

The 12 best bargain wines of the year will set you back as little as \$10. How can you resist?

By [Dave McIntyre](#) Columnist, Food December 20, 2019

Exceptional Excellent Very Good

It has been a wild year here in Washington. The political maelstrom of the Mueller report and impeachment hearings left us dizzy, while sports championships for the Mystics and the Nationals gave us something to cheer. From Nancy Pelosi's clap to baby shark, 2019 gave us a lot of reasons to drink.

Thankfully, there was plenty of wine. I even discovered one called Collusion, a word that reverberated through the political echo chamber for the first half of the year. There's probably a wine called Quid Pro Quo, but I haven't found it yet.

Best of all, there was plenty of inexpensive, delicious wine to delight us throughout the year. Here is our third annual list of the greatest values of the year — a case of 12 wines, each under \$20 a bottle, that I awarded the great value label.

Choosing just 12 of these to feature as the year's greatest values was not easy. I look for a variety of styles, grapes and regions to reflect the diversity of the market and the hard work done by winemakers, importers and retailers. Mostly, I chose wines that excited, surprised and delighted me. Many more could have made this list. Once chosen, I determined the rankings using a simple formula that combines price with my quality rating. So you will see a 2.5-star wine ranked above a 3-star bottle if its price is lower.

My usual caveat: Like the Laroque, some of these wines have moved to the next vintage. Use these recommendations as a guide to look for other wines from these producers.



12. La Closserie des Lys Pinot Noir 2017

Pays d'Oc, France, \$17

Wow, this delicious pinot noir seems to defy gravity: Its color, body and flavors leave an impression of weightlessness. There's no obvious power to this wine, yet its essence reverberates like an echo in the mountains. Absolutely delightful. Alcohol by volume: 13 percent.