



## Winter Holiday Wines

AS WE HEAD INTO the holiday season, I will refresh an earlier article I wrote, “Wines for the Holidays,” in the Nov/Dec 2020 issue. This is the first time in 19 years that I have republished an earlier written article, but upon rereading it, I think the only way I can improve it is to suggest some recent vintages of the wines I have already noted. Please refer to the aforementioned article and find the new wines or vintages herein. (Note: You can read and/or download the previous article at [qbarrington.com](http://qbarrington.com) under the Lifestyle tab. Open my section and scroll down to the 2020 articles.)

### THANKSGIVING WINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Relative to the section on Thanksgiving Zinfandel, I live by what I wrote but would add any other Zinfandels made by Ridge. Personally, I have recently enjoyed the Ridge Paso Robles Zinfandel 2015, which has less exuberant fruit and is more balanced than most Zinfandels from Paso Robles.

Regarding new Thanksgiving Pinot Noirs, I recommend you try the Metz Road Pinot Noir

2019 from Monterey for less than \$25. It is a very wise choice at this price point. Another domestic choice is Ponzi Tavola Pinot Noir 2022 from Oregon's Willamette Valley at \$25. It shows evidence of strawberry, blackberry, cranberry, and cherry, with notes of rose petals and peppercorns. This provides a great match with dressing, as well as turkey. As an alternative to Pinot Noir, I have found another Cru Beaujolais from the Juliéna's appellation. Made from the Gamay grape, it shows an aromatic expression of red current, spices, and floral notes with outstanding minerality. This Mont Bessay, Em Bessay 2021 (\$40) is a great choice for turkey and dressing, as well as ham.

A recent find involves a well-made white wine. This is the E. Guigal Cotes du Rhone 2023 with distinctive aromas of white flowers, apricot, and white peach. It has a fruity body with ample richness and is a well-rounded wine with elegance, strength, and balance at a low \$15 price.

### WINES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

For Christmas and New Year's, I would add the

Trefethen Cabernet Sauvignon 2021 (\$50). Finally, I offer the Wine Spectator's number one wine of the year—the Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon 2021 at \$130. Although youthful, the wine is well balanced and should be a perfect accompaniment to great beef or lamb. À Votre Santé! 



PHOTO: THOMAS BALSAMO

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