

## 50 Wine Classics You Must Try

by Ray Isle

What is a classic wine? It's a wine that gives a definitive sense of a region or a style; it's exemplary, a model of the form, even iconic—a standard-bearer. That doesn't mean the wine is expensive (though some certainly are), nor that it's made in extraordinarily limited amounts (though that's sometimes true). In fact, among the 50 classics on these pages is a \$12 cava from a producer that sells millions of cases a year.

Tasting through a bunch of the classics here would constitute a fairly affordable and comprehensive introduction to the world's landmark wine regions. To look at the future as well as the past, I've included a section on the wines I expect to become new classics.



### 2006 Hanzell Vineyards Sonoma Valley Chardonnay (\$70)

Throughout the recent era of massive, buttery Chardonnays, Sonoma's Hanzell Winery kept its focus on the style established by founding winemaker Brad Webb in 1957 – subtle, precise and long-aging, with complex floral and savory nut aromas. Year in and year out, it's a profound white wine, and the 2006 is no exception.

*Hanzell Vineyards supports independent artisan producers by making the commitment to search out and acquire their goods whenever possible.*