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Wine of the week: Domaine du Tariquet Rosé

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What's the perfect wine for rose week here on the blog? How about a rose from the Wine Curmudgeon's favorite Gascon producer, Domaine du Tariquet?

Tariquet, of course, is the Gascon producer that introduced me to the wonders of ugni blanc and colombard in a cheap white blend. And the Tariquet rose (\$10, sample, 12%), if not exactly the wine I expected, is another delicious cheap wine that demonstrates the Tariquet ability to deliver low prices and high quality.

Why not the wine I expected? Because it was much fruitier (watermelon?) than I thought it would be, given it's French and not from California or Washington state. However, since it has merlot and syrah among its four-grape blend, that shouldn't be surprising. This makes the Tariquet rose more New World than Old, but that doesn't mean it's not a terrific cheap wine. There is still balance, freshness, and a

surprising amount of fullness and length for a \$10 rose.

My only complaint? I'm not sure what vintage is for sale, and how available the wine will be this spring. Though there is a retailer in this area that carries the wine, it's almost an hour away in Fort Worth. This sample, a 2012, came last fall from the importer, who was probably trying to get rid of inventory.

Hopefully, most of us will be to find the wine more easily than I can, and will find a newer vintage.

Highly recommended, and almost certain to join the Tariquet white blend in the \$10 Hall of Fame next year assuming I can find a more recent vintage.