



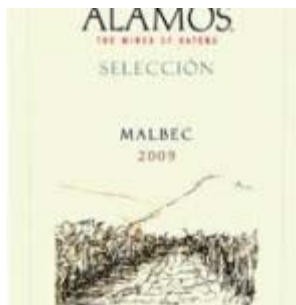
## \$20-and-under Reds for the Holidays

by [Robyn](#) • December 14, 2012 • [All Posts](#), [Bargain Wines](#) • [0 Comments](#)

Though it may defy the imagination, I seem to go through more wine this time of year than any other. Between holiday parties, impromptu dinners, and that “why not? it’s the holidays!” attitude — the juice is flowing around here. To that end, I can never have too many affordably-priced options at hand. If you feel the same, check out this list of \$20-and-under reds I’ve enjoyed lately:

### ARGENTINA

**Alamos 2009 Malbec Mendoza Seleccion** (\$20). I really liked this wine — for the pretty lavender accented black fruits, as well as the juicy, lightly jammy flavors floating along a medium-bodied frame. Bright acidity all the way, and a supple, spice-laden finish. Ready to drink now and over the next couple of years. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)



**Alamos 2010 Malbec Mendoza Seleccion** (\$20).

Richer and more jammy than the 2009 vintage of this wine, with darker, deeper fruit — blueberry, blackberry — and accented with savory spices that linger on the lush finish. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

**Alamos 2011 Malbec Mendoza** (\$13). A pretty expression of “everyday” Malbec, with floral-scented red berry and plum fruit that stays fresh and vibrant through the nicely-structured finish. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

**Bodega Vistalba 2009 Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Corte C** (\$15). I liked the slightly rustic nature of this wine — the dusty earth, smoky oak and spice notes helped balance the ripe blueberry and red cherry fruit. Finishes with a dash of chocolaty richness. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

**Alamos 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza** (\$13). I don’t often find an under-\$15 Cabernet that I think is particularly appealing, but this one is pretty darn good! Medium bodied, with moderate structure, but varietally-correct flavors of blackberry and currant, with touches of slate, brown spice and light herbal notes coming through on the ripe finish. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

### ITALY

**Feudi di San Gregorio 2009 Aglianico Irpinia Rubrato** (\$18). Just an incredible

**Vintner's Reserve** (\$19). Easy, supple, but with enough complexity to stand up to wintry fare. With deep black cherry and currant fruit laced with sweet smoke, exotic spices and dried herbal notes. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)



**Kendall-Jackson 2010 Pinot Noir California**

**Vintner's Reserve** (\$19). Here's a nice surprise on a readily available wine. Focused, dry, medium-bodied, with bright cherry, red berry, cola, toast and spice notes that linger and evolve through the smooth finish. Easy to like. Ready to drink now and over the next 3-4 years. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#) (2012-11-30)

**Rodney Strong 2010 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley** (\$20). Another nice surprise, actually — with ripe fruit on a medium-bodied, dry frame. Red cherry, that Russian River Valley cola character, plus touches of cardamom, roasted herbs and toasty oak. Nice. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#) (2012-11-30)

**McManis 2010 Petite Sirah California** (\$11). Nice concentration and body for the price, if not the biggest, most complex Petite Sirah ever. With lipsmacking red currant and blackberry fruit, a long, plush finish, and moderate accents of roasted herbs and peppery spice. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

**Buehler 2010 Zinfandel Napa Valley** (\$19).

Fresh huckleberry and blueberry cobbler aromas introduce a thoroughly enjoyable wine that is more balanced than expected. Concentrated black currant and deep cherry flavors are laced with black pepper spice and a touch of earthy notes. Long, fresh finish. Ready to drink now and over the next 2-4 years. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

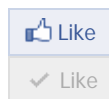


**Buena Vista 2010 Zinfandel Sonoma County**

(\$15). Here's a real crowd-pleaser. It's juicy and ripe and packed with flavor — red cherry, blueberry and black cherry, along with touches of cracked black pepper and rich baking spices. There's structure and a bright freshness through to the finish. Ready to drink now and over the next couple of years. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)

**Kendall-Jackson 2010 Zinfandel Mendocino County Vintner's Reserve** (\$17).

This was appealing for its brightness — red fruit, juicy, balanced, easy to like. And with some notes of aromatic spices, sandalwood, and herbal notes emerging on the finish. Nice value. Ready to drink now. [Locate this wine online or in your area.](#)



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