

Harvest them now...

By Jancis Robinson



There are some really great wines in the £10-£30 price category. Seize the 2009 red Bordeaux and 2010 northern Rhône I have already recommended, generally for future drinking, and take advantage while other luscious 2009 reds are still available. Note that European examples can be cheaper than New World ones. Check winesearcher.com for more stockists of the wines below, all of which could already be enjoyed, even if most will keep.

Mendel, Lunta Malbec 2010 **Mendoza**

From Lunlunta vines planted in 1928! Big, glamorous and very well judged. Pure hedonism without too much alcohol. Some minerality. 14%.

July 13, 2012 8:08 pm

Harvest them now...

By Jancis Robinson

There are great wines in the £10-£30 price category, among them luscious 2009 reds that are still available



There are some really great wines in the £10-£30 price category. Seize the 2009 red Bordeaux and 2010 northern Rhônes I have already recommended, generally for future drinking, and take advantage while other luscious 2009 reds are still available. Note that European examples can be cheaper than New World ones. Check winesearcher.com for more stockists of the wines below, all of which could already be enjoyed, even if most will keep.

Red wines

Villa Maria, Private Bin Syrah 2009 Hawkes Bay

Screwcapped and with a dreadfully dull label, but it's dark and savoury with both leather and fruit aromas. Lots of fun. At the lower price, it's great value. 13%, £12.49 (20% off all NZ wines £9.99), Majestic

Mendel, Lunta Malbec 2010 Mendoza

From Lunlunta vines planted in 1928! Big, glamorous and very well judged. Pure hedonism without too much alcohol. Some minerality. 14%, £12.99 (buy 2 bottles at £9.99 each), Majestic

Tierras Coloradas Old Vine Carignan 2010, Montsant

From Celler Masroig. Impressive freshness as well as ripeness from close to the much more expensive Priorat zone in the hills above Tarragona. 14%, £10.95, 21 Waitrose stores

Cuvée Balthazar Syrah 2010 IGP Pays d'Oc

Intensely rich, blended by winemaker-for-hire Pierrick Harang from the Hérault and the hills of the Minervois. Like Syrah on steroids, but there is no excess of alcohol or oak. 13.5%, £10.99, 21 Waitrose stores and www.waitrosewine.com

Catena Malbec 2010 Mendoza

Such sophistication and class! A contrast to more souped-up examples. Lovely fluidity and freshness. Fully ripe, glossy fruit but not artificially sweet, nor aggressively potent. 13.5%, £11.86, 269 Waitrose stores and www.waitrosewine.com; £12.99, Majestic

Moss Wood Amy's Blend 2010 Margaret River

This Western Australian was so much more impressive than a similar Bordeaux blend, Ch Cambon La Pelouse 2007 at £17.99, tasted alongside it. Subtle, with nothing forced, but already hugely enjoyable and complex. 14.4%, £14.24, 225 Waitrose stores and www.waitrosewine.com

Joseph Drouhin 2009 Chorey-les-Beaune

Drouhin always has a light touch and no shortage of fruit. Works really well with the force of the vintage. Warm, mushroomy, ready. 13%, £15.95, Nickolls & Perks, Berry Bros & Rudd; £15.99, 225 Waitrose stores

Chamonix, Troika 2009 Franschoek

Juicy and fine. Real energy in this refined South African. Good balance. No excess alcohol but not quite bone dry. Silly heavy bottle. Complex for the money. 14%, £18.25, Berry Bros & Rudd

Felsina Berardenga 2008 Chianti Classico

Mmm. Sumptuous. Take me to that Florentine trattoria ... Great vitality, typicity and balance. Already drinking very well. Some Tuscan 2008s are looking very good. May be found on some Tesco shelves at £20.29. 13%, £22.65, Noel Young

Contino Reserva 2006 Rioja

Lots of pure fruit and just the merest sprinkling of dust. Very savoury and well balanced. This is proper wine. 14%, £23, Wine Society, and some Tesco Fine Wine stores

Terre Nere, Feudo di Mezzo 2008 Etna

Shaded, evolved ruby. Masses of ripe, mineral fruit and more than a hint of Pimms (cucumber peel, the bitterness of quinine). A really interesting wine from Sicily's most fashionable wine region. 13.5%, £24.28, Justerini & Brooks

Apsley Gorge Pinot Noir 2008 Tasmania

From Bicheno on the east coast of the island. Subtle colour suggests this should be compared with burgundy rather than Australian Pinot. Subtle nose, with generous reward of fruit – ripe but not sweet. Lovely wine with real complexity. Lightly spicy. Dry finish. A food wine if ever there was one. 14.2%, £24.28, Justerini & Brooks

Wine online

For picks under £10 see www.ft.com/robinson

More tasting notes on Purple pages of JancisRobinson.com