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Robert Haynes-Peterson

NY Drinks Examiner

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This article is part of New York's Great Recession

# Great Recession: Spectacular wines under \$15

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Finding good wine under \$15 isn't difficult: The overall quality, quantity and availability of wine on the market has risen dramatically in the past 15 years. Finding great wine under \$15 is more challenging.

What defines a great wine? It's a personal decision, but I like something that stands out for its complexity and depth. A bottle that takes the grape beyond the peers in its economic tier. In short, a \$15 bottle I'd gladly pay \$20 or \$30 for.

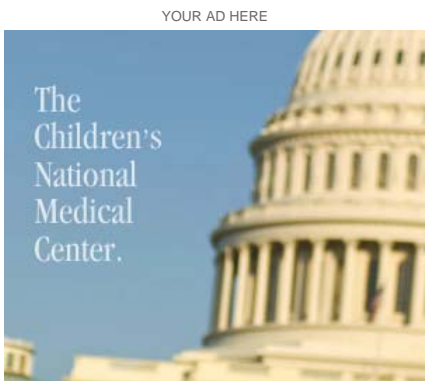
While such wines are available from all of the world's great regions, here are some helpful hints when scouring wine lists or hunting the racks at your local wine shop:

- Hit the underdogs: some regions, like Argentina, Washington, South Africa and New Zealand, are still striving to make their mark in the wine world. As a rule, they're not able to charge what their wines are "worth."
- Avoid the sale bin at the front of the store. Rarely do you find worthwhile bargains here. These wines are being moved for a reason (though this month's [Wine Spectator](#) points out sometimes great wines are moved to the discount bin for internal political reasons).
- Wines at this tier are not for storing (though sometimes you can). By and large they're crafted to pair with food, so go ahead, mangia!
- Keep your eyes open: Though winemakers can't offer discounts on their wines, there's little control over how the stores price them. With the proliferation of wine retailers available to New Yorkers, it's easier than ever to find the same wine in a wide variety of prices. Check out [Lowery's Wine Factory](#) on Queens Blvd in Sunnyside, [DrinkupNY.com](#) online or in Brooklyn, and [Smith & Vine](#) (also in Brooklyn).
- [Get to know your importers](#). Turn the bottle over, find the name. Some importers, like [Robert Kacher Selections](#), make a point of bringing in undervalued wine from regions like Gascony, that is rich, complex and entertaining.
- Do your own research. While the folks at your local wine store may be helpful, it's a hit-or-miss



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proposition.

- Skip the hipster trend for "Three Buck Chuck" (Charles Shaw) wine at Whole Foods. You'll do better heading to your neighborhood wine store in Greenpoint, Astoria or the LES and discovering Croatian, Greek or Slovenian finds for under \$5. At least then you'll be drinking something authentic if not always amazing.
- Finally, check out this great post from [TastingTable.com](http://TastingTable.com) highlighting NYC restaurants, including Croton, Cru and The Oak Room, which are promoting better quality wines at reasonable (restaurant) prices.

Need a starting point? Check out these stellar labels, all under \$20 (some under \$10) in the attached slide show!

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Do you have a cocktail trend, new product bar or teahouse you'd like me to review? Want to give me a heads-up on your favorite hot spot? Please email me at NYDrinksExaminer AT gmail.com

## Great Recession: 6 Inspiring wines under \$20



These wines are perfect for hard times: Value priced, they over-deliver on flavor, complexity and quality. Images courtesy (in order) Robert Kacher Selections, Mercer Estates, GregoryWhite PR, Winebow, Robert Skalli wines, Winebow.

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Robert Haynes-Peterson is an Examiner from New York. You can see Robert's articles on [Robert's Home Page](#).

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