

# 10 EXCITING WHITE GRAPES TO KNOW

*Chenin Blanc “shows particular success in the Sacramento Valley’s Clarksburg AVA.”*

## Chenin Blanc

Chenin Blanc deserves to be considered a classic white variety, but somehow it has never truly pushed into the mainstream. It’s versatile, produced as still wine and as sparkling, from dry through to lusciously sweet. Its stylistic range recommends it to a variety of cuisines. It’s ageable, with a firm backbone of acidity that fuels long life and great capacity to express terroir. And it has flourished in multiple wine-producing regions around the world.

As a fine wine, Chenin’s historical home is France’s Loire Valley, notably from the Savennières and Vouvray appellations, but also increasingly from Anjou and Montlouis, among others. Today a new generation of winemakers is exploring the potential for dry, terroir-driven whites from the Loire.

California, too, is a stronghold for Chenin Blanc; the grape shows particular success in the Sacramento Valley’s Clarksburg AVA.

## 91, SMART BUY

**DRY CREEK Chenin Blanc Clarksburg Dry 2023.** Offers a firm, intense, juicy and refreshing mix of vibrant apricot, peach and Honeycrisp apple flavors, with a hint of jasmine and a long, refreshing finish. The succulent texture, purity of flavor and long finish are particularly impressive. — MaryAnn Worobiec

### RECOMMENDED CHENIN BLANCS

94	MULLINEUX	Chenin Blanc	\$90
		Swartland Schist Roundstone 2022	
94	LE ROCHER DES VIOLETTES	\$50	
		Montlouis Sur Loire Le Grand Poirier 2022	
93	DOMAINE HUET	Vouvray	\$45
		Sec Clos du Bourg 2023	
91	DRY CREEK	Chenin Blanc	\$18
		Clarksburg Dry 2023	
90	KEN FORRESTER	Chenin	\$20
		Blanc Stellenbosch Old Vine Reserve 2023	
90	FOXEN	Chenin Blanc Santa	\$30
		Maria Valley Ernesto Wickenden Vineyard Old Vines 2023	

