

The Washington Post

By [Dave McIntyre](#), The Washington Post

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Recommendations

★★★ Exceptional ★★ Excellent

Prices are approximate. Check [Winesearcher.com](#) to verify availability, or ask a favorite wine store to order through a distributor.

Sauvignon blanc expresses climate and terroir quite clearly: the grassy, exotic flavors of a cold climate and the tropical fruit flavors in warmer areas. Here are a few examples. — *D.M.*

Seifried Sauvignon Blanc 2012

★★★

Nelson, New Zealand, \$19

Subtle and elegant, with some of that familiar New Zealand grassiness but not enough to slap you in the face. There is delicious tropical fruit flavor here, and a long finish that skirts a razor's edge. Seifried's **Old Coach Road Sauvignon Blanc** (\$17) is also excellent, and more grassy in the classic New Zealand style.

Pacific Prime/Elite: Available in the District at Chevy Chase Wine & Spirits, MacArthur Beverages, Rodman's, Schneider's of Capitol Hill, various Whole Foods Market locations.

Maimai Sauvignon Blanc 2012

★★★

Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, \$15

From the warmer climate of New Zealand's North Island, this wine shows ripe fruit that reminds me of some Napa Valley premier sauvignon blancs that cost much more. Simply terrific.

Pacific Prime/Elite: Available in the District at Cleveland Park Wine and Spirits, MacArthur Beverages, Schneider's of Capitol Hill.

Available in Virginia at Unwined (Alexandria, Belleview), Vino Volo at Washington Dulles Airport.

Forrest the Doctors' Sauvignon Blanc 2011

★★

Marlborough, New Zealand, \$19

This wine is exceptional because it is only 9.5 percent alcohol, balancing acidity with an appealing sweetness. If German vintners in the Mosel were making sauvignon blanc instead of Riesling, this is what it might taste like. Perfect for patio sipping by itself or with light appetizers.

Pacific Prime/Elite: Available in the District at Cleveland Park Wine and Spirits, Cork & Fork, MacArthur Beverages. Available in Virginia at Unwined (Alexandria, Belleview).