

FOOD & WINE

Wine Guide 2009

NEW
easy rules
for pairing



by Anthony Giglio

oregon whites

While most of Oregon's vintners focus on reds, their whites can still be impressive. Two of the most notable types are Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc, with the former showing a bit more substantial body than the latter. The success of Chardonnay in Oregon has been spotty, though several wine-makers have managed to use the cooler climate to their advantage, crafting elegant, mineral-laden examples. Lighter, drier Rieslings also achieve some success in certain areas, particularly the Willamette Valley.

oregon white recommendations

Abacela Albariño | 2007 | UMPQUA VALLEY

★★ \$\$ Beginning with a quest to make Tempranillo, Abacela winery now specializes in growing Iberian grapes in Oregon's Umpqua Valley. Here, the Galician grape Albariño makes a stony, mineral wine with lemon and green apple flavors and good acidity.

Adelsheim Pinot Gris | 2006 | WILLAMETTE VALLEY

★★ \$\$ Made from grape clones imported from Alsace, this wine typifies the adventurous spirit of Adelsheim. The nose shows chalky-flinty character, with peach and pretty floral notes. On the palate, white stone fruit and grapefruit emerge.

Anna Maria Chardonnay | 2006 | ROGUE VALLEY

★★ \$\$ This premium label from Valley View Winery marks its 30th vintage of Chardonnay with this wonderfully flinty, smoky bottling, almost Chablis-like in its lean stature, crisp minerality and bright acidity woven with a hint of butterscotch and pear.

Anne Amie Vineyards Cuvee A Amrita | 2007 | WILLAMETTE VALLEY

★★ 🍷 Fresh and floral, with aromas of white peach, apricot and fresh-cut grass, this blend of Pinot Blanc, Müller-Thurgau, Chardonnay and Riesling features a zesty palate of grapefruit, more stone fruit and a crisp finish.

A to Z Pinot Gris | 2007 | OREGON

★★ \$ A to Z's masterful blending of wines offers great value, as in this floral and stone fruit-laden Pinot Gris, whose mineral streak underscores its crisp, off-dry style. Watch for the producer's latest from the recently acquired Rex Hill Winery.