

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

15 Thrilling Global Wines for Thanksgiving

Find something different to pour with these new reviews of Cabernet, Pinot Noir, Nebbiolo and more from California, Italy, France and beyond, up to 92 points



Break traditions, broaden your palate and pour something different at this year's Thanksgiving table. (Getty Images/Violeta Stoimenova)

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Nov 22, 2021

Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

When it comes to holidays, it can be challenging to steer away from annual traditions. As far as the Thanksgiving feast goes, wines like Pinot Noir and Beaujolais are reliable and popular selections. But instead of reaching for tried-and-true pairings, we encourage you to broaden your palate and pour something different this year. To help, we've selected a diverse mix of wines from throughout the world, with plenty of intriguing and affordable options to explore.

It's best to choose food-friendly wines that won't clash with any Thanksgiving dishes. Fuller-bodied reds can be challenging, especially those with [oaky](#) notes or high levels of tannins, so it's better to go for light-to medium-bodied wines with good natural acidity. [Bodegas Faustino's](#) bright and fluid Rioja is a no-brainer, thanks to its cherry and floral flavors with light accents of orange peel, cedar and tea. Similarly, [Alessandro Costa's](#) Nebbiolo is a light and airy choice, but offers firmer structure, along with strawberry, cherry and pepper notes.

Cabernet Sauvignon would typically be a tricky pairing. But [Domaine Eden](#), based in California's cool-climate Santa Cruz Mountains, has produced a sleek and fresh version that will impress your guests with its zesty loganberry and boysenberry notes. And if you're entertaining any Pinot Noir fans, there are plenty of impressive versions to try here, coming from Oregon, California, France and Chile.

White and sparkling wines are great for sipping before or throughout the meal, especially those with high levels of acidity that can cut through rich fare and cleanse your palate. With its firm acidity and round texture, [Bodegas La Cana](#)'s Albariño is an excellent candidate. [Suavia](#)'s crisp Soave Classico also fits the bill, offering juicy notes of ripe melon and nectarine. For bubbly, [Segura Viudas](#)' cava is an elegant option with raspberry notes and a delicate underpinning of smoky minerality, and [Cleto Chiarli e Figli](#) offers a great value with its creamy Lambrusco, which displays ripe boysenberry, wild cherry and citrus peel notes. It's a bold choice, but will pair well with pre-dinner charcuterie, cheeses, smoked turkey and sausage-laced stuffing.

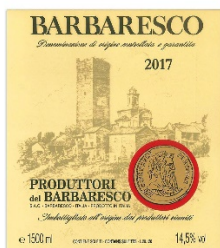


PLANET OREGON

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2019

Score: 92 | \$24

WS review: This Pinot layers in the complexity and tension, showing accents of raspberry and cherry that are laced with dusky spice and black tea. Drink now through 2028. 16,000 cases made. From Oregon.—*Tim Fish*



PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO

Barbaresco 2017

Score: 91 | \$50

WS review: A beam of cherry introduces this lithe red, shaded by tar, eucalyptus, white pepper and earth notes. This is dense, with the tannins leaving a firm impression on the finish. Best from 2024 through 2037. 24,000 cases made. 8,500 cases imported. From Italy.—*Bruce Sanderson*

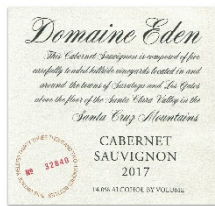


BODEGAS LA CAÑA

Albariño Rias Baixas La Caña 2020

Score: 91 | \$20

WS review: Firm acidity supports the round texture in this solid white, whose peach and lime flavors are balanced by brine and blanched almond notes. Reserved, but harmonious and deep. Drink now through 2026. 22,000 cases made. 17,500 cases imported. From Spain.—*Thomas Matthews*

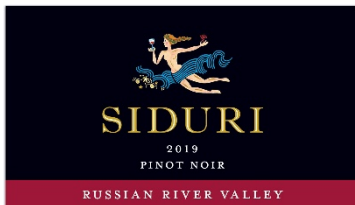


DOMAINE EDEN

Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Cruz Mountains 2017

Score: 91 | \$45

WS review: Zesty, with loganberry and boysenberry fruit notes showing good energy from the get-go, while anise, floral and mesquite notes fill in throughout. Sleek and fresh in feel, with the fruit showing a finishing kick on the mineral-tinged finish. Drink now through 2027. 2,912 cases made. From California.—*James Molesworth*



