

# WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

# AUGUST 2015



Grapes in the receiving hopper at a Santa Barbara, California winery.

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**SOUTHWEST FRANCE**  
**WHITE WINES**  
**CÔTES DE GASCOGNE**

**91** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Premières Grives (Côtes de Gascogne).** Lightly honeyed, this off-dry wine is complex while also fruity. Intense flavor fills the mouth with spice, yellow fruits, pineapple and a touch of mango. The fruits are balanced by the more nuanced honey and spice character that is finished with acidity. Gros Manseng, a native grape of this region, is worth getting to know. Drink this delicious wine from 2016. Robert Kacher Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Laudet 2014 La Demoiselle de Laballe (Côtes de Gascogne).** A hint of honey gives this wine richness while keeping every bit of freshness. It has tangy acidity, a mineral character and apricot and mango fruit flavors. Drink now, although the wine will be better from early 2016. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Chardonnay (Côtes de Gascogne).** Chardonnay in Gascony retains the freshness of the region. In this wine, there is the richness of the grape, with touches of caramel and a floral perfume. It is balanced and fruity, needing a few more months in bottle. Drink from the end of 2015. Robert Kacher Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Côté Chardonnay-Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** In this intriguing blend, the herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc dominates the smoother Chardonnay. The wine is all about crispness and freshness with a strongly aromatic component. Acidity and a touch of minerality come through at the end. Robert Kacher Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Domaine Chiroulet 2014 Terres Blanches (Côtes de Gascogne).** Gros Manseng takes the lead in this ripe and full wine with a fragrant floral character as well as great fruitiness. It's fresh while also having a creamy, smooth character. It is ready to drink, but will be better from the end of 2015. Charles Neal Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay (Côtes de Gascogne).** This wine combines the best of Chenin Blanc, with its nutty, terroir-driven character, and the round ripeness of Chardonnay. It is fruity and fresh with a smooth texture that is lifted by final acidity. Robert Kacher Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**87** **Domaine Uby 2014 No. 4 Gros & Petit Manseng (Côtes de Gascogne).** The two signature white grapes of Côtes de Gascogne give a wine flavored with tropical fruit and honey. It is delicate, ripe and just off dry. The wine is ready to drink although it will be better at the end of 2015. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$11

**87** **Vignobles 46N118 2013 Blanc 32 (Côtes de Gascogne).** Because of the cool Atlantic climate, the Gascogne region is home to many bright, crisp wines. This is fruity, fresh and utterly crisp

while also having some hints of melon and peach flavors. A touch of attractive minerality gives the wine texture. Drink now. Luxe Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**86** **Domaine du Rey 2014 4 Cépages (Côtes de Gascogne).** Ripe and rounded, this is a smooth wine given richness from the Gros Manseng in the blend. Citrus vies with pear and apricot, cut with intense acidity. It is fresh and textured with a steely character at the end. Wait to drink until the end of 2015. European Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**86** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** Gently herbaceous with a character that also allows room for a creamy texture, this is a refreshing wine with a crisp edge, always in moderation. Drink this fresh wine now. Robert Kacher Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

**86** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Classic (Côtes de Gascogne).** From one of the largest private vineyards in France (2,300 acres), this wine epitomizes the light and fresh style that comes from Gascony in the hidden southwest of France. It is fruity, citrus-crisp with a touch of honey from the Gros Manseng in the blend. Drink now. Robert Kacher Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$11

**86** **Domaine Seailles 2014 Presto Sauvignon Blanc-Sauvignon Gris (Côtes de Gascogne).** There is an attractive herbaceous character to this wine, yet it also has a softer, ripe and broad creamy side. Acidity keeps it all fruity and fresh. This 50-50 organic blend is ready to drink. Winemaker/owner Jean Labérenne, an opera fan, attributes his Presto wine to Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Domaine Uby 2014 No. 3 Colombard-Ugni Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** This smooth, creamy textured wine combines bright acidity with ripe apricot and pear flavors. It is already attractive in its freshness while also having a rounder character. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**86** **Domaine Uby 2014 Les Tortues Colombard-Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** This deliciously fruity wine is all about citrus, pear and crisp apple. Lively and ready to drink, it will improve through 2016 as the intense acidity softens. Cheval Quancard. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$13

