

FOOD & WINE

20 Excellent Bottles of Booze to Gift in 2020, According to Bartenders

Cuvée cask-aged single malts, Japanese plum whiskey, and a non-alcoholic botanical aperitif—bartenders reveal the bottles they hope to receive this year.

By [Dan Q. Dao](#) | Updated December 02, 2020

This holiday season, consider helping your family and friends restock their depleted home bars and bottle collections with new, intriguing, and sophisticated offerings from around the globe. To curate our list, we connected with some of the top bartenders in the country (and beyond) to find out which standout bottle they hope to find in their Christmas stocking this year—plus, how they would sip it or mix it.

Alfred Giraud Heritage French Malt Whiskey

Cognac may be the best known brown spirit out of France, but family-owned distiller Alfred Giraud is betting on whiskey. After nearly hundred years of experience crafting cognac, they introduced a French malt whisky portfolio in 2019. Released just last year, Heritage is made, naturally, by blending three French malts, then aging the liquid in French and American new oak casks as well as erstwhile cognac casks. “Notes of honey, lemon zest, jasmine, and pears play very nicely with soda for an aperitif but it also works as a digestif at the end of a meal, perhaps with a cigar even if you're so inclined,” says Juan Carlos Santana, beverage director at L’Atelier de Joel Robuchon and Le Jardinier in Miami. “For a holiday spin, we make a spiced syrup with cinnamon, clove, ginger, anise, and nutmeg that works with the whiskey in everything from an old fashioned to a hot toddy.” \$149.99 at [wine.com](#)

