

LIGHTER WINES FOR SUMMER DRINKING

After tasting more than 280 wines at his Hampshire home, **Peter Richards MW** has picked out his 78 top reds and whites with 12.5% alcohol or less, and priced at under £20 – perfect choices to enjoy during the warmer days and evenings

Though I'm not in the habit of reciting poetry to bottles of wine, frequently during this intriguing tasting I could sense the famous opening lines of Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 springing to my lips: *'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate.'*

Because that's exactly what I was looking for: wines that were lovely. As I started the tasting, I pondered: what do we really want in a summer wine? Loveliness certainly. But there's a lot more to it than that. When it's warm, you want a wine to seduce you with its bright, vivacious charm. This is not the season for shades of nuance and intricate subtlety. These are wines to seize the day!

In the idealised vision, summer is about warmth, holidays and al fresco eating. We reach for wines to slake our thirst, to refresh and revive our senses. For this, the best wines are fresh and invigorating in style – and those that show well even when chilled (*see box*).

Wines that aren't too high in alcohol are important in this context. The risk of dehydration, as well as sleeping poorly, means that quaffing high-alcohol wine is a risky game in warm weather. Affordability also counts, so you can properly enjoy yourself without feeling guilty. That's why we specified a price range of £8-£20 (US\$10-\$25) and a maximum alcohol level of 12.5% on the label for this tasting. Did this make it harder for the reds to shine? Perhaps – though there's surely no shortage these days of easygoing reds majoring on lower alcohol and fresh flavours.

What's more, the food we eat changes in summer: we prioritise simpler, fresher flavours. The wines that make a cheery partner for those foods naturally share the same kind of character: keen, crunchy, forthright. But of course summer isn't all about blazing sun and beaches. Sometimes it's miserable. So there's also a place for wines to warm the cockles and comfort the soul.

Our focus is on white and red here; you won't find any rosé – *Decanter* has covered

'When it's warm, you want a wine to seduce you with its bright, vivacious charm... These are wines to seize the day!'

those wines extensively in the magazine and online recently. Some of the more easily comparable wines I tasted blind, the rest I tasted non-blind. We'd expected to get about 80 samples but the final tasting numbered not far off 300 bottles, so the standard of my final selection is high.

These are wines to be relished – perhaps tucked into a car boot en route to a staycation retreat, or just savoured at home. And while enjoying them, we may let ourselves believe Shakespeare's line that *'eternal summer shall not fade'*.



Peter Richards MW is a wine writer and author, and the DWWA Regional Chair for Chile

Top tips for summer serving



■ **Chill whites in the fridge, but take them out 10 minutes before serving.**

■ **Good summer reds should be served at 10°C-16°C (50°F-60°F). That's significantly cooler than many a summer's day, so don't be afraid to pop them in the fridge for 30 minutes before serving if the weather's warm.**

■ **For rapid cooling, submerging a bottle in a mixture of smashed ice and water is best. One alternative to ice cubes is to freeze a few whole grapes, then you can pop those in your wine glass without fear of dilution.**

■ **Be wary of dehydration when it's warm – drink lots of water, and ideally eat food with a high water content too.**

■ **We specified a maximum alcohol level of 12.5% on the label for this tasting. It's worth noting that the actual alcohol level in the bottle can vary, depending on tolerances allowed within local legislation. For example, a wine in the EU labelled as 12.5% can be as high as 13%; the same wine in the US can be as high as 13.5%.**

1 Dönnhoff, Oberhäuser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett, Nahe, Germany 2016 94

£17.17-£19.75 Exel, Justerini & Brooks
Is there a more perfect summer wine than this? Its thrilling combination of ethereal grace with steely tension is hard to better – a ballet dancer of a wine, underpinned by vivid green-apple acidity suffused with fleshy succulence typical of great Kabinett wines. Dönnhoff's emphasis on purity and precision shines through, as does the Leistenberg vineyard's minerality and elegance. **Drink 2020-2030 Alcohol 9%**

2 Fabrizio Vella, Catarratto, Sicily, Italy 2018 93

£14.99 Alliance Wine, Define Food & Wine, Valhalla's Goat
This bold, complex and utterly engaging white was a real find in this tasting and went straight to the top of the shopping list. From its golden hue to the engaging aromas of glazed peach and tangy, dry, pithy palate profile, it's not for the faint-hearted. There's a touch of gently oxidative marmalade and ginger too, but it's elegantly done. Brings sunshine into any day – organic, and great value too. **Drink 2020-2024 Alc 11%**

