

Best of the reds

In the second of her guides to the finest in festive drinking, *Jancis Robinson* recommends reds

The single best tip for red wine value is to head straight for the exceptional 2007 Rhônes, which are still very much with us. You can also take advantage of the deals that have resulted from how difficult it is to sell less glamorous red Bordeaux. This is very much a UK-based selection. Alas, American wine is rarely a bargain on this side of the Atlantic. Find international stockists at www.winesearcher.com.

Borsao, Gran Tesoro 2008 Campo de Borja
Drink 2009
Light, simple, super-clean Garnacha (the Grenache of Châteauneuf-du-Pape) over-delivers. Excellent value. 13.5%
£3.54 Tesco, Spar

Jacques Boyer, Lou Tribe 2007 Vin de Pays des Côtes de Thongue
Drink 2009-2010
Pure, ripe and spicy. Easy but not simple. Warmish finish, though the stated alcohol is 12.5%. His *Nogareda, Cuvée Charles 2006* at £5.95 is almost as good value.
£5.50 Lea & Sandeman

Marqués de Mejía 2007 Rioja
Drink 2009-2010
Rich, round, very vibrant. Not necessarily like the Riojas of old but great over-delivery of brawny fruit for the money. 13%
£5.95 Wine Society

Vignerons de Roquemaure, Rocca Maura 2007 Vin de Pays du Gard
Drink 2009
Easy, fresh, lively blend of southern French grape varieties with 30% Bordeaux varieties, showing the determination of



Oddbins' buyers to provide something different. A particularly smooth texture from this superior co-op. 14.5%
£5.99 or £4.79 in a mixed case Oddbins

O Fournier, Urban Malbec 2007 Mendoza
Drink 2009-2012
Scented, nutty Argentine with real interest. Lots of pure fruit and attractive bite on the finish. This is real wine! Excellent value. 14.5%
£6.99 or £5.59 in a mixed case Oddbins

Anaketa, Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2008 Rapel
Drink 2010-2011

Intense Chilean bargain with a pure nose and some cappuccino richness on the palate.
From £7.45 Noel Young, Halifax Wine, Hawkshead Wines

St-Désirat, 2007 St-Joseph
Drink 2009-2013
Wonderfully pure north Rhône Syrah. The St-Désirat co-op seems to be on top form at present, with the 2006 as impressive as the 2007. Very good value at this special offer price. 12.5%
£8.99 Waitrose until January 5

El Escoces Volants, Manga del Brujo 2007 Calatayud
Drink 2010-2013

Master of Wine Norrel Robertson's joint venture with San Gregorio, taking advantage of old Garnacha vines. Sweet and rich and flattering.
£9.99 Cambridge Wine Merchants, £10.50 Planet of the Grapes

Ch Fonréaud 2004 Llistrac-Médoc
Drink 2009-2014
Smart-looking cru bourgeois reduced from £14.99. Relatively plump for a Llistrac 2004.



£10.99 Co-operative superstores until January 3

Viña do Campo Mencía 2008 Ribeiro

Drink 2009-2012
Aromatic and lingering raspberry fruit from this fashionable grape native to north-west Spain. 12.5%
£11.95 Lea & Sandeman

Morala, Pietracupa 2007 Bolgheri

Drink 2009-2012
Posh provenance. Posh wine for Sainsbury's. Very attractive warm claret. Mediterranean but very French in structure. Pretty good buy. 13.5%
£11.99 Sainsbury's, 220 stores

Achaval Ferrer Malbec 2007 Mendoza

Drink 2009-2013
Tremendous clarity of fruit - really finely-honed red fruits. Very versatile and moreish from an admired producer. 13.5%
£12.49 Corney & Barrow, £13.50 Winedirect.co.uk

Tenuta di Capezzana, Barco Reale 2007 Carmignano

Drink 2009-2012
This bargain ticks all the boxes: real lift with lovely fragrance, freshness and balance. Super-appetising blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Tuscany's own own Canaiolo. 13.5%
£12.50 Jeroboams

Krutzler Blaufränkisch 2007 Südburgenland

Drink 2008-2010
Heady, rich, like crushed elderberries. Very supple and velvety Austrian with real appeal. 13%
£12.95 Wine Society

Yves Cuilleron, Signé Syrah 2007 Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes

