

Loire Wines 2024 Ratings

ANJOU

92 **Chateau de Fesles** 2020 La Chapelle

Chenin Blanc

Clove and vanilla baking spice open on the nose alongside quince, Asian pear and white blossom. The wine is creamy and slightly buttery in texture with a balanced acidity that contributes equally to the taste. Enjoy by the glass or pair with seafood.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$20.00

92 **Château Piégué** 2021 Pineau de Loire

Chenin Blanc

On the nose toasted almonds and freshly-baked brioche are topped with a dollop of orange marmalade and served alongside a slice of apple pie. Creaminess on the midpalate tames acidity and focuses the wine. Drink now, and can improve with aging.

Cellar Selection - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$30.00

91 **Château la Varière** 2022

Cabernet Franc

The wine opens with a savory nose of morning-dew-dusted earth, graphite and red plum. Crushed stone frames soft tannins and rose petal. This wine is a versatile chameleon and would pair beautifully with light or heavy dishes.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$17.00

91 **Château Soucherie** 2021 Reliefs

Cabernet Franc

This wine opens with a savory nose of red cherry, green peppers, forest floor and dried field herbs. Additional flavors of raspberry, black olive and red plum develop on the palate that is somewhat chalky in texture. Grilled kebabs and rosemary-encrusted beef tenderloin would pair beautifully.

R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$25.00

91 **Domaine du Petit Clocher** 2022

Cabernet Franc

This wine wears delicious earthiness on its sleeve. The wine opens with a reserved, yet savory nose of forest floor, black raspberry, dried mushroom and black olive. A mix of dried hay, black plum and chalk dust parallel persistent, velvety tannins.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$19.00

90 **Domaine du Petit Clocher** 2023

Chenin Blanc

This wine has a perfumed nose of quince, lilac, honeysuckle and candied apple. Richly textured, hints of ginger and vanilla are lifted by pear and balanced acidity. The wine has structure and good bones that demand to be taken seriously.

R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$22.00

89 **Château de la Roulerie** 2023 Chenin Blanc

Chenin Blanc

Sunkissed-crabapple, white fig, quince and kumquat zest open on the nose along with honeysuckle blossom. The wine has a backbone of lime-citrus that swan dives into almost-ripened, Granny Smith apple. This wine welcomes lightly-sauteed vegetables, fried seafood and oysters.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$18.00

89 **Château de Suronde** 2022 L'Esquisse de Suronde

Chenin Blanc

Pale lemon in color, this wine has a reserved nose of Fuji apple, lemon zest and white peach. The palate is round in texture with a handful of chalk dust riding in the foreground of the taste. Pair with seafood, sautées and fried dishes.

R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$20.00

89 **Domaine des Troitières** 2023 Chenin Clair de Lune

Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay

This wine has a nose of Fuji apple, lychee, dried papaya, pear and baby's breath. The wine is crisp and refreshing with wet stone and a twist of lemon citrus slice that give way to some moments of concentration. Pair with Korean scallion pancakes and moules frites.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$13.00

88 **Château la Varière** 2022 Les Vergères

Chenin Blanc

Red apple slice, red-skinned pear and honeydew melon open on the nose along with baby's breath and a twist of lemon. A vibrant acidity skates across the midpalate and forms the core of the taste. Pair with baked potatoes with melted cheese and an extra dollop of sour cream.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$17.00



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BOURGUEIL

94 Yannick Amirault 2022 Le Grand Clos

Cabernet Franc

This wine isn't to be rushed; it's to be sipped and savored. The silky Bourgueil caresses your inner cheeks with rich black fruit including black plum, black cherry and raspberry. The midpalate is luxurious with the faintest hints of vanilla baking spice riding along the length of the taste.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$22.00



91 Domaine Guion 2018 Authentique

Cabernet Franc

This aged Bourgueil remains lively with pleasing savory notes that uplift. Purple in color, the wine has a perfumed nose of hibiscus, red cherry, strawberry and white blossom. A chalked-laced streak of minerality infuses the palate and rides a wave of raspberry and tart cranberry that flirts with forest floor.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$17.00

91 Estelle et Rodolphe Cognard 2019 Les Tuffes

Cabernet Franc

This is an earthy Bourgueil. Ruby in color, the wine has an aromatic nose of blackberry, dried mushroom, green-pepper leaf, black plum, fresh strawberry and black cherry skin. On the palate well-integrated fruit hugs forest floor, sand-dusted pencil shavings and leather.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$12.00