3 Kim Crawford, Small Parcels Spitfire Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 93

£16.35-£19.99 (2018) Exel, KWM, Luvians, Martinez Wines, Vinvm, WoodWinters
Fresh, crunchy, unashamedly summery Sauvignon Blanc was always going to feature prominently here. This is precise yet energetic, tangy but with complex lime, nettle, curry leaf, gooseberry and anis notes. It's dry, linear and long – a food-friendly style ideal for salads or goat's cheese. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12%**



4 Plan B! Wines, OD Riesling, Frankland River, Western Australia 2017 93

£14.50 Lanchester Wines
If the Andrex puppy came with a bottle rather than loo roll in its mouth, this would be the wine. A beautifully upbeat, fresh, pure, engaging Riesling brimming with green apple and lime flavours, and a wonderfully well-judged, off-dry palate. It got better over time and worked with all kinds of food from monkfish curry to butternut squash and sage risotto. Utterly refreshing. **Drink 2020-2025 Alc 10.4%**

5 Domaine Chavy-Chouet, Les Petits Poiriers Bourgogne Aligoté, Burgundy, France 2018 92

£17-£18.99 Roberson, The Solent Cellar
A rewarding white that conjours up the sights, sounds and scents of Burgundy's glorious Côte d'Or. It's ambitious and beautifully made, with lemony acidity offset by gently creamy, yeasty flavours and a creamy texture. Subtle hints also of lemongrass and warm earth. Even at this price it's a bargain, and great with fish stew to boot. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 11.5%**

6 Feudo Disisa, Lu Bancu, Monreale, Sicily, Italy 2018 92

£18.95 Jeroboams
Give this wine time to work its magic on you. Initially it can come across as slightly surly, with its earthy, woolly, anise and yellow fruit aromas. But on the palate it slowly unfurls, revealing wonderful structure, grip and tang. Over time in the glass it just gets better and better: a complex and multi-faceted white that's sunny and sumptuous but also refreshing. **Drink 2020-2024 Alc 12% ➤**

7 Kelly Washington, Organic Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2017 92

£19.95 Jeroboams
‘Not your average Marlborough Sauvignon’, the blurb says. Tasting blind, I had this firmly in the upper Loire, given the woodsmoke, lime, gunflint, wet wool and honey aromas and dry, pithy, complex palate profile whose generous texture hinted at the use of old oak. This bottle divided opinion in our household. But it was one to keep coming back to, improving over time and pairing well with food. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 12.5%**

8 Framingham, Classic Riesling, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 91

£14.35-£16.99 Bottle Apostle, Cork of the North, Dvine Cellars, Exel, Fine Wines of Mayfield, KWM, Majestic, No2 Pound Street, The NZ House of Wine, The Whisky Exchange, Tivoli Wines
Pure, balanced, perfectly summery Riesling made by masters of this particular craft. Times are changing at Framingham after head winemaker and Riesling virtuoso Dr Andrew Hedley left in December, but this wine demonstrates the art of deftly marrying bright (green apple) fruit with a gentle honeyed richness and a subtle insistence. Understated but winning. **Drink 2020-2025 Alc 12%**

9 Schlumberger, Les Prince Abbés Riesling, Alsace, France 2016 91

£15.19-£17.95 Hedonism, Partridges, The Drink Shop, The Stroud Wines Co, Toscanaccio
There are some wines that just get you excited, and this is one of those. Bright, pure aromas range from red apple to elderflower, honey and even lychee. On the palate it’s broad, fresh, mineral and dry, with a gentle texture and touch of spice on the finish. Wonderful line and structure from this historic Alsace producer. **Drink 2020-2024 Alc 12.5%**

13 Casa Silva, Cool Coast Sauvignon Gris, Paredones, Colchagua, Chile 2018 90

£12.99-£14.95 Amps, Cheers, DeBurgh, Palmers Wine Store, Penistone Wine Cellars, Roberts & Speight
Sauvignon Gris is like a cross between the tangy green flavours of Sauvignon Blanc and the honeyed richness of Pinot Gris. Chile does a fine line in it and this is an engaging, fresh yet complex style with notes of roasted peas, honey and anise from the coastal vineyards of Paredones. Vibrant. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

14 Gianni Tessari, Monte Tenda, Soave Classico, Veneto, Italy 2018 90

£14.95 Jeroboams
There’s Soave and there’s Soave. Ditch the bland, infinitely forgettable stuff and reach instead for this lemony, peachy, leesy Soave that’s bursting with character and charm. Hints of tangerine rind and a serious texture make it very food-friendly and engaging. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**

15 Langlois-Chateau, Sancerre, Loire, France 2018 90

£16-£19 Bon Coeur, D’Arcy Wine Merchants, Divine Fine Wines, Jaded Palates, RD Wines
Pristine aromas of nettles, fresh lime and gooseberry emerge in stately fashion from this elegantly rendered Sauvignon. Langlois-Chateau is based in Saumur but makes wines from all across the Loire. This Sancerre is serious and dry, with fresh acidity and stony, lime-streaked flavours. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12%**



