

Robb Report

FOOD & DRINK / WINE

12 Luxurious Gifts for the Wine Snob on Your Shopping List

Experiences, memberships, exclusive dinners and the ultimate tools for the wine lovers in your life.

BY SARA L. SCHNEIDER ON DECEMBER 16, 2019

The Only Wine Glass They'll Ever Need

If the wine lover on your list favors a single variety or region, there's a clear choice of glass shape to optimize the wine. Look no further than the renowned Riedel collection to find it. If, though, your giftee is a wildly adventurous drinker, given to trying high-end Burgundy one night and South African Chenin Blanc the next, there's no cupboard space in the world vast enough to hold all the stems custom-designed for every wine. In fact, says René Gabriel—sometime wine writer, wine buyer, and now the glass designer behind Gabriel-Glas—“people are shocked and unhappy by the lines of different stems. They're unsure. What's the right glass?” In his case, in the face of an outsized volume of wines in his professional life, he wanted the simplicity of one glass for tasting them all. Gabriel rejected the universal egg shape in favor of a modern low bowl for wide surface area, topped by a graceful taper and flair.

“Tip a little to the right,” he says, “and a little to the left, and you have all the aromas. Sip, and it's like the wine is slipping over a stone.” The only nod to individual need is two tiers of the glass—a slightly heartier StandArt Edition and a more delicate Gold Edition (\$31.25 and \$71 per stem, respectively). So ethereal is the Gold stem, it feels like you're drinking out of thin air. Or as Gabriel puts it, “The weight is the wine, not the glass.” gabriel-glasinternational.com.



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