

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Pierre Martin 2025 Chavignol Sancerre Rosé

It seems like everybody is riding the Sancerre train these days, but have you tried a Sancerre Rosé? Domaine Pierre Martin 2025 Chavignol Sancerre Rosé, a mere \$27.99 a bottle (which believe you me is a bargain for Sancerre lately). Pierre Martin grew up among the vines of his father Yves' vineyard, and now he makes his own right next door. While the Sancerre you know is a white made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes, this rosé is made from 100% organically grown Pinot Noir from France's Loire Valley. The soil is iron-rich clay on limestone bedrock, and the grapes are old vines grown at higher altitudes, which all together creates wines with the crispness, tart acidity, and strong minerality that we expect from Sancerre. "A fragrant, mineral-tinged bouquet evokes fresh red berries, jasmine and orange zest. Lithe and sharply focused, offering nervy strawberry and pomegranate flavors. This dry, nervy rosé finishes with firm grip and exquisite floral persistence." Freshness in a bottle.

WINE PICK

Karavitakis 2024 Kompsos Liatiko

Have you ever heard of Liatiko before? Yeah, me either. But turns out it's some good stuff, so the pick this week is Karavitakis 2024 Kompsos Liatiko. We've been enjoying wines from Greece as of late. Liatiko is an ancient black grape from Greece -- Crete, to be exact. It was widely grown and produced in the Middle Ages when Crete was owned by Venice; however after Venetian rule ended, it fell from prominence and became mostly a local wine. Today, only a handful of producers make Liatiko wine, and even fewer export it, so I consider this bottle quite a find. While the grape is black, the wine is light in color and body, making it an ideal red for warm weather. "Liatiko, the hidden gem of Crete. Light red color, typical for Liatiko wines, hides an explosion of cherries, wrapped in a pleasant cinnamon and vanilla blend of aromas. When tasted, a fruity yet firm flavor is noted with lots of bright red raspberry fruit and just a touch of oak, making this wine approachable and charming." You could put some chill on this for sure and drink it all summer long.