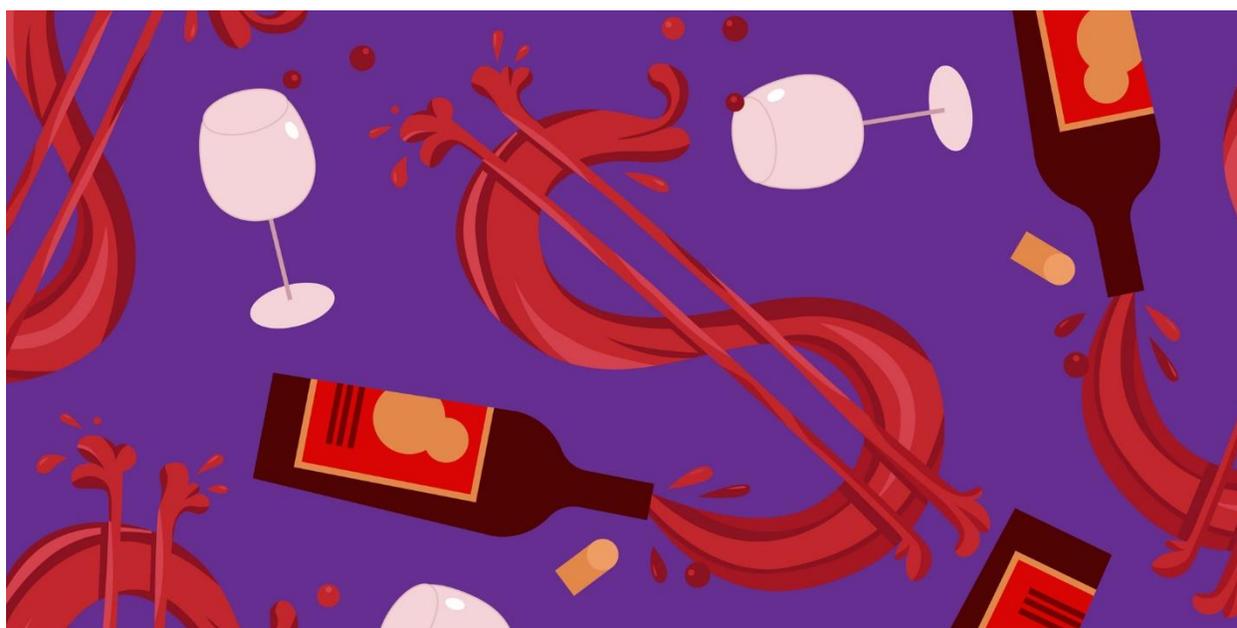




# The 30 Best Red Wines for 2021

*words:* KEITH BEAVERS

*illustration:* GERRY SELIAN



Wine is for everyone. If you like more expensive, focused wine, awesome. If you just want some everyday bottles to have on hand, great. If your sweet spot is under \$30, excellent. And if you're looking for a good case buy, stupendous. There is so much wine on our market, and it can be difficult to find your match online or in stores.

That's what we are here for. A couple years ago, VinePair embarked on a journey of reviewing as many wines on the market as possible. Since then, every bottle that comes our way gets a fair shot being tasted. If you see a bottle online or on a shelf, we make an effort to sip and consider it.

Wine is not always about what you can afford. It's also about occasions and moods. Just because you can afford a \$150 bottle of wine doesn't mean that you are buying that style on the reg. Even if you are comfortable buying a weekly \$30 bottle of wine, you may not be spending that on bottles for large get-togethers.

For a sliver of brightness to hold onto as we squint toward the rest of 2021, here are 30 wines to fit every budget. These are some of the bottles that really made us raise an eyebrow this year, but

this is just the tip of the iceberg. With a phone in hand, you can always use our [review section](#) to see how VinePair feels about a wine you might be looking at on a shelf.

## \$50 PLUS

### CHÂTEAU MONTELENA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016



Château Montelena was not only an entry into the Judgement of Paris, its 1973 Chardonnay came in first place for white wine. That finesse the judges fell for in 1976 can also be found in the winery's Cabernet Sauvignon to this day. The elegance lives in the vibrant acidity winding through this wine, casually pronouncing a whiff of plum and blackberry mingling with cracked black pepper. It all comes together on the palate, with an added cassis vibe and well-woven tannins calling from the edge of your palate. This is a special wine.

# GARY FARRELL HALLBERG VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



If you were to ask, “What is it about Russian River Pinot Noir that sets it apart from the rest of the Pinot on the planet?” I would shove this wine in your face, then take it away and drink it myself. Just kidding, I’d share ... think. Cherries, cinnamon, and earthy mushrooms rush up and into your senses, leaving you all swoon-y before you sip. On the palate, the wine is dense, crushed velvet, with supple, chewy fruit that soaks into your palate. It would jive with some legit cheeses, but you might find me just sipping it at cellar temp with just a glass and a sunset.