

Wine from



Snobbery is rife in the wine scene, and so much wine offers little or no value for money. Small wonder that many are led by the nose by the “mainstream” wine media that has become little more than an advertising vehicle. We decided to take a look at the “value” end of the market and asked the three major supermarkets to support the tasting. Only Aldi was enthusiastic – and there’s much to be enthusiastic about.

Background information supplied by Aldi.

SPARKLING

NV Monsigny Brut Champagne Very attractive bready complexity. Fresh and multi-faceted with plenty of flavour, good acid and a creamy mousse. There are some Grande Marque NVs that aren’t as good as this. (\$33.00) ★★★★★

Producer: Charles Mignon <https://www.champagne-mignon.fr/the-house/a-great-house/>

Blend: 55% pinot meunier, 25% chardonnay, 20% pinot noir

Source : Valle De la Marne « Chavot », Monthelon, Moussy, Vinay, Epernay, Fleury-la-Riviere, Venteuil, Port-a-Binson, Jonquery, Barbonne

Dosage: 9 grams/litre

NV St Huberts Victorian Blanc de Blanc Very fresh. Faint lees complexity. Flavour and balance even though slightly sweet. Fine mousse. (\$17.00) ★★★★★

NV Corte Carista Prosecco Rosé Delicate rose petal fragrance. Good weight and freshness. Simple but has crunchy red apple characteristics and a balancing grip (\$12.00) ★★★★★

NV Corte Carista Prosecco Simple. Faintly lemony. Slightly sweet but has a lively palate. (\$11.00) ★★★★★

DRY WHITE & ROSÉ

2023 A.C Byrne Margaret River Chardonnay Quite rich pear/melon nose with a whiff of toasted nuts and vanilla. Impressive freshness and intensity together with textural grip. (\$11.00) ★★★★★

100% Margaret River

87% chardonnay, 10% semillon, 3% chenin blanc

Spends 4 months on a mixture of French oak staves and in some 2-3 year old French oak barrels

Oak treatment makes up about 40% of the blend, the remaining 60% was in stainless steel. Much of the fruit is Gin Gin clone.

2024 South Point Estate Sauvignon Blanc Grassy/gooseberry aromas. Good fruit freshness and acidity. Dry. (\$5.00) ★★★★★

100% Riverina, 86% sauvignon blanc & 14% semillon

100% Stainless Steel ferment

2024 South Point Estate Rosé Fresh, faint strawberry aroma. Good weight and dryness. Excellent value. (\$5.00) ★★☆☆

2024 South Point Estate Pinot Grigio Fresh, slightly grassy. Enough fruit weight. Finishes dry. (\$5.00) ★★★

2023 Corte Carista Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie Fresh pear nose. A little light on the palate. Tapers off. ★★★

PINOT NOIR

2021 Kaiora Bay Reserve Central Otago Pinot Noir Intense cherry varietal. Faint undergrowth complexity. Rich dark fruits and firm tannins. Typical of Central Otago. (\$16.00) ★★★★★

2023 Truly Wildly Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Fragrant red berry nose. Good fruit. Fine and firm. Drinking well. (\$14.00) ★★★★★

EUROPEAN RED

2023 Bodega Lurzon Verdecillo Monastrell Nice purple colour. Fragrant red fruits. Quite ripe. Plenty of fresh flavour. Balanced by firm, savoury tannins. (\$10.00) ★★★★★

Bodegas Luzón is one of the oldest wineries in D.O.P Jumilla, and has about 500 hectares of vineyards at an altitude between 450 and 600 meters above sea level.

2017 Marqués de Atrio Rioja Reserva Tempranillo Graciano Attractively perfumed red fruits nose with cedary complexity. The palate is fine, firm and impressively long. (\$13.00) ★★★★★

2020 Corte Carista Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Spicy plum/cherry nose. It's good, fresh, firm, savoury drinking, but finishes slightly short. (\$10.00) ★★★★★

OTHER AUSTRALIAN RED

2022 Truly Wildly Heathcote Shiraz A fresh, spicy red fruits style that reflects its regional origin. A splendid wine to enjoy in the short term. (\$14.00) ★★★★★

97% Heathcote shiraz and 3% shiraz and grenache from McLaren Vale & the Yarra to drive the highlights.

Designed to be bright & fresh with a small percentage of whole bunch to add a touch of complexity.

Made by two young and up and coming top tier winemakers.

Pushing that On Premise style - i.e. fragrant and lifted with less focus on blockiness and density.

2022 Wolf Blass Exclusive Release Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Chocolate hints enhance the dark berry fruit. The tannins are delightfully fine, balancing the impressive intensity. (\$15.00) ★★★★★

A blend of Barossa, McLaren Vale & Adelaide Hills.

60% shiraz & 40% cabernet sauvignon with the inclusion of Adelaide Hills shiraz into the blend to drive the aromatics.

2022 Taylors Special Release Clare Valley Shiraz Blackberries and violets characteristics supported by subtle oak. A generous mouthful with firm, balanced tannins. (\$16.00) ★★★★★☆

*85% Clare Valley, 15% McLaren Vale (96% shiraz & 4% malbec)
An exclusive ALDI Blend that receives French oak maturation rather than the American oak of the standard Taylors wines.*

2021 Blackstone Estate Barossa Shiraz Lovely dark berry/spicy fruit on the nose and the powerful, structured palate. True to style Barossa. (\$18.00) ★★★★★☆

*100% Barossa shiraz from multiple sub regions: 30% Lyndoch, 25% Gomersal, 20% Ebenezer/Koonunga Hill /Moppa, 15% Marananga, 10% Greenock
18 months in French oak hogsheads & puncheons.
Without saying who, it's made by an esteemed winemaking business that have much pedigree and history in the Barossa.*

2022 Blackstone Estate The Player Barossa Shiraz Fresh red fruits of commendable intensity. A ready to drink style that is vibrant and comparatively finely structured. (\$13.00) ★★★★★

*A blend of mainly two vineyards - one in Williamstown & one in Koonunga, and both are elevated and slightly cooler sites.
87% shiraz, 6.5% durif & 6.5% grenache
Small batch production, 10 tonne fermenters. Mixture of barrel and stainless steel maturation. Older use French oak hogsheads.
Made by one of the Barossa's more artisan producers.*

2022 Blackstone Paddock Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Powerful cassis with a faint mintiness. An intense, long, firm cabernet that needs time. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

*Slightly warmer vintage, but nice fruit structure and ripe tannins with a silky cocoa powder elegance to it. I liken it to more a Bordeaux style that has some femininity.
Yallingup Hills fruit (from Abbey Vale & Springfield Farm)
Oak: 100% Seguin Moreau & Quintessence - oak time ranges up to 15 months, 20% new and a mix of 1 & 2 year old.
Peak Drinking: now to 7 years+*

2021 One Road South Australia & Heathcote Shiraz Attractive spicy red fruits nose. Savoury tannins show on a medium-bodied palate of good length. Brilliant value. (\$8.00) ★★★★★

*89% Shiraz, 10% cabernet & 1% Other
75% from SA (mainly Langhorne Creek, Currency Creek & Fleurieu), 25% from Heathcote
A combination of fermentations with oak staves, some older barrels and stainless steel tank. Ideally, we wanted to capture the savoury elements of South Australia, but lift the aromatics and brightness with the addition of Heathcote.*

2022 Mount Langi Ghiran Pepper Series Shiraz Red fruits with a hint of white pepper. A very drinkable medium-weight red with fine tannins. (\$16.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.aldi.com.au/groceries/liquor/wine/>