

# FOOD+WINE

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## Vintage Values

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If you want a good economic indicator, look no further than the Wine Country palate. Retailers say people are still shopping for bargain wines in big numbers.

And the good news is there are great values to be found that don't force you to compromise taste. Complexity, yes. But the everyday wine lover can easily survive without a steady diet of high-end perfection.

With that in mind, here are some labels to keep an eye on; they're tasty and they won't break the bank. Most are priced at \$12 and under with a couple in the \$15 range. Some of the wines are relatively new in Sonoma County circles, while others made the cut simply because they've been solid and consistent, vintage after vintage. Finally, most have shown well in Press Democrat blind tastings.



### Four Vines, 2009 Naked Santa Barbara County Chardonnay

13.9 percent alcohol.  
"Crisp, with tropical, concentrated flavors. Notes of pineapple, ripe pear and spice. Nice length."

**Varietal:** CHARDONNAY  
**Appellation:** SANTA BARBARA  
**Alcohol:** 13.9%  
**pH:** 3.40  
**Total Acid:** 0.66  
**Cases:** 58,000

