

THE MOST LUXURIOUS WINES AND SPIRITS OF THE YEAR

[Aidy Smith@sypped](mailto:Aidy.Smith@sypped)

2020 has been an interesting one to say the least and, as the most endearing time of the year rolls around, we're reminded of one thing - we love to drink.

Jokes aside, it really has been a tough year, but all we can do is make the most of the time we have with those around us.

Whether together, 2m apart or through a device screen, nothing quite says "I love you" than a bottle of something special.

Read on to discover our **wine** and spirits columnist's top choices for the most luxurious wines and spirits of the year.



Opus One 2013 (**£2,383 per 6-case, \$850 per magnum**)

Arguably one of the most iconic wineries in the world due to its graceful yet personality-driven wines, Michael Silacci has been working wonders with Opus One since 2001 and every single vintage is sublime.

The 2013 blend saw a dominance of Cab Sauv (79 per cent), balanced out by Cab Franc (seven per cent), Merlot (six per cent) and Malbec (two per cent). The result? A combination of stunningly rich blackberries and cassis with baking spices, freshly cracked cacao and a juicy yet silky black-fruit profile.

The tannins are so velvety, they just roll off the tongue. This is a complete gem of wine.

Chateau Changyu Moser XV Purple Air Comes From the East 2016 (£202, \$267)

Lenz Moser, an Austrian wine pro with over 30 years winemaking experience, has put China on the global wine map.

His top-tier offering, “Purple Air,” has racked up countless awards and is clear proof that China can indeed produce phenomenal wines.

100 per cent estate grown Cabernet Sauvignon goes into this bottle, showcasing an exuberant burst of stewed dark meadow fruits, fresh cigar box and a generous dollop of baking spices and cedar oak.

Cardinale 2014 (£336, \$225)

The Jackson Family have been making wine for as long as we can remember and the beautiful thing about each and every one of their estates is that quality is never compromised for scale.

This hefty Bordeaux blend (largely Cabernet Sauvignon with some Merlot) is produced in limited quantities and is well worth the money.

Showcasing rich flavours of cassis, mint and raspberry with a moreish earthiness thanks to its incredible terroir, this wonder adds an extra layer of comfort to the cold winter air.

This is another highlight and a testament to the stunning wine that calls Napa Valley its home.

Pommard Simone 2018 (£326, \$436)

Only half a hectare of the estate's finest grapes are used to create this gleaming gem of a Burgundian.

Each year, the estate sees no more than 1,800 bottles being produced, making it highly sought after and incredibly rare.

An abundance of complexity and richness places this as one of our favourite pinots.

Delightfully intense and full of complexity, there is no machinery used in the vines, only horse ploughs, and the vines on which these grapes grow have stalks over one-hundred-years-old.

Lokoya Mount Veeder 2013 (£472, \$375)

A visit to Lokoya's winery, perched snugly upon the hills of Spring Mountain, is one of the key reasons we fell in love with Napa.

Cabernet Sauvignon is their icon, and they produce award-winning style from all corners of the region – Spring Mountain, Diamond Mountain, Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder.

Today, we focus on the latter. Dark cherry, blackcurrant, demerara sugar and black liquorice evolve into blackberry and stewed raspberry. The robust tannins within this beauty pave way to a long dark chocolate and tobacco finish, held together with a beautiful texture and mouthfeel.

Source: [The most luxurious wines and spirits of the year | The Independent](#)