90 Domaine Guion 2021 Candide

Cabernet Franc

Youthful, purple fruit opens on the nose along with sun-warmed raspberry, damp spring earth, sawdust and rosehip. The wine is fresh with an herbal streak of tangy acidity that bathes in red cherry. Pair with sautéés, seafood and onion rings.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$15.00

CHINON

95 Couly-Dutheil 2018 Baronnie Madeleine

Cabernet Franc

This is a confident, characterful Chinon. Perfumed aromas of Darjeeling tea, dried-crushed violet blossom, white mushroom, sawdust and black plum greet you on the nose. Slightly grippy tannins frame purple fruit that remains vibrant through the end of the taste.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 15.0%

Retail: \$38.00



93 Béatrice & Pascal Lambert 2019 Les Puys

Cabernet Franc

This 2019-vintage Chinon embraces forest floor. The wine opens with black-tea leaf, ripe grape stalk, macerated raspberry and dried black cherry. Acidity lifts the fruit which saunters across the midpalate and dives into a chalky finish. Simply lovely, pair this fresh wine with cod, sautéed arugula greens and chicken satay.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$35.00



93 Domaine Grosbois 2020 Gabare

Cabernet Franc

This wine is rich, with ripe black fruits and tannins. The balance is already there in a generous wine that has tannins cushioned by fruit. Drink from 2024.

R.V.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$44.00



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91 **Béatrice & Pascal Lambert** 2022 Les Terrasses

Cabernet Franc

Purple in color, this biodynamically-produced wine has a nose of dried grape stalk, fennel pollen, raspberry, black cherry and Darjeeling tea. Traces of salinity impart minerality and support just-ripened black plum framed by slightly-grippy tannins that hug black fruit.

R.S.
ABV: 13.0% Retail: \$25.00

91 **Domaine Dozon** 2021 Clos du Saut au Loup

Cabernet Franc

Raspberry, cranberry and dried red cherry partner on the subdued nose. The palate is chalky with moments of flintiness that hint at unfurled rosebud framed by firm tannins. This wine would pair especially well with herb-and-umami-forward dishes. Drink now through 2032.

R.S.
ABV: 12.5% Retail: \$26.00

91 **Paul Buisse** 2022

Cabernet Franc

Chinon is worthy of your attention as this wine shows. Black plum skin, Darjeeling tea and pencil shavings fill the nose along with aromas of dried hay. The palate furthers the resplendence on the nose completing with a long, savory, enjoyable finish.

Best Buy - R.S.
ABV: 13.5% Retail: \$16.00

90 **Domaine Grosbois** 2022 Extra Ball

Cabernet Franc

This wine is a versatile pairing partner. A fruit-forward nose leans into black cherry and dried cranberry with whiffs of rosehip and rhubarb. Round on the palate, some chalk-dusted moments provide lift surrounded by grippy tannins on the finish.

R.S.
ABV: 12.0% Retail: \$27.00

89 **Domaine de la Commanderie** 2022 Vieilles Vignes

Cabernet Franc

This lively Chinon bathes in summer fruit. Reserved at first whiff, the wine has a nose of rhubarb, cherry cola and black tea. A rounded acidity undergirds crushed limestone and adds texture. Pair with light and medium dishes as well as seafood and cream sauces.

Best Buy - R.S.
ABV: 12.5% Retail: \$16.00

88 **Domaine de la Commanderie** 2020 Tradition

Cabernet Franc

This is a fine, fruity wine with acidity and blackberry flavors. It is a fresh wine that is attractive and ready to drink.

Best Buy - R.V.
ABV: 13.0% Retail: \$18.00

87 **Domaine Grosbois** 2021 La Cuisine de Ma Mère

Cabernet Franc

An attractive, unoaked wine, this has fresh acidity and red fruits. "My mother's cooking" is the translation of the name of this fruity wine that will be ready later this year.

R.V.
ABV: 12.5% Retail: \$25.00

CREMANT DE LOIRE

91 **Ackerman** NV Bulles Royales Brut

Sparkling Blend

This vibrant crémant is bursting with energy. The wine opens with guava, gooseberry, Asian pear and starfruit along with the faintest hint of dried herbs. On the palate the wine leads with tart green apple cloaked in lemon citrus. Open for celebration or keep for yourself.

