

14 California Whites Not to Overlook

New reviews of Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Pinot Grigio and more from the Golden State



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The cool-climate Anderson Valley in Mendocino is prime *terroir* for the whites wines of California.

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Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak-peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

Today we're looking at the diversity of white wines available in California beyond Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

Grapes like Chenin Blanc and Grenache Blanc, previously used mainly in blends, are now known for aromatic, distinctive and refreshing white wines that are more likely to be bottled solo. The Lang & Reed Chenin Blanc shows off the grape's crisp side, while the Husch displays its richer peach notes. Chenin Blanc paired with the Rhône grape Viognier makes charming, fragrant whites like the Terra d'Oro blend, which shows floral and spice notes on a juicy body.

There are plenty of other options here, including other Rhône-inspired wines like the Priest Ranch Grenache Blanc, which shows off the mineral accents and sleek body the grape is known for, and the rich and spicy Tenshen Viognier blend. Other vintners take inspiration from Italy, like the Ribolla Gialla-based Massican Annia, or the value Pinot Grigios from Mirassou and Terra d'Oro, which show plenty of charm on an everyday-bottle budget.

LANG & REED Chenin Blanc Mendocino 2016 Score: 90 | \$27

This white delivers terrific, fleshy but crisp citrus notes that have a savory side, with a saline touch and roasted herb accents, and mouthwatering melon and peach flavors at the core. Shows tremendous harmony and presence on the finish. Drink now. 208 cases made. —*M.W.*

MASSICAN Annia Napa Valley 2016 Score: 89 | \$30

A snappy, vibrant mix of apricot, lemon and pear flavors on an elegant body, with accents of lemon verbena and fresh ginger lingering on the finish. Ribolla Gialla, Tocai Friulano and Chardonnay. Drink now. 1,066 cases made. —*M.W.*

PRIEST RANCH Grenache Blanc Napa Valley 2016 Score: 89 | \$22

Elegant, mixing pear, apple, lime blossom and mineral details on a sleek and refreshing body. Drink now. 1,271 cases made. —*M.W.*

TERRA D'ORO Chenin Blanc-Viognier Clarksburg 2016 Score: 89 | \$16

A bright and delightful mix of peach, melon and marmalade flavors set on a crisp and juicy body. Floral and spice highlights linger effortlessly. Drink now. 5,000 cases made. —*M.W.*