

# Party-Perfect

## HOLIDAY WINE TIPS

*Here are 5 tips to help make the wines shine at your party:*

### 1. Start with the perfect wine trio:

With a great red, white, and sparkling wine on hand, you'll have all your bases covered. Make your selections from our Top 20 list (below)—they're all perfect for holiday entertaining!

### 2. How much wine to have on hand:

The average guest may consume three glasses of wine over the course of an evening. A bottle (750 ml) contains about six 4-oz glass pours, so be sure to purchase based on the number of guests attending. If you're serving wine, beer, and spirits, the general breakdown is that 50% of guests will prefer wine, 30% beer, and 20% spirits. If you're offering wine and beer only, then plan on 60% preferring wine and 40% beer.

### 3. How to serve it:

It's not hard to serve wines at the perfect temps during a party. Just follow these simple guidelines . . . **Sparkling wines** should be served around 45 degrees F. Doing so prevents foaminess when you pour. Keep sparklers in ice-filled bowls to save fridge space.

After greeting guests at the door with a glass of sparkling wine, be sure to put the bottle back on ice. **White wines** should be served around 55 degrees F. Just keep your whites in the fridge or on ice until you serve them. Then let them breathe in the open as the evening progresses.

**Red wines** should be served cool—around 65 degrees F.

### 4. Keep it stocked:

Plan to refresh your wine stations with new bottles every half-hour.

### 5. Enjoy responsibly:

As you serve alcoholic beverages, be sure to have plenty of water and other non-alcoholic beverages on hand for your guests. Make sure no one who is drinking will be driving.

Our Wine Team's **TOP 20** Holiday 2018  
*picks*

**1** 2015  
**Château Haut-Brisson**  
**95 JS**

Ripe dark plums and chocolate on the nose. The palate is all about silky tannins and beautiful fruit. Full body, gorgeous fruit and a complex aftertaste.



**2** 2016  
**Alumni Willamette Valley Pinot Noir**

A beautiful range of aromas featuring black cherry, peppercorn, and hints of persimmon. Rich generous mouthfeel with flavors of plum and spices.



**3** 2016  
**Louis Jadot Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières Premier Cru**

An elegant bouquet of red berries and spice with hints of spices. Supple, good tannins, and a fine overall structure.



**4** 2015  
**Lawless Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon**

Intensely rich nose of black cherry and graphite. Cassis, blackberry, and mocha flavors with a spicy note of black pepper and subtle tannins.



**5** **Bon Vivant Brut**  
California Sparkling Wine made in the French style. This sparkler is made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes which gives it a crisp, elegant taste.



**6** 2016  
**Rodney Strong Sonoma Vineyards Chardonnay**

A crisp wine with bright citrus aromas, hints of tropical fruit, and toasty oak with a clean lingering finish.



**7** 2012  
**Covalli Barolo**  
Made from 100% Nebbiolo grapes. Aromas of licorice, cherry, and leather mark this intense red. Firm and full-bodied, complex and dry with a lengthy finish.



**8** 2016  
**La Bardada Tinta de Toro**  
Aromas of graphite, wild blackberries, and plums. Minerality and freshness balance the fruit and structure on the palate beautifully.



**9** 2016  
**Stationmaster Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**  
Intense black fruit flavors with good acidity, gravelly notes, and fine-grained tannins.



**10** 2017  
**Vecchio Marone**  
Aromas of cherry, blueberry, and chocolate. The mouthfeel is juicy, silky, with notes of oak. Balanced, complex, with great length and a fruity finish.



**11** 2015  
**Philibert Ducard  
Chablis**

Made from 100% Chardonnay. Fresh and crisp with delicious zesty citrus flavors that lead to a long tangy finish.



**12** 2017  
**Skyquake  
Semi-Dry Riesling**

Semi-dry style with aromas of lime and tangerine zest and a hint of petrol. Floral notes lead into ripe peach flavors with a balanced refreshing acidity.



**13** Masottina  
**Prosecco Brut**  
**96 D**

Intense nose of pear, peach, elderflower, and almond flowing into a mineral-drenched palate with touches of eucalyptus. Great length and depth of flavor.



**14** 2015  
**Brotte Cotes du Rhône  
Villages Cairanne**  
**91 WA**

A kirsch, strawberry, and floral-dominated beauty with plenty of texture, medium to full-bodied richness, and no hard edges.



**15** 2016  
**Bieler Family  
Born to Run  
Cabernet Sauvignon**

Ripe flavors of blackberry, black cherry, spice, and a touch of mocha. Flavors intensify on the palate with a soft and velvety mid-palate and supple tannins.



**16** 2013  
**Torraiolo Chianti  
Classico Riserva**

Made from 100% Sangiovese grapes. This wine has an intense bouquet of dark fruits. Dry and full-bodied, this wine has flavors of chocolate and cherry.



**17** 2017  
**Ronan by  
Clinet Blanc**

Made primarily from Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of citrus fruit complemented by a nice mineral tone. Fleeshy and bright on the palate with a fresh finish.



**18** 2015  
**Handpicked  
Barossa Valley Shiraz**  
**92 W&S**

Full bodied and rich with spicy dark fruits, flavorful oak and supple tannins.



**19** 2016  
**Château Grimont**

Spicy notes upfront, followed by blackberry aromas. Lovely and soft with powerful ripe tannins and a wonderfully long finish.



**20** 2015  
**Casa Santos Lima  
Colossal Reserva**  
**90 WS**

Dark cherry, plum and boysenberry notes with dried herb and smoky mineral accents. Finishes with dark currant and chocolate flavors.



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