Best Buy - R.S.
ABV: 11.5% Retail: \$17.00

91 **Bouvet-Ladubay** NV Excellence Crémant de Loire Brut

Sparkling Chenin Blanc

Open and enjoy with confidence. Lemon-gold in color, the crémant has an aromatic nose of biscuit, brioche, red apple and dried white blossom. On the palate the wine is lively with a brilliant freshness. This crémant is a great value in plain sight.

R.S.
ABV: 12.5% Retail: \$20.00

91 **Langlois** NV Brut Réserve

Sparkling Blend

This fresh, bright crémant is a great value for the price point. Golden apple, bosc pear and dried white flower blossom open on the nose and carry into a persistent finish. Lemon citrus breaststrokes across the palate and rides a wave of orchard fruit completing with a long finish.

R.S.
ABV: 12.5% Retail: \$25.00

91 **Monmousseau** NV Cuvée Ciselée Brut

Sparkling Blend

The wine has an aromatic nose of peach stone fruit, quince, tangerine and orange marmalade. The palate echoes the nose with tangy acidity that delivers extra body and oomph. This wine would pair marvelously with risotto, polenta and drunken noodles.

R.S.
ABV: 12.5% Retail: \$22.00



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MUSCADET SEVRE ET MAINE

95 **Domaine Landron** 2018 Le Fief Du Breil

Melon Blanc

This is a beautiful, structured Muscadet. The perfumed bottling offers layers of fruit beginning with orange zest, marmalade and roasted golden apple and continuing with peach and apricot scone topped with lemon curd. Creaminess on the palate is balanced by mineral-driven acidity that lifts the long finish.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$38.00



94 **Domaine Brégeon** **Fred Lailler** 2018 Gorges

Melon Blanc

This Muscadet is eminently lovable. Gold in color, the wine announces its robustness on the perfumed nose of white peach, candied orange slice and freshly-baked apple pie. On the acidity-tinged, creamy palate, toasted brioche takes center stage with a court of almond skin, dried apricot and warm baking spice waiting in the wings.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$42.00



94 **Domaine Michel** **Brégeon** 2022 Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

Introduce a friend to Muscadet with this grown-up wine that knows its value. The wine opens with subtle notes of vanilla baking spice, caramel, golden apple and dried apricot. Creamy in texture, the Muscadet exudes charm and grace with a balanced palate that combines nervy acidity and fresh brioche.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$23.00



94 **Véronique Günther -** **Chereau** 2018 Monnières-Saint Fiacre

Melon Blanc

This is the wine you serve to friends who don't know they like Muscadet yet. Gold in color, the wine has a perfumed nose of orange marmalade, roasted white peach, guava and honeysuckle with a hint of baking spice. Lemon-tinged creaminess on the palate leads into Asian pear and honeydew melon on the long finish.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$27.00



93 **Chéreau Carré** 2020 Château l'Oiselinière de la Ramée Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

Aromatically, this single-vineyard Muscadet has a nose of white nectarine, golden apple, dried white blossom, pineapple slice and lemon curd. Orchard fruit shines on the firm, rich palate that understands its own complexity and isn't afraid to share it with you as a quiet secret. Hints of baking spice play on the lingering finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$17.00

93 **Domaine des** **Cognettes** 2022 Sélection des Cognettes Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

Introduce a white-Burgundy lover to Muscadet with this bottle. Gold in color, the wine oozes complexity with aromas of white peach, vanilla-and-clove baking spice, almond and honeysuckle. Midpalate concentration echoing the nose combines with alluring subtlety and restraint on the lingering finish.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$19.00

92 **Domaine de la** **Potardière** 2023 Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

This wine will make you go down a Muscadet rabbit hole. Lemon-tinged aromas of Sweethearts candy, green apple and chalk dust open on the nose followed by whispers of white flower blossom. Slightly creamy in texture, nectarine and starfruit surface on the concentrated midpalate.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$14.00

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92 **Domaine Jean Aubron** 2022 Cuvee Elegance

Melon Blanc

Lemon in color, the perfumed wine opens with apple blossom, Asian pear and lime peel. Vibrant acidity leads on the palate followed by crushed stone and citrus. This is a wonderful Muscadet to pair with poultry, fried clams and flatbread pizza.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$20.00

92 **Domaines Landron** 2021 Les Houx

Melon Blanc

This medium-bodied, lemon- gold-hued Muscadet opens with a medley of lilac, pear blossom and Golden Delicious apple. Just-ripened white nectarine meets lemon zest on the palate followed by the faintest suggestion of chalk. Pair with clams, seafood, asparagus and arugula.

