



Halifax -2 °C Scattered clouds

Login

Signup

Herald Arts & Life

Home News Opinions Business Sports Arts & Life Wheels Homes Community Careers Classifieds Video

Arts & Life Columns Travel Books Religion Science The Nova Scotian What's Happening TV Listings

Home » ArtsLife » ArtsLife » Good wines that won't break the bank

Good wines that won't break the bank

December 15, 2011 - 7:46am BY SEAN WOOD WOOD ON WINE



Average: 3.8 (4 votes)



There are some surprisingly good bargains available this pre-Christmas season, as well as an excellent selection of fine products in all price ranges.

This week, I have focused on bargain and moderately priced wines, together with a selection of fine malt whiskies that would make excellent Christmas gifts for any single malt fancier.

REVIEWS

Piera Martellozzo Blu Giovello NV, Prosecco DOC, Italy, \$15.99 (\$1 off), Nova Scotia Liquor Corp: Fragrantly fresh green apple scent with equally lively fresh green fruit, with a trace of lime on the palate. Finish is drier than usual and is the better for it. Very refreshing, the way Prosecco should be.

Jaffelin 2010, Chablis AC, France, 12.5 per cent, \$28.99, NSLC: A classic expression of crisp Chablis style with green apple, lively acidity and focused minerality from start to finish. The well-balanced elegant simplicity makes a perfect match for oysters on the half shell and delicate white fish.

The Wolftrap Viognier Chenin Blanc Grenache Blanc 2010, Wine of Origin Western Cape, South Africa, \$15.50, 14.5 per cent, NSLC Port of Wines selection (limited quantities): Matured in French oak, this one opens with aromatic peach and lemon citrus notes, with a light floral lift. Clean stone fruit flavours come with a smooth mouth feel, well-behaved acidity and a lightly sweet fruit sensation on the finish. Could easily be mistaken for a good Rhone blend.

Batasiolo 2009, Langhe Rosso DOC, Italy, 13.5 per cent, \$19.99, NSLC Port of Wines (limited selection): Developed, warmly ripe red fruit with a pinch of clove, cinnamon and minty herb on the nose. Adroitly balanced cherry fruit, lightly firm tannins, brisk acidity and a suggestion of bakers chocolate on the finish. Good regional style to pair with grills, medium-ripened cheeses and tomato-based pasta.

BARGAINS

Wyndham Estate Bin 222 Chardonnay 2010, Southeastern Australia, 13 per cent, \$11.99 (\$3 off sale price, today through Sunday): Aromatic, lifted tropical and citrus fruit scents, with a lightly buttery overtone. Delicate lemon citrus flavours in the mouth, with a hint of tropical fruit. Clean, gently fresh acidity, with a subtle touch of lemon butter on the finish. A steal.

Photos



SEAN WOOD

Latest Videos

More Videos



Jamie Bell on bringing '...

[Wyndham Estate Bin 555 Shiraz 2008](#), Southeastern Australia, 14 per cent, \$12.99 (\$4 off sale price, today through Sunday): Dark berry scents with minty herbal and spicy clove lead the way for generous, fleshy berry flavours, with some currant notes on the smoothly textured palate. Long, well-integrated finish.

[Seaglass Pinot Noir 2009](#), Santa Barbara, Calif., 13.5 per cent, \$13.99 (\$1 off), NSLC general list: I reviewed this splendid little wine back in June. At \$1 off, it is an incredible value. Enticingly perfumed, well structured and showing aromatic cherry and red berry fruit, together with dried grass and hints of vanilla and chocolate. Harmonious, charming, yet remarkably characterful. A great pairing with Christmas turkey.

SPIRITS

[The Macallan 12-Year-Old](#), 40 per cent, \$85.99, 50 NSLC stores (\$4 off until Jan. 4): This one shows the opulent richness of Macallan's 100 per cent sherry cask style with plenty of sherried fruit, vanilla, caramel, spice and a trace of smokiness. Rich flavour has a touch of sweetness and creaminess, offsetting ashy dryness and lightly fiery alcohol.

[Highland Park 12-Year-Old](#), 43 per cent, \$61.99, 43 NSLC stores (\$3 off until Jan. 4): Highland Park is arguably the most balanced of all single malts. Nose reveals subtle peated malt notes combined with floral and spicy overtones. Mouth-filling flavours convey a wide spectrum of fruit, malt, spice, refined peat smoke and an elusive herbal mineral note on the finish.

[Highland Park 18-Year-Old](#), 43 per cent, \$144.99, 21 NSLC stores: Aged in a combination of American and Spanish sherry casks, the nose here is more mellow than the 12-year-old, with a subtle interplay of citrus, cinnamon spice, honeyed floral and fine malty notes. Richly powerful expression in the mouth conveys sweet dried fruit with a trace of vanilla. Very complex finish shows lightly smoky dry oak, with a lingering spicy-floral counterpoint.

(seanwood@woodonwine.com)

Ads by Google

[Top 100 Wines](#)

[Buy Red Wine](#)

[Wine](#)

About the Author »

By SEAN WOOD Wood on Wine



Average: 3.8 (4 votes)



RELATED TERMS: [ArtsLife](#) [Arts & Life Columns](#) [wine](#)

[#1 Gift Baskets Website](#)

Beautifully-Designed, Handmade Gift Baskets under \$25; Tower \$20!

www.WineCountryGiftBaskets.com

AdChoices ▶

The ChronicleHerald.ca

News

- Home
- Metro
- Nova Scotia
- Canada
- World
- Business
- Sports
- Arts & Life
- Travel
- Books
- Religion
- Science
- The Nova Scotian

Community

Opinions

- Editorials
- Columnists
- News Columns
- Business Columns
- Sports Columns
- Arts & Life Columns
- Editorial Cartoon

Announcements

- Obituaries
- Births
- Cards
- In Memoriam

Multimedia

- Videos
- Community Photos

JobsPress

- Careers

Wheels

- Wheels
- Search
- Sell Your Vehicle
- Dealers
- Wheels News

Newspaper

- Today's E-Paper
- Classifieds
- Circulation
- NiE
- South Shore Calendar
- Subscribe

About the Herald

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Career Opportunities
- F.A.Q
- Library Services
- Privacy Policy

Advertising

- Advertising Sales
- Web Advertising
- Media Kits
- Pay Your Account

Clients

- Print Upload
- Real Estate Portal
- Media Kits

Fun & Games

- Crossword
- Lotteries

Useful Information

- E-Flyers
- N.S. Highway Cams
- Horoscope
- Lotteries
- Tides
- Weather
- What's Happening
- TV Listings
- Herald Archive
- Copyright

[Community News](#)
[Community Photos](#)

[Milestones](#)
[Contact us to place an
Announcement](#)

[Wheels Video](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Sudoku](#)
[Contests](#)