

## BEST WINES UNDER U\$50, 2019 EDITION

### The Edge Markets

Elin McCoy / Bloomberg

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Every year I sample thousands of wines, and I am always on the hunt for great bargain bottles. Happily, I found more delicious and affordable wines than ever in 2019.

Where to look for the best buys?

Rieslings from every country remain undervalued, and there are stellar offerings from newly popular wine countries such as Portugal as well as familiar regions like the Loire Valley, Alsace and Beaujolais, and seemingly everywhere in Italy. Less well-known varieties continue to be a source of reds and whites at good prices. Wines made from criolla (red) and schilcher (white), which I have never heard of before this year, also made my list.

Entry-level and second wines from the best estates usually offer top value, especially in Champagne and Bordeaux.

Even Sotheby's auction house, known for selling some of the priciest wines on the planet, is on the bargain track: their just-launched wine collection includes 12 wines at prices between US\$17 (RM70.38) and US\$40. I have included two of them.

Producers recommended in previous under-US\$50 columns are still churning out fine go-to bottles, but I have put the spotlight on what is new.

And finally, my advice as always is to shop around. Remember that the holiday season offers the lowest prices on sparkling wine and champagne. (Big hint: stock up in case the 100% tariffs suggested by US President Donald Trump take effect in 2020.) — *Bloomberg*

### 2017 Bodega Chacra Chardonnay Mainque (US\$49)

Two great winemakers — Piero Incisa della Rocchetta and Burgundy superstar Jean-Marc Roulot — collaborated on this debut vintage of a pure, richly fruity, elegant white from Patagonia.

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