



THE BEST

Sauvignon Blanc

Château d' Ori Sauvignon Blanc

Nashik is gaining a solid reputation for producing decent warm-weather Sauvignon Blanc that exudes the herbaceous aromas of the New World. Château d' Ori is the love child of Ranjit Dhuru, self-declared Bordeaux snob, who trained to be a lawyer but now heads infotech company Aftek. This wine is fresh and fruity, but the fruit is layered with too much oakiness, which reminded the judges of the Californian Fume Blanc. Nevertheless, it's a good, drinkable wine.



PRICE: Rs 460 ex-Mumbai

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Cabernet Blend

Château d' Ori Cabernet Merlot 2007

You had to expect a red wine coming from a Bordeaux fanatic to be among the top of the pops, but this one has a drawback—it was matured not in oak barrels, as they would do in France, but in concrete tanks with oak chips thrown in. Still, the wine tastes good and shows great aging potential. It's not a here-and-now wine, but one you can store (properly, that is) and enjoy even after two years. We felt, though, that the wine should be released six months later, otherwise the consumers may be denied some of the enjoyment.



PRICE: Rs 550 ex-Mumbai



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Merlot

Château d' Ori Merlot 2007

Just in case you were wondering how the winery got its unusual name, here's the story. The "Château" bit is its owner's personal tribute to Bordeaux and "d' Ori" is short for Dindori, the taluka in Nashik where the winery is located. Here's our verdict on the wine. In Subhash Arora's words, it literally "dances on the palate". It's a luscious wine with a magnificent mouth feel, a hint of spiciness that works on the Indian palate.



PRICE: Rs 460 ex-Mumbai