

ESTD 1842



TANNERS

WINE MERCHANTS



Merlot grapes on the vine

Taste the Grape: Merlot

Mixed Six

INTRODUCTION

Merlot is a well-known grape the world over, vying only with Cabernet Sauvignon as the world's most-planted black grape. Generally soft and friendly, with medium tannins and a medium body, Merlot's approachable style makes it a favourite in both blends and single-varietal wines. It also comes in a huge range of quality levels from inexpensive, fruity and juicy, to some of the world's most expensive, complex and age-worthy bottlings. Its name likely comes from *merle*, the French word for blackbird, referencing its dark blue-black berries.

MERLOT AROUND THE WORLD

Merlot originates in Bordeaux, where it plays a starring role in many of the region's finest clarets, particularly on the Right Bank, often comprising more than half the blend with Cabernet Sauvignon. With Cabernet Sauvignon's tight structure and full body, Merlot lends a hand to soften out

the palate, reducing tannin levels. It is in **Pomerol** and **Saint-Émilion** where it is in its prime. Beyond Bordeaux, Merlot has achieved global success with significant cultivation in the **south of France**, **Italy** (in the North and sometimes in **Supertuscan blends**), the United States (notably **California**), **Chile** (where for many years it was confused with Carmenère) and **South Africa**.

TYPICAL FLAVOURS:

Plum • Blackberry • Black Cherry • Dark Chocolate

FOOD PAIRING:

Rib of Beef • Mushroom Risotto • Duck with Cherry Sauce

THE POWER OF FILM: The 2004 film *Sideways*, was so influential in deriding Merlot, that sales across the world took a nosedive and some winemakers even took to hiding the name of the grape variety on the bottle!

THE WINES

1. Tanners Merlot, Pays d'Oc, France

Bin No: MR0008B

Deliciously soft and fruity with lots of juicy, plum flavours. This is attractive and characterful with plenty of succulent fruit, making it perfect for easy-drinking on its own or with food.

2. Cucao Reserva Especial Merlot, Colchagua, Chile

Bin No: QR0082B

Bright fresh fruit character of berries and plums with beautifully soft tannins, really succulent and approachable with a hint of herbs and spice on the finish.

3. Sarmentine, Bordeaux, F Thienpont, France (organic)

Bin No: CR0057B

From a small three hectare vineyard, near to Saint-Émilion, this vibrant, organic red is full of round, supple fruit with a delicious herbal note. Its ageing in tank, rather than barrel, emphasises its fruity character.

4. Bogle Vineyards Merlot, California, USA

Bin No: UR0027B

An elegant, soft, silky Merlot with aromas of cherries and spice. The palate is full of fresh red fruit with hints of herbs and the finish is faintly spicy. Warren Bogle and his mother Patty head up this go-ahead family winery.

5. Meerlust Merlot, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Bin No: KR0019B

The New World is very far from Parvenu at Meerlust, a stunning estate that has been owned by the Myburgh family since 1756. Their Merlot is rather French in style with its blueberry fruit and elegant style.

6. Burrowing Owl Merlot, Okanagan Valley, Canada

Bin No: OR0060B

Ripe and supple fruit, brambles, plums and cherries with spicy hints and soft, round tannins on the finish. Vibrant, long and intense. Full-bodied.

Ordering from Tanners

For up-to-date pricing and additional wine information, please visit our website and type the Bin No. of the wine you're interested in, into the search box.


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We look forward to hearing from you.

Tanners Sales Team

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