

Bloomberg

Pursuits

The 50 Best Wines Under \$50

In the 2021 edition of critic Elin McCoy's annual bargain list, there is plenty of fizz, some pet nat, and wonderful wines from unexpected regions.

It's time again for my annual report on the wines I've tasted over the past year that deliver top value as well as sheer deliciousness.

Happily, while sampling 2,705 (yes, I checked that count) red, white, rosé, orange, and sparkling examples, I found more great vino at a reasonable price than ever. And that's despite the pandemic, recent extreme weather that decimated crops and reduced quantity, and this year's logistical problems including a glass bottle shortage and shipping delays!

White wines



2018 Gary Farrell Russian River Selection Chardonnay

This California chardonnay from Sonoma's Russian River strikes a balance between rich and golden and fresh and citrusy, and has just enough oak for complexity.



2018 Chateau Montelena Chardonnay

Layered, mineral, lemony, and floral, this is a lovely white from the Napa winery whose chardonnay won the Paris Tasting 45 years ago.