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WINE, BEER & COCKTAILS

THE POUR

20 Wines Under \$20: Touring the World, Familiar to Obscure

By Eric Asimov Jan. 25, 2018

On a recent expedition through a handful of Manhattan shops, I found these 20 excellent bottles, all under \$20. The \$20 price is crucial. Budget-minded shoppers may recoil, believing they can find plenty of bottles under \$10. That's true, and most of those wines will be technically sound. They will also be boring, the scourge of mass-market wines today. By contrast, most of these are from small producers who work traditionally and sometimes iconoclastically. Wines like these cost a little more, from \$15 to \$25, but for that price, the level of interest and pleasure in the wines increases exponentially.

BROADSIDE

Broadside Paso Robles Margarita Vineyard

Merlot 2014 \$18.99

California merlot may never escape its besmirched reputation, courtesy of the 2004 movie [“Sideways,”](#) which memorably, and with good reason, dismissed it. While insipid or pretentious merlot abounds, this one, from the consistently good Broadside, is fresh and plummy, well balanced and lip-smacking, with a pleasant bitterness to invite the next sip.

