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Revolutionary wines from France

The most unusual is the 2004 French Rabbit Vin de Pays d'Oc Pinot Noir (\$10 for a 1-liter box). Though amused by the packaging, I expected this wine to be lousy: Vin de Pays d'Oc means a second-tier wine from the Languedoc, a large, warm southern region not considered to be great Pinot Noir territory.

But it's not lousy. In fact, it's a pretty good picnic wine, with simple red-fruit and floral flavors and aromas reminiscent of Beaujolais. Like Beaujolais, I would chill it slightly and drink it with pasta salad or dark-flesh fish.

"When I saw the packaging, I really, really wanted to include it," Morano said. "If it had been awful, I would not have included it. But it's not bad. This is a nice, simple, everyday wine. This lends itself a little bit more to drinking it by the glass."



Friday is Bastille Day, the day when the French celebrate the storming of a prison in 1789 that began a revolution. A bottle (or box) of any of these 10 wines is a great way to join the party.

French Rabbit Vin de Pays d'Oc Pinot Noir (\$10 for 1-liter box)

Circulation: 398,246