

COTTAGES & GARDENS

The Best Wines To Gift This Holiday Season

30 wine gifts priced from affordable to splurge-worthy.

This year it is more important than ever to treat yourself to exciting wines. This Holiday Gift Guide is not only meant to be gifts for your wine aficionado friends but gifts to yourself. With spectacular red wines from all over the world to blissful Champagne to sparkling wines from California, Brazil, Spain, and Italy, this list will brighten your holiday spirits.



Champagne Bollinger PN VZ15

Created entirely from Pinot Noir sourced mainly in the village of Verzenay in the year 2015, this newly launched nonvintage, made with the addition of 20% reserve wines from six previous vintages, is a new series from **Bollinger**—an answer to its more expensive vintage, Vieilles Vignes Francaises Blanc de Noirs, which is priced close to a thousand dollars. A highly aromatic cuvée with acacia blossom, fig, peach, apricot and hazelnut, it shows tension, aromatic complexity, and salinity on the finish. Bollinger is known for Pinot Noir dominance in its blend and plans to release a series of PN from different villages to highlight the Pinot Noir crus. (\$120)

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Champagne Ayala Brut Majeur

A small family house going back to 1860 in Aÿ with over a mile of caves dug from Aÿ's chalky hillsides, **Champagne Ayala** was acquired by Bollinger in 2005. The Brut Majeur NV, a blend of equal parts Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Grand and Premier Cru vineyards with 20% Pinot Meunier, is elegant, fresh, and expressive with white flower, pear, apple, and citrus notes. (\$55)