10 Yealands, Sauvignon Blanc, Awatere Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 91

£9.50 Co-op, Majestic, Sainsbury’s, Spar
Looking for a summer Sauvignon bargain? Look no further. Tasted blind, this is classy, grassy, mineral Sauvignon that punches well above its weight. Elegant notes of roasted pepper, gooseberry and woodsmoke. Restrained but intense, not at all shouty: grown-up and food friendly. A beautiful expression of the Awatere region. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

11 Zanut, Rebula, Goriška Brda, Slovenia 2017 91

£15.95 Stone Vine & Sun
Father and son Franc and Borut run this family winery in the western Slovenian region that is effectively an extension of Italy’s Collio region in Friuli. Rebula, or Ribolla Gialla, is the star local grape and here renders a rugged, intriguing wine full of earthy, musky, orange-rind complexity. Rich, full and complex with underlying freshness and minerality. Voluminous and heart-warming: a white with the soul of a red. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 12.5%**

12 Bouchard Père & Fils, La Vignée Bourgogne Chardonnay, Burgundy, France 2016 90

£16.75 Penistone Wine Cellars, Rodney Fletcher, Vinvm
Blend an elegant Chablis with a richer Mâcon, give it a touch of age, and you get something like this. Red apple and mealy flavours with refreshing acidity and a creamy texture, a touch of tea leaf and hay complexity. Classic but accessible white Burgundy. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

16 Mt Difficulty, Target Gully Medium Riesling, Bannockburn, Central Otago, New Zealand 2017 90

£18.99 The Wine Reserve
An accessible summery Riesling that marries refreshing appley acidity with generous fruit succulence and sweetness. The result is an off-dry style that is bright and engaging, with flavours of green pear and toffee apple. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 10.4%**

17 Pascal Jolivet, Attitude Sauvignon Blanc, Loire, France 2018 90

£12.99 Waitrose Cellar
This is pretty decent value for a complex, cultured Loire Sauvignon with notes of roasted citrus, candle wax and fresh peas. The generous texture, gentle hints of raw butter and spicy finish give it character and intrigue. A serious, mineral style with plenty of wine for the price. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12.5%**

18 André & Michel Quenard, Les Eboulis de la Savoyarde, Chignin, Savoie, France 2018 89

£15 Roberson
Could anything be more refreshing than a crisp white from French alpine country? Michel Quenard makes characterful wines from his quality-focused family domaine, and this Jacquère has a rare density and weight, a lovely stewed apple and raw yoghurt character. A lovely food wine, ideal with a hunk of comté cheese. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 11.5%** ➤

19 Brancott Estate, Flight Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 89

£9.50 Asda, Ocado, Sainsbury's
Gluggability and value for money are important in wine and this one ticks all the boxes. Flight is Brancott's lower-alcohol range, for which fruit is picked earlier, hence the 9% alcohol – it's made using specific techniques to produce a balanced wine. Tasted blind, this held its own admirably among classic Marlborough Sauvignons with its fresh, engaging character of passion fruit and green citrus fruits. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 9%**

20 Camille & Laurent Schaller, Chablis, Burgundy, France 2018 89

£20 Roberson
Laurent (father) and Camille (son) Schaller are based in the village of Préhy and this is a characterful, elegant Chablis for the summer. Inviting aromas of ripe green apple and glazed cream lead into a generously textured, refined palate that sits elegantly on the tongue positively inviting food, like a canvas awaiting paint. Delicious with all kinds of seafood. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 12.5%**

21 Casa de Vila Nova, Alvarinho, Vinho Verde, Portugal 2018 89

£12 Amps, Cork of the North, WoodWinters
Vinho Verde is another summer classic white and, while it's perhaps not as commonly seen on the dining table as it once was, the region's best producers are making brilliant wines. This single-varietal Alvarinho is juicy, invigorating and uplifting, with lovely pear, mineral and glazed apple flavours. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

25 Domaine de la Bretonnière, Cuvée Prestige, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sur Lie, Loire, France 2019 89

£10-£12 Le Vignoble, Tamar Selections
Whatever happened to Muscadet?! Well, it's still there, still doing a job, even if we fickle drinkers wander restlessly elsewhere with our eyes and glasses. This pale, pleasantly frank and refreshing whiststealsacrossyourpalateliketheghost of an apple dipped in salt water. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**

26 Keith Tulloch, Latara Semillon, Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia 2018 89

£16.99 D Byrne & Co, Wine Unearthed
A young and unbridled expression of Hunter Semillon from the Latara vineyard in Pokolbin, which regularly produces wines of 'very striking personality', according to its maker. Vivid aromas of green apple rind, fresh herbs and lemongrass lead into a tangy, slightly spicy, very dry flavour profile. Elegance and expression combined. **Drink 2020-2029 Alc 10.5%**