R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$26.00

92 **Véronique Günther -Chereau**

2020 Château du Coing de Saint-Fiacre
Comte de Saint-Hubert
Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

This wine has a joyful, reserved citrus core. Crushed stone alongside bosc pear and white blossom lifts from the glass buoyed by a hint of orange zest. Crisp red apple slice plays volleyball with quince on the midpalate that resolves with a lemon-citrus-kissed finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$20.00

91 **Château Cassemichère** 2021 Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

This wine offers fresh aromas of white peach, papaya and honeydew melon with a touch of baking spice and white blossom. Chalk-dusted acidity parallels green pear and quince with the faintest suggestion of dried herbs on the lemon-zest-kissed finish. The wine would pair beautifully with roasted leaks and potato gratin.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$17.00

91 **Domaine des Baluettes** 2021 Les Coteaux Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

Made with organic grapes, this is a fresh yet generous Muscadet. A lovely core of Fuji apple, bosc pear and nectarine open on the nose of the wine that basks in a perfumed spritzing of white-flower blossoms. The texture balances creaminess and acidity with a mineral underlay that is subservient to the fruit core.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$13.00

89 **Domaine Martin** 2022 Ocean Vieilles Vignes Sur Lie

Melon Blanc

Muscadet can be a versatile pairing partner and so is this bottle. Red apple, bosc pear and white blossom open on the nose. The firm midpalate elevates wet stone giving way to a lemon-citrus-infused finish that begs for seafood, quiche or anything fried.

R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$21.00

SAINT-NICOLAS-DE-BOURGUEIL

94 **Domaine Amirault** 2022 Les Quarterons

Cabernet Franc

This is an elegant, finely-textured Bourgueil. The wine opens with dried cherry, cranberry, black plum and subtle hints of hibiscus. Dusty red currant meets strawberry on the palate with moments of concentration on the ruby-red-fruited, pencil-shavings-dusted finish.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$36.00



93 **Domaine Amirault** 2020 Le Fondis

Cabernet Franc

This is a voluptuous, curvy Saint-Nicolas de-Bourgueil. Aromas of plump dark fruit fill the nose with blackberry, black cherry, black plum and raspberry puree. A fulsome palate welcomes black olive and cassia and balances velvety tannins that tease.

Cellar Selection - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$49.00

91 **Sylvain Bruneau** 2022 L'écllosion

Cabernet Franc

Aged for 12 months in concrete eggs, this delivers tannins and density. The wine is rich, smoky and full of black fruits. Let it age, and drink from 2025. Organic.

R.V.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$43.00



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90 Sylvain Bruneau 2022 Les Pentes

Cabernet Franc

This rich wine is full of black fruits with acidity and a fine spicy character. The wine has structured with a smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Organic.

R.V.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$25.00

SAUMUR

93 Château de Targé 2020 Les Fresnettes

Chenin Blanc

This is an elegant Chenin Blanc. Rich and brooding with complexity, the wine opens with perfumed aromas of freshly baked apple pie, quince, brioche, pear and honey. Layered orchard fruit caresses the palate along with toasted almond skin on the long finish. The wine deserves deep conversation or an evening with a good book.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$45.00

92 Domaine Filliatreau 2021 Château Fouquet

Cabernet Franc

Woodsy-forest-floor and young-cedar aromas swirl from your glass joined by raspberry, black plum and hints of Alpine strawberry blossom in this biodynamically-produced wine. Crushed seashells provide a pleasing underlay of minerality and add another dimension of flavor along with black tea leaf.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$18.00

91 Louis de Grenelle NV Corail

Cabernet Franc Rosé

This sparkling rosé rightfully dares you not to love it. The wine opens with a nose of dried orange peel, almond skin, green apple, pencil shavings and white nectarine. A subdued palate reveals complexity and flatters on the lingering finish.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$21.00

88 Lena Filliatreau 2023

Chenin Blanc

This is an energetic Chenin Blanc. Honey-coated bruised apple meets orange citrus on the nose. The palate tangos with Granny Smith apple and pear and exits the dance floor on the arm of white blossom.

Best Buy - R.S.

