

Domaine Cherrier et Fils, Sancerre (Loire Valley, France) 2008 (\$25, Vineyard Brands):

Sauvignon Blanc is now produced in most of the world's vineyard regions, but Sancerre remains the lodestone for many wine lovers seeking the purity of flavor this grape can convey. It's true that France's beautiful Sancerre region is capable of producing some banal wines, but this one from Domaine Cherrier is the real thing: a classic, with the fresh fragrance dominated by lime peel, and melon and minerality hovering in the background. The wine is beautifully dry on the palate without being too searingly acidic. Domaine Cherrier also produces Crottin de Chavignol, the Loire region's classic goat cheese. Pair some chèvre with this wine and you'll swoon with pleasure.

91 [Marguerite Thomas](#) *Jan 5, 2010*

Perrin et Fils, Vinsobres (Rhône Valley, France) "Les Cornuds" 2007 (\$22, Vineyard Brands):

The French authorities elevated Vinsobres to its own appellation--on the same level as Châteauneuf du Pape--in 2005. They don't have the grandeur--nor the price--of Châteauneuf, but like their Rhône neighbors to the south, they can be enjoyed when young. Combine a great vintage with the exceptional talents of the Perrin family--owners of Château Beaucastel--and with this Vinsobres you have an excellent wine for hearty wintertime fare. It balances juicy black and red fruit flavors with spice and subtle gaminess, all enlivened with bright acidity.

90 [Michael Apstein](#) *Jan 5, 2010*