



8 STELLAR SAUVIGNON BLANCS

SANCERRE IS UNSTOPPABLY POPULAR, and it appears on every by-the-glass list you see these days. But as demand has risen, production and prices have gone up dramatically, so consider this: There are only 6,000 or so acres of Sauvignon Blanc in Sancerre itself but more than 25,000 acres of it throughout the Loire Valley. Might some of that other wine fulfill your Sancerre cravings? I'd say so. Here's a grab bag of great options.

2025 PATIENT COTTAT LE GRAND CAILLOU SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$18)

Named for a famed mid-19th-century master goldsmith, this lime-scented Sauvignon Blanc comes from the Fournier family, which has been making wine here for generations. Its flavors are silky and lingering.

2024 JOSEPH MELLOTT SINCÉRITÉ VIN DE FRANCE SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$22)

Joseph Mellot's family started making wine in Sancerre in 1513, with one member becoming wine adviser to the king back in the 1600s. Today, Mellot makes benchmark Sancerres as well as this citrus-and-hay-scented white. It's full of grapefruit flavor and a remarkable bargain.

2024 LAPORTE LE BOUQUET VIN DE FRANCE SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$23)

A scent of white flowers, lemon, and grapefruit announces this fresh, lively white, which continues with bright citrusy flavors. Founded by the Laporte family in 1850, the domaine is now owned by the grandsons of Sancerre producer Henri Bourgeois.

2024 DOMAINE DU TREMBLAY QUINCY (\$27)

The tiny appellation of Quincy lies southwest of Sancerre but produces equally distinctive Sauvignon Blancs. This one rises from the glass with herb, grass, and even briny aromas, and it's ultra-crisp, ending on a stony note. Fun, and with a surprising depth of flavor.

2024 J. DE VILLEBOIS VAL DE LOIRE SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$20)

Juicy passion fruit and lemon-grass define this deftly made Sauvignon Blanc, the grapes for which come from a variety of Central Loire appellations. It's crisp and drying on the finish, making you wish for another sip.

2024 LADOUCKETTE LES DEUX TOURS SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$23)

Ladoucette's origins go back to 1787, when Comte Lafond purchased the estate from the illegitimate daughter of Louis XVI. Today, the estate makes benchmark Pouilly-Fumé as well as this affordable, fresh Touraine bottling, which is full of lively lemon flavor.

2024 ISABELLE ET PIERRE CLÉMENT MENETOU-SALON (\$25)

The Clément family's history in Menetou-Salon dates to the 1500s, long before there was an official appellation (which came only in 1959). This is a vividly fragrant white, all lemon candy and minty herbs, with an impressive depth of flavor.

2024 FRANCIS BLANCHET SILICE POUILLY-FUMÉ (\$29)

Deep quince and Meyer lemon flavors end on a classic smoky note in this vivid white that ends minerally. The name, Silice, is a nod to the vineyard's stony, flint-filled soils. (Flint is a form of silica.) Eight generations of Blanchets have worked these vines; that experience shows.

