

13 French Sauvignon Blancs That Offer Sancerre Quality Without the Sancerre Price

These French alternatives are smart buys for cost-conscious consumers.

By [Ray Isle](#)



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Credit:

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Sancerre is unstoppably popular. Why not? If you love Sauvignon Blanc, the wines from this central French region, part of the Loire Valley, can be among its greatest expressions. But consider this: Sancerre, the region, is only about 6 miles wide and 9 miles long, yet a by-the-glass Sancerre seems to be on the wine list at every restaurant in the U.S. these days. As a result, prices and production have gone up substantially as demand has risen, and, maybe, as a result, not every Sancerre you shell out for is all that distinctive.

Also consider that there are only 6,000 or so acres of Sauvignon Blanc in Sancerre, but more than 25,000 acres of it throughout the Loire. Might some of that other wine fulfill your Sancerre itch? I'd say so. The nearby appellations of Pouilly-Fumé, Quincy, and Menetou-

Salon, among others, are overlooked, and excellent — even basic Touraine or Val de Loire Sauvignon Blancs can be terrific values. Here's a grab bag of great options.

[The Best 33 Sauvignon Blancs from Sancerre to New Zealand](#)

2025 Patient Cottat, Le Grand Caillou, Sauvignon Blanc (\$18)

Named for a famed mid-19th-century master goldsmith, this lime-scented Sauvignon Blanc comes from the Loire Valley's Fournier family, which has been making wine here for generations. Its flavors are silky and lingering.

2024 J. de Villebois Val de Loire Sauvignon Blanc (\$20)

Juicy passion fruit and lemongrass flavors define this deftly made Sauvignon Blanc, the grapes for which come from a variety of Central Loire appellations. It's crisp and drying on the finish, making you wish for another sip.

2024 Ladoucette Les Deux Tours Sauvignon Blanc (\$23)

Ladoucette's origins go back to 1787, when Comte Lafond purchased the estate from the illegitimate daughter of Louis XV. Today, his descendant, Baron Patrick de Ladoucette, owns the company, making benchmark Pouilly-Fumés as well as this affordable, fresh Touraine bottling, which is full of lively lemon flavor.

2024 Joseph Mellot Sincérité Vin de France Sauvignon Blanc (\$22)

Joseph Mellot's family started making wine in Sancerre in 1513, and one member was wine adviser to the king in the 1600s. Today, Mellot makes benchmark Sancerres as well as this citrus-and-hay-scented white, full of grapefruit flavor.

2024 Laporte Le Bouquet Vin de France Sauvignon Blanc (\$23)

A pretty aroma of white flowers, lemon, and grapefruit announces this fresh, lively white, which continues with grapefruit–candied lemon flavors on the palate. Founded by the Laporte family in 1850, the domaine is now owned by the grandsons of acclaimed Sancerre producer Henri Bourgeois; all that experience and history go into affordable cuvées like this one, too.

2024 Isabelle et Pierre Clément Menetou-Salon (\$25)

The Clément family's history in Menetou-Salon dates to the 1500s, long before there was an official appellation (long before appellations were even thought of, for that matter). This is a vividly fragrant white, all lemon candy and minty herbs, with an impressive depth of flavor.

2024 Domaine du Tremblay Quincy (\$27)

The tiny appellation of Quincy lies southwest of Sancerre but produces equally distinctive Sauvignon Blancs. This one rises from the glass with herb, grass, and even briny aromas, and is ultra-crisp, ending on a stony note. Fun, and with a surprising depth of flavor.

2024 Francis Blanchet Silice Pouilly-Fumé (\$29)

Deep quince and Meyer lemon flavors end on a classic smoky note in this impressive white that ends minerally. The name, Silice, is a nod to the vineyard's stony, flint-filled soils (flint is a form of silica).

2024 Les Frères Couillaud Bernier Val de Loire Sauvignon Blanc (\$16)

This fresh white literally smells like newly mown grass. That green note carries through the sweet citrus flavors on the palate; it's a French Sauvignon Blanc that will also appeal to lovers of the New Zealand style.

2024 Domaine du Tariquet Côtes de Gascogne Sauvignon (\$19)

Tariquet is a famous name in Armagnac, but the domaine also makes table wines at its estate in Gascony. This white, with its melon-citrus-gumdrop character, offers a look at what the vineyards of southwestern France can do with this quintessential Loire grape.

2023 Emile Balland Les Beaux Jours Coteaux du Giennois Blanc (\$22)

Emile Balland makes lovely Sancerre, but very little of it—he only farms about 2.5 acres of vines there. His Coteaux du Giennois white offers a similar character (herbal passion fruit flavors and a silky texture) for a more modest price, and as he owns substantially more vineyard land there, it's easier to find as well.

2024 Clément & Florian Berthier Coteaux du Giennois Sauvignon Blanc (\$24)

This small appellation north of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé has been an insider's source for great-value Sauvignon Blancs for quite some time. This 2024 from a pair of talented winemaking brothers shows a light herbal aroma and juicy, lightly steely grapefruit flavors—ideal for raw oysters.

2024 Domaine Jean-Paul Picard Menetou-Salon Blanc (\$28)

Mango and lemon flavors collide appealingly in this Menetou-Salon from a family that has been making wine since the mid-1700s; their Sancerres are also impressive and well worth checking out.