



December 2009

Grapevine

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Store Hours: Mon – Sat, 9 – 9 & Sun, 12 – 6

Finding the Perfect Wines for a Winter Wonderland

Winter and December's holidays are upon us, and with them comes a storm of food and wine pairing occasions. Whether you are planning Christmas dinner, a New Year's Eve fete or a much-needed, mid-week comfort food meal to ease your shopping or shovelling woes, there are plenty of traditions and opportunities to enjoy sipping from the full spectrum of wines and wine-based drinks.

Ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia just before the winter solstice to honor Saturn, god of agriculture. A hedonistic time when food and drink were plentiful, the normal Roman social order was up-ended. Mistletoe was included in order to pacify Saturn with fertility rituals that took place underneath. Today, we are more conservative under the mistletoe, but the kissing portion of the tradition stuck and became a part of Western Christmases. Not a celebrated holiday in early America, Christmas was outlawed in Boston from 1659 to 1681. It was not



Hot mulled wine, pictured above. For a recipe, see page 4.

until the 19th century that Americans began to embrace and reinvent Christmas, changing it from a raucous carnival holiday into a tamer day. These days, Christmas is celebrated in a multitude of ways; but one common element is the focus on celebrating with food, and with it, of course... wine.

Mulled wine began in older times when wine would often go bad. It was discovered that the bad wine mixed with spices and honey was palatable. This winter tradition is carried on throughout the world and

can be a festive part of any celebration or week night.

Typically made with red wine and combined with different spices and served hot, it is called vin chaud in French, vin brulé in Italian and glühwein — meaning 'glow wine' — in German. Often served at holiday parties, it is also perfect for an evening in front of the fireplace. Sometimes sweet and citrusy, other times spicy with cinnamon and cloves, experimenting with your own flavors and touches can be a fun addition to your colder months, holiday or not.

As for Christmas dinner or New Year's Eve hors d'oeuvres, white wine does not have to be ignored just because it's winter. With a traditional Italian Christmas Eve seven fishes dinner, a Sauvignon Blanc or Gavi would be terrific, depending on the preparation; and Chardonnay would be ideal at a cocktail party on New Year's Eve, served with crab cakes or cheeses. And don't forget Champagne, which goes with a wide variety of dishes and can transform any evening.

Turkey and ham are ideal for Pinot Noir; and prime rib is excellent with Zinfandel, Cabernet or Shiraz. And if it's a hearty beef stew you're craving after a day at the stores or on the slopes, uncork a never-fail Cotes-du-Rhone, and you'll remember that you actually might like winter after all.

Happy Holidays to all of you from all of us at Wine & Spirits of Slingerlands. ♦

Holiday Savings!
15% off all Wine
Every Bottle,
Every Day!!!

Sale Prices - Mail-in Rebates = Holiday Savings! 15% off all wine: Every Bottle, Every Day!

