

Review

There's a lot more to Spanish wine than cava and rioja



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While Spain's staples are among the world's favourites, delve a little deeper and you will be rewarded – and often at a great price, too

If I asked you to name three Spanish wines, my guess is they would be cava, rioja and sherry. Nothing wrong with that, of course – they're all terrific value for money – but Spain has a lot more to offer. Whites, for a start. Albariño, which I wrote about last month, may be the country's rising star, but don't overlook refreshing, spritzy txakolina, which is produced around San Sebastián; godello, which should appeal if you're a chardonnay fan; and rueda, if you fancy ringing the changes on sauvignon blanc (Aldi has a decent one for just £5.29 in its Baron Amarillo range).

I know that now is possibly not the best moment to suggest this, not least given the overall rise in the cost of living, but trading up a pound or two on the staples really pays dividends. Premium supermarket sherries are so much better than the basic versions, and they're still mostly fantastically good value (Pedro's delicious 15% fino, which is currently on sale at £9.49 for a full-size bottle in Waitrose, is actually cheaper than the company's own label). If you're buying rioja, reservas are generally smoother and more mellow than younger crianzas (you can, for example, still get Asda's excellent Extra Special Rioja Reserva for £9). And a plea to treat cava seriously: Joan Sardà's delicately peachy Brut Reserva (£14.25 Corney & Barrow, 11.5%) takes cava to another level, and for much the same price as a supermarket crémant.

4 Spanish wines you might not have tried



U Mes U De Llevant 2022 Malvasia de Sitges Penedès £14.95 (going up to £15.95 shortly) Ultracomida Aberystwyth and Narberth , 12.5%. Creamy with a whiff of orange blossom. A perfect aperitif wine.

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