

Our Top 10 Best Value Spanish Whites

"Right now, one could easily argue that Spain is the best source for vibrant, pure white wines of any country on earth. The best white wines from Spain's northern regions can stand toe-to-toe with those from anywhere, as I was reminded over the last few months. And the value delivered by many top-notch Spanish whites is really remarkable." – Josh Reynolds, International Wine Cellar (Sept./Oct. 2011)



This just in! The latest *International Wine Cellar* boasts a huge review of Spanish wine. But the thing that caught our eye was their focus on the emergence of Spain as a producer of exceptional white wines. We wholeheartedly agree. Not only does Spain produce some of the best quality/price ratio whites, they are also some of the most interesting on the market, from Galicia to Rueda, the Basque Country and beyond. Here's one more reason to buy: they all come from two excellent vintages—2009 and 2010.

Burgans Albariño Rías Baixas 2010 \$11.95 (\$15 list)

90 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "The Burgans Albariño is a perennial Best Buy in these pages. The 2010 Burgans Albariño delivers notes of lemon, peach, mineral, and a hint of tropical fruit aromas. Round, ripe, and savory with a slightly exotic personality, it is a nicely textured effort that over-delivers in a big way. Drink it over the next 2-3 years. (Jun 2011)"

Gramona Gessamí Penedès 2009 \$12.95

92 points *Peñín Guide to Spanish Wine*: "(54% moscatel de alejandria, 20% moscatel de frontignan, 26% sauvignon blanc) Colour: bright straw. Nose: grapey, fruit expression, fresh fruit, rose petals, undergrowth. Palate: mineral, balsamic, powerful, flavourful, fruity, complex. (2011)"

Shaya Verdejo Rueda Old Vines 2009 \$12.95 (\$15 list)

91 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "The Verdejo grapes for the 2009 Shaya are sourced from both estate vineyards and local growers with vine age ranging from 75-112 years. The wine was barrel-fermented and aged on its lees. Medium straw-colored, it offers up an alluring aroma of baking spices, spring flowers, and peach. On the palate it has a creamy texture, vibrant acidity, and intense flavors leading to a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. It is a great value in dry, aromatic white wine that over-delivers in a big way. (Apr 2010)"

Joaquín Rebolledo Godello Valdeorras 2009 \$13.95 (\$16 list)

90 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "Joaquin Rebolledo's 2009 Godello (100%) delivers a lovely perfume of white peach, jasmine, and citrus wrapped around a chalky vein of minerality. Smooth-textured, balanced, and spicy, this pleasure-bent effort is likely to evolve for another 1-2 years and drink well for 5. A tank sample of the 2010 displayed even more expressive fruit. (Jun 2011)"

La Caña Albariño Rías Baixas 2010 \$14.95 (\$17 list)

90 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "Bodegas La Cana's 2010 Albariño was fermented in stainless steel (80%) and larger barrels (20%) and aged sur lie. Mineral, lemon zest, baking spices, and floral notes inform the nose of this round, smooth-textured, savory white. With excellent volume and length, this outstanding value will provide pleasure for another 3-4 years. (Jun 2011)"

Nora Albariño Rías Baixas 2010 \$15.95 (\$18 list)

90 points Josh Raynolds (*International Wine Cellar*): "Light yellow. Citrus, orchard fruits and herbs on the nose, lifted by a candied ginger topnotes. Spicy and focused, with lively aromatic lift to the racy flavors of lemon zest, green apple and dusty minerals. At once tactile and silky, displaying strong racy cut and precision. Finishes with refreshing bite and dryness, the lemony note repeating. (Sep/Oct 2011)"

Viña Mein Blanco Ribeiro 2009 \$16.75 (\$19 list)

90 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "The 2009 Vina Mein is predominantly Treixadura with the balance Godello, Loureiro, Albarino, Torrontes, Albillo, and Caino fermented in stainless steel with lees aging. Medium straw-colored, it offers up a fragrant bouquet of mineral, baking spices, spring flowers, citrus and poached pear. On the palate it has a very good core of fruit and a slightly exotic personality. With excellent depth and concentration (a product of a superb vintage), this lengthy offering should drink well for several years. (Apr 2010)"

Gurrutxaga Txakoli Bizkaiko Txakolina 2009 \$17.95

91 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "Bodega Gurrutxaga's 2009 Txakoli is made from 60% Hondarribi Zuri, 20% Mune Mahatsa, and 20% Txori Mahatsa fermented in stainless steel. Light straw-colored, it offers up an enticing nose of mineral, sea salt, baking spices, citrus, and floral notes. Crisp, concentrated, and vibrant, it will pair beautifully with raw bar over the next 12-18 months. (Apr 2010)"

Urki Txakoli Getariako Txakolina 2009 \$17.95 (\$20 list)

90 points Josh Raynolds (*International Wine Cellar*): "(100% hondarribi zuri) Bright straw. Spicy green apple, lime and lemon pith on the chalky nose. Intense, mineral-accented citrus and floral flavors show a refreshing bitterness and very good clarity. Finishes tangy, precise and long, leaving notes of lemongrass and lime behind. (Nov/Dec 2010)"

Do Ferreiro (Mendez) Albariño Rías Baixas 2009 \$21.95 (\$27 list)

92 points *Wine & Spirits*: "Bright citrus scents of clementine and exotic notes of litchi race through this fresh, tangy white. The middle is cool and creamy, the finish fragrant with spice. For oysters. (Aug 2011)"

Cheers,

Woodland Hills Wine Co.



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