

Wines good for holidays, drinking and gifting



On Wine

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Nice wines make nice gifts. But when it comes to shopping for just the right wine, those miles of aisles can be challenging. That is when it pays to go to your local wine shop and talk to a pro. Give your wine guru a few clues (red or white, light or full-bodied, dry or not so dry) and your price range and watch your gift list dwindle.

I've put together a range of wines I would recommend to shoppers looking for something special.

Terrunyo Block Five Sauvignon Blanc (2016): A stellar single vineyard Chilean with mouth-watering acidity and intensity of varietal character. \$26

JJ Vincent Bourgogne Blanc (2014): French chardonnay with just a touch oak allows the rich, balanced fruit to shine through on a long finish. \$17

Landmark Vineyards Overlook Chardonnay (2015): Hand-picked fruit from select Sonoma vineyards and aged in French oak—first class all the way. \$25

Gary Farrell Vineyards & Winery Chardonnay and Pinot Noir (2015): If you're looking to impress, look no further. Both wines are beautifully balanced and showcase lush Russian River Valley fruit. \$35 and \$45

Kaiken Terrior Series Torrontes (2016) and Kaiken Ultra Malbec (2015): Rich, robust examples of Argentina's leading varietals--and great values at \$16 and \$25 respectively.

E. Guigal: Cotes du Rhone Blanc (2015): A viognier-based blend with enticing aromatics. **Cotes du Rhone Rouge (2013):** Syrah/grenache come to-



A selection of wines including 2015 Landmark Vineyards Overlook Chardonnay, 2015 Rutherford Ranch Merlot, 2014 Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon, 2014 Justin Isosceles, 2015 Gary Farrell Vineyards & Winery Pinot Noir and 2013 E. Guigal Cotes du Rhone Rouge. STEVE PRATI/ SPECIAL TO THE TENNESSEAN

gether in Old World style. \$15

Rutherford Ranch Merlot (2015): A stunning example of how rich and complex a great merlot can be. Highly rated—for good reason. \$26

Cooper & Thief Cellarmasters (2014) Red Wine Blend: A dark and jammy blend aged for three months in used Bourbon whiskey barrels. The result: rich, warm flavors, a long finish—and a whopping 17 percent abv. \$25

Montes Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon

(2014): Proof that quality and value can go together—especially in Chile. Plenty of dark fruit and oak character. \$25

Justin Vineyards & Winery: A Paso Robles superstar, Justin nails the big reds. **Justification (2015)** — a complex and exotic blend of cabernet franc and merlot, \$50, Savant combines legendary Paso syrah with cabernet sauvignon, \$50, and Justin's iconic **Isosceles (2014)** — a serious blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot.

\$72

Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile's Puente Alto Vineyard (2014) is world-class—really. Named in Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines of the World seven times in the last 20 years, Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon is a rare gem—and gems don't come cheap. \$125

Steve Prati is a Franklin-based wine consultant. Reach him at www.steves-winecellar.com.