Retail: \$18.00

ABV: 12.5%

SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY

93 Domaine de la Perruche 2022 Terroir de Craie

Cabernet Franc

This wine is filled with terroir-expressiveness. The wine has a perfumed nose of fresh violet blossoms and pencil shavings mixed with forest floor. The rich, sultry midpalate is brimming with end-of-summer fruit and dried-autumn leaves. Chill slightly and pair with cassoulet and grilled Portobello mushroom.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$23.00



92 Cave Robert & Marcel 2019 Chateau Du Bellay

Cabernet Franc

This wine balances late-summer orchard fruit with an expressive herbal undertow. Ripe fruit flavors fill the nose including raspberry, black cherry, strawberry and red currant. Young cedar, hay and a teaspoon of baking spice give the wine added dimension on the palate that holds its own with grippy tannins.

R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$30.00

92 Château de Villeneuve 2021 Cabernet Franc

Cabernet Franc

Led with bright fruit, this wine captures the essence of Saumur-Champigny. The wine opens with pomegranate, black plum, forest floor and freshly-sharpened number-2 pencil. Dried hay and bruised violet blossom fill the palate with pleasing savoriness that lingers.

Cellar Selection - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$21.00

92 Domaine Filliatreau 2021

Cabernet Franc

Produced from 35-year-old vines, this bright, fresh Saumur-Champigny sings. The wine opens with fresh red cherry, dried field herbs, rosehip and black olive. Somewhat round on the midpalate it reveals additional notes of dried mushroom and raspberry on the lingering finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$18.00

SAVENNIERES

93 Château Soucherie 2021 Clos des Perrières

Chenin Blanc

Lovely aromas of baked apple and vanilla baking spice waft in your glass followed by honey and caramel. Contrasting the nose, surprising flavors of tart, lemon-spritzed Granny Smith apple fill the palate with an underlayer of subtle creamy persistence. This wine pairs well with seafood and all the buttery dishes you want to throw at it.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$40.00



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91 Moulin de Chauvigné 2022 Intemporelles

Chenin Blanc

A delightfully-perfumed nose of golden apple, brioche and honeysuckle open on the nose along with a dusting of almond skin. Creamy in texture, the wine offers fresh fruit flavors along with a slice of chalk-dusted quince. This wine wants your risotto, goat cheese and creamy dishes.

R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$22.00

91 Moulin de Chauvigné 2022 Spirituelles Clos Brochard

Chenin Blanc

This wine balances richness and freshness well. The wine has a reserved nose of yellow apple, orange marmalade and lemon zest. Slightly-creamy on the palate, the wine has a mineral streak with honeyed acidity that finishes with a citrus kiss.

R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$28.00

TOURAINE

94 Hauts Baigneux 2022 Clos Des Brancs - Monopole

Chenin Blanc

This warm, characterful Touraine will make you smile. Perfumed aromas of ginger, baked apples, clove-and-nutmeg baking spice, almond skin and honey open on the nose. The palate revels in freshly-baked brioche, cinnamon stick and pear that precedes the long finish.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$42.00



93 Domaine Joël Delaunay 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc

This fragrant Sauvignon Blanc opens with gardenia blossom, white nectarine, lychee, tomato leaf and orange citrus. Fulsome and rich on the palate, the wine maintains a healthy acidity that lifts the fruit and flirts with dried field grass. A gorgeous bottle - drink now through 2030.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$26.00

91 Domaine Sauvète 2022 Les Gravouilles

Gamay

This bottle wants you to take Loire Gamay seriously, and rightfully so. Raspberry, rhubarb and roasted cranberry open on the perfumed nose followed by hay and dried black cherry skin. Silky in texture, there is pleasing complexity and depth of flavor behind the black-tea-tinged, long finish.

R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$22.00

91 Domaine Sauvète 2022 Sauvignon

Sauvignon Blanc

This good example of Touraine Sauvignon Blanc begins with an aromatic nose of orange marmalade, honey, nutmeg and caramel followed by smile-inducing vanilla baking spice. The wine is characterful, especially for the price point, with bread dough and the faintest whisper of dried field herbs on the finish.

