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Picnic Wine Pairing

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008

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Planning a picnic in the park this weekend? Only one thing can improve on the great outdoors, clear skies and delicious food: a great bottle of wine.

Yelena Jenkins from [Celebrations](#) has tips on finding the perfect match when it comes to food and your bottle of vino.

Burgers: It's all about the condiments! If you're using...

- A Specialty [Cheese](#): Pair the wine to whichever cheese you use on top of the burger. For blue cheese, try a Zinfandel or Cabernet Sauvignon.
- Lots of Ketchup: Try fruity or sweet wines, such as a rosé.
- Lots of [Pickles](#) or Coleslaw: A dry red wine, like a Syrah, is a good choice.
- No Condiments: Lots of red meat from the burger requires a strong, warm red wine. Try Canaletto Primitivo (under \$20).

Salami & Cheese (Brie or Manchego) on a French

Baguette: This classic picnic sandwich is well suited for a great Merlot. Here's a few to try:

- Coho Wines Merlot (under \$50): intense, smooth and juicy.
- Huntington Wine Cellars Merlot (under \$15): robust and earthy with dark cherry and plum flavors.
- Matanzas Creek Winery Merlot (under \$30): spicy and smooth with notes of [blackberry](#).

Hot Dogs: A sweet, fruity Riesling is just the match for a hot dog loaded with relish, pickles or hot peppers. The versatile wine is very "food friendly" and pairs well with a wide assortment of eats. Try:

- Chateau St. Jean Sonoma County Johannesberg Riesling (under \$15): strong florals with a hint of melon and apricot.
- Trimbach Riesling (under \$25): full of flavor with fruit undertones and a bit of an acidic finish.
- Josef Leitz Rudesheimer Drachenstein "Dragonstone" Riesling (under \$15): fairly sweet with a honey and grapefruit flavor.
- Fritz Haag Estate Riesling (under \$20): packs a nice, refreshing citrus punch.

Fried Chicken: Good, old fashioned fried chicken tastes excellent when paired with Semillon, a white wine with a full [body](#) and low acidity. Here are some top Semillon picks:

- Peter Lehmann Barossa Semillon (under \$20): sits nicely between the lightness of a Riesling and the depth of a Chardonnay.
- Fire Gully Sauvignon Blanc Semillon (under \$25): full bodied and dry with a crisp finish.
- Torbreck The Woodcutter's Semillon (under \$20): very intense; buttery and crisp at the same time.

For more entertaining ideas, check out [Celebrations.com](#).

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