Reds: Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Shiraz
Tasting Wine

Fill your glass to only about a third full (this allows you to fully appreciate the color and aroma).

Look at the color. Generally, the deeper the color the more full-bodied (and intense) the wine. A brownish tint indicates excessive age.

Gently swirl the wine in the glass (this releases aroma) and take a sniff. *Remember that 90% of our tastes comes from smell! Thus, it’s very important to smell the wine before drinking it. Try to detect what kind of fruit you smell.

Take a sip. Hold the wine in your mouth for a few seconds and move it around so all your taste buds benefit. Try to detect what kind of tastes you experience, and when and where they occur (e.g. where on the tongue or throat).

Swallow. Really good, complex wines have what is called a finish or aftertaste, meaning you can continue tasting them, usually in new ways, for several seconds afterwards.

Wine appreciation tips:
Choose a clear, unadorned glass with an in-turned rim for capturing the aroma

Do not brush your teeth or eat any sour/vinegary foods before or during wine tasting (also avoid chocolate if you want to get the full flavor of the wine)
California Wine Country

- Mendocino County
- Sonoma County
- Marin County
- Napa Valley
- Sierra Foothills
- Solano County
- Lodi
- Central Valley
- San Francisco
- Livermore
- Santa Cruz
- Monterey County
- San Luis Obispo / Paso Robles
- Santa Barbara
- South Coast
- Los Angeles
- San Diego
Merlot

The Merlot grape originated from the Bordeaux region of France. It tends to produce a soft, medium-bodied red wine with juicy fruit flavors. A range of fresh flavors such as plums, cherries, blueberries and blackberries mixed with black pepper tones typically dominate this smooth red wine. The tannin levels are often fairly low and the fruit flavors are typically very forward - making this a prime wine candidate for consumers just "getting into" red wines.

There are three main styles of Merlot-a soft, fruity, smooth wine with very little tannins, a fruity wine with more tannic structure and, finally, a brawny, highly tannic style made in the profile of Cabernet Sauvignon. Some of the fruit notes commonly associated with Merlot include cassis, black and red cherries, blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, mulberry, ollalieberry and plum. Vegetable and earthy notes include black and green olives, cola nut, bell pepper, fennel, humus, leather, mushrooms, rhubarb and tobacco.
Merlot

Other locations
- Bordeaux, France
- Other valleys of CA

[Map of California wine regions]

[Image of a vineyard]

[Image of a bottle of Kunde Estate Merlot]

[Map of Sonoma Valley, with a pin marking the location]
Kunde 2007 Sonoma Valley MERLOT

“The smooth mouthfeel and structured body of our Merlot makes it a very food-friendly, approachable wine. Aromas of blackberry and plum with subtle notes of bay leaves are complemented by black peppercorn and sweet barrel toast. Dark cherry fruit flavors with accents of black olives and lilac impart a clean mouthfeel with a nicely integrated tannin structure."

"This is an awesome and easy-drinking red you need to have at home. We love how Merlot grows on our Sonoma Valley Estate and you’ll understand why when you experience the complex aromas of cedar, raspberry, black cherry, and cloves it gives to this wine. The texture in your mouth is soft and velvety, but with just enough tannins to give it some backbone. Enjoy with grilled Asian-flavored skirt steak with ginger, cinnamon, and soy sauce. Perfect!" - Winemaker Zachary Long
Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon, often referred to as the “King of Red Wine Grapes,” originally from Bordeaux, with a substantial foothold in California’s wine races, is arguably the world’s most sought after red wine.

Its aromas and flavors are often include dark or black fruit consisting of black currant, plum, or blueberry, with the flavors and aromas integrated through oak influence including cedar, vanilla, smoke, pepper and spice. Other possible aromas and flavors are chocolate, coffee, tobacco, earth, herbs and even tar.
Cabernet Sauvignon

Other locations

– France, Chile, Australia and Italy
– Napa Valley & other CA valleys
Broadside Cabernet Sauvignon - 2011

Broadside Cabernet Sauvignon is the result of our faithful effort to capture a pure and unadulterated representation of the grape and site. With 1000 feet of elevation and a chilling coastal influence, the well-drained soils at Margarita Vineyard provide a balance of stress and sustenance to the vines. The unusually cool 2011 growing season brought the opportunity to pick later than usual, with compelling flavor development at low brix. Exact finished alcohol is 13.3 percent (slightly below the labeled abv). Penetrating aromas of black currant and red berries, graphite and spice meet a classically Bordelaise palate with nuance and structure. Resoundingly dry and elegant with fine purity of flavor and a lingering, balanced finish.

