

ORGANIC Gardening®

"Gardens are where people and the land come together in the most inspiring way." —Robert Rodale

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GREEN GOODS

Boxed Up

Think wine sold in boxes is low-quality and tasteless? More and more wineries seeking to reduce their environmental impacts are offering premium wines in the humble box.

The lighter packaging is usually recyclable and requires much less energy to ship, which in turn cuts back on greenhouse-gas emissions. Whether wineries choose 1-liter Tetra Pak cartons or the bag-in-the-box, you get less packaging and more wine for your money while cutting your vino footprint in half. Another bonus for boxed wine is its shelf life—most wines can last up to four weeks after opening, since the packaging prevents oxidation. For a more refined presentation, simply pour into a carafe before serving.

Encourage local wine stores to stock more "premium" boxed wines if they lack a selection. After a taste test (we're always ready to work hard to get you the most accurate information), these three wines made us box believers.

"If the 97 percent of wines that are made to be consumed within a year were to switch to boxes, it would be the equivalent of retiring 400,000 cars from the road."

—Tyler Colman, drvino.com



GOOD

French Rabbit Pinot Noir 2006, \$12.99, 1 liter. The recyclable box contains one-third more wine than a traditional bottle, making this fruity red a great value as well as a good deal for the environment.

BETTER

Les Vignerons d'Estezargues "From the Tank" Cotes du Rhone 2006, \$40, 3 liters. It's produced by a small wine co-op in France that specializes in "natural" wines, meaning it's made with wild yeast.

BEST

Yellow & Blue Malbec Mendoza 2007, \$11.99, 1 liter. A lively organically grown red wine from Argentina's premier wine region. The wine ships to the U.S. in large tanks, then is packed into boxes.

FROM TOP: PHOTO ALTO; MITCH MANDREL

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Editors' Choice
TIME-SAVING TOOLS

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\$3.99US



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