

Rick's Wine and Gourmet Rose Selection & Focus on France

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While the name may be the same, rosé wines vary in style and quality. [As promised](#), the [D.C. Wine Shopping Examiner](#) offers some suggestions for experimenting with rosé this week. One great place to start is at [Rick's Wine and Gourmet](#) on Duke Street just outside of Old Town, Alexandria. [Rick's](#) has an unusually large collection—offering nearly 50 different rosé wines.

A good number of rosé wines come from France, where rosé has long been a popular option, particularly in the south.

Two excellent rosé wines worth trying are produced by the Château Grande Cassagne, in the Southern appellation of [Costières De Nîmes](#), which is near the Rhone Valley. [The 2008 Grande Cassagne Rosé](#) is a dry wine made with Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre grapes grown on vines that are more than 40 years old (old vines make more intense and flavorful wine). It exudes flavors of red cherry and strawberry. This is a lovely picnic wine or simply a wonderful sipping wine. [The 2008 Domaine de la Petite Cassagne Rosé](#) is made with Cinsault, Grenache, and Syrah grapes. It imparts strawberry flavors and displays mineral and herbal notes. Both are available at [Ricks](#) for about \$12.99, and both are pretty widely distributed in the area. Look for them at [MacArthur Beverage](#), [Calvert Woodely](#), [Whole Foods](#), the [Wine Specialist](#), and other locations.



Just some of the rosé wines at Rick's Wine and Gourmet.

[France's Provence](#) region also specializes in rosé wines that are often dry, crisp and refreshing, which is why they are very popular in France's hot Riviera. Most of the [Côtes de Provence](#) wines are made as rosé, composed mostly of Cinsault and Grenache.

At [Vidalia](#) restaurant you can sample the [Vin Rosé, Domaine Ott, Les Domaniers](#), Provence for \$4.75 or enjoy a glass for \$14. Or for \$14 you can sample a flight of three rosé wines at Vidalia, which includes a new world rosé wine made with Cabernet Sauvignon (to be reviewed in a post later this week). Or try at home the [Saint André de Figuière Côtes de Provence](#), 2008, available at [Ricks](#) for \$14.99. It is a dry crisp rosé made with Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Other wonderful wines are produced in France's [Tavel region](#), an area that specializes in rosé only wines. The French also make rosé in the Loire Valley—[Cabernet d'Anjou](#) and [Rosé d' Anjou](#) are lightly sweet to sweet, and [Rosé de Loire](#) is a dry rosé from that region. Look for these at Ricks and many other D.C. wine retailers.

Check the [D.C. Wine Shopping Examiner](#) later this week for some new world rosé selections.

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