

Weekday wines



Looking to try something different or adventurous, but don't want to make an expensive mistake? Decanter's associate editor Tina Gellie has done the hard work for you, picking out 25 exciting and accessible wines available in the UK for £25 or less



Akarua, Brut, Central Otago, New Zealand NV 91

£24 Liberty Wines

An inviting Chardonnay-dominant fizz from a 50ha single vineyard, this is crisp, bright and floral but with great depth and complex, creamy richness. Elegant brioche and baked spiced apple and a long toasty finish. Made with 15% of reserve wines and 18 months of lees ageing. Alc 13%



Château Martinolles, Blanc de Blancs, Limoux, Languedoc-Roussillon, France NV 89

£13.95 Jeroboams

Made by Domaines Paul Mas, this Blanquette de Limoux, from the Mauzac grape, is a classic example of the style: firm, fine mousse, tangy green apple acidity and a peaches and cream palate. A crowd-pleasing aperitif. Alc 12.5%



Frankland Estate, Isolation Ridge Riesling, Frankland River, Western Australia 2017 92

£22.95 Berry Bros & Rudd

Expressive aromas of lime cordial, lime zest and exotic spices. Mouthwatering acidity on a focused, textural palate joins more green citrus notes and pretty meadow flowers. Concentrated and complex; will age beautifully. Alc 12.5%



Katnook Estate, Sauvignon Blanc, Coonawarra, South Australia 2011 91

£18.50-£19.99 All About Wine, La Vino, The Drink Shop

Katnook's Sauvignon Blanc proves this variety can age. The 2017 has just been released, but track this 2011 down. It boasts delicious aromas and flavours of pink grapefruit, guava and greengage, plus a wet stone tang on the long finish. Alc 13.5%



Bizoe, Henrietta Semillon-Sauvignon, Franschhoek, South Africa 2016 90

£21.95 Davy's

Winemaker Rikus Neethling's Semillon-Sauvignon blend (named after his mum) is wild-yeast fermented and matured on its lees in barrel for seven months. It is characterful and juicy, boasting ripe tropical fruit and subtle fennel notes. 2,700 bottles made. Alc 12.5%



Hiruzta, Hondarrabi Zuri, Getariako Txakolina, Spain 2017 90

£14.99 All About Wine, Corking Wines, Great Wines Direct, Hay Wines, Strictly Wine, The Solent Cellar

Fresh, light-bodied, lower-alcohol Txakolis deserve to be better known. This is a classic Getaria style – slight spritz and pretty saline, slaty richness allied to crisp acidity and citrus and fresh herb flavours. Alc 12%



MUST-TRY
white

Moss Wood, Semillon, Margaret River, Western Australia 2017 93

£16.95 Jeroboams, Waitrose Cellar

2017 marks the 40th commercial vintage of this wine, which the Moss Wood winemakers liken to 1990, one of the best years ever, with the capacity to age 30 years. Soaring aromas of waxy lanolin, green figs and honey with a limey zing that cuts through the palate. Linear, complex, structured, but with beautiful density and richness. Snap up a case for your cellar now! Alc 13.5% ➤



Terra e Mare, Vermentino di Gallura, Sardinia, Italy 2016 90
 £16.95 Davy's
 A steal for £11.95 when it's on special, this is a modern, ripe, full-bodied white packed with peaches and cream richness, with just enough lemon acidity to balance. A tasty drop that's full of sunny pleasure and a great match for fish pie on a cold night. **A/c** 13.5%



Colomba Bianca, Kore Grillo, Sicily, Italy 2017 89
 £12.49 Corking Wines, Great Wines Direct, Novel Wines, Strictly Wine
 Sicily's largest grower co-op is also the biggest producer of organic wine in the country. From cool hillside vineyards, this Grillo shows good intensity of creamy, nutty, sun-ripened tropical fruit enlivened by fresh acidity. Vegetarian lasagne would be perfect. **A/c** 12.5%



Co-op, Irresistible Marsanne, Languedoc-Roussillon, France 2017 88
 £8 Co-op
 Nice to see this northern Rhône grape not only as a varietal wine, but as an affordable supermarket buy. It's a simple, straightforward drop, with a pretty floral nose and a palate that's all apricots and vanilla. Try it with your next takeaway Indian, Thai or Chinese. **A/c** 13%



Corte alle Mura, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, Tuscany, Italy 2017 88
 £6.99 Lidl
 Lidl has some characterful buys among its new-release whites, in store from 24 January. This is one of them: boasting forward aromas of honey, white flowers and herbs and a weighty palate of dried apple, nutty tones and more honeyed richness. One for the roast chicken. **A/c** 12.5%



Boutinot, Les Cerisiers Rosé, Côtes du Rhône, France 2017 90
 £8-£12 Widely available
 A well-priced rosé that will pair well with salmon and roast veg, or just to sip on its own. Subtle aromas of hibiscus and pomegranate lead to an elegant, mid-weight palate of spiced red berries, with refreshing acidity and gentle tannic grip. **A/c** 12.5%



