

Rustenberg, RM Nicholson, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2013 90
 £14.99 **Majestic** Rich, intense blend of classic Rhône and Bordeaux varieties Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, presenting opulent plum, blackcurrant, black pepper and dried herb aromas and flavours, supported by structured tannins and freshness on a long finish. Alc 14.5%

Benanti, Rosso di Verzella, Etna, Sicily, Italy 2013 89
 £16.99 **AG Wines, Astrum** A light ruby-coloured, vibrant red from Etna's volcanic slopes. 80% Nerello Mascalese and 20% Nerello Cappuccio harmoniously blended and aged in 225-litre barriques for 8-10 months. Delightful ripe red cherry, cranberry and vanilla spice, with smooth tannins and a persistent yet refreshing finish. Alc 13.5%

Stéphane Aviron, Beaujolais Villages, France 2014 89
 £7.50 **The Wine Society** From a joint venture between Domaine de la Madrière in Fleurie and the famous Nicolas Potel, this is a delicious showcase for the Gamay variety. It's delightful, succulent and refreshing with raspberry and red cherry characters. The juicy finish makes this Beaujolais irresistibly gulpable. Alc 13%

Incânta, Pinot Noir, Romania 2014 88
 £8.99 **Majestic** Cramele Recas has built up a reputation for producing outstanding, great value wines, and this new addition is no exception. Generous red fruit flavours with notes of raspberry and redcurrant. Pure and straightforward style, packed with juiciness. A very moreish, light-bodied Pinot style that won't break the bank. Alc 12%

Viña Chocalan, Carmenere Reserva, Maipo Valley, Chile 2013 90
 £12.99 **Liberty Wines** Made from vines in the coastal mountain range in Maipo, this is packed with blackcurrant, black plum, cinnamon, clove, liquorice and herbal aromas and flavours. Creamy texture from nicely integrated oak on a juicy palate, supported by gentle tannins and brisk acidity. Alc 14%

Joseph Drouhin, Rully, Burgundy, France 2012 89
 £15.49 **Watrose** This reliable Burgundy house is family-owned, managed today by the fourth generation. The wine has spent 12-15 months in mostly second-use oak barrels. Very delicate Pinot, showing scented notes of raspberry and redcurrant. Medium-bodied with notable weight and voluptuous red fruit on the finish. Alc 12.5%

Grace Bridge, Pinot Noir, California, USA 2013 88
 £10.95-£11.95 **Fine, Stanbury St Wine Co, The Old Bridge Wine Shop** A good value Californian Pinot, very drinkable with good expression of ripe strawberry and black cherry fruits. Grapes from Monterey and Sonoma County, matured in 225-litre used oak barrels. Supple, fruity, straightforward, with medium body and soft tannins. Alc 14%

Terrazas de los Andes, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina 2012 88
 £15.50 **Berry Bros & Rudd, Drinks Direct, Ocado** Selected from vineyards above 1,000 metres in the foothills of the Andes. Expressive Malbec: floral, with plum and red cherry. The palate is powerful, but it has a certain purity of fruit and elegance. 12 months in French oak adds some spiciness and a sweet mouthfeel. Alc 14.5%

El Pájaro Rojo, Mencia, Bierzo, Spain 2013 90
 £10.97 **Asda** From 30- to 40-year-old vines on clay and slate soils, this meaty Mencia is complex yet juicy, with notes of black cherry and raspberries on the nose, spiced up with some earthy characters and black pepper. On a textured palate with subtle tannins, it offers bitter cherry and meaty characters. This is a wine that will appeal to any lover of southern Rhône styles. Alc 13.5%

High street choice

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Decanter

50 TOP RIOJAS

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