

# Wines for less than £12.00

## **Refreshing alternatives to the great wines classics.**

Why is that Chateau Latour, Margaux, Petrus and Mouton-Rothchild scoops all the mega roles when supposedly lesser wine struggle to get a bit of the rewards? Is it really a finer wine? Clearly the name counts a lot

The value of wine is a mystic equation that would send Einstein brain into a spin. Part of it is covered by production costs. Equipments, barrels, land packaging, transport, storage and selling.

But you have also got the elusive star factor: is this wine iconic, unique, special and how many people want a splash of it? Is it Chateau Cheval Blanc or a petit Chateau?

Wine sellers have made a fortune by charging premium for those iconic wines.

Think about the famous name in wine, Chablis, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Barolo...what do they actually mean to you?

A lot of the time, the name tells you very little about the wine (not even the grapes variety), it might be the name of a village or a region rather than the grape or quality of the liquid.

Alongside price, the really key information is what flavours to expect, who made it, what year it is and whether it goes well with the meal you are having. Frankly, you can forget everything else.

Take Sancerre, it is name after a French village in the Loire Valley famous for producing the best Sauvignon Blanc in the world with pinging, super fresh verve. Now, if you are a Sancerre fan but want to save a few Pounds, grab Sauvignon de Touraine from just down the road, a glorious white wine poised between the Loire and Marlborough, and it's good value for money. Or try Sauvignon Blanc from (Elgin) in South Africa, (Leyda) in Chile or (Tasman Bay) in New Zealand. Each of these Regions produce a unique style but each is linked by a zesty, joyful, upbeat freshness that is capable of making Monday feel more like Friday.

Drinking top end wine can be a minefield but there are ways to treat your taste buds without having to hawk the family jewels.

Some supermarket shelves are littered with bargain, and how to look for them is the key. Sometimes famous wines have neighboring vineyards that offer similar quality at a snip of the price, for example, if you are looking for Puligny-Montrachet costing around £35.00, try the neighboring vineyard of Saint-Aubin for around £12.00.

Remember, it is always what's in the bottle that counts.

My second best wines are:

- ◆ Chateau Tavenan 2001, Medoc Cru Bourgeois  
[sales@lescaves.co.uk](mailto:sales@lescaves.co.uk) £11.50
- ◆ Quincy, Domaine Les Ballandos 2006, (20 miles from Sancerre)  
[info@peterosbournewine.co.uk](mailto:info@peterosbournewine.co.uk) £10.99
- ◆ Rasteau "Les Sambiches", Andree Brunel 2005  
(12 miles from Chateauneuf-Du-Pape)  
[sales@hallgarten.co.uk](mailto:sales@hallgarten.co.uk) £11.75

Happy hunting,  
Cheers,

Xavier Le-Bellego  
Forbury's restaurant & Wine Bar