

A TOAST TO FINE WINES!

With his vast knowledge and rich experience, Nikhil Agarwal, Sommelier and Director, All Things Nice, is a true expert on the subject of wines. Putting his thoughts on paper, he writes about the most iconic selection of wines from across the globe...



Nikhil Agarwal,
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Few wines in the world reach cult or iconic status. They get there because they have changed the game and broken all the rules or have taken quality wine making to uncharted territories and/or the numbers produced of these outstanding wines is small making them inaccessible to even those that may have the money to buy them.

In the past such wines came mainly from old world wine producing countries but today you have iconic wines from practically every wine producing country in the world. Drinking not just the good stuff but the truly great stuff is always a privilege because the people making these wines put their hearts and souls into it because they want to create a wine that supersedes all expectations.

I have detailed a few iconic wines from around the world that you have got to have; there are of course many more.

I think it's only right that we be-

gin in France. I'm going to skip getting into details on the first growths of Bordeaux like Chateau Margaux or Chateau Latour because we all know they are unbelievable and iconic, and we would gladly part with a relative for a case or two. In Burgundy, Domaine de la Romanee Conti Montrachet, a Chardonnay based wine is absolute top class and from the Rhone Valley Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape is a wine that I would name my children after. Don't know how it will work out for them though with a name like that but maybe it will get the Chateau to send me a case every once in a while.

From the house of Errazuriz in Chile, their Don Maximiano Founders Reserve is a Cabernet Sauvignon based wines which undergoes oak ageing for 18 months. Montes Folly is another legend from Chile and one of my personal favourites. This is a Syrah based wine and will truly knock your socks off. These wines can compete with the

best of them from any country.

From California, specifically Napa Valley, Joseph Phelps Insignia is brilliant. The wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petite Verdot. Opus 1 is another legend made in partnership by Robert Mondavi and Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

From Spain in Ribera del Duero you have to try Pingus from Dominio de Pingus or Vega Sicilia Unico and from Rioja, Prado Enea from Bodegas Muga which is their Gran Reserva.

Penfolds Grange has always been considered Australia's most iconic wine but there are others. Just a little boat ride over to New Zealand and you will find that Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc has reached cult status around the world.

In Italy super Tuscans such as Tignanello, Sassicaia and Cignale to name a few are wines that will get you speaking fluent Italian in no time. ■

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