

FOOD & WINE



THE 19 BEST GRENACHE WINES TO BUY RIGHT NOW

BY BRIAN FREEDMAN APRIL 06, 2021

OFTEN UNFAIRLY OVERLOOKED, GRENACHE IS VERY VERSATILE WITH FOOD AND A GOOD IDEA NO MATTER THE SEASON.

Grenache is one of the unsung heroes of the wine world. From affordable and barbecue-ready bottles of Côtes du Rhône (a blend that often leans on the grape) to trophies like the Château Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Grenache sings with particular range and expressiveness in France. Even when it's not the dominant variety in a blend, its cherries and garrigue-like herbal notes tend to add wonderful fruit and spice to each sip.

But you shouldn't ignore Grenache, because not only are its pleasures plentiful, but it's often remarkably easy on the wallet, too, considering the high quality of what's being produced. Here, however, are 19 standouts reds.

They're comforting in the cooler weather, energetic when temperatures turn warmer, and very versatile with food.

2016 KIMSEY GRENACHE BALLARD CANYON

Aromas of pure licorice and cherries are informed by brambly berries and distinct spice and garrigue whiffs, preceding a palate of energy and composure that bursts with brambly berries, dark cherries, oregano, black raspberries, a hint of kirsch, and spice to spare. The finish is marked by licorice, candied violets, rooibos tea, and strawberry-rhubarb compote. Small production, but well worth looking for.