

# A good pub wine list worth a trip

**SARAH McCLEERY**  
says good pub wine lists are a rarity

I love a well-cooked, homely pub meal and am happy to be within walking distance of three (four if the legs are fresh!) that offer up a fair selection of food.

On the downside, the wine selection in each establishment is dire and, while I am not averse to a decent half of bitter, I do prefer a glass of wine with my bangers and mash or shepherd's pie.

So, I get excited when I find myself in the sort of pub that has low, timber-beamed ceilings, chalkboard menus, a great range of beers, cosy seating... and a top-notch wine list.

You do have to stray a few miles over the Oxfordshire boundary to find such a place but I can enthusiastically recommend you make the journey to The Ebrington Arms in Chipping Campden (www.theebringtonarms.co.uk Tel: 01386 593223) which has it all.

The food is delicious, the service efficient and smiley and the wine list is fairly priced, modest but well-chosen and has something for every taste and budget, with bottle prices starting in the mid-teens.

If you have time to squeeze in a visit before the holidays come to an end, do so.

On another note entirely, I am happy to report the discovery of some very respectable 'budget-friendly' sparkling wine from the Australian Griffith Park winery. The Sparkling Brut is a blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that offers up a gently frothy, green-apple-flavoured glass of wine. At just £6.98 from Asda (www.asda.co.uk) you cannot go wrong.

The Sparkling Rosé has a touch of sweetness, ripe strawberry fruit flavours and that same soft, frothy mousse. It is eminently quaffable and another steal at the same price as the Brut.

Now that I have saved you some money (well, sort of!), I am now going to spend it for you.

Majestic (www.majestic.co.uk) has an Italian white wine on offer from the Terredora estate that is one of my all-time favourites.

The wine's name — Falanghina — is the unheard of grape variety that it is made from and it really is time for it to move into



**BEST CELLAR:** Sarah McCleery prefers a pub with a good wine list

the spotlight. It has got weight and texture and heaps of flavour.

For me, it is all pears, candied fruits and a pinch of white pepper.

If you buy it as a single bottle it will set you back £9.99 but if you can stretch to two,

the price drops to £7.99 and I think it is worth every single penny of that.

In fact, it is just the sort of wine that I would love to see listed on one of my local's wine lists.

A girl can live in hope.



Visit [oxfordtimes.co.uk/leisure/wine](http://oxfordtimes.co.uk/leisure/wine) to order this and other cases, or complete this form.

Please send me  case/s of the Wines of Alsace case offer at a cost of £106 including free local delivery within 30 miles of Oxford. I enclose a cheque payable to The Oxford Wine Company for £...

Please ring me at the number below for credit card details

Name

