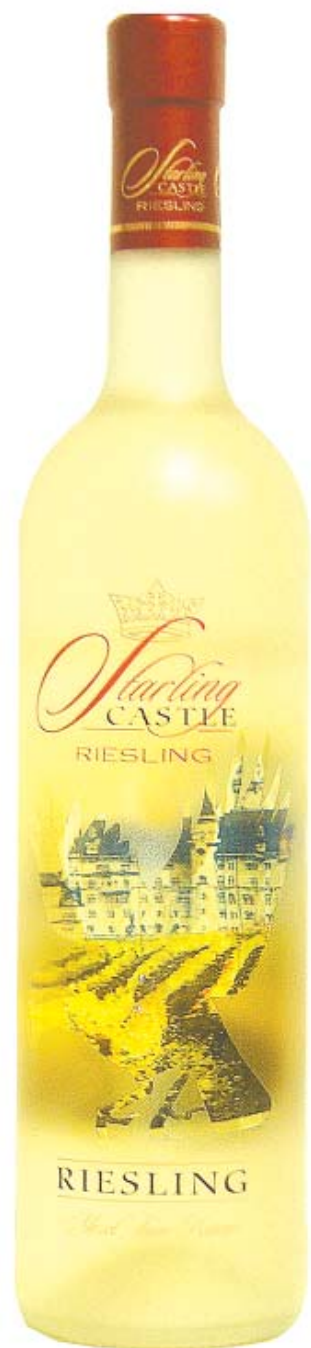


Holiday Wine Shopping Guide

Have you ever debated which wine to buy for your boss or what you should serve for your holiday party? Here are some user-friendly suggestions to make your shopping a snap.

Whites Under \$15



Kendall-Jackson Sauvignon Blanc 2005 - The nose gives hints of sweetness and acidity. The flavors in the mouth deliver. **88**

Coastal Ridge Chardonnay 2004 - A good dependable Chard that screams California. Light- to medium-bodied. Just enough fruit to make it tasty. A crowd favorite. **87**

McWilliam's Riesling 2005 - Lively and exciting. This one's really good. **89**

Grant Burge Chardonnay 2005 - Bright fruit. Rich and filling. **89**

Starling Castle Riesling 2004 - A great wine that tastes good and is priced right. Better yet, the bottle is uniquely classy. **88**

Reds Under \$15



Scubby Rise Wirra Wirra Shiraz 2003 - Good body with rich fruits. Enjoyable from start to finish. **90**

Trinchero Family Merlot 2004 - Well-founded, medium- to full-bodied but not overwhelming. A good wine by itself or with food. **89**

Blue Jean - Practically Zin-like. Good legs and depth. **89**

B&G Bistro Wine Pinot Noir 2005 -

Fairly light and fruity but not wimpy. A simple, yet quaffable Pinot. **88**

Crane Lake Petit Sirah 2003 - Blackberry fruits with a touch of oak and chocolate. **87**

Whites \$15 & Up



Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc 2006 - Young and fresh. Full-bodied, a perfect white for food. **89**

Ponzi Pinot Gris 2005 - From Oregon's Willamette Valley, this is a fairly complex wine that displays hints of apples, pears and other fruits. **89**

J. Lohr Carol's Vineyard Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2004 - Pronounced floral aromas make way for a truly complex white. **89**

MacMurray Ranch Pinot Gris 2004 - Heavy fruit

aromas and full-flavored. A Russian River gem. **88**

Louis Jadot Mersault 2003 - Golden hue. Not too complex but not wimpy either. **87**

Reds \$15 & Up



La Vite Lucente Toscana 2004 - This wine has tons of finesse and texture. A soft yet flavorful Italian masterpiece. **90**

J. Lohr Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 - Rich cherry nose. Medium-bodied and slightly tannic. **89**

Hogue Reserve Merlot 2003 - Make no mistake: this is one excellent Merlot. Well-rounded, luscious fruits and even tannins. **90**

San Leonino Chianti Classico 2004 - Well-

balanced. Quite elegant. Each sip gets better and leaves you wanting another. **89**

Forest Glen Sonoma Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 - Smooth and flavorful but not too overpowering for food. **89**

Guide to the Cork Report

90-100	Outstanding
80-89	Very Good
70-79	Good
Below 70	Really bad and probably won't even be mentioned

YESTERDAY

Bottle
Cork
Corkscrew
...

TODAY



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