

The world's best wine magazine

September 2016 £4.50

Decanter

50 best
rosés
for summer

**RIESLING
ROUND
THE WORLD**
Your ultimate
buyer's guide

**NEW ZEALAND
PINOT NOIR**
172 tasted and rated

ROSA KRUGER
South Africa's
'warrior queen'



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50 top rosés from around the world

Our experts have tasted through a record 322 rosés to bring you 50 of the best available in the UK today. Elizabeth Gabay MW analyses the results

ROSE WINE SALES have soared from the bottom of the wine market to its top in the past few years. The boom in premium rosé is charging this growth in premium wine appearance, as more complex wines appear. Although there were no scores above 93 in this mammoth tasting, 40 were highly recommended and 79 recommended. French premium rosé dominated, but good examples from Italy, Spain, Portugal and South Africa also featured. Origin, however, is not a guarantee of quality or style – although Provence rosés do generally have the edge. The best wines showed a complex range of fruit characters (strawberry, redcurrant, cherry, peach, thubarb, pomegranate and floral notes), fresh acidity, zesty or leafy quality, and hints of orange peel, garrigue, herbs or a savoury note. The best displayed an intensity rather than neutrality. Colour had little correlation with

quality, but reflected variety and origin. A few were almost water-white, with little fruit character, suggesting that more effort had gone into appearance than taste. As expected, a few wines had spent time in oak. The best of these were well integrated, with sufficient fruit and structure to carry the oak, but in others it was overly dominant or poorly used. Most top scorers were from the 2015 vintage, but a few 2014s performed well. Some were obviously made to age, but a few seemed to be old stock, so be wary of buying older rosés. This tasting shows that premium rosé can still be a shot in the dark, with quality inconsistent (63% of wines were 85 points or below). Price gives a vague indication of quality, with only one of the top 10 wines over £15. But it's not a guarantee. Best advice: know a good wine merchant.

Wine tasters



Andy MW is a wine consultant who writes and judges regularly for Decanter. He has 30 years' experience as a buyer for retailer Marks & Spencer

Joanna Simon is a wine judge for the Decanter World Wine Awards and a wine and food writer who publishes her work on Joannasimon.com

Another taster is shown, but no text is provided for them.

<p>1 Domaine Delaporte, Chavignol, Sancerre, Loire, France 2015 93 £15.95 Lea & Sandeman Bright, perfumed and intense, with attractive strawberry and red fruit on the nose and palate, underlined by a leafy character that is lively and zippy. Slightly tart on the finish but it has a good deal of concentrated flavour supported by acidity and minerality that adds silkiness and texture. Drink 2016-2017 Alcohol 13%</p>	<p>2 Domaine Laffite-Veyrieres, Bandol, Provence, France 2015 93 £15.95 From Vineyards Direct Powerful new oak dominates the nose but there is intense cherry fruit with some red forest floor too. Look for all sides, but the oak has depth and concentration on the palate underpinned by light tannins and racy acidity, making it textured and long. Interesting and challenging as a rosé style. Drink 2016-2018 Alc 13%</p>	<p>3 Château des Barmettes, Institut Pasteur, Cotes de Provence La Londe, France 2015 93 £15.95 From Vineyards Direct Quite prominent aromas of savoury red fruit, with a hint of vanilla and spice. The mineral character on the nose and palate is complemented by grapefruit, sage and delicate nuttiness. The creaminess is fresh, flowing and lingering. Very attractive style that will please many. It also has the ability to age further. Drink 2016-2018 Alc 13.5%</p>	<p>4 Château Les Vignobles, multi, Cotes de Provence La Londe, France 2015 93 £12.95 From Vineyards Direct Delicate dried flower aromas with redcurrant fruit and a saline minerality on the palate to encourage another glass. There's a mouthfilling weight but with enough acidity to keep everything fresh and pliable. The creamy red berry fruit and leafy green freshness lead to a lovely, sustained finish. Drink 2016-2017 Alc 13%</p>	<p>5 Domaine Syralin, Puyfau, Fleur de Pieux, Marseilles, Marignany, France 2014 93 £22.44 Powerful new oak dominates the nose but there is intense cherry fruit with some red forest floor too. Look for all sides, but the oak has depth and concentration on the palate underpinned by light tannins and racy acidity, making it textured and long. Interesting and challenging as a rosé style. Drink 2016-2018 Alc 13%</p>
<p>6 Château La Gordanne, La Chapelle, Cotes de Provence Pierrefeu, France 2015 93 £20 Wine Rack Pale candyfloss pink, moving towards pale bronze. Sweet, round orange fruit and wild strawberry aromas with a hint of Chenin Blanc-like honeyed straw notes. The texture is creamy, and the palate is weighty, nutty and long with pretty peach and redcurrant fruit undertones. Drink 2016-2017 Alc 13.5%</p>	<p>7 Pascal Jolivet, Sancerre, Loire, France 2015 93 £19.95-£20 Hangditch, Harrods, La Vignoble, Maisons Marques et Domaines, Portland Wine Co, Slurp, Venus Wine Some peach and ripe red berry fruit here, but it seems a more serious, less fruit-driven style than most, with a distinctive mineral character. The appetising, fresh, leafy acidity adds to the elegance and delicacy, finishing very clean and fresh. Drink 2016-2017 Alc 12.5%</p>	<p>8 Famille Negrel, La Petite Reine, Bandol, Provence, France 2015 92 £12.95 From Vineyards Direct Exquisite aromas of jasmine, ripe strawberries and dried flowers. The soft palate has lots of creamy, honeyed fruit flavours with balancing acidity and a herbal, saline freshness. This is drinking very well now but its concentration will probably suggest this rosé will age for at least another year. Drink 2016-2017 Alc 13.5%</p>	<p>9 Domaine de la Ribotta, Cuvee Anais, multi, Provence, France 2015 92 £19.95-£28.90 AC Galles, Gensmann, Ellis Wines, From Vineyards Direct, Harrods, Leva Wine An engaging freshness with vibrant red fruit. Succulent, precise and pure palate with a slightly tart finish but the minerality shines through and the genty silky texture is charming. Enjoy now. Drink 2016-2017 Alc 14%</p>	<p>10 Château d'Esclapart, Domaine Saché, Loire, France 2015 92 £19.95-£28.90 AC Galles, Gensmann, Ellis Wines, From Vineyards Direct, Harrods, Leva Wine An engaging freshness with vibrant red fruit. Succulent, precise and pure palate with a slightly tart finish but the minerality shines through and the genty silky texture is charming. Enjoy now. Drink 2016-2017 Alc 14%</p>

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