



**BOTTLES TO BET ON**

**1. SAN PIETRO PINOT GRIGIO (\$11)**  
 "A dry, light, crisp and refreshing selection perfect for a standing reception."

**2. GRAYSON CELLARS CABERNET (\$11)**  
 "This medium-to-full-bodied Cab goes well with richer foods. Go with it if you have a lot of people choosing the steak option for dinner."

**3. CHATEAU MONTAUD ROSÉ (\$11)**  
 "This is dry for a rosé, and, with notes of rose petal, similar to the rosés from Provence. It's nice for early-summer events."

**4. ANGELINE PINOT NOIR (\$11)**  
 "This California Pinot is medium-bodied and a bit fruit-forward. It's great with food."

**5. MARQUÉS DE RISCAL PRÓXIMO RIOJA (\$9)**  
 "Rioja is one of my favorites, and this one is medium-bodied with a lot of fruit. It's right with everything—fish, steak, standing around."

*Prices from Potomac Wines & Spirits.*

# How can we spend less on wine but still drink well?

**EXPERT:** Mike Isabella Concepts beverage director **TAHA ISMAIL**

**WHERE TO GO:** **ACE BEVERAGE** (3301 New Mexico Ave., NW) will buy back any unopened, un-chilled leftover bottles after the celebration. Their staff is really easy to work with no matter your level of wine knowledge. **POTOMAC WINES & SPIRITS** (3100 M St., NW) has a large selection of wine

choices that are really reasonably priced.

**HOW MUCH TO BUY:** Assuming you are offering other drink options, go for a two-to-one ratio of people to wine bottles. Aim for an average of four beverages per person over the course of the evening. Of course,

you'll want to pick up a few extra bottles for bridesmaid planning powwows.

**HOW MUCH TO SPEND:** You can find good bargain wines in the range of \$8 to \$12—I wouldn't count on spending less than that. I do think you can get an acceptable

wine in the \$6-to-\$10 range when you buy in bulk.

**WHAT TO SPLURGE ON:** A classic celebratory bottle of bubbles, like Ruinart Rosé Champagne (around \$80). Buy it when you purchase your wedding wine, then open on your first anniversary.