

Wines from Tesco that were recommended in the May 2025 issue of Decanter Magazine.

These were selected to give a wide range of prices to fit within the budget when factoring in promotion of the 25% for 6 or more bottles which expired on 30/6/25

Originally the intent was to only select wines from the Tesco Finest range scoring 90 or more by decanter, but some were not in stock and substitutes were selected.

1. Tesco, Finest Valle de Leyda, Chardonnay Leyda Valley, San Antonio, Chile, 2022

Grape Variety Chardonnay

Luis Felipe Edwards is a reliable name for those seeking typicity and value from Chile. Made from fruit grown in the coastal Leyda region, this Chardonnay has seen a portion of the wine aged in French oak for 4 to 5 months, before the final blend in stainless steel tanks. It's not a complex wine, but if you're looking for an easy drinking New World expression of the grape, this fits the bill, offering creamy, vanilla oak character, allied with melon and tropical fruit flavours.

The coastal climate of Valle de Leyda is perfect for ripening white grapes because the cool breezes keep the grapes fresh. A fruity style of Chardonnay with aromas of melon and apple leading to a rounded palate of tropical fruit and hints of vanilla. Pairs with Grilled white fish and barbecued chicken Crafted from premium grapes in cool Leyda vineyards From the celebrated producer LUIS FELIPE EDWARDS

History

The history of Viña Luis Felipe Edwards (LFE) dates back to 1976, when Luis Felipe Edwards Sr. purchased the Fundo San José de Puquillay estate, located in the Colchagua Valley. The estate sits nestled in a secluded horseshoe-shaped valley, separated from the majestic snow-capped Andes by the smaller San Fernando ridge. Viña Luis Felipe Edwards has since grown to be the largest 100% family-owned wine company in Chile, with 1850 hectares of estate vineyards and is exported to more than 90 countries.

Regional Information

The Casablanca Valley's cool Mediterranean climate is strongly influenced by the chilling Humboldt current, which comes up from Antarctica and runs all along Chile's coast. Foggy mornings and cool breezes all year long make for a relatively delayed harvest, a natural spot for Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Noir.

13.5%

£9 (before discount)

Decanter score 89

I originally intended buying the Sauvignon Blanc from the same estate which scored 91

2. Tesco Finest Chablis Premier Cru. Appellation Chablis Premier Cru Contrôlée.

Grape Variety: Chardonnay

From the award-winning producer la chablisienne

Made from high quality Chardonnay grapes picked from Premier Cru Chablis vineyards in northern Burgundy. Partially oaked, this wine is an intense and more complex style of Chablis with apple and citrus fruits and the classic mineral flavours typical of the region. Pairs with Dover sole salmon en croute roast chicken and Truffle Brie cheese

French-oak barrels Exclusive wines expertly crafted Suitable for vegans

Pairs with dover sole salmon en croûte roast chicken and truffle brie cheese

12.5%

£24

Decanter Score 91

3. Tesco, Finest Viñas del Rey Albariño, Rías Baixas, Galicia, Spain 2024

Grape Variety Albarhino

From the award winning producer Pagos del Rey

Regional Information

From exceptional grapes grown in the rainy Rías Baixas. O Rosal Valley is located in the South of Rías Baixas, where the Miño River flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The climate is mild and with mineral-rich soils. The predominant rock-type is almost exclusively granite but our valley counts some metamorphic rocks crossing some of our vineyards. O Rosal has excellent ripening conditions due to the unique combination of Miño River and Atlantic ocean, which reveals this valley as the perfect place to grow high quality grape varieties.

Growing and hand harvesting Albariño grapes in Spain's rainy Rias Baixas region requires dedication and patience.

History

The history of DO Rías Baixas dates back to 1980, when an official denomination was created specifically for the Albariño grape variety. When Spain entered the European Union (EU) in 1986, however, the denomination was changed to Rías Baixas as EU wine laws did not recognize a DO named for a single grape variety. DO Rías Baixas is regulated by the Consejo Regulador (local governing body) which ensures adherence to permitted grape varieties, viticultural practices, winemaking and aging procedures.

Vinification Details

Grapes are picked by hand, using small plastic crates, Quick handling of the grapes, in order to avoid the loss of aromatic freshness and in order to protect the integrity of the fruit. Sorting table in the winery. After a full de-stemmed grape and crushing we do a cold Maceration of the skins during 6 hours to highlight the aromatic range of the albariño: its intensity and complexity. This is followed by alcoholic fermentation at cool temperatures.

