



## The Grapevine | Wine, Thankfully

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With **Thanksgiving** looming, you may be pondering what sort of wine or wines to serve with your holiday feast. The best piece of advice I can give you about choosing wine for Thanksgiving—or any other holiday—is *don't fret*. Holiday dinners are all about convening with friends and family for good company and camaraderie. This is not a time to concern yourself with impressing your guests. Relax.

I rarely spend big money on wine for Thanksgiving. What I look for is versatility, rather than prestige. The Thanksgiving meal is not the place to ponder the virtues of world-class Bordeaux; rather, it's a time to embrace the everyday goodness of simpler wines with what is, after all, rather simple food. There's nothing especially complicated about roast turkey and mashed potatoes.

So, I recommend drinking whatever wine *you* like. If you want to drink Champagne with your turkey, by all means do so! The range of foods served at a typical Thanksgiving dinner pretty much pre-empts any notion of perfect food and wine matches. There's a case to be made for unoaked Chardonnay at Thanksgiving, just as you could argue the virtues of Riesling, Pinot Noir and Beaujolais, among others. So again, try to choose a versatile wine that will play nicely with a broad spectrum of food flavors rather than a powerhouse or exotic wine.

Here's another approach to choosing wine for Thanksgiving: Since at Thanksgiving we ought to be mindful of those less fortunate, why not buy wines from wineries who donate a portion of their profits to charities? The first that comes to my mind is Humanitas. When you purchase Humanitas wines, a portion of the profits are given to charitable organizations such as America's Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity and Reading is Fundamental. And the proceeds from Humanitas wines don't go to a national headquarters somewhere but are distributed right in the community where the wine was sold. You can find **Humanitas Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$14) here locally.

For a discussion of other charitable wineries, check out the "Charitable Wine" article at [WineLoversPage.com](http://WineLoversPage.com).