

# Agenda

Ireland's cultural and lifestyle magazine

## Wine

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### Wine ratings

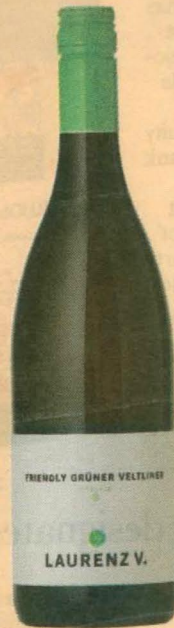
This is the international marking system for wine ratings. The 100-point scale works on a percentile, not a percentage scale, which is based on the United States educational grading system

- 95-100: exceptional, of world class quality
- 90-94: very good quality
- 88-89: average but lacks greatness
- 85-87: average to modest
- 80-84: below average
- 70-79: poor
- below 70: unacceptable quality

## 3 wines to try, buy and put by

### TO TRY

**Palataia, Pinot Noir, Pfalz, Germany 2009, €12.49 from Marks & Spencer nationwide**  
Until around five years ago spätsburgunders (red German wines made from pinot noir grapes) were a byword for light, insipid wines. That is no longer the case, because a succession of very warm summers has produced great ripeness. This is a soft, juicy, very ripe pinot with a mid-palate that is almost jam-like. Happily there is enough grip and savoury, earthy, game-like notes to give a non-unctuous finish. It would be ideal with lamb, or perhaps pan-fried duck breasts in a rich, port sauce.



### TO BUY

**Laurenz V Friendly, Grüner Veltliner Kamptal 2008, €16.50 from RedNoseWine.ie and RedNose Wine Warehouse, Clonmel, Tipperary; €17.50 from Fallon & Byrne, Exchequer Street, Dublin 2; Donnybrook Fair stores in Dublin and Greystones; Sweeney's, 6 Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11; 64 Wines, 64 Glasthule Road, Sandycove, Co Dublin (89)**  
Lenz Moser, Austria's leading grüner veltliner winemaker, has adopted the terms friendly, sunny and charming to denote his three main grüner wines. This Friendly is not too acidic and offers a fuller, more fruity, pear and peach-like rush, instead of spiciness. There is a hint of spice, but the overall feeling is of a smooth, rounded, polished white that would be rather gorgeously with grilled lemon sole.

### TO PUT BY

**Champagne Ayala Rosé Majeur NV, €39.19 down from €48.99 as part of a case or mixed case during the Christmas period from Oddbins stores in Baggot Street, Churchtown, Clontarf and Blackrock (90)**  
Leaner than Bollinger, with bright fruit and a low sugar content, the rosé is less crisp than the regular brut, and even has a complex array of savoury notes offset by a dash of strawberry. Best of all, it is some €30 cheaper than Bollinger rosé. Put some by for Christmas and serve it to your guests with their hors d'oeuvres.

