

Wine Press: 12 wines worth splurging on for the holidays

by Ken Ross - 11/20/2023

Now that Thanksgiving's here, you know what that means. It's time to fire up the Family Truckster and drive out to the middle of nowhere to chop down a massive tree. ("It's not going in our yard, Russ.") Yes, the holiday season has officially begun.

So now it's finally socially acceptable to start playing "Deck The Halls" in shopping malls and decorating the house with red ribbons, mistletoe and Christmas trees. It's also the time of year I traditionally write about wines worth splurging on for the holidays. Believe me, I'm all for buying affordable wines most of the year, especially since there are so many great wines from around the world for under \$20 a bottle.

In fact, there are still some great wines for under \$10 a bottle, which is why I always write a column about the top 10 wines for under \$10 each year in late December. But there's also something to be said about breaking open a great bottle of wine around the holidays or giving a special bottle to family members or loved ones as a gift.

So unless you finished all your holiday shopping months ago, here are a few wines worth splurging on this holiday season. I debated how many wines to suggest, but ultimately decided on 12 wines since there are 12 wines in a case and 12 days of Christmas.

This week's recommended wines include eight reds and four whites. Let me add that I didn't set out to recommend wines mostly from California this year. There just happened to be a lot of great ones recently. And if you're wondering why there aren't any sparkling wines or Champagnes on this week's list, fear not. You can read more about them in a separate wine column in a few weeks.

Hope you enjoy.

2019 Larkmead Napa Valley Solari (\$200)

If you really feel like splurging (or maybe if Santa's extra nice this season) these last two California red wines might be just the ticket. Made entirely with cabernet sauvignon grapes aged for 18 months, the flavors here include plums, cherries and blackberries. And if you have a cool, dark place to store your wine, feel free to set this one aside for at least 10 to 20 years.

