

W I N E S

Wine Flights

Four wines, 2 oz. each, that share a common theme

Spain

New and exciting examples from diverse regions of this old world country are making their way into mainstream wine drinking. The floral and exotic varietal hondarrabi zuri is indigenous to the Basque area (in the Northeast) and exhibits a lush, intoxicating aroma. Albarino from Galicia in the Northwestern corner of the country, is a high acid wine with orange oil characters and a crisp finish. Rioja, is the most well-known and produces both white and red wines. For reds, Tempranillo is responsible for the majority of the blend and the wines are typically crafted in the customary manner using American oak. New world varietals are being produced next to the established grapes and display richer, forward fruit characteristics, yet still maintain the old world style with the backbone of acidity that pairs so well with food.

Hondarrabi Zuri, Itsas Mendi, Basque '07
Albariño, Martin Codax, Rias Baixas '08
Rioja, Campo Viejo Reserva '06
Shiraz, Peñascal, Castille y Leon '04

11.00

Riesling

Is it dry, sweet or in-between? Riesling can present a myriad of flavors with varying degrees of sweetness. There are two main factors that contribute to perceived sweetness; residual sugar and acidity. If sugar is left after fermentation, and there is a low to moderate amount of acidity, the wine will seem sweeter than another that has a higher acidity level. The perception is also altered depending on the foods that are paired. Rieslings' popularity is likely due to its reputation as a diverse pairing grape. These wines are excellent to sip on their own, a wonderful compliment to a light dish, or will balance the heat of a spicy preparation.

Biltmore Estate, North Carolina, NV
Shooting Star, Lake County '08
Schloss Vollrads, Mosel '08
Hogue, Washington State '07

11.00

California Cabernet

There probably isn't a varietal or region that has been written about or discussed in wine circles as much as California Cabernet Sauvignon. After the Paris tasting of 1976, where, you guessed it, a California, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was declared the winner, the wine world was changed forever. Since that time, many other areas have been regarded as fine producers of the varietal. Varying flavors are coaxed from this grape depending on the microclimate where it is grown. Compare and contrast these classic appellations and you be the judge! Afterall, they do say "Life is a Cabernet!"

RH Phillips, "Night Harvest"
Rodney Strong, Sonoma '07
J. Lohr "Seven Oaks," Paso Robles '07
Franciscan, Napa '06

12.00