



## *Great Whites for a Winter Thaw*

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*White wine season will be back. It may not seem like it now, but it's bound to happen. So why not experiment with some high-quality, underdog varieties, with which you can wow your friends and make a personal statement?*

*The keys to quality in these three winners are hand harvesting from old vines, infertile soils, minimal intervention in the natural process and limited production.*

*Donelan Family "Venus" Sonoma, 2008 (\$63, Urban Grape, Newton). Made mostly from the northern Rhône roussanne grape with a touch of viognier mixed in for aroma, this wine is amazingly rich but low in alcohol (12.1 percent). With a waxy, herbal, lanolin fragrance and creamy, anise-like, subtle fruit flavors, Venus finishes on a long vanilla-bean spice note. This super-concentrated white will warm you up and pair beautifully with earthy dishes and slow-cooked stews.*

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