

A ROSÉ BY ANY OTHER COLOR

From palest blush to deep salmon, these wines come in a hue for every mood.

Forget about saying rosé is simply a trend. It would imply that these pink-hued wines are subject to the season's fancy or the gust of, say, a Mistral wind from the South of France, the spiritual home of rosé.

France, indeed, dominates the rosé category, accounting for approximately 62 percent of off-premise sales, according to 2016 Nielsen data. But rosé's double-digit growth comes from almost every country, says Danny Brager, Nielsen's vice president for client services.

New York City sommelier Victoria James, author of the newly released book, *Drink Pink, A Celebration of Rosé*, agrees that Provence's renowned rosés are by no means the only color in town.

"Exceptional and creative rosés are now being made all over the world," she says. "This is not a trend, but rather an evolution. Rosé is here to stay."

Here are several to try from around the world, representing many shades of the rosé color spectrum.

—Lana Bortolot



**Santi 2016
Infinito Rosé, \$15**
(Bardolino Chiaretto)

This wine from the Veneto rivals those from Provence, with its pale hue and tartness like young strawberries. The blend is 64 percent Corvina, 30 percent Rondinella and 5 percent Molinara.

Sourced from a vineyard dedicated to rosé production, this pale flamingo-hued rosé is driven by Syrah, but incorporates smaller proportions of Mourvèdre, Grenache and Cinsault.

**Charles & Charles
2016 Rosé, \$12**
(Columbia Valley)



**Croteaux 2016 Merlot
181 Sauvage Rosé, \$24**
(North Fork of Long Island)

This light rosé consists entirely of Merlot and will surprise people who (still) think they don't like the grape. A flinty nose gives way to tea leaves and minerals on a palate that's otherwise shy of fruit.

Château Pesquié 2016 Terrasses Rosé, \$14
(Ventoux)

Made from 50 percent Cinsault, 40 percent Grenache and 10 percent Syrah, this light-hued, slightly herbal wine would be as at home in genteel Saint-Tropez as its place of origin in the rugged foothills of Mont Ventoux.

Thank the islands' unique volcanic terroir and bracing winds for this wine's slightly saline flavor profile. It's an equal blend of Saborinho, Agronómica, Aragonês (Tempranillo) and Touriga Nacional.

Azores Wine Company 2016 Rosé Vulcânico, \$23
(Azores)



This Petit Verdot rosé from South Africa is deep hued, concentrated and full flavored. What you get on the nose, you also get on the palate: bright red fruits (strawberry, cranberry and cherry).

Rustenberg 2016 Petit Verdot Rosé, \$13
(Stellenbosch)



In a region defined by Mistral winds and a Mediterranean climate, this Syrah-driven (40 percent) blend includes Cinsault and Grenache. It combines freshness, fruit and tones of *garrigue*, the savory herbal brush that's a calling card of the region.

Hecht & Bannier 2016 Rosé, \$13
(Languedoc)

