



Find Cheap Wine That is Actually Delicious When You Shop by Region

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When I started writing about wine, I took a seminar with the owner of a winery called *How to Taste Like a Sommelier*. The first thing that stuck with me was in his opening remarks. He told us that what we liked was more important than many consider great wine.

I always remember that when people ask me what wine they should buy. I won't give any suggestions until I find out what they like. Whether it's red or white, dry or sweet, fruity or peppery, there's a wine out there for everyone.

Once you determine the type of wine you want, the next step is to find one within your budget. **We all want to drink good wine, but we don't all want to pay a fortune for it.** The trick is to think out of the Napa or Bordeaux box.

It's not that difficult to find good wine at a cheap price if you know which regions make it better for less.

Frugal French Wine

Bordeaux may be a bit out of your budget, but it's worth exploring the wines of Languedoc-Roussillon, France. This region lies between the Pyrenees Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, and offers some unique, inexpensive wines.

The most popular wines here are made with Grenache and Muscat. Muscat is the same grape used in the sweet Moscato you're used to drinking, but it's also used in a variety of whites and reds from this region.

Try **Domaine Lafage Cuvee Nicolas** (about \$13). This Grenache that is full-bodied to stand up to everything from a roasted chicken to a steak dinner. You can also try **Fortant Coast Select Muscat**, which is a floral white with just a touch of sweetness.