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The World's Most Expensive Sauvignon Blanc

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The Mekerra from Melka Wines in Napa Valley run by husband and wife team, Philippe and Cherie Melka. Having spent considerable time in France, they took their expertise back to California and now focus on a small portfolio of high-quality wine. Completely barrel-fermented, the Mekerra has been lauded for its fresh flavors of both green and yellow orchard fruit and has an aggregated score of 93 points, and comes in at an almost affordable \$144 USD.

Step aside New Zealand – when it comes to the world's most expensive Sauvignon Blanc, there's only one country that really counts.



© VisitFrenchWine.com | Sancerre has long been the ancient beating heart of Sauvignon Blanc.

Although Sauvignon Blanc is often synonymous with the affordable, cheerful wines of New Zealand, it might come as a surprise that it is also responsible for America's most expensive white wine.

Screaming Eagle Sauvignon Blanc has an average price of \$4421; despite this more than hefty price tag, the Screaming Eagle Sauv Blanc currently fails – but only just – to make it into our list of top fifty most expensive wines in the world with the last spot taken by Ramos Pinto Vinces Very Old Tawny Port at \$5675.

However, what that does say is that there are some very expensive wines in the world out there – and in the world of high-ranking Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc is still the baby of the grapes when it comes to high prices – still, it does its best as Screaming Eagle proves.

Footing the bottom of the list, however, is the Mekerra white by Melka Wines with an average price of \$144, which, although still undeniably expensive, is a positive bargain compared to its Chardonnay equivalent – currently Leroy Domaine d'Auvenay Les Folatieres at \$9333.

So when on the hunt for a classy white that's guaranteed to showcase great wine-making at a somewhat affordable price, the below list might be worth checking out.

The World's Most Expensive Sauvignon Blancs on Wine-Searcher:

| Wine Name | Score | Ave Price |
|---|-------|-----------|
| <u>Screaming Eagle Sauvignon Blanc</u> | 93 | \$4421 |
| <u>Louis-Benjamin - Didier Dagueneau Pouilly-Fume Asteroide</u> | 97 | \$1785 |
| <u>Dagueneau Memento Mori</u> | 96 | \$1262 |
| <u>Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux</u> | 94 | \$325 |
| <u>Nicolas Barbou Folie Insolente</u> | N/A | \$271 |
| <u>Nicolas Barbou Utopie Creative</u> | 92 | \$218 |
| <u>Domaine Vacheron Sancerre L'Enclos des Remparts</u> | 93 | \$217 |
| <u>Lail Vineyards Georgia Sauvignon Blanc</u> | 93 | \$155 |
| <u>Francois Cotat Sancerre Cuvee Paul</u> | 91 | \$144 |
| <u>Melka Mekerra White</u> | 93 | \$144 |

Roaring into first place is, of course, Screaming Eagle. With an impressive aggregated score of 93 points and that whopping price tag, it's pretty safe to say that Screaming Eagle is likely to remain the world's most expensive Sauvignon Blanc for quite some time, as well as one of the most exclusive and elusive.

Second in line, at less than half the price of the Screaming Eagle, is the Louis-Benjamin-Didier Dagueneau Pouilly-Fume Asteroide, which still costs the considerable sum of \$1785. This classic white by famed Loire Valley producer, Domaine Dagueneau is widely celebrated with a deeply impressive critic score of 97 points. Didier Dagueneau sadly died in an ultralight plane crash, but his son, Louis-Benjamin, and daughter, Charlotte, continue to run the winery in his stead.

In third place is another wine from Domaine Dagueneau, this time their Memento Mori which again has a heavy price of \$1262 but, again, boasts a seriously noteworthy score of 96 points.

Breaking from the Loire, in fourth place, is a Bordeaux heavy, the Pavillon Blanc from Château Margaux. At \$325, the wine is beginning to look like a veritable bargain next to Screaming Eagle, and with a score of 94 points, if that kind of cash is to hand, it's arguably a no-brainer – as much as an investment as a guaranteed delight to drink. As it's Margaux, it will cellar for a number of years.

Fifth is another Loire offering, this time from Nicolas Barbou with thei Folie Insolente. Rare

and intriguing with a producer that stays much under the radar, little is known about this wine. However, for \$271, it may be worth the punt. Who knows? It may just be the next Screaming Eagle.

Sixth is Nicolas Barbou's slightly less mysterious wine, the Utopie Creative, which appears to have stuck its head slightly more above the parapet and has at least some critic reviews, giving it an aggregated score of 92 points and, again, with an average price point of \$218, it's not too bad a deal to try your luck on if you can find it. Production is, naturally, limited.

Lucky number seven is another Sancerre, L'Enclos des Remparts by Domaine Vacheron. The estate is run by third-generation winemaking cousins, Jean-Laurent and Jean-Dominique, who follow strict biodynamic practices when it comes to making their wines. The L'Enclos des Remparts has built a reputation for being a rich, finely textured wine and has an impressive aggregated score of 93 points and an average price of \$217.

Eighth on this list is another Californian Sauvignon Blanc, this time from Lail Vineyards. Although the estate is well known for its Cabernet Sauvignon, its Sauvignon Blanc is coming on leaps and bounds. Aged in French oak for 18 months, the wine has been described as a sophisticated expression of lemon and fresh herbs and boasts an impressive score of 93 points which, for \$155, is starting to look like the beginnings of a deal.

Number nine is the Cuvée Paul from François Cotat, a traditional Sancerre producer. At François Cotat, the grapes are hand-harvested and left on the vine particularly late to gain a weightiness unique to the producer, however, this has sometimes led to higher alcohol levels meaning some wines have been declassified to Vin de France, although this has little bearing on the estate's reputation. The Cuvée Paul has a score of 91 points and a price tag of \$144.

Last but absolutely not least, plucky number 10 – a final Sauvignon from sunny California. The Mekerra from Melka Wines in Napa Valley run by husband and wife team, Philippe and Cherie Melka. Having spent considerable time in France, they took their expertise back to California and now focus on a small portfolio of high-quality wine. Completely barrel-fermented, the Mekerra has been lauded for its fresh flavors of both green and yellow orchard fruit and has an aggregated score of 93 points, and comes in at an almost affordable \$144 USD.

Although none of these wines are likely to be regarded as great bargains, they are almost guaranteed to provide a fresh – or at least often forgotten – take on a grape variety now best known for its cheap, cheerful, riotous Kiwi expressions. So, if you fancy a Sav and your bank balance allows, why not try a traditional Sancerre? The Kiwis will wait – they are, after all, flightless.