27 Kilikanoon, Mort's Block Riesling, Clare Valley, South Australia 2016 89

£18.50 Oz Wines, Salut Wines, Taylor's Fine Wine
This bone-dry, brightly flavoured Clare Riesling grabs you by the lapels and gives you a vigorous shake. It's a classic lime-and-green-apple combo with some petrol hints from age. Flirts with austerity, but put it with a tuna steak and it mellows. **Drink 2020-2025 Alc 12.5%**



19 20 21 22 23 24

22 Casa de Vila Nova, Loureiro, Vinho Verde, Portugal 2019 89

£9.30-£11.99 Cellar Selected, Cork of the North, TJ Wines, Wines of Interest, WoodWinters
A richer style than this producer's Alvarinho (see No21) but still with the lively crunch and spritz you'd expect of good Vinho Verde. Rich apple and pear flavours, intense, rounded and fleshy with a touch of dried apricot on the finish. A delicious aperitif or one for lighter Persian style food. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**

23 Casa Silva, Riesling, Lago Ranco, Patagonia, Chile 2017 89

£19 Palmers Wine Store
Chilean Riesling at £19! Ah, but this isn't the Chile of old: Casa Silva's Lago Ranco vineyard is a steep hillside beside a stunning, icy lake in the country's deep south. Both vineyard and wine broach new ground for Chile, and this is a tense, serious, refined Riesling that's dry but succulent and will benefit from time in the bottle. **Drink 2020-2026 Alc 11.5%**

24 Cave de l'Ormarine, La Viste, Picpoul de Pinet, Languedoc, France 2018 89

£9.95 Jeroboams
Ah, Picpoul. What would we do without it? Such a reliably good-value white, versatile and friendly. This is a slightly richer style than normal, with some nutty, mealy complexity on top of the usual appley, lemony freshness and herbal notes. Glug, glug, glug. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12.5%**



25 26 27 28 29 30

28 La Perrière, La Petite Perrière Sauvignon Blanc, Vin de France 2019 89

£9.90-£10.95 Red Pebble, Satchells, Tate Smith
A richly textured but elegant Loire Sauvignon that reveals notes of roasted citrus, gunflint and wet wool. It's juicy, dry and food-friendly, but it also has an exotic note and touch of spice too. Good value. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**

29 Luis Felipe Edwards, Macerao, Itata, Chile 2019 89

£8 Matthew Clark
An 'orange' style Moscatel from Itata, Chile's southerly land of historic vineyards, this is characterful without being over-the-top. Exotic aromas of orange marmalade, kumquat and ginger biscuit lead into a dry but succulent palate with a touch of phenolic grip from the skins ('Macerao' refers to skin maceration). Summer fun for fans of something... completely different. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12.5%**

30 Maison Ventenac, Les Dissidents Candide, Vin de France 2019 89

£19.50 James Nicholson
A Chenin Blanc from the Languedoc that's between Loire and South Africa in style. Aromas of glazed peach and apple then leesy weight and roasted herb complexity on the palate. Works well: clean and dry with a rounded, creamy texture – easy drinking but classy. Gets better the next day and is delicious with fish stew. It has a silly heavy bottle and is quite pricey, but is nicely done! **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

31 McPherson Wine Company, Bella Luna Fiano, Victoria, Australia 2018 89

£10.25 Lanchester Wines
What a Fiano! Australia is doing a great job with its newly adopted Mediterranean varieties and this Victorian example blew the Italian versions out of the water when tasted blind. Tons of fruit – melon and peach, with a touch of honey – and then a dry, serious, food-friendly palate with a hint of apricot and wax on the finish. Fantastic value. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12.5%



31

32 Mud House, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 89

£9.50 Asda, Morrisons, Ocado, Tesco, Waitrose
Another big-brand Sauvignon that came good when tasted blind against wines from all over the world. Elegant flavours of lime pith, gooseberries and green apple rind. Flows discreetly across the palate – refreshing, food-friendly, really easygoing for summer. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%



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33 Mylonas Winery, Malagousia, Attica, Aegean, Greece 2019 89

£13.60 Maltby & Greek
Greek wine totally deserves a place on your summer table and this perfumed, exotic Malagousia is a great point of departure. It has that wonderful Greek ability to marry striking scents (here, orange pith, rose petal and fresh grapes) with a dry, invigorating, mineral and food-friendly palate profile. Get that calamari on the barbecue. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 12.5%



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34 Pewsey Vale, Riesling, Eden Valley, South Australia 2018 89

