

These 5 bottles show that great Bordeaux wine needn't be expensive



By [Dave McIntyre](#) Columnist, Food March 30

Exceptional Excellent Very Good



(Deb Lindsey /For The Washington Post)

The 2015 and 2016 vintages of Bordeaux' "petit chateau" are kind of like when a patisserie presents a platter of canelés, the small rum-flavored cakes native to Bordeaux, with a custardy center and crispy exterior, fresh from the oven. You want to scoop them all up and cry, "Vive la France!"

Chateau Guiraud G Bordeaux Blanc Sec 2015

Bordeaux, France, \$22

White Bordeaux wines are typically based on sauvignon blanc, but they don't resemble the racy style we identify with New Zealand or the firm, minerally wines of the Loire Valley. That's usually because of the addition of semillon in the blend, to add an oily richness and expansive texture. Bordeaux blanc ranges from cheap, inexpensive and inconsistent wines for quick drinking to rather pricey, age-worthy collectibles. The G by Chateau Guiraud falls in between, offering great quality at a moderate price. It has considerable heft, so drink it with dinner, not as a cocktail. Guiraud is a top producer of Sauternes, the famous sweet wine of the region. The G shows it can do dry just as well. Alcohol by volume: 13.5 percent. Distributed by M. Touton: Available in the District at Connecticut Avenue Wine & Liquor, Eye Street Cellars, Rodman's, Wide World of Wines. Available in Maryland at Dawson's Liquors in Severna Park, Old Farm Liquors in Frederick, Pine Orchard Liquors in Ellicott City, Wine Source in Baltimore, Town & Country Wine, Liquor Etc. in Easton. Available in Virginia at Chain Bridge Cellars and the Vineyard in McLean.

GREAT VALUE

Chateau Moulinat 2015

Bordeaux, \$14

Textbook Bordeaux, offering the traditional "pencil" graphite aromas over scents of plum, cherry and blackcurrant. And the wine kept getting better over a few days, suggesting it will last for several years in your cellar, and will reward decanting if you can't wait. Sustainably farmed, it is packaged in a traditional wooden box for a case. ABV: 13 percent.

Distributed by Le Storie: Available in the District at A. Litteri, Ace Beverage, Cordial Fine Wine & Spirits, DCAnter. Available in Virginia at Arrowine and Cheese in Arlington; Chain Bridge Cellars in McLean; Corks & Kegs; J. Emerson Fine Wines & Cheese, Once Upon a Vine (MacArthur Avenue, Stratford Hills) and Union Market in Richmond;

Department of Beer and Wine in Alexandria; Grape + Bean (Old Town Alexandria, Rosemont); Tastings of Charlottesville and Wine Warehouse in Charlottesville; Vino Market in Midlothian.

GREAT VALUE

Chateau La Mothe du Barry Bordeaux Superieur 2016

Bordeaux, \$14

This wine tastes much more sophisticated than the price would imply. It's deep, rich and minerally, with dark fruit flavors and amazing persistence. (Such persistence is unwelcome in salesmen, but very welcome in a wine like this.) And it is widely available, especially in the District. Buy several bottles to drink over the next few years with steaks, roasts or anything from the grill. Certified organic. ABV: 14 percent.

Distributed by Elite: Available in the District at Arrowine and Spirits, the Bottle Shop, District Liquors, Downtown Liquors, D'Vines, Lion's Fine Wine & Spirits, Morris Miller Wine & Liquor, P&C Market, Rodman's, S&R Liquors, Streets Market (Massachusetts Avenue), Tenley Market, Tenley Wine & Liquor, Virginia Market, Wardman Wines, Watergate Vintners & Spirits, Whole Foods Market (Foggy Bottom, H Street, P Street, Tenleytown), Yes! Organic Market (Georgia Avenue); on the list at 1230 DC, Bacio Pizzeria, Prego Again. Available in Maryland at Balducci's in Bethesda, Cheers & Spirits in Arnold, Dawson's Liquors in Severna Park, Decanter Fine Wines in Columbia, Greenbelt Co-op in Greenbelt, Hops & Vines in Odenton, Old Farm Liquors and Riverside Liquors in Frederick, Shawan Liquors in Hunt Valley, Snider's Super Foods in Silver Spring, Wine Cellars of Annapolis, Wine Underground in Baltimore, Yes! Organic Market in Hyattsville; on the list at Donna's Cafe at Cross Keys in Baltimore. Available in Virginia at Arrowine and Cheese, Grand Cru and Twisted Vines Bottleshop in Arlington, Balducci's (Alexandria, McLean), Branch & Vine and Libbie Market in Richmond, Lee's Market and Planet Wine & Gourmet in Alexandria, Leesburg Vintner, Norm's Beer & Wine in Vienna, Streets Market (Alexandria, Arlington), Wine Warehouse in Charlottesville, Whole Foods Market (various