



As Seen in the **New York Times**

Suisun Valley is on a New York Times Top 12 List by Eric Asimov: Complex American Wine at a Price Easy to Pay

By Eric Asimov | May 20, 2009

The wine shops are filled with cheap American bottles. Almost all of them are palatable, well made and consistent. Such a bore!

Where are the inexpensive bottles that will fascinate and intrigue? Where are the wines that will keep you coming back for one more sip simply because the effort to penetrate the mystery of what's in the glass offers so much pleasure?

Good bottles galore come from Italy and France, Spain and other historic Old World wine-producing regions. It's far more difficult to find inexpensive wines of real interest from the United States.

Give me a moment and I will explain why this is so. But first let me assure you that it can be done. Simply by scouring some favorite wine shops, I found treasures in the \$10 to \$20 range, the sweet spot nowadays for great values. Sure, you can find plenty of wines under \$10, mostly of the palatable variety. But by spending a few more dollars, and picking very carefully, the pleasure increases exponentially.

... Beyond those, I was sorely challenged to find reds I liked for less than \$20. It's not so hard to find good whites, though, like the 2007 Suisun Valley sauvignon



blanc from Manifesto!, a new outfit declaring itself dedicated to making "simple wine for a complex world." Yeah, I know it's hokey, but the wine itself, made in a brashly fruity style, was dry and refreshing with flavors of mint and herbs for intrigue's sake.

Lots of Adjectives, No More Than \$20

Here are a dozen American treasures, great wines under \$20:

1. A TO Z OREGON PINOT NOIR 2007, \$19.99
 - Earthy and restrained, with delicate cherry and herbal flavors.
2. DOMAINE CARNEROS BY TAITTINGER CARNEROS BRUT 2005, \$19.99
 - Toasty and creamy, with lively flavors of lemon and apple.
3. EDMUNDS ST. JOHN EL DORADO COUNTY BONE-JOLLY GAMAY NOIR ROSÉ 2008, \$19.99
 - Fresh and dry with lively, lingering fruit and mineral flavors.

**SUISUN VALLEY
GRAPE GROWERS
ASSOCIATION.**



4. GRUET NEW MEXICO BRUT BLANC DE NOIRS NV, \$12.99

- Fresh and lively with citrus flavors and distinct berry notes.

5. HERMANN J. WIEMER FINGER LAKES RIESLING DRY 2006, \$18.95

- Complex flavors of lime zest, honeyed grapefruit, cantaloupe and minerals.

6. KING ESTATE OREGON PINOT GRIS SIGNATURE COLLECTION 2007, \$16.99

- Tangy and delicious with flavors of grapefruit, minerals and almonds.

7. LIEB NORTH FORK OF LONG ISLAND PINOT BLANC 2007, \$18.99

- Dry and creamy with a rich texture and a touch of citrus and anise.

8. MANIFESTO! SUISUN VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC 2007, \$14.99

- **Brash and zesty with lemon, mint and herbal flavors.**

9. OBERON NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2006, \$17.99

- Ripe, fresh cabernet flavors with a bit of underlying oak.

10. PONZI VINEYARDS WILLAMETTE VALLEY PINOT GRIS 2007, \$17.99

- Dry and refreshing with aromas of flowers, lime and minerals.

11. QUIVIRADRY CREEK VALLEY ZINFANDEL 2005, \$19.99

- Spicy and peppery with tart berry flavors.

12. ROEDERER ESTATE ANDERSON VALLEY BRUT NV, \$18.99

- Light and elegant with flavors of lemon and grapefruit.