£15-£17 Australian Wines Online, Hennings, Specialist Cellars
A classic name in Australian Riesling and a complex, stylish wine to match. Dry and invigorating but also notably complex. Heady aromas of baked red apple, honeysuckle and clotted cream. One for seared scallops or a squash and rosewater tagine. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Alc** 12%

35 René Lequin-Colin, Back to the Roots Bourgogne Chardonnay, Burgundy, France 2017 89

£19.50 (2018) Stone Vine & Sun
Some Burgundies play it safe, all discretion and understatement. This wine is not one of those. It's as if someone challenged the winemaker to 'get as many flavours of fresh butter, red apple and honey into a dry wine'. It positively brims with golden flavour and rich texture. There's a lot of wine here if you like this engagingly sunny style. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%

36 Rouvalis Winery, Asproliithi, Patras, Peloponnese, Greece 2019 89

£12 Maltby & Greek
A white of freshness and refinement made from the Roditis grape variety in the north of the Peloponnese region. Lemon pith and white peach flavours infuse this dry, mineral white that's ideal with seafood. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12%

37 Tesco, Finest Riesling, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 89

£8 Tesco
Another great-value summery Riesling that's both easygoing and refreshing but also offers a complexity and charm that belies its price. Made by Indevin, this well-rounded white shows flavours of red apple and cumin spice along with a generous texture and finely balanced finish. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 11.5%



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38 The Crossings, Gruner Veltliner, Awatere Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand 2017 89

£13.45-£14.25 Edencroft, Jaded Palates, Oz Wines, Salut Wines, Slurp, Taylor's Fine Wine
A wine that dares to be different, and does it in style. Austria's signature white grape has made an excellent debut in New Zealand and this peachy, mineral version with a hint of white pepper is mouthfilling and moreish. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 12.5%



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39 Abadal, Blanc, Pla de Bages, Catalonia, Spain 2018 88

£15.49 Latin Wines Online
A summery, juicy blend from Catalonia's Pla de Bages appellation majoring on the local Picapoll (genetically very close to Languedoc's Clairette variety) with Macabeo and Chardonnay. Refreshing lemony apple flavours with hints of wax, herbs and anis. A nice combination of freshness and roundness, with a bit of a difference. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%



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42

41 Cave du Haut Pitou, Le Bois de la Tour, Haut Pitou, Loire, France 2018 88

£11.95 Morgenrot
There are frivolous summer wines and serious summer wines – this is one of the latter. A fairly stern line of citric acidity flows from start to finish, with gooseberry, mineral and herbal hints by way of light relief. Very long, very linear, one to accompany grilled prawns. Dare to be different. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12%

42 Domaine d'Elise, Frédéric Prain, Petit Chablis, Burgundy, France 2018 88

£17.95 Davy's
Domaine d'Elise owns 13ha of vines just outside the town of Chablis, one big plot divided evenly into one half Chablis, one half Petit Chablis. The wines are made in a traditional style and this Petit Chablis shows classic notes of apple and creamy lees. One for fresh seafood and shellfish. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12% ➤

43 Domaine de la Bretonnière, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sur Lie, Loire, France 2019 88

£10 **Reserve Wines**
Very pale, with subtle whitecurrant and salty flavours, this is a summer white to chill and enjoy as an aperitif or with some simple, fresh flavours like oysters or prawns. If you're a Pinot Grigio fan, try this instead. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**

44 Domaine de la Combe, P-H Gadais Vendange Nocturne, Muscadet, Loire, France NV 88

£10.99 **Amps, Define Food & Wine, Kwoff, NY Wines of Cambridge**
What's Muscadet all about, after all? Really, it's the sea: its cooling climate and its presence on the plate. And this wine sits firmly in that context – a straightforward expression of freshness in a glass, dry, with a gentle touch of weight and body. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 11%**

45 Famille Hugel, Classic Riesling, Alsace, France 2017 88

£16.40-£19.55 **Connolly's, Eton Vintners, Rannoch Scott, Roberts & Speight, Taurus, The Fine Wine Co, The Oxford Wine Co, Vinvm**
Dry, steely, summery Riesling that's as refreshing as a cold shower after a sauna. Despite the freshness, the character is relatively subtle, with restrained notes of apples and honey. **Drink 2020-2023 Alc 12%**

49 Domaine du Vieux Vauvert, Vouvray, Loire, France 2019 87

£9.99 **Waitrose**
Good to get a Chenin on the list, and this one's a medium-dry style with lots of ripe peach, apple and pear flavours. The luscious palate is weighty but balanced by good freshness. This could work with spicier or sweeter flavours, like barbecue spicy ribs, or even summer fruit puds. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 11.5%**