The 90's Club — Fine Wines Rated 90 or Above... Under \$25.00

Educated Guess Napa Chardonnay 2007	90 pts. WE	California	\$14.99	(reg \$17.49)
DaVinci Chianti 2007	90 pts. WE	Italy	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Bonny Doon Ca'Del Solo Muscat 2008	90 pts. RP	California	\$14.49	(reg \$16.99)
Cupcake Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2009	90 pts. WE	Australia	\$8.59	(reg \$10.29)
Parducci Petite Sirah 2006	90 pts. WE	California	\$9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Monte Antico Toscana 2006 "TOP 100"	90 pts. WS	Italy	\$8.49	(reg \$12.99)
Waterbrook Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 "TOP 100"	93 pts. W&S	Washington	\$19.99	(reg \$22.99)
Beaulieu Vineyard Napa Chardonnay 2007	90 pts. WS	Carneros	\$14.99	(reg \$17.49)
Pacific Rim Riesling (Organic) 2008	92 pts. WE	Washington	\$11.29	(reg \$13.99)
Michael & David '7 Deadly Zins' Zinfandel 2007	90 pts. RP	California	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
Beckman Vineyards Cuvée e le Bec Red Blend 2007	90 pts. RP	California	\$14.99	(reg \$17.79)
Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc 2008	91 pts. WS	New Zealand	\$14.49	(reg \$16.99)
Bodegas Bilbainas Vina Zaco Rioja 2006 "TOP 100"	90 pts. WS	Spain	\$11.99	(reg \$14.99)
Altos Reserva Malbec 2007	91 pts. WS	Argentina	\$18.29	(reg \$21.49)
Artesa Carneros Chardonnay 2007	90 pts. WS	California	\$15.49	(reg \$17.99)
Foxglove Paso Robles Zinfandel 2007	90 pts. RP	California	\$13.99	(reg \$15.99)
Green & Red Napa Zinfandel 2007	92 pts. WS	California	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
Foxglove Chardonnay 2008	91 pts. RP	California	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
Geyser Peak Walking Tree Cabernet Sauvignon 2005	91 pts. WE	California	\$14.99	(reg \$24.99)
Robert Mondavi Napa Cabernet Sauvignon 2006	90 pts. RP	California	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
Condado de Haza Ribera del Duero Crianza 2005	93 pts. WS	Spain	\$24.99	(reg \$29.99)
Colomé Estate Malbec 2007 "TOP 100"	92 pts. WS	Argentina	\$21.99	(reg \$25.99)
Stuhmuller Alexander Chardonnay 2007	91 pts. WS	California	\$20.49	(reg \$24.99)
Crios de Susana Balbo Syrah Bonarda 2007	90 pts. RP	Argentina	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
Peter Lehmann Barossa Shiraz 2006 "TOP 100"	91 pts. WS	Australia	\$12.89	(reg \$14.99)
Trimbach Riesling Alsace 2007 "TOP 100"	91 pts. WS	Alsace	\$15.99	(reg \$18.99)
Vina Santa Rita Cabernet Sauvignon Medalla				
Real Special Reserve 2006 "TOP 100"	91 pts. WS	Chile	\$15.29	(reg \$17.99)
Loosen Bros Riesling QbA. Dr. L 2008 "TOP 100"	90 pts. WS	Germany	\$9.39	(reg \$10.99)
Gloria Ferrer Brut Sonoma County (NV) "TOP 100"	90 pts. WS	California	\$12.99	(reg \$18.99)
Catena Malbec 2007 "TOP 100"	91 pts. WS	Argentina	\$16.99	(reg \$24.99)

Incredible Sales — 750 ml

Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 2007	Italy	\$19.99	(reg \$26.99)
Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2004	California	\$85.99	(reg \$110.99)
Montaudon Grand Rosé Champagne	France	\$24.99	(reg \$37.99)
Sonoma Cutrer Sonoma Coast Chardonnay 2006	California	\$18.99	(reg \$24.99)
St. Francis Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2005	California	\$13.99	(reg \$19.99)
Castello Banfi Brunello di Montalcino 2003	Italy	\$42.49	(reg \$74.99)
Ferrari Carano Chardonnay 2007	California	\$16.99	(reg \$29.99)
Louis Jadot Pouilly-Fuissé 2008	France	\$19.99	(reg \$26.99)

Robert Mondavi, Simi & Franciscan Wines

Mix & Match 12 Bottles and Receive \$50 Mail-In Rebate

Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2006	90 pts. RP	\$19.99	(reg \$25.99)
Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Chardonnay 2006		\$15.39	(reg \$17.99)
Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Carneros Pinot Noir 2007		\$20.99	(reg \$24.99)
Robert Mondavi Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2005	94 pts. WE	\$83.99	(reg \$119.99)
Simi Sonoma County Chardonnay 2007		\$12.99	(reg \$15.99)
Simi Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2006		\$16.99	(reg \$21.99)
Franciscan Oakville Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2006		\$18.99	(reg \$24.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$4.17 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Clos De Bois, Blackstone, Toasted Head & Ravenswood Wines