Drink 2008-2010
Very polished and



savoury from a Condrieu king - very suave indeed. Racy, bone dry, luscious, polished and sinewy. Already lots of pleasure. Too light to have a very long life, I suspect. 12.5%
£12.95 Wine Society

Luciano Sandrone 2007 Dolcetto d'Alba

Drink 2008-2011
Bursting with fruit and the perfume of Piedmont in north-west Italy. Almost irresistible. 14.5%
£12.99 Noel Young, AG Wines

Domaine Cordoliani 2004 Patrimonio

Drink 2008-2012
Pale rose colour from Corsica's Niellucciu grape. Very gentle, floral and mellifluous - lovely stuff! Exciting and persistent. 14.5%
£14.90 Theatre of Wine

Dom St-Gayan 2001 Gigondas

Drink 2009-2012
Rare to find a wine with such bottle age on the market, from a great southern Rhône vintage. Surprisingly elegant for a Gigondas. 14%
£17.50 Yapp Bros

Ch Tour du Haut-Moulin 2000 Haut-Médoc

Drink 2007-2015
Subtle nose with very fine texture and real succulence. Like so many 2000s, lovely claret for current drinking. 12.5%
£19 Wine Society

Pavillon de Poyferré 2005 St-Julien

Drink 2009-2015
Produced by Ch Léoville Poyferré in this stunning vintage and much more forward than the grand vin. A restrained take on 2005 with taut fruit purity and length. 13%
£19.99 Majestic

Ch Cantemerle 2000 Haut-Médoc



Cinsault 3%. Seriously good South African red with real confidence and complexity. 14.5%
£22.95 Handford, also www.eWine.eu

Renato Ratti, Marcenasco 2005 Barolo

Drink 2009-2014
This wine, available in relatively limited quantities, would be great with Christmas dinner. Very lively and refreshing. Really quite heartening to find this in mass distribution - in theory. 14%
£25 larger M&S stores

Kilikanoon, Duke Grenache 2006 Clare Valley

Drink 2010-2016
Sweet, fresh and juicy with excellent balance. The best Australian Grenache to have come my way.
£27.95 winedirect.co.uk

Uccelliera, Rapace 2006 IGT Toscana

Drink 2009-2015
Scented and seductive. Polished and lively. Very fine and well balanced.
£28 Planet of the Grapes

Umatham, Ried Hallebühl 2004 Burgenland

Drink 2008-2012
Proof that Austria's reds are catching up with the whites. Mainly Zweigelt grapes. Polished and super smooth. Very winning. What a treat to be offered this at such a mature stage. 13%
£33 Huntsworth Wine, Winebear.com

Ch Marbuzet 2003 St-Estèphe

Drink 2008-2014
Many 2003 red Bordeaux are uncomfortably overblown and tough but this, from Ch Cos d'Estournel, is a delicious exception just starting to drink well now. Serious stuff.



its Pichon Lalande lookalike label and nov stands on its own two extremely accomplished feet. Spicy, lively with integrity and persistence. Such intelligent winemaking. Knockers of Austral wine should be for this, lucky things. It's not given away though. 14%
£45 Jeroboams

Dom Sylvain Cathis Clos de l'Orme 2002 Chambolle-Musigny

Drink 2009-2015
50+-year-old vines. I drink Great precision. Dry finish. Great balance.
£53.95 Roberson

Dom des Comtes Lafon, Santenots du Milieu Premie Cru 2006 Volnay

Drink 2009-2016
The best Côte de Beaune re a recent extensive blind tasting. Lip-smackingly satisfying and ready to enjoy.
£59.95 Noel Young

Ch Lynch Bages 1990 Pauill

Drink 2004-2014
An old favourite at the peak of its powers. Or go for the gorgeous Ch Cheval Blanc 1990 if the budget can stretch to a bottle.
£700 a bottle. £160 Nickolls & Perks and others

Next week: champagne a sparkling wine

Stockists

- Agwines.com
- Ballantynes.co.uk
- Cambridgewine.com
- Co-operative.coop
- Corney-barrow.co.uk
- Ewine.eu
- Grandvin.co.uk
- Halifaxwinecompany.co.uk
- Handford.net
- Hawksheadwines.co.uk/Highburyvintners.co.uk

