

Chile's *cool* Sauvignon Blanc

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Sauvignon Blanc's perky and bright character is one of our favourite grape varietal wines. It is a St Patrick's Festival of a wine; a celebration of green with aromas of freshly mown grass, peapods, asparagus or gooseberries and refreshing mouth-watering flavours of green apples and limes.

Conscious of this being a time to pay-back readers' Christmas generosity, below is the best from a blind-tasting of 20 Sauvignon Blancs from Chile under €13. They show a midway style between the pungent and herbaceous character of New Zealand and the restrained terroir chalk and citrus style from its native France at Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé.

Served chilled, Sauvignon Blanc's trademark citrusy acidity is an outstanding fat blaster for cleansing the taste buds from creamy sauces.



1) Sauvignon Blanc 2014, De Martino, Valle de Casablanca 13pc

Orchard aromas of wind-fall apples. Attractive flavours of nettle tea, crunchy green apples and elderflowers. Enjoy with goat's cheese-topped pizza.

€11.99 at Donnybrook Fair stores, Dublin.

2) Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2013, Tierra del Sol, Valle de Casablanca 13pc

Good depth of green apple flavours with the refreshing acidity well-integrated. Serve with a risotto of peas, parmesan and spinach.

€8.99 at 113 Aldi stores nationwide.



3) Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2013, Special release, Aresti, Casablanca Valley 12.5pc

Assertive, pithy grapefruit palate with a juicy pas-



4) Sauvignon Blanc 2014, Soleado, Valle Centrale 12.5pc

Floral perfume of apple blossom. Lime sorbet and sherbet palate. Try with an Indian king prawn Rogan Josh.

€10.29 at Marks & Spencer nationwide

5) Sauvignon Blanc 2014, Los Espinos Valle Centrale 12.5pc

Feminine and elegant style with a lemon and lime tangy palate and a salty and pithy finish. Match the delicacy with smoked eel.

€9.99-€11.99 at The Winehouse, Tuam and in Dublin: McHughes, Kilbarrack and Malahide Roads; Power & Smullen, Lucan and Donnybrook Fair stores.



6) Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2013, Tres Palacios, Maipo Valley 12.5pc [J&C Kenny agents]

Mineral scents and a crisp palate with a salty, chalky finish. Loves a stir fried squid.

€11.99 at Shannon Knights, Shannon; Walsh's Spar, Dungarvan; Cappagh Stores, Knocknacarra, Galway and Cleeland's Supermarket, Abbeylax.

Tasting Notes

The Alltech Craft Brews and Food Fair is at Dublin's Convention Centre from Feb 27 to March 1. Tickets €15 from eu.alltechbrewsandfood.com The prize of an admission ticket will go to the 10th and 20th entries received by email at: liamwine@gmail.com with the correct answers to these two questions:

1. Name the Irish founder and President of Alltech?
2. How many international beers

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