Mix & Match 12 Bottles and Receive \$30 Mail-In Rebate

Clos Du Bois Chardonnay 2008		\$11.99	(reg \$15.99)
Blackstone Merlot 2007		\$9.39	(reg \$11.99)
Toasted Head Chardonnay 2008		\$11.99	(reg \$14.99)
Ravenswood 'Old Vine' Lodi Zinfandel 2007		\$11.99	(reg \$15.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2.50 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Sale Prices – Mail-in Rebates = Holiday Savings!

Corvo Wines

Mix & Match 12 Bottles and Receive \$25 Mail-In Rebate
and Mix & Match 3 for \$24.99

Nero D'Avola 20073/\$24.99...(reg \$9.99 ea)
Insolia 2008.....3/\$24.99...(reg \$9.99 ea)
(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2.08 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Maso Canali & Mac Murray Wines

Mix & Match 6 Bottles and Receive \$25 Mail-In Rebate

Maso Canali Pinot Grigio 2008.....\$13.99.....(reg \$16.49)
Mac Murray Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2007\$12.99.....(reg \$14.99)
Louis M. Martini Sonoma Cab Sauvignon 2007....\$10.99.....(reg \$13.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2.08 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Ruffino Wines

Mix & Match 12 Bottles and Receive \$30 Mail-In Rebate

Riserva Ducale Chianti Classico Riserva 2005.....90 pts. WS\$22.99.....(reg \$26.99)
Riserva Ducale Chianti Classico Gold Label 2004.....91 pts. RP\$39.99.....(reg \$47.99)
Aziano Chianti Classico 2007\$11.99.....(reg \$13.99)
Orvieto Classico 2008.....\$8.49.....(reg \$ 9.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2.50 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Sterling Vintners Collection

Mix & Match 12 Bottles and Receive \$25 Mail-In Rebate

Pinot Noir 2007.....\$10.99.....(reg \$14.99)
Chardonnay 2008.....\$7.69.....(reg \$9.99)
Meritage 2008\$7.69.....(reg \$9.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2.08 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Markham Wines Napa Valley Selection

Mix & Match 12 Bottles and Receive \$40 Mail-In Rebate

Cabernet Sauvignon 2005.....\$21.99.....(reg \$25.99)
Petit Sirah 2003\$16.99.....(reg \$19.99)
Chardonnay 2007\$13.59.....(reg \$15.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$3.33 PER BOTTLE WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

Grey Goose

Vodka 80°

\$ 29.99 750 ml.

- **\$ 7.00** Mail-in rebate

\$ 22.99 Final Cost
Regular \$33.99
Save \$11.00

Kahlua

\$ 26.99 1 ltr.

- **\$ 5.00** Mail-in rebate

\$ 21.99 Final Cost

The Cocktail Kitchen

Mix & Match 5 bottles (2 varieties
750 ml or larger) & receive \$45 mail-
in rebate (\$9 per bottle)

Barcardi • B & B • Bombay Sapphire
Cazadores Tequila • Dewars •
Dewars 12 • Disaronno • Drambuie
• Grey Goose • Martini & Rossi
Prosecco • Martini & Rossi Vermouth

Bailey's

Irish Cream

\$ 38.99 1.75 ltr.

- **\$10.00** Mail-in-rebate

\$ 28.99 Final Cost
Regular \$44.99
Save \$16.00

Captain Morgan

Spiced Rum

\$ 29.99 1.75 ltr
Regular \$32.99

December Staff Wine Picks

Sheila: Mia's Playground Chardonnay 2008 (Russian River Valley) \$11.99 (reg \$13.99) Aromas of jasmine, vanilla, apple and caramel, it has a rich mouthfeel with flavors of lemon meringue, pineapple and white chocolate.

