

1. Moillard-Thomas Crémant de Bourgogne Brut, Burgundy, France, 2023

Moillard-Thomas is one of the oldest wine merchants in the famous Côtes de Nuits in Burgundy, and has been making wine since the 19th century. This bright and fresh crémant is made using the traditional method and a selection of grapes including Chardonnay, Gamay, and Pinot Noir, all grown in the Côte Chalonnaise and the Mâconnais. The topography features rolling, undulating hills with mixed agriculture, rather than the unbroken sea of vines seen in the Côte d'Or.

The soils consist of a high proportion of limestone and clay, perfectly suited for the region's primary grape varieties.

It shares a similar continental climate to its northern neighbour but sits at a slightly higher elevation, resulting in a slightly cooler microclimate with distinct freshness in the glass.

With its fine bubbles and zesty, floral aromas, it's perfect as an apéritif or served alongside seafood.

11.5% RRP £17, We paid £15

2. Graham Beck Brut, South Africa

This is affectionately known as the 'President's Choice' because it was served at both Nelson Mandela's inauguration and Barack Obama's presidential win. It's made with the Méthode Cap Classique – a style identical to the traditional method used to make Champagne, using Chardonnay and Pinot Noir too. It means it's a real steal for fizz fans who love the taste of Champagne – but not the price. Fresh but creamy. Full of limey citrus flavours – it's got a lovely brioche richness from its second fermentation in the bottle. Fantastic with cheesy nibbles.

12.5%, RRP £17, We paid £16

3. Domaine Jean-Max Roger 'Cuvée Genèse' Sancerre Rosé, France, 2024/25

Winemaking has been in the Roger family for generations – as far back as the 17th century. Based in Bué, one of Sancerre’s most renowned villages, they’re dedicated to crafting wines that fully express the unique terroir of the region. This rosé is made with Pinot Noir grapes from the estate’s sustainably managed vineyards. Winemaker Thibault Roger ferments it at low temperatures to preserve the delicate floral aromas, and a period of lees ageing adds texture and subtle complexity. Lees aging (or *sur lie*) is a technique where wine is left to mature in contact with dead yeast cells (lees) after fermentation. This process imparts a creamy, rich texture and complex flavours like brioche, toast, and nuts, while also protecting the wine from oxidation. You’ll find it fresh and delicate with vibrant red-berry notes. Its long, elegant finish will match beautifully with light fish dishes like sushi or sashimi.

12.9% RRP £20, We paid £18

4. LFE Signature Series Pinot Noir 2024/25, Rapel Valley, Chile

In 1976, Luis Felipe Edwards Sr and his wife returned from Europe to Chile looking for new opportunities. They were enamoured by a wine estate in Colchagua Valley, surrounded by the foothills of the Andes mountains. This estate was the foundation for what would become one of Chile’s largest wineries in the decades to come. In the coastal part of the region, granitic soils of the nearby Cordillera de la Costa and sea breezes impart distinctive intensity to the grapes, resulting in wines known for their aromatic richness, vibrant acidity, and expressive fruit flavours. Expect aromas of fresh and preserved red fruits, complemented with hints of sweet spices and vanilla. Pinot Noir goes well with white meats, seafood, fresh vegetables, pasta and young cheeses.

12.5%, RRP £9.50, We paid £8.50

5. Incanta Pinot Noir 2024/25, Romania

Romania is where insiders look for great value, great tasting Pinot. It's in the swing of a post-Soviet winemaking renaissance – and Englishman Philip Cox and his Romanian wife, Elvira, are ready to sing its praises to the rooftops. Their Cramele Recas Estate is now the most successful winery in Romania, and they continue to set new trends for Romanian wine. The estate is certified organic, runs on vast solar arrays, uses lightweight bottles, and makes all of its wine's vegan-friendly. This Pinot punches way above its price point – and the 2020 vintage was awarded 90 points by Tim Atkin MW. This is a wonderfully approachable wine with notes of fresh black cherry, raspberry and cinnamon. Try its juicy flavours with a classic charcuterie board.

12.5%, RRP £10.50, We paid £9

6. La Belle Angèle Pinot Noir 2023/24, France

For a distinctive taste of what makes French Pinot Noir so adored, don't miss La Belle Angèle Pinot Noir. It's made from grapes expertly-selected across several French regions. This means the winemakers can create a wine with the perfect balance of rich flavour and freshness. And because it's not from a single designated area, you can get it for an incredible price. Expect flavours of ripe red cherry, gentle notes of sweet spice and satisfying length. It's a great partner for roast chicken.

12.5% RRP £9.50, We paid £8.5