

# San Francisco Chronicle

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## Bargain wines: The list of 15 all-American bargains revealed

In assembling this list of 15 Proven Bargain Wines, I tasted nearly 100 wines. This was fun because it enabled me to reconnect with wines I've enjoyed over the years, and to ensure that they are still as good as I remembered. I'm not going to play favorites with this list: If it's on here, it's an outstanding bargain.

### **2006 Sobon Estate Amador County Old Vines Zinfandel (\$12)**

I first noticed what an excellent deal this wine is with the 2005 vintage, when The Chronicle tasting panel evaluated 50 Sierra Foothills Zinfandels - many of them double the price of this - and picked Sobon as one of the two favorites.

The '06 is another stellar effort, with ripe, juicy cherry flavors, some eucalyptus and hints of earthiness on the midpalate and a medium-long finish. Not only does it deliver good fruit; it's also elegant, not something you generally find at this price level.

Also on the List:

- 2006 Charles Shaw California Shiraz (\$2)
- 2003 Columbia Crest Grand Estates Columbia Valley Shiraz (\$11)
- 2006 Columbia Crest Two Vines Columbia Valley Gewurztraminer (\$8)
- 2005 Cycles Gladiator California Cabernet Sauvignon (\$10)
- 2006 Dry Creek Vineyard Clarksburg Dry Chenin Blanc (\$11.50)
- 2006 Edna Valley Vineyard Paragon San Luis Obispo Chardonnay (\$12)
- NV Frontier Red Lot No. 71 California Red Wine (\$10)
- 2006 Geysler Peak California Sauvignon Blanc (\$12)
- NV Hangtown Red El Dorado County Lot 35 (\$10)
- NV Korbel California Brut Rosé (\$12)
- 2006 McManis Family Vineyards California Pinot Grigio (\$10)
- 2006 McManis Family Vineyards California Zinfandel (\$11)
- 2004 Napa Ridge Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$12)
- 2006 Pomelo California Sauvignon Blanc (\$10)

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