostly in used oak, it's medium-bodied and has plenty of obvious minerality, good purity of fruit, and a lengthy finish... will drink nicely for a decade. 90+ points."

**Bertrand Stehelin 2021 Gigondas @ \$29.99 per bottle**

This is a 'special purchase' at a very nice discount from the importer (Alain Junguenet). **Rated 91 points Wine Spectator "Silky mulled plum and peppercorn notes are generous"** from vines that are between 70 and 90 years old. Gigondas competes with Chateauneuf-du-Pape and often offers better value despite the top-tier prices and ratings.

**\*\* Smart-buys from classic wine regions of France and French styles (often copied, but never duplicated) \*\***

Looking for a range of wines priced from \$11.67 to \$22.50 per bottle, from Bordeaux, and the Loire, and Burgundy, and Provence, and more!

*(powerful Sauvignon Blanc by a top Sancerre winery)* **Fournier 2021 Menetou-Salon "Cotes de Morogues" @ \$19.99 per bottle**

This is a fraction of the price of this producer's Sancerre, and over-delivers compared to most Loire Sauvignon Blanc.

*(the original bargain red blends)* **Chateau Galochet 2018 Bordeaux @ \$11.99 per bottle** (wood case, \$139.99 per case)

last two cases of this "classic claret" from a previous offer

*(the original bargain red blends)* **Fortant Grand Terroirs 2017 Saint Chinian @ \$12.99 per bottle** (Languedoc Syrah/Grenache/Mourvedre)

**Rated 90 points Decanter:** "50% Syrah, 25% Grenache, 25% Mourvedre. Tasting notes: Lithe aromas of plum juice, violets and liquorice, with a palate based on fine-grained tannins supporting vanilla, chocolate, spice and aromatic fruits. Dave says, this is a great **bargain option for fans of the more earthy styles of Rhone wines** listed above, and is drinking at maturity too.

*(classic example of un-unoaked Chardonnay)* **Famille Gueguen 2020 Bourgogne Blanc "Cotes Salines" @ \$19.99 per bottle**

This is the poor-mans Chablis made by a very good true Chablis winery from the "salty hills" (or chalky perhaps) of the Cotes Salines, a similar terroir to Chablis and from a ripe and round vintage of White Burgundy.

*(often copied, never duplicated)* **Gassier "Esprit" 2023 Cotes de Provence Rose @ \$21.99 per bottle**

**Rated 91 points by Vinous** "The 2023 Esprit Gassier is bright, vibrant, and juicy... it jumps from the glass with beautiful pineapple, blood orange, grapefruit, and crushed rock aromas. A fresh cherry juice tartness coats the mouth, while lovely minerality lends complexity."

*(bone-dry "Graves" style of white Bordeaux)* **Chateau Reynon 2020 Bordeaux Blanc - Sauvignon Blanc @ \$17.99 per bottle**

From one of the more famous of the Premieres Cotes de Bordeaux (across the river from Graves). Rated 89-90 points by James Suckling AND by Wine Spectator, who notes: "Juicy and direct, with a **mouthwatering burst of lemon peel, thyme and gooseberry notes that crackle through the finish.** Drink now."

*(red Burgundy)* **Gregoire Hoppenot "Origines" 2022 Fleurie @ \$22.50 per bottle** (\$270/case)

In this day and age, and by official French recognition, the Cru Beaujolais are fully considered red Burgundy, and this is especially true of the wines of Fleurie. This is **very classy, and very complex, and drinks like it's a poor-mans fruit-forward Pommard (I'd say Volnay, but I don't want to start debate)** Regardless, red Burgundy aficionados need to check this out.

**\*\* Going for the Gold:** Affordable Luxury from France, top-rated and serious, but very approachable and very affordable \*\*

Simply put, all of the wines on this list are truly great wines, with high ratings, and from serious producers. You can call them "Dave's Top Picks" if you like, because these are some of the very best wines I tasted in consideration for this feature, and I have made every effort to find wines that are top-rated and serious, but also very approachable and affordable.

*(100% Pinot Noir, a light but fully flavorful red)* **Roland Tissier 2021 Sancerre rouge @ \$29.99 per bottle**

very rare to see, but in recent years many of the 100% Pinot Noir Sancerre rouge have been better values than many Bourgogne Rouge Pinot Noir, and that is especially true in the 2021 vintage!

