

# GREEN, GREEN WINE

A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S VINEYARDS ARE GOING ORGANIC - WHICH IS GREAT NEWS FOR BOTH DRINKERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ALIKE. **ROB BUCKHAVEN** CHOOSES THE PICK OF THE BUNCH...



## SPARKLING

**Casuzze Organic Grillo Spumante Brut, Sicily, £11.99, Waitrose.com**

Prosecco-worshippers will rate this quirky Italian froth. The main component in Sicily's celebrated Marsala dessert wine, in its dry form, the Grillo grape is a revelation. This organic fizz from the award-winning Santa Teresa team is dry with lip-smacking purity.





**ROSÉ**

**Stellar Organics Rosé, South Africa, £8.99, Ocado**

With over 105 organic wines in its range, Ocado is proving a major mover-and-shaker. Stellar Organics is South Africa's biggest organic wine producer, impressive in a country that boasts over 95 per cent of wine bottled there as compliant with sustainable standards. Delivering impressive notes of strawberry shortcake and Kir Royale, this shiraz rosé is also organic, Fairtrade, vegan and vegetarian.

**WHITE**

**Terra Sana Organic Sauvignon Blanc, France, £6.99, Aldi**

Aldi nails it with this grassy sauvignon blanc from heavyweight wine producer, François Lurton. With an interest in a more natural approach to winemaking, Lurton created Terra Sana, the first French brand made from certified organic grapes. As well as organic, it's biodynamic, a mystical production method, which includes harvesting by the cycles of the moon and burying a cow horn, filled with manure, in the vineyard.

**Campo Bonito Blanco Ecologico, Spain, £7.99 (£6.99 mix 6), Majestic**

Spain is one of the world's largest organic wine producers, alongside Italy and France. That said, 24 per cent of the world's vineyards are now converting to organic status, even though the process takes three years. The cost of producing organic wines is also higher but when the result is as good as this dry and pithy number, it's worth it. This will sell out.

**Maree d'Ione Organic Fiano, Italy, £8.79, Waitrose**

Italy is smashing the organic wine game, often using long-forgotten production methods. From Puglia, located in Italy's heel, comes this stunning white made from ancient white grape, Fiano. Despite the region's intense heat, here Fiano ripens to produce fresh, floral, peach-infused wines, with this one serving mango and pineapple on the finish. It's harvested early in the morning to maintain the freshness of the grapes.

**Treixadura 15, £13.50, Spain,**

**Harvey Nichols**

If you can say this grape's name, you deserve a complementary bottle. Pronounced 'Tresh-a-doo-rah', it's the dominant grape of the Galician region of Ribeiro, a region so lush it looks like Spain's version of Wales. Organic production is widely practiced here, with vineyards located on the slopes of the Avia River. Zero oak-ageing leaves this white with an albariño-style peach and sea-mist tang, infused with heady flecks of jasmine.



**RED**

**Toro Loco Organic Red, Spain, £4.99, Aldi**

A certified organic wine with a slew of awards, and mind-blowing value for money. Produced in Utiel Requena, between Madrid and Valencia, known for the black Bobal grape. One of the most popular Spanish grapes no one's heard of, it delivers a black cherry and bold berry thwack to the palate. Part of an influx of eco-friendly wines from Aldi.

**Sainsbury's Cotes du Rhone SO Organic, France, £7.50**

Sales of organic wine jumped up by 22 per cent last year. Here's a decent supermarket range devoted to organic wines to get into. This is the juiciest, with plummy notes sprinkled with cracked pink pepper.

**Organic Fairtrade Merlot, No added Sulphur, £8.99, Ocado**  
 Sulphur dioxide is



a commonly-used wine preservative that can affect hangovers. 'Regular' wines often contain upwards of 150 mg/litre SO<sub>2</sub>, whereas organic wines can use up to 100mg/L, with anything over 10 mg/L labelled 'contains sulphites'. The World Health Organisation recommends we don't consume more than 0.7mg/L of sulphites per 1kg of body-weight. This red contains just 5 mg/L and with no oak-ageing, has serious red berry purity.

**Artesa Organic Rioja, £11.99, Selfridges**

Organic reds have around 32 per cent higher levels of antioxidant-rich resveratrol than non-organic. With only three months' barrel ageing, this lighter-styled, 100 per cent tempranillo rioja is a savvy selection. Flavour-wise, think bramble-fruit Bonne Maman jam on toast.