**86** **François Lurton 2012 MJ Janeil (Côtes de Gascogne).** A fresh, lightly honeyed blend of Gros Manseng and Sauvignon Blanc, this is a fragrant, fruity wine with a twist of lemon and herbaceous acidity. It is light, touched by yellow fruits and with an orange tang at the end. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Producteurs Plaimont 2014 Colombelle Edition Limitée (Côtes de Gascogne).** There's more than just fancy packaging to distinguish this limited edition from its partner Colombelle L'Original. It is, if anything, even more herbaceous and certainly more intense, while showing some richness at the end. PlaimArques. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Mont Gravet 2014 Côtes de Gascogne.** For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$9

**85** **Domaine de Ballade 2014 Ballade Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** This green, intensely herbaceous wine comes from Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard vines growing on sandy soil. It is full of lemon and grapefruit flavors that give the wine a tight, almost steely texture. It should be drunk from the end of 2015. LefGroup, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**85** **Domaine de Millet 2014 Colombard-Ugni Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** Green apples and citrus flavors dominate this fresh, fruity wine with its finishing acidity. It's light, bright and ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Domaine Uby 2014 No. 1 Sauvignon (Côtes de Gascogne).** Flowery and fresh, this is a classic cool-climate white. Fragrant acidity is balanced by the citrus and pear flavors. Fruity and crisp, it is ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$11

**85** **Laudet 2014 Le Moulin en Gascogne (Côtes de Gascogne).** Every Gascon white grape seems to have ended up in this ripe, soft blend. It offers plenty of cool-climate acidity, with lemon and pink grapefruit. It also has a steely, more mineral bite, with a more honeyed, perfumed aftertaste. The Frolish Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**85** **Producteurs Plaimont 2014 Colombelle L'Original (Côtes de Gascogne).** This totally young, herbaceous wine is packed with fruitiness. Crisp lemon and a dash of grapefruit accent this local blend of Colombard, Ugni Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc. It's bright, ready to drink now. PlaimArques. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**84** **Chantebelle 2014 Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** Herbaceous and aromatic with a touch of minerality, this is a crisply light wine. It is bright, cool and ready to drink. Kiwi Distributing Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

**84** **Domaine de Magnaut 2014 Magnaut Colombard (Côtes de Gascogne).** Colombard gives the same herbaceous character as Sauvignon Blanc. Here it is packed with acidity, green fruits and strong lines of citrus. Still young, it will benefit for a few more months, so drink from late 2015. IPO Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

**84** **Domaine du Rey 2014 Colombard-Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne).** Fresh and fruity, this is perfumed, herbaceous and crisp. A strong citrus character is balanced by hints of peach and pineapple. The wine is ready to drink. European Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Laudet 2014 Laballe Le Chardonnay des Landes (Côtes de Gascogne).** This is billed as the only Chardonnay planted in the coastal Landes region (not a difficult claim). It is soft, ripe and easygoing in character with a hint of citrus and acidity. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE

### ROSÉS

**87** **Château Bellevue la Forêt 2014 L'Allégresse Rosé (Fronton).** This fresh blend of Négrette with both Cabernets is fruity and lightly crisp with refreshing final acidity. It's bright, while also having a ripe character that allows it to broaden out. Drink now. Masciarelli Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87** **Château Lagrèzette 2014 Le Rosé de Julie (Côtes du Lot).** This wine is from Alain Dominique Perrin's Lagrèzette estate in Cahors, although it is not labeled as such because the Cahors AOP is only red wine. Made from Malbec, it has the palest rosé color and elegant texture, with strawberry fruitiness and lively final acidity. Drink now. The Other Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Domaine D'en Ségur 2014 Le Rosé (Côtes du Tarn).** This attractively crisp wine is full of fruit with just a touch of caramel. Light, bright and very dry, it finishes with intense acidity. Bird Rock Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86** **Domaine du Tariquet 2014 Rosé de Pressée (Côtes de Gascogne).** This deliciously crisp estate-produced wine is full of the freshest strawberry fruits. It dances with its acidity and light touch of spice. From one of the largest private vineyards in France (2,300 acres), the wine is ready to drink. Robert Kacher Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**86** **Domaine Uby 2014 No. 8 Merlot-Syrah Rosé (Côtes de Gascogne).** This lively fresh wine brings out the fruitiness of the blend rather than the tannins of the Syrah and Merlot. Citrus and red berry flavors are well integrated with the crisp acidity. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$11

**86** **Le Roc 2014 La Saignée Rosé (Fronton).** Blending Négrette with Syrah and Cabernet Franc, this rich, full-in-the-mouth rosé is ripe and packed with red berry fruits and a touch of spice. The up-front fruitiness of the wine is leavened with a fresh, crisp aftertaste. Petit Pois Corporation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**85** **Château Bouisset 2014 Rosenc Rosé (Fronton).** Crisp and full of raspberry and red currant fruit flavors, this is an attractive, ready-to-drink wine. A pure line of acidity lifts the fruitiness and gives the wine a bright, very fresh aftertaste. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85** **Château la Colombière 2014 Vinum Rosé (Fronton).** This crisp, dry rosé is very fresh with delicious acidity. It has a bright character, lively and full of raspberry flavors. Drink now. MFW Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**85** **Château Lastours 2014 Les Graviers Rosé (Gaillac).** This light-hearted wine comes from a blend of the Gaillac native Duras grape with Syrah. It has raspberry fruitiness fresh with crisp acidity, and a light touch of tannin. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**85** **Domaine de Millet 2014 Rosé (Côtes de Gascogne).** This ripe while crisp wine has juicy red fruits and lively acidity. It is softly textured, smooth and with a full, aromatic aftertaste. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Domaine des Terrisses 2014 Terrisses Rosé (Gaillac).** Red currants dominate this textured rosé that has a mineral element along with its fresh fruit and tight acidity. The aftertaste is brilliant with crispness. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**85** **Georges Vigouroux 2014 Pigmentum Rosé (Côtes du Lot).** This bright pink-colored wine is made from Malbec. It is fruity and fresh with strawberry flavors and layers of acidity that give it a crisp, tight aftertaste. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Cave du Marmandais 2014 Ferran Pradets Rosé (Côtes du Marmandais).** This totally fresh rosé is crisp with bright acidity, red currant fruit flavors and lively, bone-dry aftertaste. It's a fine summer wine to drink now. Republic National Distributing Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Château Coutinel 2014 Rosé (Fronton).** An unusual and wonderful blend of grapes has produced a simple and fruity wine. Touches of caramel broaden the crisp red berry fruits and bright acidity. It should be drunk now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**84** **Château Lauerie 2014 Rosé (Bergerac Rosé).** Pink in color, this fruity, spicy wine conveys a juicy red currant fruit character. Clean and fresh, it's packed with fruitiness and topped by intense acidity. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Domaine de Ballade 2014 Ballade Rosé (Côtes de Gascogne).** Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a full-bodied wine. It has a light tannic character over intense acidity. A caramel underlay cuts down on the freshness and adds some richness. Drink now. LefGroup, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**84** **Domaine Roumagnac 2014 Authentique Rosé (Fronton).** With a light caramel taste, this is a fat while still fruity wine. Salmon pink in color, it has acidity that fits behind the ripe red plum flavors. It should be drunk now. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11