Damian: Bogle Phantom 2006 (CA) reg \$19.99 A blend of Petite Sirah, Old Vine Zinfandel & Old Vine Mourvedre, this dark, beautiful wine will lure you with its spice and satisfy you with its long, long finish.

Denise: Roederer Estate Sparkling Wine NV (CA) \$19.99 (reg \$24.99) Made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, this sparkling Brut is complex, dry and harmonious. A beautiful accompaniment to your New Year's Eve fete.

Ian: Rutherford Hill Merlot 2005 (CA) \$16.99 (reg \$19.99) Smooth cherry fruit mingles with vanilla and spice on a medium weight finish, with a hint of tannins picking up on the finish. Delicious!

Graham: Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut NV (CA) \$12.99 (reg \$17.99) A blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, this sparkling wine has classic structure and richness that will liven up any holiday party.

Wine Tastings Fri, 4-8 & Sat, 2-6

Friday 12/4: New Arrivals: Taste our newest finds!

Sat 12/5: Holiday Savings Mail-in-rebate Wines:
Black Box, Clos du Bois, Ravenswood & Toasted Head.

Fri 12/11: Standing Stone Vineyards: Wines from one of NYS' premier wineries.

Sat 12/12: Amici Vineyards: Winemaker, Joe Messina, from the Upper Hudson Valley will pour from his portfolio.

Fri 12/18: Rosenblum Wines & Bailey's Irish Cream flavors: A little something for everyone at this tasting.

Sat 12/19: Black Box, Simi, Franciscan Oakville Estate & Robert Mondavi Wines: A variety of Chards and Cabs.

Sat, 12/26: Red & White Sale: Warm up with Reds & Chill out with whites at this post-Christmas tasting.

Thurs, 12/31: New Year's Eve Tasting: Ring in the New Year with all bubbles, no troubles!

Fri, 1/1: Hair of the Dog: A Bloody Mary & Mimosa tasting from 1-4 to help you recover from the night before?

Mulled Wine

Ingredients:

2 bottles dry red wine
4 ounces port or brandy
12 whole cloves
4 cinnamon sticks
1 large orange, zested
nutmeg — for optional garnish

Directions:

Combine all but nutmeg in a large pot and bring to a simmer, not allowing to boil. Heat for 20 minutes and serve in a large, heat resistant punch bowl. Garnish with cinnamon sticks or freshly ground nutmeg.

Look for *Burgundy on Tour* in the January 2010 issue of *Grapevine*.

Check out Our Ongoing Store Specials

Mix & Match — Three for \$24.99 on select bottles
The 90s Club — Wines rated 90+ Pts for under \$20
Wine & Spirits offers year-round custom made gift baskets and a variety of wine bar gifts and accessories: Riedel glasses, foil cutters, corkscrews, decanters, wine stoppers and wine bags.

Wine News, Events or Musings

Custom-made gift baskets & Rudolph's Reds for the Holidays!

Ease your shopping to-do list with a custom-made gift basket or our classic *Rudolph's Reds*, pictured below. Custom-made gift baskets are just that: wines of your choosing to make everyone on your list happy this holiday season.

Rudolph's Reds consists of two bottles of red 90s rated wines — this year, Woop Woop Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (AUST) & Monte Antico Sangiovese, Merlot and Cab Sauv 2006 (Tuscany) — for \$24.99

We put two great 90 rated wines in a gift basket and call it **Rudolph's Reds** (Sorry Blitzen!)

Woop Woop Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
90 Pts. from Steven Tanzer
Bright cherry fruit, herbs & hint of oak

Monte Antico Sangiovese Blend 2006
90 Pts. from Wine Spectator &
Also on WS' Top 100
Bracing acidity backed with luscious fruit



All for Only \$ 24.99 Happy Holidays!!!
Give it and receive thanks.

Rudolph's Reds — The perfect gift for \$24.99



Holiday Savings! 15% off All Wine --
Every Bottle, Every Day