

# TIP SHEET | Pick the Right Wine

A good wine shop is like a well-loved bookstore — serving not just as a source but as a curator or match-maker, showing customers what they'll love before they know what they're looking for. We checked in with some pros at six local wine stores to get their recommendations. Some picked specific bottles and vintages, for which we offer an average price; others steered us toward up-and-coming regions or little-known grapes.

— Rachel F. Elson



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**What's the next zinfandel — a good value in a serious wine?**

Spanish tempranillos.

Spanish wines in general, especially Priorat. Also Argentine malbecs.

Spanish wines, tempranillos in particular.

Argentine malbecs.

Bernarda, an Italian grape being grown in Argentina. Or Zweigelt, an Austrian red.

Corbieres, from the south of France: "It's got lush fruit and spiciness, and examples can be found for under \$10."

**Can you recommend a non-traditional dessert wine?**

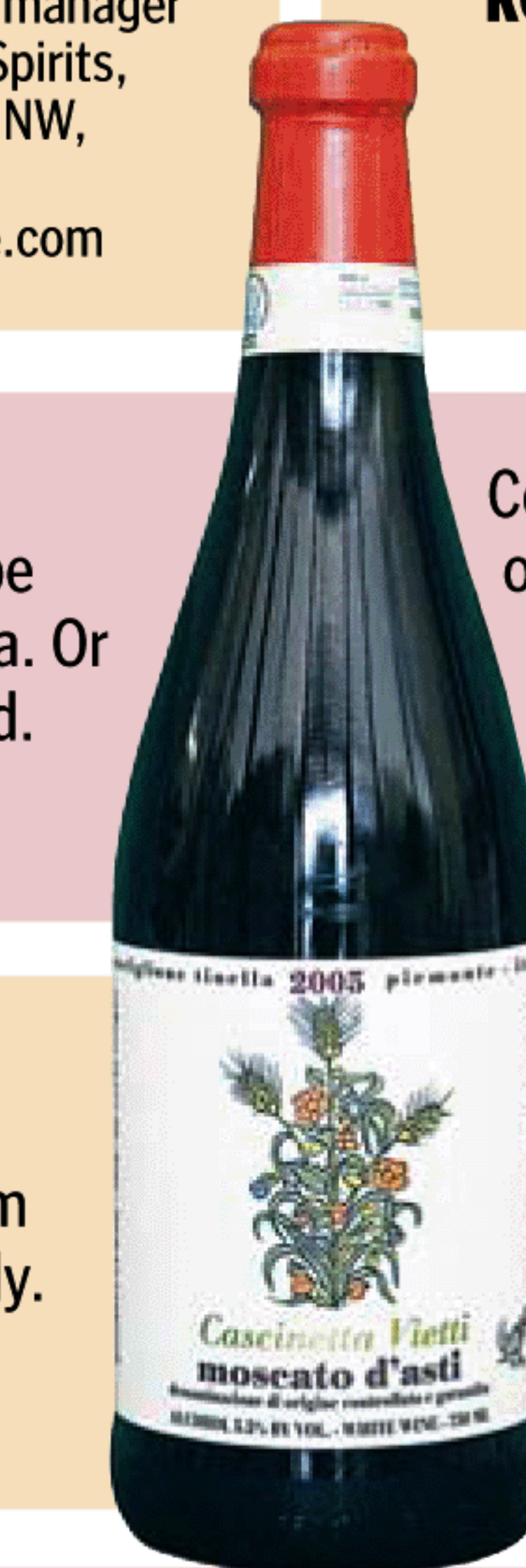
Jurançon, a sweet white from southwestern France.

Fracchia Voulet 2005 Malvasia di Casorzo d'Asti (\$17). "Slightly sparkling with a touch of sweetness."

Moscato d'Asti (white) and Brachetto d'Acqui (red): "Two Italian wines from Giacomo of Bologna, a Piedmont producer — both are *frizzante* and very refreshing."

Moscato d'Asti. It has a low amount of alcohol and is *frizzante*, or slightly fizzy.

Sulin's red malvasia, from the Piedmont area in Italy.



Moscato d'Asti.

**What sort of white goes well with fleshy fish like tilapia and sea bass?**



Spanish albariño.

White Burgundy. Try Domaine Albert Grivault 2004 Bourgogne blanc (\$20). "It's a steal — a declassified Meursault."

White Burgundy — try the Puligny-Montrachet, Chassagne-Montrachet or Meursault regions — or California chardonnays.

Make sure it has good acidity. Try a white Bordeaux, such as Chateau Reynon (\$15), or an Alsace Riesling.

Jean Leon Terrasola 2004, from Spain (\$15): "It's 65 percent sauvignon blanc, 35 percent garratxa, or grenache."

Viognier. Try the viognier at Virginia's Pearmund Cellars or Laurent Miquel viognier, from the south of France.

**Got any good screwcaps?**

Joel Gott 2005 sauvignon blanc, from Napa (\$15).

New Zealand sauvignon blancs: Coopers Creek (\$13) or Babich (\$14).

Red: A to Z pinot noir, from Oregon. Or any of the Verget white Burgundies, from France.

Australia's Jip Jip Rocks winery: 2004 shiraz (\$13) or 2005 chardonnay (\$13).