R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$13.00

91 Thierry Delaunay 2023 Manoir

Sauvignon Blanc

When I think of Loire Sauvignon blanc, I think of wines like this one. The perfumed Sauvignon Blanc opens with nectarine, orange zest, lilac, honeydew melon and dried white blossom. A handful of field herbs chimes in on the palate along with lemon citrus that cascades through to a long finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$19.00



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90 **Alain De La Treille** 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc

Touraine Sauvignon Blanc is Sancerre's lesser-known, affordable sibling that went to public school and took AP classes instead of going to an expensive private school; get to know it. Lemon in color, this wine has a chalk-dusted nose of green pear, starfruit, quince and white blossom. The palate echoes in proportion to the nose with stoniness on the finish imparting refreshing lift that begs for another sip.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$20.00

90 **Baudry & Dutour** 2023 La Chapinière Sauvignon

Sauvignon

This is the Sauvignon Blanc you open during the week when you want to treat yourself without breaking the bank. Pale lemon in color, the wine has a nose of fall golden apple, honeydew melon, white peach and orange blossom. Lemon zest opens on the palate followed by crabapple and green pear.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$20.00

90 **Domaine de la Chaise** 2022

Malbec

Deep-purple in color, this wine has a savory nose of blackberry, green-pepper, dried mushroom and forest floor. A mix of crushed stones and dried black cherry sweeps across the palate and finishes with bruised black plum. Pair with lamb and braised fennel.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$20.00

90 **Domaine de la Rochette** 2023

Sauvignon Blanc

This traditional-styled Loire Sauvignon Blanc sings. The wine opens with a nose of crabapple, kumquat zest, orange and white blossom. Round in texture, hints of dried field herbs and pear emerge on the palate and dive into a lemon citrus finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$19.00

90 **Domaine François Cartier** 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc

This is an easy-going wine to open and enjoy. Grilled white nectarine and field herbs greet you on the nose along with lychee blossom and shavings of dried orange zest. Complexity, buoyed by orchard fruit and dried hay bale, rewards the senses completing with a lingering, citrusy finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$15.00

90 **Jacky Marteau** 2023 Lulu Gamay

Gamay

This is a fun, juicy, joyful Gamay. Expressive dried cherry plays with black raspberry, mulberry and cranberry on the nose while tangy acidity and basketfuls of sun-kissed red fruit skip across the palate. The wine craves comfort food, especially cheeseburgers.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$18.00

90 **Lionel Gosseume** 2022 Climat N° 1

Sauvignon Blanc

This wine has a vibrant, tart-red-apple-tinged nose followed by white nectarine, orange zest and white blossom.

Appropriately-balanced acidity supports the fruit structure without overshadowing it. There are faint herbal tones on the finish that flatter.

R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$22.00

89 **Domaine du Vaux Saint Georges** 2023

Sauvignon Blanc

If you're seeking a lively Sauvignon Blanc with just a hint of the grape's savory character, this is your bottle. The wine has a soft, aromatic nose of green apple, white blossom, lemon zest and papaya. Blades of dried field grass pop in and out along the palate combined with wet stone and a twist of lemon citrus.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$15.00

89 **Hauts Baigneux** 2022 So Franc

Red Blend

A perfumed bouquet of summer orchard fruit greets you on the nose including red cherry, red plum, dried apricot, strawberry and white blossom. The palate is fresh with playful acidity that whispers, "Have fun and lighten up." Pair this fruity red with good friends, comfort food and turkey burgers.

R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$17.00

89 **Les Gourmets** 2023 Sauvignon

Sauvignon Blanc

This wine is fragrant, bright and slightly herbal, just the way Sauvignon Blanc should be. Yellow apple, dried field herbs and lime blossom open on the nose followed by green plum. On the palate, lemon citrus, crabapple and hay converge into a harmonious fruit blend.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$14.00

89 **Paris-Simoneau** NV Brut Blanc

Sparkling Chenin Blanc

This is solid, good-value sparkling wine. The wine has a nose of pear, crabapple and quince. Rounded acidity dominates on the midpalate. Keep this bottle in the refrigerator for Taco Tuesdays and unexpected moments that demand celebration.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$18.00

Loire Wines 2024 Ratings

89 Paul Buisse 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc

This is a solid, easy-going wine to pair with a casual meal. The Sauvignon Blanc has a fresh nose of quince, white nectarine, green apple and white blossom. Round with wet stone on the palate, it gives additional notes of lemon twist and hints of lilac.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$15.00

89 Xavier Frissant 2023

Sauvignon Blanc

This wine has a rounded nose of papaya, lemon curd, golden apple and tangerine zest. Lively acidity leads on the palate followed by white peach that leans into a lemon-citrus finish. Pair with oysters, seafood and chicken tikka masala.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$15.00

88 Domaine Delobel 2023 Angle Droit

Sauvignon Blanc

This wine has a reserved nose of Fuji apple, dried mango, wet stone and pear. Lemon citrus leads on the mineral-driven palate with a supportive, tamed acidity in the background that lifts the finish.

