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## **WINE MARKET COUNCIL'S VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE**

### *Andrea Immer Robinson's Expert Picks for Romantic Wines to Give, Receive and Enjoy This Valentine's Day*

According to the Wine Market Council and Merrill Research, a whopping 95 percent of wine drinkers agree that wine makes a perfect gift. "Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to surprise your Valentine with the gift of wine," explains Andrea Immer Robinson, author of *Everyday Dining with Wine* and *Great Wine Made Simple* and host of "Simply Wine with Andrea Immer," on the Fine Living Network. "What could be more romantic than sharing a favorite wine or, better yet, experiencing a new wine together?" To make it easy to find that perfect wine to say, "I love you," Immer Robinson offers these "heartfelt" suggestions for Valentine's Day gift giving.

- ***SEDUCTIVE SPARKLERS***: Bubbly is, of course, the ultimate romantic bottle – but not just any bubbly. Make it a beautiful rosé to bring both the taste *and* the color of romance to your loved one's glass.
- ***PASSIONATE PAIRINGS***: Make your vinous gift a romantic duo of wine and a flavorful food partner from the same region – perhaps it's a place you can dream of traveling to together as you enjoy them. For Francophiles, give some Brin d'Amour ("sprig of love") cheese and a red Saint Amour wine from the Beaujolais region. In Italy, "that's amore" with olive oil infused with white truffles (a major aphrodisiac) and a bottle of red Dolcetto wine (the name translates as "little sweet one"). For some finery from Spain, pair a Fino sherry with savory toasty Marcona almonds.

- **BEAUTIFUL BURGUNDIES:** Wine geeks consider French Burgundy to be among the most seductive wines in the world. The reds are made from Pinot Noir, the whites from Chardonnay, and the vineyard names are some of the world’s most romantic. They are expensive, but many would say worth the search. Look for alluring names like Meursault “Bouches Cheres” (sweet lips) or Charmes (charms), Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses” (the lovers), or Vosne-Romanee Les Beaux Monts (“beautiful mountains”).
- **BOTTLES IN BLOOM:** Instead of a bouquet of flowers, why not a bottle of flowers? Some of the most gorgeous, floral-scented grapes to look for are the whites Viognier (look for California or French versions), Gewurztraminer and Muscat (from California or Alsace in France).
- **SWEET ENDINGS:** Instead of a box of sweet candies, give a selection of sweet wines in half-bottles – they don’t need to be expensive to be good. In fact, when they cost too much your loved one might worry about opening the bottle, and that’s the whole point! Look for late harvest Riesling from Washington State, liqueur Muscat dessert wines from Australia, cream sherry from Spain or Muscat Beaumes de Venise from France.

Still not sure about choosing the perfect Valentine’s Day bottle for your special someone? Check out the Wine Market Council’s wine personality quiz on [www.wineanswers.com](http://www.wineanswers.com) to find out what type of wine is the perfect match for your sweetheart’s personality.

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Wine Market Council is an independent, non-profit trade association of grape growers, wine producers, importers, wholesalers, retailers and other organizations affiliated with the wine industry. For more information, visit [www.winemarketcouncil.com](http://www.winemarketcouncil.com) or [www.wineanswers.com](http://www.wineanswers.com).