50 Pazo do Mar, Nereida, Ribeiro, Galicia, Spain 2019 87

£10.95 **Morgenrot**
The Galician region of Ribeiro is a rewarding but underrated source of elegant and often very summery whites. This restrained but refreshing, dry, herb-scented white is an unusual blend of Palomino, Treixadura and Torrontés. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 11.5%**

51 Quinta da Calçada, LB7, Vinho Verde, Portugal 2019 87

£8.99 **Majestic**
The vinous version of a spritzer, this fun, fresh and easygoing white has a gentle sparkle, baked pear and apple flavours, and a touch of residual sugar to balance everything out. Easy drinking and summery, good value, uplifting and fun. **Drink 2020 Alc 10%**



46 Gilvesy, Bohém Cuvée, Balatoni Borrégió, Hungary 2018 88

£12.95 **Davy's**
Gilvesy is a wine estate on an ancient volcanic outcrop just north of Lake Balaton. This is its summery white – a blend of organic Olaszrizling, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling. Grassy, pithy, tangy flavours lead into a mineral, dry palate: ideal accompaniment for a summery lunch. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12%**

47 Guerrieri-Rizzardi, Soave Classico, Veneto, Italy 2018 88

£12.50-£13 **Christopher Keiller, Mumbles Fine Wines, Sheldon's Wine Cellars, T Wright, The Whalley Wine Shop**
A classic Soave with a generosity and character that's hard not to warm to. It shows gentle almond and peach flavours together with a richness of texture that points to ripe fruit, sensible yields and deft winemaking. Very pleasant. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

48 Torres, Esmeralda, Penedès, Catalonia, Spain 2018 88

£8-£9.99 **Cambridge Wine Merchants, Fareham Wine Cellar, Roberts & Speight, Tesco, Taylors Fine Wine, The Wine Centre**
And here, ladies and gentlemen, we have summer in a glass. This blend of Gewurztraminer and Moscatel from Catalonia shows exuberant aromas of rose petal, lychee and lime cordial. Dry but soft and succulent, the sensation is like sinking into a bed of feathers. One for the hedonists and lovers of unabashed exoticism. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 11.5%**

52 Rallo, Evrò, Insolia, Sicily, Italy 2018 87

£14.99 **Alliance Wine, Borders Wines, Iron & Rose, Define Food & Wine**
Yet another sunny yet serious Sicilian number in our summer line-up. Expressive aromas include apricot, pear, herbs and wax. It's organic, dry and food-friendly but with a rich texture and full body, and a honeyed mineral finish. One for grilled swordfish. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

53 Ramon Roqueta, Garnacha Blanca, Catalonia, Spain 2018 87

£12.49 **Latin Wines Online**
An easygoing, refreshing summer white that's not particularly complex but perfectly enjoyable all the same. Hints of white peach with a clean, long finish and elegant presence. One for fans of subtler whites. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12.5%**

54 Savia Viva, Clásico Blanco, Penedès, Catalonia, Spain 2018 87

£14.50 **Davy's**
In direct contrast to the Ramon Roqueta Garnacha Blanca (No53), this organic Catalan white is not shy in the slightest. Its upbeat character is reminiscent of Cava without the bubbles: with notes of preserved lemon, apple rind, wax and warm earth. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 11.5%** ➤

55 St Hallett, Riesling, Eden Valley, South Australia 2017 87

£15.78-£17.99 Matthew Clark, Ministry of Drinks

A clean, dry Riesling from a reliable Aussie name that's high on refreshment value and moderate in alcohol. From cool vineyards at 700m altitude, this offers aromas and flavours of green apple, lemon pith and lime, with a gently creamy texture. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 11.5%

56 Masseria Surani, Arthemis Fiano, Puglia, Italy 2018 87

£9.95-£11.95 ND John, Secret Bottle Shop, Toscanaccio

This outgoing Puglian Fiano (with a splash of Chardonnay) offers a lot of wine for the price. It's bursting with aromas of ripe pear, apple blossom, tangerine and honey, the flavour following in similar vein: a full white with a hint of bitter orange peel and a spicy finish. One for the adventurous spirits. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

57 Ventisquero, Grey Sauvignon Blanc, Loncomilla, Huasco Valley, Atacama, Chile 2017 87

£15.50-£16.95 Davy's, Soho Wine Supply
Just as the Lago Ranco Riesling (see p22) speaks of the new Chile, so this Atacaman vineyard in the country's far north is similarly ground-breaking. Cool oceanic influence gives freshness and a salty lick to its vibrant, distinctive character of roasted green pepper, paprika and lime. Invigorating. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