SIDURI

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2019

Score: 91 | \$40

WS review: A svelte red, filled with sandalwood accents to the well-knit dried cherry and raspberry flavors. Shows vanilla bean notes midpalate, with hot stone nuances lingering on the finish. Drink now through 2024. 3,322 cases made. From California.—*Kim Marcus*



MIGUEL TORRES

Carignan Maule Valley Vigno Vignadores de Carignan 2017

Score: 91 | \$21

WS review: This robust red is filled with firm tannins and acidity backing the lively red currant and raspberry flavors that feature a mineral snap. Hot spice and slate accents flood the zesty finish. Drink now through 2024. 3,101 cases made. 2,000 cases imported. From Chile.—*K.M.*



BODEGAS FAUSTINO

Rioja V Reserva 2015

Score: 90 | \$20

WS review: Bright and fluid, this red exhibits cherry and floral flavors, with light accents of orange peel, cedar and tea. This is firm enough and lingers nicely with a spice- and cherry-tinged aftertaste. Tempranillo and Mazuelo. Drink now through 2030. 5,000 cases imported. From Spain.—*B.S.*



SARTORI

Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore Regolo 2018

Score: 90 | \$20

WS review: A medium-bodied red that knits savory smoke, iron and tobacco notes with flavors of ripe black currant, licorice and spiced orange peel in a bright and charming package. Light, taut tannins are enmeshed with the creamy flavor range, emerging on the crisp finish. Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella and Croatina. Drink now through 2028. 10,000 cases made. 5,000 cases imported. From Italy.—*Alison Napjus*



SEGURA VIUDAS

Brut Cava Heredad Reserva NV

Score: 90 | \$30

WS review: A firm version, with a fine mousse, this elegant Cava offers a delicate underpinning of smoky minerality woven with detailed notes of steeped peach and raspberry fruit, pickled ginger and blood orange zest. Macabeo and Parellada. Drink now through 2025. 25,000 cases made. 9,000 cases imported. From Spain.—*A.N.*



SUAVIA

Garganega Soave Classico 2020

Score: 90 | \$18

WS review: Crisp and lightly chalky, this seamless, light-bodied white offers juicy notes of ripe melon and nectarine, with hints of honeysuckle, pickled ginger and blood orange peel. Drink now through 2025. 12,500 cases made. 5,000 cases imported. From Italy.—*A.N.*



TRIMBACH

Riesling Alsace 2019

Score: 90 | \$27

WS review: A racy white, with a pretty, petrol-laced overtone to the flavors of apricot, lemon wax and almond blossom. Finely meshed, with good length and a tang of salinity through the mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2029. 30,000 cases made. 7,000 cases imported. From France—*A.N.*



ALESSANDRO COSTA

Nebbiolo Langhe Nino Costa 2020

Score: 89 | \$22

WS review: This effusive red sports bright strawberry and cherry fruit, accented by white pepper. Light and airy, this firms up on the moderately long finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases made. 1,000 cases imported. From Italy.—*B.S.*



VIÑA LEYDA

Pinot Noir Leyda Valley 2020

Score: 89 | \$13

WS review: This offers an engaging forest floor aroma, with flavors to match, as well as moderately juicy raspberry and cherry notes backed by firm acidity. Ends with floral hints on the fresh finish. Drink now through 2024. 12,300 cases made. 1,867 cases imported. From Chile—*K.M.*



CHAMPY

Bourgogne Cuvée Edme 2019

Score: 88 | \$30

WS review: This rich version evokes cherry and plum flavors, shaded by spice and earth notes. Ends with a light vegetal element, showing moderate length. Drink now. 2,500 cases made. 500 cases imported. From France—*B.S.*



CLETO CHIARLI E FIGLI

Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro Amabile Centenario NV

Score: 87 | \$11

WS review: A ripe and brambly beam of boysenberry puree is accented by aromatic notes of Mediterranean scrub, wild cherry and citrus peel in this creamy Lambrusco, with a juicy, spiced finish. Drink now. 9,500 cases made. 5,800 cases imported. From Italy.—*A.N.*