

FOOD & WINE

HOW TO
HAVE

THE BEST WINE YEAR

OF
YOUR
LIFE

↓
RECIPES
PAIRINGS
VALUES
SPLURGES

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ESSENTIAL
WINES
TO BUY THIS
SPRING
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A CHEF'S
STELLAR
NEW BURGER
RECIPES
& GREAT WINES
TO MATCH
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ULTIMATE PAIRING
The freshest spring
panzanella salad and
a light Italian white
wine (p. 115).

APRIL 2016

WHAT'S HOT NOW

TREND SPOTTING

Semidry Riesling
With its slight sweetness, the 2010 Vineland Estate bottling from Canada's Niagara Peninsula is great with spicy food.

Yogurt patties
At NYC's Babu Ji, chef Jessi Singh strains yogurt overnight to thicken it, then toasts it with cardamom and pan-fries.

Beet sauce
Singh purees raw beets in a Vitamix blender, then adds green chile and ginger.

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GO PRIX FIXE "Tasting menu" used to mean "expensive." Now it's become a relatively affordable way to explore the menu at casual places. At New York City's raucous Indian spot Babu Ji, chef Jessi Singh offers a seven-course menu for \$60 that might include the yogurt kebab above—perfect with a semidry Riesling or a beer from the serve-yourself fridge. Turn the page for more new prix fixe deals.

VISIT FRANCE

If you're going to go all out on a wine vacation, France is an excellent place to do just that.



LEARN IN PROVENCE

The five-day Extreme Wine course offers amateurs pro-level tasting training using some of the world's greatest bottles. From \$8,300; loverriere.com.



EXPLORE BORDEAUX

The new La Grande Maison hotel, in a 19th-century mansion, is the ideal home base for château visits. Doubles from \$433; lagrandemaison-bordeaux.com.



FLOAT THROUGH BURGUNDY AND THE RHÔNE

Viking's new river cruise stops in Dijon, Lyon, Mâcon, Tournon and Viviers. From \$3,500; vikingrivercruises.com.



GO CRAZY ON THE ULTIMATE WINE SPLURGE

YOU CAN BUY A BOTTLE OF Rocca di Frassinello's superb 2012 Maremma red for \$49. Or for \$46,000 you can blend your own personalized barrel of super-Tuscan wine one-on-one with Rocca di Frassinello's winemaker, Alessandro Cellai. Once your wine is ready, it will be sent to you at home—all 300 bottles of it. The experience is only available to guests at the Baglioni Hotel Cala del Porto, a boutique property with gorgeous views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. *Through October 2016; baglionihotels.com.*



INVEST IN NEW GLASSWARE

Riedel's new line of ultralight, ultrathin Superleggero crystal glasses brilliantly shows off a wine's aroma and taste. From \$139 each; riedel.com.

CHECK OUT AN URBAN WINERY



APRIL 2015

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← **CHARLES SMITH WINES JET CITY, SEATTLE** This vast new space is a showcase for Smith's high-end K Vintners wines. charlessmithwines.com.

THE INFINITE MONKEY THEOREM, AUSTIN Try wines from cans or kegs in a refurbished South Austin auto shop. theinfinitemonkeytheorem.com.

BOW & ARROW, PORTLAND, OR From an underground location, Scott and Dana Frank make superb bargain Pinot and Gamay. bowandarrowwines.com.

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