



# WINE ENTHUSIAST<sup>®</sup>

## MAGAZINE

### PROOF POSITIVE

#### Best Bargain Vodkas

##### Highly Recommended

Finlandia Tangerine Fusion Vodka (Finland) 37.5% abv, \$19.

**Why we like it:** The juicy citrusy and tangerine aroma is clean and properly acidic. Flavor is crisp, refreshingly tart and austere, with the astringent juiciness of the tangerine making for seriously pleasant quaffing.

**How to enjoy it:** A dynamite ingredient in a punch for that annual tailgate party.

##### Recommended

Skyy Infusions All Natural Pineapple Vodka (USA) 35% abv, \$19.

**Why we like it:** The sweet, ripe pineapple aroma hits the ground running in the opening sniffs. Taste is properly astringent and smooth.

**How to enjoy it:** Serve in a cocktail that is a vodka derivation of the Piña Colada.

Stockholm Krystal Vodka (Sweden) 40% abv, \$20.

**Why we like it:** Smells of breakfast cereal, roasted grain and vegetal elements. Entry is lithe, citrusy and nicely acidic. The midpalate features the citrusy aspect that keeps the flavor fresh.

**How to enjoy it:** Two words: Vodka Gimlet.

#### Best Bargain Rums

##### Highly Recommended

Brugal White Label Dominican Rum (Dominican Republic) 40% abv, \$11.

**Why we like it:** Smells of marshmallows, cotton candy and grass. Entry is concentrated, buttery, spicy and molasses-sweet. A textbook silver rum.

**How to enjoy it:** As the heart and soul of a classic Daiquiri.

##### Recommended

Seagram's Smooth Brazilian Rum (Brazil) 40% abv, \$12.

**Why we like it:** The aroma leans towards grassiness and a slight herbal quality more than intense sweetness. The flavor is medium sweet, beany and cane bittersweet. Gains in sweetness in the finish.

**How to enjoy it:** In a fruit punch or in a Caipirinha cocktail variation.

#### Best Bargain Brandies

##### Highly Recommended

Guillon Pâinturaud VSOP Grand Champagne Cognac (France); 40% abv, \$50.

**Why we like it:** Smells of ripe yellow fruit, light baking spice and candied walnut. Flavor is fruity (apples, pears) and ripe, as well as spicy (cinnamon).

**How to enjoy it:** Sidecar cocktail.

Seguinot VSOP Grande Champagne Cognac (France); 40% abv, \$50.

