



SIDE/DISH BLOG

DALLAS DINING NEWS AND REVIEWS, SERVED DAILY

What to Drink Now: Merlot

BY HAYLEY HAMILTON COGILL | POSTED IN WINE & SPIRITS. | OCT 21, 2015 AT 11:45 AM



If you haven't been drinking Merlot lately you have been missing out. This delightful Bordeaux variety fell to the wayside after the *Sideways* phenomenon, with an animated Miles, played impeccably by Paul Giamatti, exclaiming he would never drink another #%^\$* Merlot. However, at the end of this Pinot Noir loving film, Miles does precisely this, sipping a 1961 Cheval Blanc from the Right Bank of Bordeaux, the Merlot side. A campaign has been started by Merlot producers around the globe to sip one of these luscious, velvety, balanced wines through the month of October, asking to include a #MerlotMe hashtag noting the variety is being enjoyed on social media. With this, consider one of these Merlot options sure to change your opinion on the grape, as this delightful variety pairs well with anything from beef and lamb, to date night with your sweetheart or a girls night out. (A few selections were sent for editorial consideration.)

The Right Bank of Bordeaux, also known as Merlot and Cabernet Franc country, thrives in producing incredible Merlot blend wines. I had an opportunity to travel to the region recently as a guest of the Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux (CIVB), tasting Right and Left Bank from top to bottom.

Raymond Winery and Vineyards, also in the heart of Rutherford, incorporates this earthiness in each and every bottle of their sustainably and biodynamically farmed production, highlighting the red berry, ripe cherry and plum notes with earthy, dusty, leather notes highlighting the best qualities of Rutherford Merlot in their **Raymond Vineyards District Collection Rutherford Merlot**. \$65, available via their website.