Blend – 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot
Pinot Noir

The Pinot Noir grape is a dark skinned variety of the Vitis Vinifera grape. It is used to make medium to full bodied red wine. Pinot Noir is a very popular and widely planted grape variety that is notoriously difficult to grow, requiring warm days and cool nights to mature properly.

Pinot Noir is a dry, red wine that typically exhibits fruit-forward character with strawberry, cherry, raspberry and blackberry fruit taking the cake for palate presence. Notable earth-driven layers are also quite common in a glass of Pinot, with herbal, mushroom, leather, and game-like qualities being fairly familiar. Warm spice notes also make their way into the Pinot Noir palate profile, often in the form of cinnamon, clove and smoky, tobacco nuances.
Ironic 2011 Pinot Noir

The Wine Country is a region of Northern California known as a premium wine-growing region. There are over 400 wineries in the area north of San Francisco.
Shiraz

Syrah is a dark-skinned red wine grape. In Australia, Syrah is overwhelmingly (but not exclusively) known as Shiraz, and is regarded as the country’s national grape.

Shiraz wines display firm tannins (although they are typically ripe and smooth, not abrasive like younger reds can be), a medium to full body, and the rich round flavors of black cherry, blackberry, plum, bell pepper, black pepper, clove, licorice, dark chocolate and smoked meat.
Layer Cake 2011 Shiraz

McLaren Vale

- McLaren Vale is the birthplace of the South Australian wine industry and home to some of the world's oldest grape vines. McLaren Vale boasts around 65 wineries, mostly boutique-sized. About 270 independent grape growers can also be found here. Visit weekend farmer’s markets and pack your picnic hamper with fresh bread, cheese, olives and fruit or linger over lunch in a picturesque vineyard restaurant. Walk, cycle or horse ride along the Shiraz Trail, which follows an old railway line from McLaren Vale to Willunga. Then soak up the region’s artistic culture on one of the many driving and walking trails.

Barossa Valley

- South Australia’s Barossa Valley is one of Australia’s oldest and the world's finest wine producing regions. First settled in 1842 by European immigrants, it still retains its old-world charm. There are around 150 wineries and cellar doors in the Barossa Valley. The Barossa Valley is also renowned for its fresh seasonal produce, artisan food producers and award-winning restaurants. Drive the Barossa’s food and wine trails or explore the countryside by bicycle. You can also tour the region by motorbike, vintage car, hot air balloon or helicopter. Unwind in a day spa or play golf on one of the championship courses.
Whites: Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling
Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon blanc is a green-skinned grape variety that originates from the Bordeaux region of France. Sauvignon blanc is planted in many of the world's wine regions, producing a crisp, dry, and refreshing white varietal wine.

Sauvignon Blanc tends to be drier and crisper than Chardonnay, likely to have a citrusy, grassy or slight vegetal nose, then strong fruit tastes of lime or grapefruit, sometimes melon (honey dew or watermelon), or kiwi with lovely acidity to finish very cleanly. Terrific with oily fish or creamy sauces.
Leon Vatan Sauvignon Blanc "Fleurs Sauvages"
2011 Vin de Pays du Val de Loire

This is crispy and clean Sauvignon Blanc treated entirely in stainless steel and made for popping and pouring. No grassy notes here, just vibrant citrus notes and nice mineral touches with surprising length. A superb Cellar Defender to enjoy now with the warm sunshine, light appetizers, shrimp or sushi...”
Riesling

Riesling is a light-skinned, aromatic grape of German origin which is - if the majority of top wine critics are to be believed - the world's finest white wine grape variety.

Because of the northerly location of Mosel, the Riesling wines are often light, low in alcohol, crisp and high in acidity, and often exhibit "flowery" rather than "fruity" aromas.
2012 Selbach Zeltinger Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett

This wine has started to constitute a Franchise; it’s been so stellar for so many years, and this is a superb vintage of this steady classic, as minty and pointed as always, peppermint and tarragon, but a thicker, denser body and greater mid-palate length. It seems drier than the Trockens. Likely the best vintage ever for this. Zeltingen's Himmelreich is a site with variable exposures and steepness, but the best of it offers "1er Cru" quality in a green-apple and kiwi style, more fruit driven than mineral.