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## Drink Pink



Drinking pink is finally out of the wine closet. "Pink is the new black!" tout the folks from the famous French rose region, Cotes de Provence. It has long been one of my favorites and I guarantee that refreshingly dry roses will perk up warm-weather menus including grilled salmon, ribs and burgers.

Don't like pink? Think again. These dry wines - a classic summer staple in Europe - are made from all types of red grapes including Pinot Noir, Sangiovese, Syrah and Tempranillo. To make quality rose red grapes are quickly crushed leaving a hint of color from the skins. The juice is then fermented dry resulting in a wine with zesty brightness and a fruit bowl of flavor.

Sip these global picks hailing from the 2006 vintage and be converted to the colorful side of life.

### **Bieler Pere et Fils, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence, France (\$10)**

An elegant, strawberry-scented blend of Syrah and Grenache from an American family transplanted to Provence.

### **Marques de Caceres Dry Rose, Rioja, Spain (\$7)**

Stock up on this affordable pink from one of Spain's best producers. With lip-smacking freshness and an easy-open screwcap, it's a party pick.

### **Carpineto Rosato, Toscana, Italy (\$10)**

This winning Italian rosato, or rose, sports earthy complexity rounded out with berry and spice notes. Casual chic sipping at its best.

**WINE TOOLS**

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### **Iron Horse Rosato di Sangiovese, Alexander Valley, California (\$14)**

From one of our star bubbly producers comes a

**Wild Rock Vin Gris, Central Otago, New Zealand (\$15)**

From Pinot Noir grown in the rugged Central Otago wine region, the delicious sipper has alluring wild strawberry flavors.

**Montes "Cherub" Syrah Rose, Colchagua Valley, Chile (\$15)**

Aurelio Montes makes some of Chile's top bottles and his whimsical take on spicy Syrah makes for serious pink fun.

American producers are helping drive rose's renaissance. Don't miss these domestic divas.

**La Crema Pinot Noir Rose, Russian River Valley, California (\$20)**

For those who love smooth, a touch of neutral French oak imparts a creamy quality to this still-vibrant pink.

**Francis Coppola "Sofia" Rose, Carneros, California (\$15)**

In a shapely bottle complete with Hollywood pedigree, this delicately aromatic Pinot Noir rose is one to seek out.

**Elk Cove Pinot Noir Rose, Willamette Valley, Oregon (\$15)**

Showcasing Oregon's star grape, Elk Cove's sultry, floral pink is the answer for cooling off during hot summer nights.

hearty, smoky rose. Every year it ranks high on my list for complexity and quaffability.

**Chateau Ste. Michelle "Nellie's Garden" Dry Rose, Columbia Valley, Washington (\$15)**

Fruity yet underscored with plenty of power, the Syrah-focused blend is barbecue's best friend.

**Epiphany Grenache Rose, Santa Barbara County, California (\$15)**

Ruggedly refreshing (Grenache is a grape with muscles), the peppery, pomegranate-hued rose offers unique sipping.

**I'M Rose, Napa Valley, California (\$13)**

Deeply colored with spicy fullness, this rose of Cabernet Sauvignon is a pink for red wine lovers.

**Peju Province "Peju Pink" North Coast, California (\$22)**

Why not drink pink and do good? A portion of proceeds of this limited-production, peach-scented beauty are donated to breast cancer research.

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Leslie Sbrocco is author of the award-winning book *Wine for Women: A Guide to Buying, Pairing, and Sharing Wine* (William Morrow). She writes for national magazines and newspapers, and also appears regularly on television and radio shows. A sought-after speaker and wine judge, Sbrocco believes wine should not be feared or revered, simply enjoyed.

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