Confidently serve this

medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc as an aperitif or pair alongside a meal.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$13.00

88 Lionel Gosseaume 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc

Fuji apple, lychee, green plum and baby's breath open on the nose followed by honeydew melon and lemon slice. Bright acidity streaks across the midpalate revealing mineral notes. Pair with shellfish, seafood and buttery dishes.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$17.00

TOURAIN CHENONCEAUX

91 Domaine de la Rochette 2022

Sauvignon Blanc

White peach and late-summer field grass open on the nose followed by dried lemon peel, bosc pear and white blossom. The even-keeled palate reflects the nose and completes with an herb-tinged finish. Pair with a charcuterie platter, pan-seared cod or shellfish.

R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$30.00

90 Domaine de la Chaise 2022

Sauvignon Blanc

This Sauvignon Blanc isn't ostentatious; it wants you to walk towards it. The wine has a subdued nose of golden apple and bosc pear. The rounded palate echoes the nose with relaxed fruit flavors that meditate with restrained acidity.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$20.00

TOURAIN-OISLY

91 Domaine Delobel 2022 L'Ellipse

Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc was meant to be this good. The savory nose suggests white peach, dried papaya and honeydew melon dusted with white blossom. On the palate an herbal streak runs underneath the fruit and gives it more relevance and structure while enlivening the length of the taste.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 14.0%

Retail: \$16.00

90 Lionel Gosseaume 2022 Climat N° 1

Sauvignon Blanc

This wine has a vibrant, tart-red-apple-tinged nose followed by white nectarine, orange zest and white blossom.

Appropriately-balanced acidity supports the fruit structure without overshadowing it. There are faint herbal tones on the finish that flatter.

R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$22.00

VAL DE LOIRE

92 Domaine Burg D'Oiseau 2021 CH'NIN

Chenin Blanc

This floral-forward wine would pair well with Sunday brunches and sunsets. Gardenia blossom, lychee and nectarine aromas fill the nose along with lilac and white tea. Well-integrated flavors suggested on the nose are generously rewarded on the palate.

R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$36.00

91 Château Piégué 2022 La P'tite Vigneronne

Chenin Blanc

This is a smile-inducing Chenin Blanc. Honey and applesauce open on the nose along with dried pear slice and white peach. Juicy on the attack, the wine swiftly dives into a tangerine and white blossom.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$18.00

91 Domaine des Herbauges 2022 A Time for White Flowers

Chenin Blanc

Orchard fruit meets dried hay along with red apple, pear slice, green plum and hints of dried field grass. A stream of wet stone and lemon citrus refreshes the midpalate and empties into a field of wildflowers. Pair with goat-cheese-topped toasts and baba ghanoush.

R.S.

ABV: 11.5%

Retail: \$20.00

Loire Wines 2024 Ratings

90 **Château de Sancerre** 2022 Le Petit Connétable

Sauvignon Blanc

Orchard fruit lightly-kissed by baking spice fills the nose along with red apple, quince and roasted orange slice. Slightly-creamy in texture, a definitive freshness permeates the long finish that is white-blossom tinged. Drink now through 2028.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$10.00

90 **Domaine Martin** 2023 Sauvignon

Sauvignon

Orange plays with roasted pineapple on the nose along with quince and lemon zest. Zesty acidity leads on the palate that races to a green-apple finish. This wine would tackle crab legs, moules frites and sole with purpose.

R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$19.00

89 **Domaine des Herbauges** 2022 Domaine Les 5 Chemins

Grolleau

A restrained nose of yellow apple, dried nectarine and pear open on the nose sprinkled with a bouquet of orange blossoms. Steely in texture, tangy acidity complements the fruit structure. This wine wants your seafood, grilled chicken breasts and roasted leeks.

R.S.

