



by Wine Curmudgeon Posted On 7 Jun 2019

Welcome back, Domaine Tariquet



Domaine Tariquet's 2018 vintages are top-notch and well-worth buying – once again, some of the world's great cheap wines

The Wine Curmudgeon admits he was worried – would Domaine Tariquet, one of the all-time great cheap wines, still be terrific on its return from importer exile?

Of course. How could I have doubted? This is, after the all, the only cheap wine ever honored with a sonnet.

If anything, the four wines that were sold in the U.S. before the producer lost its importer in 2018 are even a little better than before. The white blend and the rose were always top notch, but the chardonnay and the sauvignon blanc – often inconsistent – are much improved.

Here's a look at each of the wines, made in France's Gascony region. There's also a new one, a sweetish, riesling-style white. The wines are imported by Frederick Wildman & Sons; all are highly recommended:

- **Domaine Tariquet Classic 2018 (sample, 10.5%):** Fresh, crisp, and low in alcohol – how often does that happen? This vintage's fruit is a little more lemon-lime than white grapey, but that's just the wine geek in me. Buy a couple of cases of this white blend, keep them chilled, and enjoy.

- **Domaine Tariquet Chardonnay 2018 (sample, 12.5%):** This was probably the best of the three whites, which is saying something since it was usually boring and could even be a little off. But this vintage was crisp and aromatic, with almost green apple and a little tropical fruit. If anything, it sort of tasted like chardonnay from France's Macon, which is always a touchstone of inexpensive quality.

- **Domaine Tariquet Sauvignon 2018 (sample, 11.5%):** Much better than past vintages, which tended to taste like New Zealand cockoffs. This time, though, the wine had a bit of a grassy aroma, not too much citrus, and a certain Gascon fruitiness.

- **Domaine Tariquet Rose 2018 (sample, 12.5%):** This pink wine is dry but not Provencal in style. Look for darker fruit, less zippiness on the finish, and a little heft in the mouth. But it's not heavy so that it's a rose for red wine drinkers, and so sits somewhere between the Bieler Provencal rose and the Charles & Charles from Washington state.

- Domaine Tariquet Les Premières Grives 2018 (sample, 11.5%): Professionally sweet, with an almost honeyed finish and mostly balanced. It's a different and interesting wine, in the style of a German just-sweet riesling like a kabinett.

(...) Extrait de l'article