

Scary Good Wines



Finding a good wine for Halloween isn't always easy. A spooky label is a good start -- and there are plenty of wines we can recommend with spooky labels. And while these labels may look scary, but there is no trick to these delicious wines. A treat, to be sure.

Named for a long-dead Confederate colonel, the **2013 Gray Ghost Chardonnay** from Amissville, Virginia will definitely lift your spirits. It has a beautiful bouquet of pear, peach and roasted nut charms the nose while intricate flavors of apple, nectarine and pear sit squarely on a citrus-oriented base. The clean mouthfeel provides a nice, crisp finish, kept in remarkable balance by hints of mineral undertones and abundant acidity. Try it with Deviled Eggs. **\$18**

The label on the **2013 Vampire Vineyards, Vampire Pinot Noir** will certainly make you *want to drink this vine*. But don't worry, it won't bite! Hailing from Paso Robles, California, this Pinot Noir is deliciously red and displays very fresh, fruit-driven qualities with loads of strawberry, cherry and cranberry flavors that coat the palate. Notes of cinnamon and baking spices blend in on the satiny-smooth finish where just a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon adds depth and structure, and a pinch of Zinfandel provides a little spice. It would pair nicely with duck ala blood orange. **\$13**

I don't know if the devil wear's Prada, but I know she carries a corkscrew so that she can open a bottle of **2013 Charles Smith The Velvet Devil Merlot** from the Columbia Valley in Washington State. This fun, super-ripe red wine has Halloween written all over it, with flavors of chocolate, raspberry, dark cherry and blackberry fruit all knocking on the door of your tongue for a treat. So, give it a little Devil's Food Cake for a treat. **\$12**

If you are looking for a frightfully good wine, try the **2013 Armida Winery "Poizin" Zinfandel** from Sonoma, California. This full-bodied zinfandel is from the heart of Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma and according to the website, it's "the wine to die for." Bright notes of cherry, raspberry and blueberry cover the tongue on a medium-bodied frame. The slightly dusty finish features just a touch of black pepper. The label sports a wicked skull and crossbones and best of all, you'll only be "coffin" up **\$25**.

Don't let the price of the cult-like **2011 EMH Vineyards Black Cat Cabernet Sauvignon** from Napa Valley scare you to death. This small-production wine radiates scents of black cherry, blackberry and dark chocolate on the ebullient bouquet. Commanding flavors of dark plum, jammy blackberry, cassis and mocha are kept in check by sweet tannins and followed up with notes of mocha and vanilla on the impressively long finish. This wine can be hard to find, but it is worth the hunt. Try it with Ghou-lash. **\$75**