



Tom Doorley

WINE CHOICE



My five of the best for every kind of drinker

If you're struggling to think of appropriate Christmas drinks gifts, I may be able to help. I'm going to suggest bottles for five different kinds of people.

The Redbreast is a lovely thing. Lovely in its taste (think caramel and vanilla, with terrific length) and in its presentation. Slip the bottle out of its copper case which is, in fact, a bird feeder to fill with seeds and hang in the garden. By buying this, apart from making someone very happy, you will be helping BirdLife International.

Redbreast had great heritage and it will have a particular appeal for people who remember its heyday in the 1960s and 1970s — although the whiskey itself is finer today.

The true whiskey aficionado will be glad to receive a piece of history in the form of the world's first biodynamic whisk(e)y from Waterford Distillery

Biodynamic, essentially, means organic with knobs on, but more to be the point, the spirit itself is delicately delicious.

There are people who drink labels rather than what's inside the bottle. It's the power of the brand, although many of them wouldn't like to think that. I'm suggesting Baron de L, although I feel it's overpriced.

That's not the point: the label drinker will recognise it and realise that you've been generous. Incidentally, it's a very good wine and does, of course, have snob appeal.

The occasional wine drinker is, perhaps, easier to impress. But what will press the appropriate buttons? I think you need to look for something versatile and my suggested rosé is not just bang on trend but also at home with anything from smoked salmon to duck breasts.

Then there's the connoisseur, serious wine buff or whatever you want to call

him or her. And I don't mean wine snob; you will never please one of them.

No, I'm talking about people who genuinely love wine and take a serious interest in it. Someone who is used to tasting widely and who will realise when they take their first mouthful of the wine you have chosen for them that it's good stuff.

And so, I've chosen a wine from the potential minefield that is Burgundy, a region whose wines range from the celestial to the ordinary to the seriously disappointing. And never cheap.



TOM'S PICK OF THE BUNCH

**DRINK
OF THE
WEEK**

**The
occasional
drinker**
**Winemaker's
Lot Côtes de
Provence Rosé
2020**

€11.99, Aldi
Pretty as a
picture, and full
of Southern
sunshine, this is a
dry but exuber-
antly fruity rosé
that's amazingly
versatile with
food. Proper fun.



**The label
drinker**
**Baron de L
Pouilly-Fumé
de Ladoucette
2015** €75-€95,
independents
How any Sauvi-
gnon Blanc wine
can be so expen-
sive is a mystery
to me. But it's
very famous and
rather good.



**The
connoisseur**
**Françoise &
Denis Clair
Santenay
Champs Claude
2019** €39.99, *Avoca*
This was one of
the stars of this
year for me.
Young but
absolutely lovely
right now.



**The
birdwatcher**
**Redbreast 12
Year Old Single
Pot Still Bird
Feeder** €72, *Celtic
Whiskey Shop
and elsewhere*
A traditional
favourite, the
bottle is encased
in a copper bird
feeder.



**The
adventurer**
**Waterford Luna
1.1 Single Malt
Biodynamic
Irish Whisky** €90, *Celtic Whis-
key Shop, water-
fordwhisky.com*
The world's first
biodynamic
whiskey or
whisky. Delicate
but deep.

