

holiday in

The wine list

Choose locally produced wines for your holiday meals.

■ BY NERIA BARR

The autumn holiday season is when Israeli wineries come out with new wines and special offers. With so many festive family dinners and parties, take advantage of the specials, and don't worry if you have a few bottles left for later this year.

This week, we are listing wines that are promoted by both large and boutique wineries around the country. The wineries are listed alphabetically.

1848

Try two of the more prominent wines from this boutique winery: the award-winning Merlot 2nd generation 2012, a red Bordeaux style wine (NIS 60); and the Cabernet Franc generation 5 2011, a full-bodied very dark, almost purple, aromatic wine (NIS 89). Kosher.

Adir

This northern winery suggests two wines that can accompany the meal: Sauvignon Blanc Kerem Ben-Zimra 2013, a crisp and very enjoyable and elegant wine (NIS 90); and as the red, the Plato 2011, Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Shiraz, a rich, full-bodied and well-balanced wine to serve with the main dish (NIS 180). Kosher.

Amphora

From this boutique winery, located at the foot of Mount Carmel, try the Isabelle from Amphora's Special Edition. There are only 1,500 bottles of this dark red, full-bodied and very rich wine, well worth the price (NIS 175). The Rhyton Red 2011 is also full bodied and round and will age nicely (NIS 95). Or try the Blanc de Noir

2013 from the Mediterranean collection, a special white wine made from red grapes with a light pink color. (NIS 95). Not kosher.

Ben-Haim

This boutique winery continues a long family history of winemaking since 1932. The winery was chosen as the best boutique winery in Israel in the 2012 Terra Vino competition.

From its Tradition series, try the Shiraz 2009, a well-aged, fruity and velvety wine, winner of a gold medal at Terra Vino 2011 (NIS 95). Kosher.

Binyamina

The winery's top line is the Avnei Hoshen. From this line, try the Oden 2010, a fresh, well-balanced Shiraz with a rich red color (NIS 90). Or the Cabernet Sauvignon Tarsish 2011, a very dark wine that will accompany the main dish perfectly (NIS 90). Kosher.

Bravdo

This quality winery from Karmel Yosef has two new wines for the holiday. The Shiraz 2011 is a harmonious fruity and delightful wine that will age well (NIS 130). The Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 from a single vineyard is a very dark, full-bodied aromatic wine that will also age very well if you don't drink it now (NIS 130). Kosher.

Carmel

Carmel has launched a new look for the popular Private Collection series, with eight varietal wines. They include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz, Muscat, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Emerald Riesling. NIS 33. Kosher.

Chillag

This medium-size boutique winery offers a refreshing Chenin Blanc 2013, from the winery's Slow Wine series. The wine is balanced and fruity, with the aroma of fresh flowers. Only 1,189 bottles were produced. Another wine to taste is the Solo Syrah 2009, a well-balanced, almost purple wine, to serve with fish or meat (NIS 100). Not kosher.

Dalton

This Galilee winery suggests you try its Alma 2011 Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon, an elegant, medium-bodied velvety wine. Also try the Shiraz Reserve 2011, a single vineyard on the Golan Heights, full of flavor - fruity and well balanced (NIS 123). Kosher.

Derech Eretz

Shaked wine companies, together with Barkan winery, are responsible for the Derech Eretz wines that are available at the Derech Hayayin stores. Try the Cabernet Sauvignon, Emerald Riesling or the Merlot (NIS 30). Kosher.

Ella Valley Winery

If it is light and summery wines you're looking for, try the Ella Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2013. A delightful, fresh and crisp wine, with tropical aromas, balanced acidity and medium body (NIS 86) or the Ever Red Rose 2013, a salmon-colored wine that can be served throughout the meal, fresh, fruity, with apple and strawberry aromas (NIS 59). Kosher.

Golan Heights

The leading winery offers wines for all tastes. Try its top line wines such as the Merlot Kela Vineyard 2011, a very enjoyable, elegant wine (NIS 140) or the Yarden T2 2009, a very

aromatic fortified wine with aromas of cherries and chocolate (NIS 100). Other options include the Yarden Syrah 2011 (NIS 100), the Yarden Chardonnay (NIS 65) or the excellent-value wines from the Shimura line, such as the Gamla Syrah 2011 (NIS 65) or the Rose Syrah (NIS 60). There will be many specials at the wine stores for the holiday. Kosher.

