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7 Sauvignon Blancs to try this year

by TOM FIRTH posted Fri, Jan 1, 2016

Sauvignon blanc is a grape that has done a pretty good job of reinventing itself. It used to be nearly forgettable as a core constituent of white Bordeaux until Robert Mondavi started its renaissance when it created the Fume Blanc trend—the very short version of the story there was that he had a lot of sauvignon blanc that there was not a lot of interest in. He added some oak aging, created the term “Fume Blanc” after Pouilly-Fume in France, and the rest was history.

The Kiwis eventually got their hands on sauvignon blanc and created an incredibly recognizable style of wine. The light, grassy, herbaceous sauvignon blanc from New Zealand was as easy to spot in a wine tasting as a redneck at a garden party. New Zealand, in creating a new style, also created a bit of a problem, by creating this distinctive, almost over the top wine, it eventually generated a bit of palate fatigue for consumers. The wines, good as they were, were exhausting to drink, and with the rise of food culture, consumers and home chefs wanted wine that would complement the meal rather than running roughshod over it.



Sauvignon blanc in the last few (let's say five or so) years, has become something beautiful. Sure we still get classic, recognizable NZ style wines, but we also get this new and modern, global style of this great grape. A little grass and citrus to be sure, but also melon, mineral, and apple are back in the lineup. These new and modern wines are a true pleasure to drink.

VERAMONTE

VERAMONTE 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC

Casablanca Valley, Chile

Almost a perfect mimic of the New Zealand style of sauvignon blanc with capsicum peppery aromas, fresh-cut grass, gooseberry and herb aromas. Tight and lean with all that New Zealand....er... Chilean sauvignon blanc can do. Use it to trick someone at your next blind tasting. About \$15 CSPC +602649

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