

# DINNING WITH WINE

Sommelier Nikhil Agarwal makes wine pairing easy for you. Here are 17 foods that can go with your glass

**1 Caviar with Champagne:** The eggs of the sturgeon are complex and delightful, and go fantastically well with the fine bubbles of Champagne creating a wonderful sensation on the palate.

**2 Oysters with Chablis:** The minerality in the Chablis — a wine made from the Chardonnay grape in the region of Chablis in France would go perfectly well with the briny ( salt like ) flavours of the oyster.

**3 Ash coated Chevre with Sauvignon Blanc:** Chevre is made from goat's milk and is a soft cheese. The acidity or tartness of the Sauvignon Blanc will cut through the fat in the cheese opening it up and creating an explosive sensation in your mouth releasing the tart flavours from the cheese as well.

**4 Chorizo with Malbec:** The meat requires a wine that is full bodied and spicy, the Malbec fits the bill perfectly. An Argentinean Malbec with some oak age is highly recommended or if you can find one, try a Malbec from Cahors in France.

**5 Peking Duck with Pinot Noir:** A match made in heaven. Thin slices of the duck with all its accompaniments pair well with the fruity flavours of the wine.

**6 Grilled steak in Peppercorn sauce with Shiraz:** Grilled steak needs a powerful wine like a full bodied tannic Shiraz to help cut through the meat. The peppercorn sauce will also mix well with the peppery notes from the wine.

**7 Gorgonzola Piccante with Late Harvest Chenin Blanc:** The Late

**8 Parmigiano Reggiano with Cabernet Sauvignon:** Long thin shavings of Parmigiano Reggiano will coat your tongue and will soften the wines harsh tannins making the wine taste less astringent, bringing forth the wines fruit flavours and other characteristics.

**9 Caesar Salad with Sauvignon Blanc:** The Sauvignon Blancs herbaceous and citrus flavours will enhance and match the flavours from the vinaigrette and lettuce used in the salad.

**10 Spicy Onion Pakoda with an off dry Chenin Blanc:** The acidity in the wine will cut through the oil in the pakoda and the hint of



Rose, red and white wines

harvest Chenin Blanc is a sweet dessert wine which will contrast with the piquant taste of the cheese beautifully. If you are in the mood to experiment you could even try it with a full bodied tannic red wine.

**11 California Sushi roll with a dry Rieslin:** One of my personal favourites. The citrus notes and light body of the wine match beautifully with the vinegared rice and the sushi's fillings.

**12 Grilled chicken burger with Shiraz:** Big and bold flavours combine to create an excellent pairing. The powerful Shiraz will match the flavour of the charred grilled meat.

**13 Green Thai Curry with Gewurztraminer:** The spice and sweetness of the green Thai carry would be perfectly matched with this spicy, off dry zesty wine enhancing the two flavours.

**14 Dim Sum with Sauvignon Blanc:** Whether prawn, chicken or vegetarian this wine will open up the flavours of the stuffing inside.

**15 Port Wine and Dark Chocolate:** You have to try it to believe, the sweetness of the port wine balances the bitter sweetness of the dark chocolate creating a magical pairing.

**16 Lobster Thermidore with Chardonnay:** The buttery creamy texture of the wine will match beautifully with the creamy lobster meat stuffed inside its shell enhancing the taste of the lobster.

**17 Castelmagno with Barolo:** Both Castelmagno and Barolo come from Piedmont in Italy but that's not necessarily why I have paired them together. The cheese is semi-hard and extremely fragrant and will do well to match the beautiful hedonistic characteristics of a good Barolo such as intense red berries and rose petal with chewy tannins.



Nikhil Agarwal

sweetness in the wine will balance the spice. A lovely alternative to masala chai I think.

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As told to Melissa D'costa

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