Gvaot

This winery offers a very good wine for the holiday - the Gofna Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2011. The wine is characterized by a deep reddish purple hue, aromas of black wild berries, chocolate and sweet spices, a rich balanced flavor and a long, complex finish. To preserve its full aromatic potential, the wine was not filtered. Kosher.

The Cave 2010

Owned by the Binyamina winery, the boutique winery established in 2000, got its name from an ancient cave at the foot of the Carmel Mountains, where the wine is kept. The idea was to create a high-quality wine. The amazing following this wine has is proof of its success. The wine is very powerful yet elegant, with aromas of plum and berries (NIS 210). Kosher.

Maia Wine

The new boutique winery, opened in 2012, is a sister winery to Tulip, which promotes the idea of wines with local characteristics, hence the name - Mediterranean Approach Israeli Art. The winemakers are experts from Greece. Try the Mare Nostrum 2012, a full-bodied red with dark fruit aromas (NIS 135) or the Mare Pink 2013, made from Carignan and Mourvedre, a light and lovely rose (NIS 79). Kosher.

Montefiore Winery

The first wines from this young winery were first launched in 2013. For the holiday, try the Montefiore Kerem Moshe 2011, a prestige blend made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Syrah. The wine has a deep colored, with black currant and blackberry

aromas. The wines are sold in restaurants and hotels, in duty-free shops and are exported to seven countries (NIS 200). Kosher.

Ramat Negev

The first desert winery in Israel is located in Kadesh Barnea, on the Egyptian border. For this holiday, it offers gift packs, as well as separate bottles of wine. Try the Neve Midbar Red 2011. The wine is full-bodied and classic for serving with meat dishes (NIS 89). Or try the Ramon Cabernet Franc SV 2011, a round and full-bodied wine with a bright red color, which will go well with beef or soft cheeses (NIS 129). Kosher.

Psagot

The winery that combines biblical concepts is located in the Binyamin region and has a very interesting visitors' center. This holiday, it is offering two great wines at special prices: the 2011 Igul Cabernet Sauvignon at NIS 59 and the Shiraz 2011, winner of the gold medal at the Paris Vineals, at NIS 80. Kosher.

Recanati

New in this winery's Reserve collection are the single vineyard Cabernet and Merlot, which have been receiving awards and medals. The Recanati Cabernet Sauvignon Levanon 2011, gold medal winner of Paris Vineals 2014 (NIS 110). Or choose the Merlot Reserve Manara 2011 (NIS 110). Kosher.

Tabor

For the holidays, Tabor winery has launched a two-wine package with a choice of wines from the winery's Adama collection at NIS 150. Also sold separately, try the Tlalim 2012, an exciting Chardonnay with summer fruit flavors (NIS 75) or the Lehava 2010 from the Adama 2 series, a rich blend of Merlot and Petit Verdot (NIS 95). Kosher.

Teperberg

One of the largest wineries in Israel, Teperberg offers a complete line of wines at different price levels. For the holiday, it has launched the Chardonnay Reserve 2013,

which joins the Merlot Reserve 2011 (NIS 99) and the Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, a selection that will accompany your meal perfectly. The new Chardonnay is golden colored, with tropical aromas combined with butter and oak, a well-balanced and elegant wine (NIS 59). Kosher.

Tishbi

For this holiday, the veteran winery Tishbi offers the new Petit Verdot Estate 2012 SV, a rich red wine with plum, raspberry, chocolate and berry aromas. A very good wine, perfect for a meat stew (NIS 130). Also try the Cabernet Franc Estate 2012 SV, another choice red to go with your festive main dish (NIS 130). Kosher.

Tulip

The Tulip Syrah Reserve 2012 is acknowledged as wine with great qualities. The rich, full-bodied wine with a burgundy color has tropical fruit aromas and dark chocolate and coffee flavors. Great with either meat stews or sharp cheeses (NIS 98). Or go with the classic choice of Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2012, a very elegant wine with dark fruit aromas and spices (NIS 98). Kosher.

Tzuba Winery

With new branding for the New Year, Tzuba has launched two new wines. The Reserve 2011 is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. This wine is velvety and harmonious, with fruit aromas (NIS 100). The new Chardonnay 2013, one of the winery's best wines, is fresh, with butter and caramel flavors and lemon peel aromas (NIS 89). Kosher.

Vitkin

This boutique winery has already won many followers, offering good wines every year. This year, try the 2013 Riesling, a clean, elegant wine with typical aromas. A well-balanced wine with fresh fruit aromas (NIS 95). Another good choice is the Petit Syrah 2010, a complex wine with a dark color and rich berry aromas (NIS 125). Not kosher.

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