

Table Manners: 11 perfect wines to bring for the party host

By Alison Bailin - September 15, 2025



Choosing the right wine for a hostess gift elevates any gathering, showing thoughtfulness and taste. From sparkling celebratory bottles to versatile reds and crisp whites, these recommendations ensure you arrive with a gift that delights every occasion.

Larkmead Vineyards 2022 Estate Solari Cabernet Sauvignon

Avery Heelan, winemaker at Larkmead Vineyards, brings precision and depth to every vintage. Her 2022 Solari Cabernet Sauvignon is pure expression, aged 22 months in new French oak to develop remarkable character. The nose is perfumed with violets, red plum, and blackberry jam, accented by vanilla, cedar, and bay laurel. On the palate, cassis, espresso, and baking spices unfold with vibrancy and balance. \$200

Château Gassier is under the supervision of oenologist Léa Rouyet. (Château Gassier/Submitted)



2025 Jordan Winery wines by Maggie Kruse. (Jordan Winery/Submitted)



shining example of Provence winemaking. The 946 bottling, named for the French landmark that stands 946 meters above sea level, reflects Rouyet's finesse and dedication. It carries aromas of brioche and grilled almonds with a palate that balances fresh red fruits against a voluptuous, textured body. This elegant wine embodies the essence of Côtes de Provence Sainte Victoire and the artistry of a new generation of female winemakers. \$80

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Francis Ford Coppola winemaker Ali Davignon. (Coppola Wines/Submitted)

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Château Gassier 946

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Bouchaine Vineyards 2023 Estate Chardonnay

Chris Kajani, president and winemaker at Bouchaine, has spent a decade honing her expertise in Carneros' unique California soils and microclimates. Her 2023 Estate Chardonnay is a blend of multiple vineyard blocks and yeast strains, refined through sur lie aging in stainless steel and French oak. The result is a Chardonnay of brightness and depth, with fresh acidity, a silky mouthfeel, and layers of citrus, orchard fruit and subtle toast. \$40