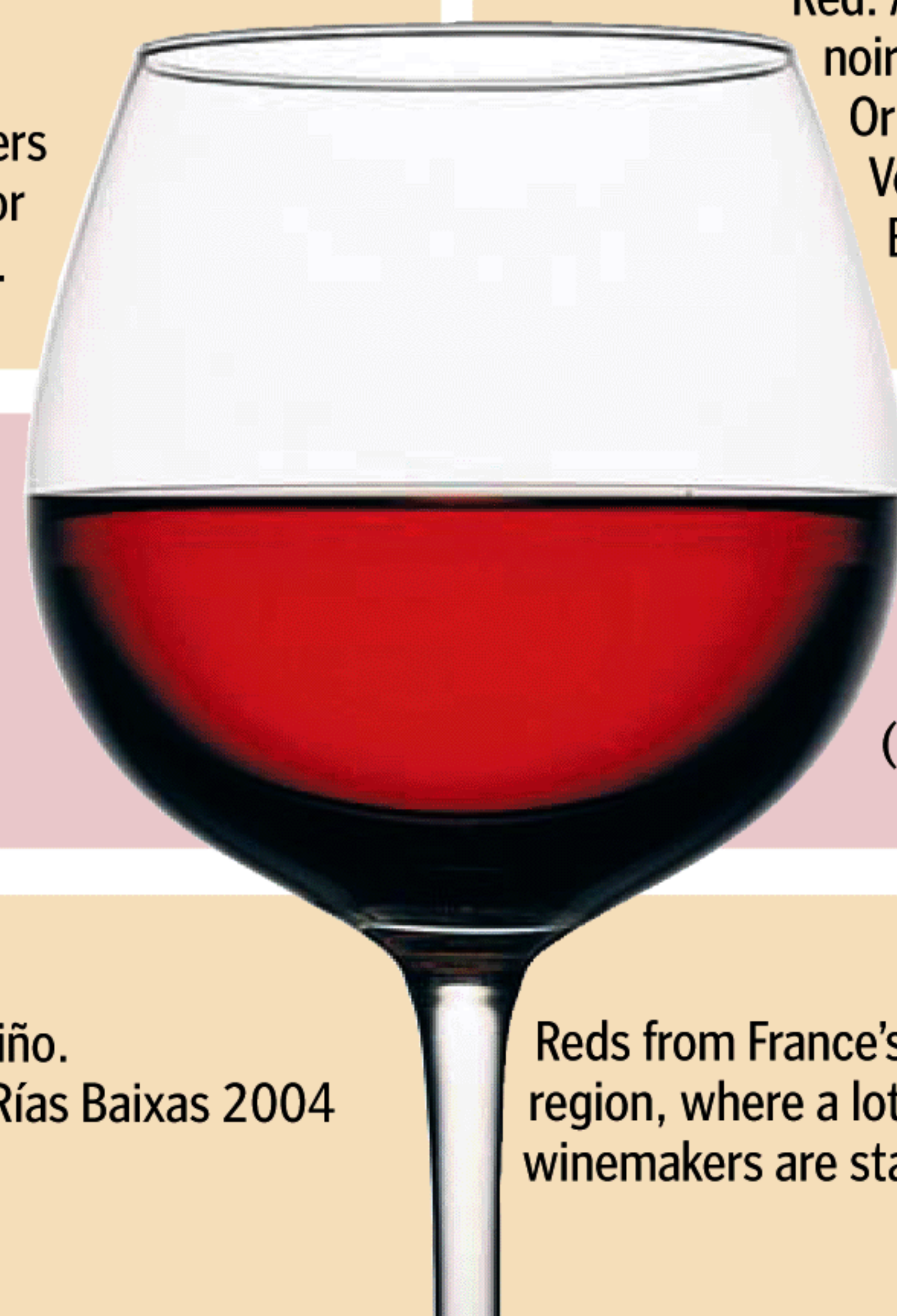
Hugh Hamilton Jim Jim 2005 Barker's white. It's 50 percent viognier and 50 percent verdelho (\$10).

Matrot Bourgogne or Bastgen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese.

**What's one red-wine splurge I should buy now and cellar for 3-5 years?**

Stag's Leap Fay Vineyard 2002 cabernet sauvignon (\$65).

2001 Brunello di Montalcino. Try producers Pertimali (\$76)



Mommessin's 2001 Clos de Tart red Burgundy (\$144).

Alion 2001, from the Ribera del Duero region in Spain (\$75). "The grape is tempranillo. It's a little young now, but should be great in five years."

Poderi Colla's 1997 Barbaresco, from the Tenuta Roncaglia vineyard (\$40).

Domaine de la Mordoree's Reine des Bois 2004 Chateauneuf-du-Pape (\$100).

**Tell me one type of wine I've never heard of — but should have.**

Irsay-Olivier, from Hungary: "It's a white wine, very light, very crisp, with a very green flavor. It was originally a table grape."

Spanish albariño. Try Valminor Rías Baixas 2004 (\$13).

Reds from France's Languedoc region, where a lot of young winemakers are starting out.

Mas Fondreche 2005 Cotes du Ventoux red (\$10). It's from France, near the Cotes du Rhone region.

Librandi's 2001 Val di Neto Rosso Magno Megonio (\$40) from Calabria, Italy: "The grape is magliocco — he's the only one making it — and it's top of the line."

Gaillac. "It's an obscure white from the southwest of France; it's very refreshing and clean, with no oak, and you can get it for about \$10 a bottle."