



Andy Perdue's list of top \$30-and-under wines

By Andy Perdue
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WE STARTED THIS “Wines Under \$30” list a year ago because many of the wines I select for my “Top 50 Wines of the Year” list tend to be more expensive. The feedback was good, so we’re doing it again.

Fortunately, plenty of bargains can be found throughout the Pacific Northwest. One area that is particularly affordable is British Columbia. I’m reticent to include many from Wild Goose, Gehringer Brothers and other favorites on this list because the wines aren’t available in the United States. So a few wines that were on last week’s Top 50 list are not included on this more-affordable list, for that reason.

The majority of the wines on this list are from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Ask for the wines at your favorite wine merchant or contact the wineries directly.

I chose \$30 as the upper threshold because that seems a reasonable amount to spend on a good bottle of wine. To save more money, you can get a discount if you purchase six bottles or more. Joining a winery’s wine club typically earns you discounts, waived tasting fees, special events and other benefits.

Here are 50 delicious wines that cost \$30 or less a bottle.

2. Browne Family Vineyards 2015 Tribute red, Columbia Valley, \$30: I’m a sucker for reds with big shoulders. This blend of petite sirah, petit verdot and malbec checks all the boxes for me.

3. Ste. Chapelle 2015 Panoramic Idaho petite sirah, Snake River Valley, \$28: My love for this variety is well-documented, and this version from Southern Idaho surprised me with its bold plum, cocoa and spice notes, backed by bold yet approachable tannins.

21. Canoe Ridge Vineyard 2016 Expedition cabernet sauvignon, Horse Heaven Hills, \$15: This longtime Walla Walla producer crafts a delicious red at Tuesday-night prices.

23. Apex Cellars 2016 The Catalyst red blend, Columbia Valley, \$15: Perhaps the best-value GSM-style blend in Washington, this wine serves as a glimpse of this style’s greatness and potential.

31. Washington Hills 2015 late harvest riesling, Washington, \$10: Another Precept label. This delicious dessert wine is perfect paired with cheesecake.

40. Canoe Ridge Vineyard 2016 The Expedition malbec, Horse Heaven Hills, \$15: I’m a big fan of this flavorful red that refreshingly competes with Argentine imports on both quality and price.