

## 50 summer wines: picnic wines 41-50

The perfect drop for picnickers.

By Jonathan Ray

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### **41 Oudinot Medium Dry Champagne NV**



The best wine to drink with your picnic Photo: GETTY

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12%vol, France (£11.99 per 37.5cl; Marks & Spencer)

There is a trend among champagne producers to make drier wines, and I'm all for it. That said, I do like sweet fizz such as this. It goes perfectly with strawberries and cream or makes a decadent start to a louche picnic à deux.

### **42 Le Pavillon du Château Beauchêne, Côtes du Rhône 2007**

13.5%vol, (£8.25 as part of a mixed case; Private Cellar 01353 721999)

A smooth and spicy blend of grenache, cinsault and syrah that would enhance any déjeuner sur l'herbe. It is sublimely soft and far more characterful than most Côtes du Rhône wines. Try it with one of Melton Mowbray's finest.

#### **43 The Real Rosé Company Cinsault-Syrah Rosé**

12.5%vol, France (£4.75 reduced from £5.75 until July 7; Co-operative)

Perfect picnic fare – a light 'n' fruity, pretty, pale pink vin de pays d'Oc. With sweetish fruit in the mouth but a dry finish, it is dangerously drinkable and could help many a long, warm afternoon slip by unnoticed.

#### **44 Royal Tokaji 'Blue Label' 5 Puttonyos 2005**

10.5%vol, Hungary (£10.99 per 25cl; Waitrose)

Perfect for slipping into the picnic basket; a tiny (25cl) bottle of scrumptious marmalade sweetness. Goes as well with rich pâté starters as it does with stinky cheeses or puddings such as tarte Tatin.

#### **45 Viñalba Malbec-Syrah 2006**

14.5%vol, Argentina (£7.48; Asda)

This cracking blend from Patagonia has won tons of awards, including the International Wine Challenge Trophy for best Argentine red. And little wonder, since it is textbook stuff; violet-scented with subtle tannins and bitter cherry fruit. Enjoy it with cold veal and ham pie.

#### **46 Domaine de Tariquet 'Côté' 2008**

11.5%vol, France (£7.95; Wine Society 01438 737700)

An accidental Gascon blend of chardonnay and sauvignon blanc that was so successful that **the Grassa family** decided to market it. Grapes are vinified together to make a beautifully supple wine. In its youth, sauvignon dominates, when older, chardonnay.

#### **47 Lindauer Brut NV**

13%vol, New Zealand (£6.99 reduced from £10.99 if you buy two as part of a mixed case until Aug 31; Majestic)

There's no better sparkler at this price for chucking in the cool bag and I'm not ashamed to be recommending it again for the umpteenth time. With toast, yeast and citrus fruit it's always a winner.

#### **48 Red Saumur 2007**

12%vol, France (£7.75; Yapp Bros 01747 860423)

100 per cent cabernet franc from Saumur in the Loire Valley, this is the quintessential picnic red. Best served lightly chilled in retro Duralex tumblers alongside a plate of mixed charcuterie or some gloriously fatty rillettes de canard and crusty French bread.

#### **49 Chapel Down Bacchus 2007**

11%vol, England (£9.49; Selected Waitrose)

English wines are better than ever and, although it tends to be the sparklers that gain all the plaudits, the still whites shouldn't be ignored. This off-dry example is utterly charming, with more than a hint of elderflower on the nose. Enjoy pre-picnic or during, perhaps with English asparagus.

### 50 Steillage Mosel Riesling 2007

11.5%vol, Germany (£5.99; Tesco)

I love German riesling for picnics, and this is ideal. With lovely zesty apple fruit and an off-dry finish, it is light, carefree and undemanding and just right for slurping on a rug by a shady riverbank.

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