61 La Giuva, Il Valpo, Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy 2018 90

£17.17-£19.99 Christopher Keiller, The Fine Wine Co, Wineye
Valpolicella can make a brilliant summer red and here's one with more than its fair share of swagger and panache. Smoky dark cherry and meaty flavours come together on a juicy, gently bittersweet palate. The project is run by sisters Giulia and Valentina (hence the name), daughters of football manager Alberto Malesani, and these grapes are left to dry for 15 days before pressing for extra concentration. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

62 Benedikt Baltes, Buntsandstein Pinot Noir, Franken, Germany 2015 89

£16.68 Justerini & Brooks
It's rare to find a cultured Pinot with notable bottle age under £20, but here's one from Germany's Franken region. Benedikt Baltes is a dynamic young grower who has introduced organic and biodynamic practices to his old vineyards on stone terraces. It's full of forest floor, ferruginous and gamey character – not for everyone, but manna for Pinot-philies. One for drinking up. **Drink** 2020 **Alc** 12.5%

63 Bouchard Père & Fils, La Vignée Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Burgundy, France 2018 89

£15.80-£19 Noble Green, Penistone Wine Cellars, TB Watson, Vinvm, Wine Direct
In contrast to the Baltes Spätburgunder (No62), this is an altogether more youthful Pinot Noir, majoring on summer berry fruit and firm, chalky tannins. It's fairly serious for the level but works well with food and can take a light chill. A summer wine for red Burgundy lovers. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12.5%



58 Waitrose, Viña Valdivieso Blueprint Sauvignon Blanc, Casablanca, Chile 2019 87

£8 Waitrose
Easy-drinking summer Sauvignon from Chile's coastal Casablanca Valley. It has more lime and lime-pith character than you might expect, but that works well here in combination with the nettle and gooseberry hints, and the dry but rounded flavour profile. Good value. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%

59 Yalumba, Y Series Pinot Grigio, South Australia 2019 87

£8.50 Liquorice Wine, Roberts & Speight, Vinvm
This is Pinot Grigio 2.0 – bright, engaging, smartly made and somehow both exuberant in feel but restrained in character. Fresh pear and a hint of apple blossom is as extravagant as it gets. Dry, crunchy, fresh and easy drinking. Pulled pork buns, here we come... **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%

60 Zephyr Wine, Riesling, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 87

£15.99 Alliance Wine, KWM, The Sipster, Flagship Wines
Dry, urgent, bright Riesling made by Ben Glover on the family estate in the highly regarded Dillon's Point sub-region of Marlborough. Flavours of Granny Smith apples along with some mineral characteristics and a supple texture. Works best with food – try crab linguine or smoked salmon. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 12%

64 Jummare, Organic Nero d'Avola, Sicily, Italy 2019 89

£12.99 Aitken's, Christopher Keiller, KWM, Thirsty Cambridge, Toscanaccio
Sicily doesn't just do a great line in summery whites but reds too. Nero d'Avola can be made in different styles, but this one is very much in the upbeat, vibrant camp, with aromas of cherry blossom and ripe red fruits. There's a beautifully fresh acidity at the heart of a crunchy, lively, invigorating flavour profile. Very enjoyable, full of the joys of summer. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%

65 Molmenti & Celot, Cabernet Franc, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy 2017 89

£12.50 Wanderlust Wine
Oh for more summery Cabernet Franc in the world. It's a beautiful variety when it sings, and this tasty number is packed with leaping aromas of red and green pepper, red fruits and earthy notes. The palate is juicy and tangy, with elegantly structuring tannins, and that bit of age has softened things nicely. Makes a wonderful match for barbecue lamb with salsa verde. Good value. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

66 Pedro Parra, Imaginador Cinsault, Itata, Chile 2018 89

£18.08 The Fine Wine Co
The New World is starting to do a fine line in gluggable, unpretentious summery reds, often from old vines hitherto scorned for fine wine (at least on the label). This is an excellent example from renowned Chilean soil-consultant-turned-producer Pedro Parra – an old-vine Cinsault from southerly Itata that shows aromas of red fruits, ginger and curry leaf, and a juicy, easygoing flavour profile with a nip of tannin that works well with food. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

67 Tenuta Sant'Antonio, Nanfrè, Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy 2018 89

£13.50 *Vinissimus*
A classic Valpolicella from the Castagnedi brothers grown in the Colognola ai Colli and Illasi areas in the east of the DOC. Ripe dark cherry with notes of fresh herbs and woodsmoke. The palate is full of juicy fruit and elegantly bittersweet on the finish, inviting a plate of cold cuts to the table. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12.5%**

68 TerraNoble, Las Dichas Pinot Noir, Casablanca, Chile 2018 89

£14.50 *Vintage Cellars*
When made in the right style, Pinot Noir can be a summer red par excellence. Which is what this bottle is: bright, full of crunchy fresh berry and cherry fruit, easygoing and extremely moreish. Chill it, glug it, enjoy it. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%**

