

Holiday Gift Guide 2012 – Beverages and Cookbooks Edition

[\[Translate\]](#)

The final portion of this gift guide: the quaffable liquids that you and the people you're gifting should have and the interesting cookbooks that are great reads.

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Wine & Spirits





Henriot Champagne is a Champagne producer based in the Reims region of Champagne, France. The house, founded in 1808, produces both vintage and non-vintage cuvée. Their Brut Souverain is beautiful Champagne with lots of finesse that showcases the craftsmanship of this wine. It has some body, flavors of green apples, with hints of fresh apricots. Brut yet rich and it could be aged in the bottle a little more.

Website: <http://www.champagne-henriot.com>



Raymond Vineyards is a wine brand that creates very good reds in Napa Valley. I have visited their grounds this summer and learned that while it's a pretty cool place to experience, it's still focuses on having well-made, generally big California reds. 2010 R Collection Field Blend is a balanced, medium-to-full bodied wine with firm, juicy tannins. Flavors of roasted plum on the nose with a slight woody edge and light candied red fruit.

2009 Napa Reserve Selection Cabernet has concentrated aromas of boysenberry, molasses and blueberry, followed by hints of cedar and anise. This is a full-bodied Cabernet that boasts lots of volume and is rich and velvety with notes of dark fruit and black tea. It has rich, sweet oak, Bing cherry, a pleasant minerality and great length to the finish.

2008 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon wonderful aromas of dark chocolate, plum, raspberries and molasses. On the palate, this classic Rutherford Cabernet is big and chewy with structured tannins and flavors of woody, mulling spices.

Website: <http://www.raymondvineyards.com>

Tasting Room (photo of one their samplers) is an online wine store that tries to take out the risk of someone investing a normal sized bottle of wine by offering to sell glass-sized bottles of wine that he/she is interested in trying. I've tried the sampler sets that does make me explore wines I never thought of drinking before like the Laetitia "Reserve du Domaine" Arroyo Grande Valley Pinot Noir 2010 that has a controlled tannic red with lush dark berries that works very well with aged steak.

Website: <http://www.tastingroom.com>



Breckenridge Distillery Bourbon Whiskey is made from a high-rye mash bill mixed with Rocky Mountain snowmelt into a traditional open-top Scottish fermenter and then distilled using a Vendome copper pot still. It's then aged in new American Oak barrels for 2-3 years, instead of the usual decade plus of aging. Aromas of butterscotch, raisins, and brown Sugar from the glass; at the first sip there were flavors of caramel, oak and vanilla and each sip is a slow, pleasant burn. It's an excellent bourbon.

Website: <https://www.breckenridgedistillery.com>