

# Pale and interesting

Sam Wylie-Harris suggests some fresh white wines to put a spring in your step

With the changing of the seasons, a spring colour selection should include some good well-made wines for everyday drinking, some trendy weekend warriors and some chic labels for a special occasion. Here are some suggestions...

Versatile and not too neutral, a light Italian gavi from the Piedmont region in northern Italy offers good value, especially if you reach for The Enquisite Collection Gavi 2014, Italy (€5.49). Available from the stable of Aldi's own range.



The Enquisite Collection Gavi 2014, Italy



GAVI



Les Grilles Picopoul De Pinet 2014, France



A south of France speciality that's appearing increasingly more on fashionable wine lists, picopoul is a fresh, breezy white with cleansing acidity that works really well with shellfish. From one of the Rhône Valley's key winemakers, Jean-Luc Colombo Les Grilles Picopoul De Pinet 2014, France (€9.99, www.henningwin.co.uk) is especially good. Dry well rounded and delightfully refreshing, white salmon on the nose leads to plenty of ripe apple and citrus flavours with bright acidity.

A good time wine that loses you when it is produced in larger quantities (and less expensive), Beaujolais-Vin de France Chateau Thierin 2013, France (€14.57, www.christopherpearwin.co.uk) is a whip Beaujolais made from chardonnay and is easy to wash down as the more familiar, light fruity notes from the same region. A smooth, classy white with a blossomy nose and pure orchard fruits with plenty of freshness and charm, there's also richness from barrel ageing.



Beaujolais-Vin de France Chateau Thierin 2013



Louro de Bolo Dougas Palacios 2013

Godello from Valdeorras, also in the fertile north-west of the country, shares the same minerality as albacic but with more weight and body. An excellent example, you can't go wrong with Louro de Bolo, Dougas Rafael Palacios 2013, Valdeorras, Spain (€19.95, www.bbr.com). Utterly delicious, it may quickly disappear before you've had time to consider the delicate floral bouquet followed by an unexpected, crisp, tropical palate with wonderful peaches and pear flavours.

Rising to the A-list, albarino is Spain's trendy white wine from Galicia (on the north-west coast) and The Society's Exhibition Albarino 2013 (€12.95, www.thebwinnerserve.co.uk) is a good introduction to this fresh, minerally white with a tang that works so well with seafood. With applied acidity, aromatics and wet stone fruit characters, the citrus focus is underpinned by refreshing acidity, ending with a zesty lime and a saline note.



The Society's Exhibition Albarino 2013



Ervencia The Blend 2014

One of Chile's pioneers, Ervencia have taken three classic Itabona Valley grapes and created a wine that's deliciously different. Ervencia The Blend (White) 2014, Aconcagua Valley, Chile (€18.49, www.thebwinnerserve.co.uk) is a tall, thin trio of roussanne, mercuric and vignager that really delivers. The roussanne brings ratchet, sweetness and richness, while the mercuric provides minerality and balances the apricot with refreshing acidity and the vignager lends a touch of perfume.

## Right Bank beauty

Already a star, the Able to pop this Saint Emilion Grand Cru 2012, Bordeaux, France (€8.99 from £9.99, March 26 until April 1, £14) in your basket is a super deal at the price. Rated 86 (very good) by Richard Buehling, Master of Wine, who has teamed up with the Lidl supermarket chain, it's a case with blue cheese.



## Still over sparkling

Chapel Down Winery in Tinterton have won Best Kentish Wine for their Chapel Down Bacchus 2013, England (€7.54, case of 6, www.chapeldown.com) at the Taste of Kent Awards 2015, beating stiff competition from the other two finalists: Orca, Bideford

Vineyard, Biddenden and Balfour East, Hush Heath, Stapleford. "To be awarded the best Kentish wine is an honour, especially now when we are investing considerable amounts of money into our vineyards and of course in Kent," says Josh Donohay-

Spire, winemaker Chapel Down. "We are creating new rural jobs and are contributing widely to the local economy. To be selected as one of the top three great wines and then as the best tasting is fantastic." Visit www.chapel-down.com



A good-time wine that leaves you wishing it was produced in larger quantities (and less expensive), Beaujolais-Blanc Clos de Rochebonne Chateau Thivin 2013, France (£14.57, [www.christopherpiperwines.co.uk](http://www.christopherpiperwines.co.uk)), is a white beaujolais made from chardonnay and is as easy to wash down as the more familiar, light, fruity reds from the same region.