69 Cantina di Negrar, Corvina, Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy 2018 88

£9.50-£10.99 *Bin Two Padstow, Guest Wines, Hercules Wine Warehouse, Kingsbridge Wine Room, Whitebridge Wines*
It's good to see summery Valpolicella with modern packaging and a screwcap. The presentation fits the style of this wine, which is light-hearted, easygoing fare, with juicy cherry and fresh herbal flavours. Good, clean summery fun. **Drink 2020-2020 Alc 12.5%**



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70 Domaine Jean Guillon, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Burgundy, France 2017 88

£18.95 *Stone Vine & Sun*
Fruit for this small-scale family domaine's Bourgogne is grown in Beaune vineyards near Volnay and then aged in French oak for nine months. The nose isn't particularly expressive but the palate is full of tangy red fruit, fine grippy tannins and herbal complexity. One for food, and for drinking up soon. **Drink 2020-2021 Alc 12.5%**

71 Domaine Quénard Jean-François, Terres Rouges Mondeuse, Savoie, France 2018 88

£16.69 *Vinatis*
Jean-François Quénard learned from the 'master' Jules Chauvet, a négociant and highly reputed taster, and makes this Mondeuse from a 1ha plot of 30-year-old vines. It's fairly brooding in style, packed with dark fruits and earthy, herbal notes plus grippy fine tannins. Young, dense and serious – one for the soggy summer days when cockles need warming and food is heartier. **Drink 2020-2024 Alc 12%**

72 Domaine Papagiannakos, Erythros, Attica, Aegean, Greece 2017 87

£12.95-£16.30 *Fintry Wines, Hedonism, ND John, Noble Green, T Wright, Wild & Lees, Wineraks*
This intriguing blend of 70% Agiorgitiko and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon is ambitious, oaky and complex. Flavours and aromas include bell pepper, red and black fruit and woodsmoke. The firm tannins make it one for a meat-fuelled summer barbecue. **Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12.5%** ➤

73 Forrest Wines, The Doctors' Pinot Noir, Marlborough, New Zealand 2019 87

£11.95-£13.90 Booths, Frontier Fine Wines, Gerrard Seel
 Dr John Forrest has been a pioneer in developing lower alcohol wines in New Zealand. It's particularly hard to make it work with reds, but his Pinot is fresh and engaging, with tons of sappy berry fruit and hints of woodsmoke. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 9.5%

74 Georges Lignier, Bourgogne Passetoutgrain, Burgundy, France 2018 87

£16.50 Christopher Keiller, The Grocery
 Gamay can deliver summer in a glass and, while Beaujolais was surprisingly scarce on the ground in this tasting, this classic Passetoutgrain is an engaging, ambitious blend of half Gamay, half Pinot Noir. There's loads of tangy red fruit and a firm tannic profile – very grow-up and food-friendly. **Drink** 2020-2022 **Alc** 12%

75 Kokotos Estate, Three Hills Agiorgitiko, Peloponnese, Greece 2018 87

£11.30 Maltby & Greek
 This enticing red immediately conjours images of cherry orchards laden with ripe dark fruit and warm pine forests. The flavour profile is lighter than the nose suggests, juicy and cheery. A well-made, modern, summery Greek red blend of 90% Agiorgitiko with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5%



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76 Poderi Colla, Pian Balbo, Dolcetto d'Alba, Piedmont, Italy 2018 87

£10.95-£13.40 D Byrne & Co, Kwoff, ND John, NY Wines of Cambridge, Toscanaccio
 Perhaps not the freshest expression of Dolcetto, but still full of juicy dark cherry fruit, fine tannin and an uplifting finish. Very decent for the price, and one for a hearty summer pasta dish like duck and peach pappardelle. **Drink** 2020 **Alc** 12.5%

77 Tabalí, Talinay Pinot Noir, Limarí, Chile 2017 87

£18.95 Vin Neuf
 Another Chilean wine that pushes the boundaries – Talinay is a coastal vineyard in the northern Limarí region with highly calcareous soils. This Pinot shows a full body and structure, with grippy tannin, a touch of candle-wax evolution and fresh acidity. Complex and ambitious in a generous style. **Drink** 2020 **Alc** 12.5%

78 Villa Wolf, Pinot Noir, Pfalz, Germany 2017 87

£12-£13.99 Alexander Wines, Borders Wines, Borough Wines, Caviste, Ex-Cellar, Jeroboams, JN Wine, Noble Green, Portland Wines, Pull the Cork, Quaff, The Wine Reserve
 Tinned strawberries and woodsmoke characterise this Pfalz Pinot from the Loosen stable. It shows a bit of age but retains firmish tannin and a fresh line on the palate. Decent value. **Drink** 2020-2021 **Alc** 12.5% **D**