

7 Sophisticated Sauvignon Blancs From Napa And Sonoma

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I write about wine business and wine lifestyle

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Sophisticated Sauvignon Blanc Wine from Napa and Sonoma GETTY

If you enjoy the clean zippy taste of sauvignon blanc wines, you are not alone. Indeed, sauvignon blanc has been one of the fastest growing wine varieties in the U.S. market over the past several years, according to NielsenIQ. With its classic notes of grapefruit, passion fruit, and gooseberry, it is a popular wine for summer sipping, but also for food-pairing, due to its bright acidity.

But did you know that sauvignon blanc has an ancient heritage, and is actually the main variety in some of the world's most expensive white wines? For example, Screaming Eagle Sauvignon Blanc from Napa Valley averages \$4227 per bottle and Didier Dagueneau Pouilly-Fume Asteroide from the Loire, France averages \$1780, according to Winesearcher.com.

However, the average selling price for sauvignon blanc wine is actually much lower. "The sweet spot for sauvignon blanc in the U.S. market is around \$11 to \$25 per bottle, and accounts for over half of the varietals' volume" stated wine expert and SipSource analyst, Danny Brager, in an email interview.

Brager also mentioned that 45% are from New Zealand, 41% the U.S., with France and a few other countries comprising the remaining volume. The majority are fruit-forward 'savvys' designed for casual sipping by the pool or as a refreshing aperitif before a meal.

But when it comes to a special occasion, or you just want to splurge on yourself, consider a more sophisticated sauvignon blanc that can be enjoyed with a gourmet meal, or as a special bottle to share with friends over appetizers. These wines usually come from very special vineyards, may have been aged in an oak barrel (usually neutral oak), and are age worthy.

Recently, I was able to sample seven sophisticated sauvignon blancs hailing from Napa Valley and Sonoma County. They are all tasting delicious now, with mouthwatering acidity, fresh fruit, and mineral notes, but can also be aged for 5 to 15 years, where they will take on even more complex flavors. (Most entry-level sauvignon blancs are designed to be consumed in 1 to 3 years.)

The seven sophisticated sauvignon blancs are listed in alphabetical order below, with average prices sourced from Winesearcher or winery websites. The article concludes with a paragraph identifying some other noteworthy sauvignon blancs to consider.

#1 Accendo Cellars Sauvignon Blanc 2021, Napa Valley, CA

Lovely floral and pear nose with hints of chamomile, followed by pear, kiwi, lime, and a hint of white pepper on the palate. Some complex mineral notes with a touch of salinity on the very long mouthwatering finish. Very well-balanced wine. Blended with small amounts of Semillon and Sauvignon Musque´ grapes, aged in used French oak barrels. (\$73, 14.2% alcohol, 95 points)