Tenuta di Biserno, Campo di Sasso, Sof Rosé, Bolgheri, Tuscany, Italy 2017 89
 £24.50 Corney & Barrow
 The satin-finished embossed bottle hints at the money behind this wine - named after Sophia Antinori, daughter of Marchese Lodovico (of Ornellaia fame). A Cabernet Franc-Syrah blend, it offers ripe, round strawberry and cream flavours. **A/c** 12%



Bodegas Riojanas, Viña Albina Seleccionada Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2014 92
 £17.99 Adnams, Harrods, Hayward Bros, Noble Wines
 The Rioja DO only rated 2014 a 'good' year, but this is a top drop from a winery founded in 1890. It's a classic style, with wild strawberry fruit, spiced leather and sweet vanilla notes, plus grippy tannins from 24 months in oak. **A/c** 13.5%



Poggio di Guardia, Ser Primo, Tuscany, Italy 2016 91
 £15.99 Kilo Wines
 Promoting itself as a 'baby SuperTuscan', this Bordeaux blend with 20% Sangiovese doesn't disappoint at the price. Fresh acidity joins wild strawberry and inky blue fruits with vanilla tones and velvety tannins from six months in French oak, 40% new. Deserves a good steak. **A/c** 14%



Domaine des Carabiniers, Lunar Apogé, Lirac, Rhône, France 2017 93
 £17.95 Davy's
 This consistently reliable family domaine is now in the hands of fifth-generation siblings Fabien and Magali Leperchois, whose 50ha of organic vineyards were certified biodynamic in 2009. This Grenache-dominant GSM has vibrantly pure and juicy red berry fruits, soft anise and wild herb tones with textured tannins and a long, savoury finish. Lifted, pretty and delicious. **A/c** 13.5%



Tenuta San Jacopo, Poggia ai Grilli, Chianti Riserva, Tuscany, Italy 2015 91
 £19.89 Askew Wines, 7000 Jars of Beer, Queens Park Wines
 90% Sangiovese with 10% Montepulciano. Rustic charm: aromas of wet soil, balsamic strawberries and sweet spice and a silky palate of savoury red cherry fruit. Give it some air before serving. **A/c** 13.5%



Zapallares, Gran Reserva Carmenère SP, Colchagua, Chile 2016 91
 £14.95 Davy's
 A classically styled Carmenère from a 60-year-old single vineyard in Apalta. Full of crunchy black fruit and green pepper characters, the palate is supple yet fresh, with bright acidity and gentle oaking from 60% of the wine spending 12 months in oak. **A/c** 14%



Pelassa, Corte Enrichetta, Langhe, Piedmont, Italy 2016 90
 £14.95 Davy's
 An uncomplicated, unoaked Barbera-Nebbiolo that displays violet and musky red cherry perfume and an unusually full-bodied, weighty palate of more cherry plus red liquorice. The winery suggests enjoying it with Schubert's Unfinished Symphony (No8). **A/c** 14%



Viajero, Limited Edition Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel, Chile 2014 90
 £7.99 Lidl
 It may sport a cute ant eater label, but this is a surprisingly serious Cabernet. The nose and palate suggest a much younger wine, so you could cellar it for a year or two, but I'd enjoy its crunchy, pure, blue bramble fruits and violet tones now - perfect with roast pork. **A/c** 14%



Weinert, Carrascal, Corte Clasico, Mendoza, Argentina 2013 91
 £9.50 The Wine Society
 This lovely mature Bordeaux blend spent three years in oak and is now hitting its drinking peak, so don't wait! It's full of spice-laden mocha-choc bramble fruit on a plush palate, backed by firm tannins and a long savoury finish. Decant an hour or two ahead. **A/c** 13.8%



Paul Mas, Single Vineyard Réserve, Languedoc, France 2017 90
 £9.39 Waitrose
 Forgive the silly heavy bottle as inside there's a delicious, juicy blend of Grenache, Syrah and Carignan, offering dense ripe blackberries, sweet baking spices and well-handled oak. The Languedoc is a hotbed of value and Paul Mas is a very reliable name. **A/c** 13.5%



The Society's, Old Vine Zinfandel, California, USA 2016 90
 £7.95 The Wine Society
 Zinfandel is a Marmite grape; if you're a hater, try this - it won't break the bank. The cool, coastal fruit gives balancing acidity to the rich red berry compote flavours and, while not complex, it's smooth and juicy and a perfect match for a winter stew. **A/c** 14.5%



Aranleón, Sólo Bobal, Utiel-Requena, Spain 2016 89
 £8.95 The Wine Society
 A rustic Bobal-Syrah blend from old vines (40-100 years) planted at 700m. High-toned macerated summer berries, baked red fruits and sweet spice on a round palate, which is warm in alcohol but has vibrant acidity and firm structure from its 11 months in French oak barrels. **A/c** 14%



Hidalgo, Pastrana Manzanilla Pasada, Jerez, Spain 94
 £11.95-£12.99 The Wine Society, Waitrose Cellar
 A single-vineyard manzanilla matured for 12 years and bottled en rama (only very lightly filtered), giving immense concentration and complexity of flavour balanced by mouthwatering acidity. Briny, yeasty and nutty, with floral hints on the beautifully textured, full-bodied palate that leads to a very long lemon-zest finish. Superb! **A/c** 15%