

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc

In the white wine world, there is no grape like Sauvignon Blanc. Not only does this grape have many different characteristics, it is also made in many styles making it a very versatile varietal.

In general, Sauvignon Blanc is most often dry and light to medium bodied. As with all grape varieties, the location and terroir help to determine what flavours will be revealed.

If your Sauvignon Blanc hails from France, you could find a Pouilly-Fume style of wine that would have a crisp, tart and smoky character while New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc has distinct gooseberry and herbal flavours.

In Chile, Sauvignon Blanc is growing in every sense of the word. Many of the vineyards in the cooler zones of Casablanca, Leyda and the San Antonio Valleys were not planted until the mid 1980's and are already producing world class Sauvignon Blanc. Due to its close proximity to the sea, the mornings are misty and the afternoon temperatures are lower. This combined with much milder winters serve to extend Casablanca's growing season by about one month. Not much wonder more and more vineyards are being planted in these cooler areas very quickly. After tasting these wines it's easy to understand why they are great quality and great value.

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc tends to be quite aromatic. Some of the flavours you may experience include green apples, pear, citrus and tropical fruit. On the nose, very often green grassy, herbal undertones are present. You may also find some minerality on the palate. These wines are zesty, crisp, refreshing and very easy to drink. Serve them as an aperitif or with your main dish. Chilean Sauvignon Blanc is wonderful alongside herbed white fish dishes, goat cheese, salads and simple tuna wraps.

Here are some refreshing wines you may want to try:

Errazuriz Estate Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml \$13.29

This wine is harvested by hand, cold fermented and is aged "sur-lie" resulting in a wine with a complex, zesty and crisp flavour.

Veramonte Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml \$14.99

Plenty of tropical fruit and citrus aromas in this wine. Lively acidity makes this Sauvignon very refreshing.

Santa Carolina Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml \$12.99

Lush fruits, pineapple, gooseberry and citrus aromas abound. Great balanced acidity make this wine easy drinking.

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