

Party-Perfect

HOLIDAY WINE TIPS

Here are 5 tips to help make the wines shine at your party:

1. Start with the perfect wine trio:

With a great red, white, and sparkling wine on hand, you'll have all your bases covered. Make your selections from our Top 20 list (below)—they're all perfect for holiday entertaining!

2. How much wine to have on hand:

The average guest may consume three glasses of wine over the course of an evening. A bottle (750 ml) contains about six 4-oz glass pours, so be sure to purchase based on the number of guests attending. If you're serving wine, beer, and spirits, the general breakdown is that 50% of guests will prefer wine, 30% beer, and 20% spirits. If you're offering wine and beer only, then plan on 60% preferring wine and 40% beer.

3. How to serve it:

It's not hard to serve wines at the perfect temps during a party. Just follow these simple guidelines . . . **Sparkling wines** should be served around 45 degrees F. Doing so prevents foaminess when you pour. Keep sparklers in ice-filled bowls to save fridge space.

After greeting guests at the door with a glass of sparkling wine, be sure to put the bottle back on ice. **White wines** should be served around 55 degrees F. Just keep your whites in the fridge or on ice until you serve them. Then let them breathe in the open as the evening progresses.

Red wines should be served cool—around 65 degrees F.

4. Keep it stocked:

Plan to refresh your wine stations with new bottles every half-hour.

5. Enjoy responsibly:

As you serve alcoholic beverages, be sure to have plenty of water and other non-alcoholic beverages on hand for your guests. Make sure no one who is drinking will be driving.

Our Wine Team's **TOP 20** Holiday 2018
picks

1 2015
Château Haut-Brisson
95 JS

Ripe dark plums and chocolate on the nose. The palate is all about silky tannins and beautiful fruit. Full body, gorgeous fruit and a complex aftertaste.



2 2016
Alumni Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

A beautiful range of aromas featuring black cherry, peppercorn, and hints of persimmon. Rich generous mouthfeel with flavors of plum and spices.



3 2016
Louis Jadot Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières Premier Cru

An elegant bouquet of red berries and spice with hints of spices. Supple, good tannins, and a fine overall structure.



4 2015
Lawless Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon

Intensely rich nose of black cherry and graphite. Cassis, blackberry, and mocha flavors with a spicy note of black pepper and subtle tannins.



5 **Bon Vivant Brut**
California Sparkling Wine made in the French style. This sparkler is made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes which gives it a crisp, elegant taste.



6 2016
Rodney Strong Sonoma Vineyards Chardonnay

A crisp wine with bright citrus aromas, hints of tropical fruit, and toasty oak with a clean lingering finish.



7 2012
Covalli Barolo
Made from 100% Nebbiolo grapes. Aromas of licorice, cherry, and leather mark this intense red. Firm and full-bodied, complex and dry with a lengthy finish.



8 2016
La Bardada Tinta de Toro
Aromas of graphite, wild blackberries, and plums. Minerality and freshness balance the fruit and structure on the palate beautifully.



9 2016
Stationmaster Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
Intense black fruit flavors with good acidity, gravelly notes, and fine-grained tannins.



10 2017
Vecchio Marone
Aromas of cherry, blueberry, and chocolate. The mouthfeel is juicy, silky, with notes of oak. Balanced, complex, with great length and a fruity finish.



11

2015 Philibert Ducard Chablis

Made from 100% Chardonnay. Fresh and crisp with delicious zesty citrus flavors that lead to a long tangy finish.



12

2017 Skyquake Semi-Dry Riesling

Semi-dry style with aromas of lime and tangerine zest and a hint of petrol. Floral notes lead into ripe peach flavors with a balanced refreshing acidity.



13

Masottina Prosecco Brut 96 D

Intense nose of pear, peach, elderflower, and almond flowing into a mineral-drenched palate with touches of eucalyptus. Great length and depth of flavor.



14

2015 Brotte Cotes du Rhône Villages Cairanne 91 WA

A kirsch, strawberry, and floral-dominated beauty with plenty of texture, medium to full-bodied richness, and no hard edges.



15

2016 Bieler Family Born to Run Cabernet Sauvignon

Ripe flavors of blackberry, black cherry, spice, and a touch of mocha. Flavors intensify on the palate with a soft and velvety mid-palate and supple tannins.



16

2013 Torraiole Chianti Classico Riserva

Made from 100% Sangiovese grapes. This wine has an intense bouquet of dark fruits. Dry and full-bodied, this wine has flavors of chocolate and cherry.



17

2017 Ronan by Clinet Blanc

Made primarily from Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of citrus fruit complemented by a nice mineral tone. Fleeshy and bright on the palate with a fresh finish.



18

2015 Handpicked Barossa Valley Shiraz 92 W&S

Full bodied and rich with spicy dark fruits, flavorful oak and supple tannins.



19

2016 Château Grimont

Spicy notes upfront, followed by blackberry aromas. Lovely and soft with powerful ripe tannins and a wonderfully long finish.



20

2015 Casa Santos Lima Colossal Reserva 90 WS

Dark cherry, plum and boysenberry notes with dried herb and smoky mineral accents. Finishes with dark currant and chocolate flavors.



Hunt Valley Wine, Liquor & Beer

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