

EXCLUSIVES

## The Best Wines Under \$50, According To Sommeliers

By [Lauren Corona](#) • Feb. 13, 2026 12:23 pm EST

Deciding on a wine can be tough, especially when you're looking for the best wines under \$50. There are some [types of wine perfect for winter](#), while you might want something lighter and fresher for summer. And then there's preference. There's nothing wrong with liking sweeter or fruitier wines, for instance, even if they're not the most fashionable. But that's before you even think about whether the wine is objectively worth buying, and if it's good for its style and price. That's why we wanted some professional help to get to the bottom of which wines to buy.

We spoke with five sommeliers about their favorite wines under \$50 and discovered a great range of options for you. Laurie Forster of [The Wine Coach](#) is a certified sommelier, author of "The Sipping Point," and host of [The Sipping Point](#) podcast. Jaime Mazur is a trained sommelier, Midwest wine and travel specialist, and blogger at [Jaime Says](#). Torrey Grant is the wine director at [Leonetta](#) and an adjunct instructor of wine (and beer) appreciation at Syracuse University. David Orellana is the beverage director at [Grand Brasserie](#). And Gabe Geller is a sommelier and director of PR at [Royal Wine Corp.](#)

With decades of wine experience between them, this was the perfect group to help us uncover the best wines under \$50. Whether you like red, white, rosé, or sparkling; fruity and sweet or bold and complex, there's a perfect pick for you.

# J. de Villebois Sancerre Rouge



If you want a berry-forward red wine, J. de Villebois Sancerre Rouge might be the one for you. Retailing at around \$38, it's on the pricier end of the range but still comes in well within budget. Sancerre Rouge is a type of red wine made exclusively from Pinot Noir grapes. It's named to differentiate it from those grown in Burgundy. And while Sancerre Rouge has usually played second fiddle, warmer climes of late have resulted in some particularly ripe, juicy wines.

According to Gabe Geller, this wine is made by an incredible producer from the Loire Valley region of France, which is already famous for its Sauvignon Blanc expertise. But the Pinot Noir grapes that it grows are also worth attention. They deliver "a medium-bodied wine with delightful notes of ripe red currants, pomegranate seeds, and sour cherries, with a whiff of dried rose petals on the nose, and an umami finish that begs for a refill," Geller tells us. It's a particularly smooth and fruity wine, perfect for anyone who doesn't like heavy tannins and more intense flavors. This is quality French Pinot Noir by another name.

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