*(25% off retail)* **NOMINE-RENARD Brut Champagne @ \$44.99 per bottle**

Suggested Retail: \$59.99 This Nomine-Renard "Brut Nomine" cuvee is a textbook blending of 40/30/30 Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier using reserve wines and cave aging for some classic "wow factor." **Wine Spectator rated 91 points** "Firm and focused, with a rich, smoky hint of toasted brioche carried on a lively bead and layered with more subtle notes of white peach, spun honey, lemon confit and pastry." **SOLID 6-pack OFFER at 33% off retail... a net per bottle of \$39.99** (\$239.94/6pk)

*(back in stock, but very limited)* **Joseph Drouhin 2022 "Vaudon" Chablis @ \$32.50 per bottle** (\$195/6pk)

15 bottles available, a true Chablis and a truly great white Burgundy from a great vintage and a famous winery, a previous customer and event favorite!

**Chateau Bernard Magrez 2019 Saint Estephe @ \$44.99 per bottle** (\$479.88/case = **\$39.99 ea mix/match**)

Rated 94 points by Decanter "this estate, purchased in 2006 by Bernard Magrez and renamed from Château le Peyre. A serious wine, with an emphasis on tightly-knitted cassis fruits. An absolutely beautiful whoosh of juicy menthol comes in from mid palate onwards, and a tight tannic crush on the finish that suggests this is going to age well. It's big shouldered, as all Magrez wines are, but this is **a welcome addition to the St Estèphe landscape. 94 points.**" Rated 93 points by Vinous: "The 2019 Bernard Magrez was impressive from barrel. Since it was bottled in June 2021, the nose has revealed more red fruit, though it's still quite loamy and maybe a tad more plush than before. The palate is medium-bodied and very pure, with pliant tannins, well-judged acidity and a nicely detailed, silky-smooth finish that lingers. This is about as sensual a Saint-Estèphe wine as you will find in this vintage." This wine **also rated between 92-93 points by JS, RP, JD**, among others too!

**Chateau Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalande 2018 Haut Medoc @ \$29.99 per bottle**

Made by a Margaux 2nd growth, from a nearby vineyard and Chateau but to the same quality standards. (this is not a "second label" wine) This was awarded a Platinum medal from Decanter magazine, and rated 91-93 points by three different American and European wine magazines. The "en primeur" or futures price a few years ago would have been \$21 and now the current average retail is \$35. Nowadays, at \$29.99 per bottle, this is underpriced!! **Wine Enthusiast magazine "Editors Choice"** noting: "This wine from northern Haut-Médoc is produced by the same team as classed growth Château Rauzan-Gassies in Margaux. It is richly fruity, pushing the density and alcohol but drawing back with the acidity and bright black-currant flavors. **Drink this wine from 2024. 91 points.**"

*(the other famous Loire Sauvignon Blanc)* **Domaine Roger Pabiot 2022 Pouilly Fume @ \$29.99 per bottle**

Drinks like a great Sancerre with more mineral/stony qualities, or like a Graves with more body and richness. This was very good in 2021, and is great again in 2022.

*(Cabernet Franc does not get any better than this)* **Filiatreau "La Grande Vignolle" 2020 Saumur-Champigny @ \$21.99 per bottle**

Old vines Loire Valley Cabernet Franc, for the purists this is hard to top. **Rated 91 points by Wine Enthusiast and also rated 92+ by John Gilman**, who says: "offering up a deep and beautifully sappy bouquet of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cigar ash, chalky tuffeau soils, juniper berries, a touch of tree bark and a floral topnote of peonies. On the palate the wine is ripe, full-bodied, focused and complex, with a gorgeous core of fruit, good soil signature and grip, chewy tannins and a long, precise and well balanced finish. To my palate, this still remains fairly youthful and I would not hesitate to bury it in the cellar for another five or six years and let its tannins soften up more, though there is such lovely fruit in the wine today that it is pretty easy to drink already."

**The Right Wines are BrightWines!**

2420 Margaret Street  
North Saint Paul, MN 55109