ABV: 11.5%

Retail: \$14.00

87 **Les Anges** 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc

This is a good, straightforward Sauvignon Blanc. Golden apple, lemon zest, white blossom and Asian pear open on the nose while white nectarine surfaces on the palate underpinned by tart, chalk-dusted acidity.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$13.00

VOUVRAY

93 **Damien Pinon** 2022 Tuffo

Chenin Blanc

Dried white fig and candied orange slice open on the nose of this beautifully aromatic wine followed by white peach, baked apple, pineapple and vanilla baking spice. Creamy in texture, the wine evokes winter holidays and toasted hazelnut. Pair with friends or a good book.

Editor's Choice - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$22.00

92 **Benoit Gautier** 2022

Chenin Blanc

This wine has an aromatic nose of gardenia blossom, cantaloupe, white tea, nectarine, dried papaya and orange peel. On the palate, the off-dry Vouvray is jubilant with summer-ripened fruit and lemon citrus that imparts added oomph. Enjoy on its own or pair with a cheese plate.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$19.00

92 **Domaine Clos de l'Épinay** 2017 Tête De Cuvée Brut

Chenin Blanc

Lemon-gold in color, the wine opens with golden apple lightly dipped in caramel. Freshly-picked, late-summer fruit rolls around in chalk dust before completing with a lemon-citrus-spritzed finish. Don't open this bottle if you're feeling down; this bottle wants you to experience it at your best.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$16.00

92 **Domaine François Villon** 2023

Chenin Blanc

This Vouvray has a nose of lime zest, red apple, gooseberry, lemon curd and orange blossom. The off-dry wine has a honeyed midpalate with an underlay of orange marmalade. Pair with pork loin, smoked turkey and tempeh.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 11.0%

Retail: \$17.00

92 **Maison Darragon** 2023 Les Tuffes

Chenin Blanc

This wine has a fresh nose of golden-apple slice, white peach, papaya, orange zest and green table grapes. A dry, energetic midpalate opens into lemon citrus and green plum with hints of grapefruit. The wine is bustling with lively acidity that would complement fish, calamari and anything buttered.

R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$23.00

92 **Philippe Brisebarre** 2022 Sec

Chenin Blanc

When introducing friends to Vouvray it helps to have a wine like this one that showcases Chenin Blanc's best parts. The wine has a honeyed, aromatic nose of green raisin, baked pear, golden apple, kumquat zest and dried lime peel. Creamy in texture, a slightly-tart acidity springs across the palate and provides balance along with a distinct liveliness.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$15.00

92 **Vignoble Alain Robert** 2022 Les Charmes

Chenin Blanc

Pale-lemon in color, this wine has a nose of red apple, Asian pear, dried lemon peel and orange blossom. Round in texture with slightly-tart acidity, the dry wine has a sunny brightness that fully infuses the midpalate and lends structure.

R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$24.00



Loire Wines 2024 Ratings

91 Damien Pinon NV Le Brut de Brut

Sparkling Chenin Blanc

Mature aromas of honey-dipped white nectarine, peach, yellow apple and orange marmalade open on the nose. On the palate the dry wine flirts with hay and dried herbs before committing itself to orchard fruit on the long finish.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 13.0%

Retail: \$18.00

90 Domaine Clos de l'Épinay 2020 Demi Sec

Chenin Blanc

This wine opens with a perfumed and honeyed nose of caramel, toasted almonds, baked apples and candied orange slice. The wine is creamy in texture with a heart of summer orchard fruit. Enjoy as a dessert by itself or pair with goat cheese or a cheese plate.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.0%

Retail: \$16.00

90 Famille Bougrier 2023 V Sec-Dry

Chenin Blanc

Orange marmalade meets white peach and baked red apple slice on the nose along with white blossom. The dry Vouvray is energetic with tangy acidity that runs the length of the taste and refreshes. Pair with chicken fricassee and Pad Thai.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$17.00

90 Philippe Brisebarre NV Brut

Sparkling Chenin Blanc

This wine has a nose of peach, orange zest, Fuji apple and dried white blossom petal. A vibrant acidity infuses the midpalate and acknowledges its dominating orchard-fruit core. Pair with scallion pancakes, roasted potatoes and latkes.

Best Buy - R.S.

ABV: 12.5%

Retail: \$15.00

89 Florian Le Capitaine 2022 Les Aumônes

Chenin Blanc

This wine has a reserved nose of Fuji apple, dried orange peel, pear and white blossom. Slightly round on the midpalate, notes of wet stone and lemon citrus infuse the length of the long finish. Pair with chicken Milanese, flatbread pizza and mushroom risotto.

R.S.

ABV: 13.5%

Retail: \$26.00



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