

winecentral

POWERFUL REDS

Full bodied, intense red wines such as elite California Cabernets and Merlots, elite red Bordeaux wines, Barolos, Brunello di Montalcinos, most Northern Rhone reds and similar wines. These wines by default have a big structure - full body, lots of powerful tannin, high alcohol - and super intense aromatics. Their aromas and flavours will vary depending on the grape variety and where they are grown. In New World versions fruit dominates. In Old World versions combine fruity characteristics with herbal, animal, vegetative and spicy notes. For many the fruit flavours can be over-ripe displaying jam or cooked fruit characters. They almost all have the aroma and flavour profile of oak maturation - especially when young. The oak also leaves a strong tannin marker in these wines.

VARIETAL EXAMPLES

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Zinfandel, Nebbiolo, Aglianico, Tempranillo

TRY WITH

Steak, Sausage, Lamb, Mushroom

BODY



TEXTURE

High tannin, sturdy

FLAVOUR INTENSITY



Look for:



Spice



Vanilla



Plum



Cinnamon



Clove



Blackberry

Where in the World



California and Australia are both prominent producers of powerful red wines. In both countries there is plenty of heat and sunshine for ripeness a pre-requisite for this style of wine. Look for big, bold block-buster Shiraz from the Barossa Valley, Cabernets from Napa and Sonoma and Zinfandel from the Alexander Valley. Many Southern Italian Reds are traditionally powerful because of the warm climate. Look to the Super Tuscans as well as Amarone from Verona, Barolo and Barbaresco from Piedmont. In France the Northern Rhone produces powerful reds from Hermitage and Cornas. Some Burgundies and the very best Bordeaux wines can be powerful even if more delicate than the big Aussie and California reds. Spain's new elite wines from Ribera del Duero and Priorat are concentrated, intense and age worthy. Also look for Reserva and Gran Reserva Rioja which display rich aromatics along with a firm structural backbone.

WINE	REGION	COUNTRY
Cabernet Merlot, Zinfandel	Napa and Sonoma, Washington	USA
Shiraz	South Australia, Margaret River, Hunter	Australia
Cabernet Sauvignon	Coonawarra, Hunter Valley, South Australia	Australia
Aglianico	Basilicata	Italy
Taurasi	Campania	Italy
Barolo, Barbaresco, Langhe	Piedmont	Italy
Brunello di Montalcino	Tuscany	Italy
Super Tuscans	Tuscany	Italy
Amarone della Valpolicella	Veneto	Italy
Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape	Rhone Valley	France
Cote Rotie	Rhone Valley	France
Hermitage	Rhone Valley	France
Bordeaux	Bordeaux	France
Cahors	SW France	France
Burgundy	Burgundy	France
Priorat	Priorat	Spain
Ribera del Duero	Ribera del Duero	Spain
Super Chileans	Maipo, Rapel, Aconcagua	Chile