An elegant wine, with aromas of apricot, honeysuckle and notes of fresh grapefruit and zesty mandarin. perfect for the summer season, with its warm lemon and lime blossom zestiness, white peach and nectarine flavours, and saline acidity

Style: Dry and Aromatic Pairs with Fresh seafood or grilled sardines or just crisps and dips

From exceptional grapes grown in the rainy Rias Baixas region.

Dry & Aromatic

12.5%

£12 Suitable for vegans

Decanter Score 90

4. Tesco, Finest Viña del Cura, Reserva, Rioja, Spain 2020

Grape Variety: Tempranillo

Traditional style of Rioja, this is produced for the Finest range by Baron de Ley, and is from the highly regarded 2020 vintage. The minimum ageing requirement for red Rioja reserva-level wines is three years (at least one year of which must be in oak, and at least six months in bottle)

Regional Information

The winery has over 600 hectares located in Rioja Oriental and Rioja Alta on Alluvial soils, rich in clays and limestone. Clear Mediterranean influence, which implies more isolation and less rains than in the western Rioja areas, which creates optimal conditions for the obtention of wines with more colour, concentration and poliphenolic maturation.

History

Barón de Ley is a bodega created by a small group of Rioja wine experts who decided to embark on a project, which at the Reserva wines, and has earned itself a deserved place among the international winemaking elite. Baron de Ley is a winery founded in 1985 and modelled on the Medoc Châteaux, bringing together all the elements that make wine a work of art. Situated in Rioja Baja, only 30km from Longroño, Baron de Ley is the biggest estate owner in Rioja.

You can discern the American oak, which gives a mellow, smooth, vanilla creaminess to the sweet and juicy raspberry and blackberry fruit flavours.

Description

Viña del Cura Rioja Denominación de Origen Calificada Gran Reserva Product of Spain. . The minimum ageing requirement for red Rioja reserva-level wines is three years (at least one year of which must be in oak, and at least six months in bottle)

This intensely concentrated Rioja has been barrel aged for a minimum of 2 years before maturing for a minimum of 3 years in bottle at award winning Barón de Ley winery. Hand harvested Tempranillo create this premium wine, full of mellow black fruits, hints of vanilla and exotic spice.

PAIRS WITH Roast lamb, beef and hearty game stew

14%

£15

Decanter score 90

5. Tesco, Finest Wrattenbully Cabernet Sauvignon, Wrattenbully, South Australia, 2023

Grape Variety Cabernet Sauvignon

Wrattenbully lies between Padthaway and Coonawarra, in the Limestone Coast region of South East Australia. The cool climate gives grapes a long ripening period, resulting in a deep, rich Cabernet Sauvignon.

History

Established in 1969 in the Clare Valley, one of country's oldest wine-producing regions, Wakefield are founding members of Australia's First Families of Wine. With a strong focus on sustainability, Wakefield apply the most innovative techniques available to improve energy efficiency, water conservation and packaging. Excelling in premium to luxury, single varietal wines across their ranges, Wakefield have won over 4,400 national and international awards since 2015.

Vinification Details

The grapes were machine harvested early in the morning into draining bins which allow juice separation from the skins in the vineyard. They were then rushed to the winery and pressed, settled and fermented in stainless steel tanks.

This has notes of blackcurrant, vanilla and cedar / eucalyptus

Pair with Beef, Chicken, Lamb

14.5%

£11

Decanter score 91

6. Penfolds, Max's Shiraz Cabernet, South Australia, 2021

Grape Variety: Shiraz/Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon,

Just what many of us look for in an Aussie red, this blend of two-thirds Shiraz with a third Cabernet Sauvignon was aged in American oak and offers warm spice and chocolatey smoothness, wrapped around intense cassis and blackberry fruit. Warming, full-bodied and classic Australian.

A classic Australian expression, balanced and bright with a modern twist. This wine delivers generosity of fruit from Shiraz together with solid Cabernet Sauvignon structure. Max's Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon displays the Penfolds 'stamp' inspired by Max Schubert, a winemaking legend in Penfolds history.

Max Schubert A.M. Winemaker Penfolds constant pursuit of excellence is underpinned by time-honoured values established by the legendary max schubert, penfolds chief winemaker from 1948-1975. Named after max Schubert A.M. Penfolds chief winemaker between the years 1948-1975

12 months in American oak (7% new) and French oak (2% new) and remainder in seasoned

14.5%

£22

Decanter Score 90

This was the only wine that was not from the Tesco Finest Range, as the intended wine was not available.