

# Thanksgiving wine – a bottle for each course



Dessert and sparkling wines are perfect on Thanksgiving. Photos/Après Wine Company

**By Barb Tenney**

With so many dishes on the table, it can be challenging to find the perfect wines to pair with Thanksgiving dinner.

And with only five days until the big meal, now is the time to figure out what you will be drinking.



There is still time

to sample wine  
before  
Thanksgiving.

Since the only turkey on the table should be the bird, here's a simple guide to help you find the right wines to serve.

White wines are the usual "go to" Thanksgiving selection, but there are a number of reds that work well for the occasion. The best red wines for Thanksgiving are fruit forward varieties like Pinot Noir, Zinfandel or Grenache/Rhone blend. They don't overwhelm the day's star (Mr. Turkey) and marry well with the sweeter side dishes like cranberries and sweet potatoes.

Suggested whites include Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Grigio or Chardonnay. They also complement the main dish and pair nicely with savory sides like green beans and Brussels sprouts.

To add festiveness on Thanksgiving, don't hesitate to add bubbly and dessert wines to the mix. Champagnes and sparkling wines go with every course and are the perfect vehicle to toast your hosts.

Like pumpkin pie, dessert wines are a sweet way to end the day.

In the end, pick the wines you like best whatever the varietal. It's a celebration of thanks and a day of enjoyment. Cheers!

### **Thanksgiving wine pairing suggestions:**

- **Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy and Cranberries**

White: Riesling, Gewürztraminer

Red: Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Grenache/Rhône blends

Bubbly: Champagne, Sparkling Wine, Prosecco

- **Potatoes, Yams, Sweet Potatoes and Corn**

White: Chardonnay

Red: Zinfandel, Grenache/ Rhône Blends

- **Green Beans, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Other Greens**

White: Pinot Gris, Pinot Grigio

- **Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie, Pecan Pie, Desserts**

Dessert: Port, Ice Wine

Bubbly: Champagne, Sparkling Wine, Prosecco.

For specific suggestions please see us at Après Wine Company. Many wines are available to sample before you buy to ensure they're the perfect match.

*Barb Tenney is owner of Après Wine Company on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe.*