

Holiday Entertaining

Complementing Wine And Holiday Fare

(NAPSA)—When it comes to choosing a holiday wine, often, the trick is to select a wine that is both versatile and balanced; a wine that is neither overpowering in flavor nor too delicate. It needs to enhance a wide array of subtle flavors but not get lost in the fare. Fortunately, California's Sonoma County has a number of delicious, well-balanced wines that demonstrate how the region's diversity provides a variety of wines for holiday entertaining. Here are four to consider:

- Sonoma Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc is great for brunch with friends. According to Food & Wine magazine, it is one of the "great value wines" from Sonoma County. The tropical fruit and ruby grapefruit flavors pair wonderfully with breakfast fare and do not add heaviness to the meal.

- For a rich, mineral-flavored wine with vibrant acidity, you may want to try Rodney Strong Vineyards Chardonnay Reserve Russian River Valley. The grapes grown in Russian River Valley are known for award-winning chardonnays and tend to create wines with depth and complexity. Rated over 90 points by both Wine Spectator and Wine Enthusiast magazines, it complements a variety of fowl dishes and rich cheeses.

- When the weather is cooling, staying indoors and cooking hearty dishes can be a great way to spend time with friends and enjoy a bold cabernet sauvignon from Sonoma County's Alexander Valley. Cabernet warms up any occasion, even if you're bold



Many people are discovering the delightful versatility of Sonoma County wines this holiday season.

enough to venture outside to grill a steak. Find a bottle of Rodney Strong Alexander Valley Cabernet and you'll find a wine with aromas of blackberry and cocoa leading to a rich, textured feel.

- Finally, pinot noir is getting a lot of attention these days and there are few places that grow better pinot than Russian River Valley. You can look for Davis Bynum Pinot Noir for a food-friendly wine, full of bright fruit aromas and flavors. Pinot noir is one of the most versatile wines for food and this well-priced pinot can complement hearty pasta or even a holiday dinner.

This season, remember to take time out for all the smaller occasions, whether it's brunch with friends or celebrating the fact that you left your work at the office for once—break out your favorite Sonoma County wine and pour yourself a glass. Every day should be this good. Cheers!