



Gourmet

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CLEAR CHOICES, ALL UNDER \$15

In search of crisp, inexpensive white wines to sip before dinner, while cooking, with a meal, or really any old time, we opened 70 bottles from the "anything but Chardonnay" rack. It may be a coincidence, but five of the seven best were sealed with screw caps; the other two had synthetic corks. (Of the 42 cork-sealed wines, 4 were badly tainted.) —*James Rodewald*

La Vieille Ferme Blanc 2006 Côtes du Lubéron, France	\$8	Light candied-fruit aromas. Soft, clean, and well balanced, with a fairly good finish. Very well made for the price.
Cono Sur Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Central Valley, Chile	\$10	Hint of herbaceousness in the nose. Relatively lean, with citrus flavors and a long, crisp finish.
Pacific Rim Dry Riesling (nonvintage) Washington and Germany	\$10	Spices, stone fruit, and flowers on the nose. Very crisp and easy to drink, with a long, citrusy finish.
Guenoc Sauvignon Blanc 2005 Lake County, California	\$11	Initially somewhat reserved, but nose opens up to ripe-fruit aromas. On the heavy side, but a lemony finish saves it.
Newhaven Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Marlborough, New Zealand	\$12	Big nose of grass, melon, and citrus. Medium weight, very nice fruit, and mouthwatering acidity.
Bracco Pinot Grigio delle Venezie 2005, Italy	\$13	Very pretty lemon-drop nose. Nice fruit, but what really sets this wine apart is its beautiful finish.
Fairview Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Coastal Region, South Africa	\$13	Classic grassy aromas. Quite tart, but with ripe fruit balancing the firm structure. Goes on and on. 

