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KNACKERED MOTHERS' WINE CLUB

BY HELEN
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BARGAIN OF THE WEEK: *Tesco Finest Vintage Champagne 2007, £19.99 until 3 Dec (normally £24.99), Tesco*

I KNOW £20 is a lot but this is a gem. Made from Chardonnay grapes grown in top-rated Grand Cru vineyards, the elegant Blanc de Blancs is one to tuck away for Christmas Day.

WHITE WINE: *Les Closiers Chateauneuf du Pape 2011, £17.99, M&S*

THIS lovely white is a blend that includes

Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette and Picpoul grapes. The result is a fruit bomb of peach, apple and apricot flavours. There's a kick of spice, too.

FOOD PAIRING: Garlicky roast chicken.

RED WINE: *Ramos Reserva 2011, £8.49, Majestic*

RED wines from Portugal are really hitting the spot at the moment. This bramble-fruit loaded, spicy red is a blend of

Trincadeira, Aragonez and Shiraz grapes.

FOOD PAIRING: One for sausages and mash.

FORTIFIED WINE: *Sainsbury's Taste The Difference Pedro Ximenez 12yo, £7.99 (50cl)*
Think of this as liquid pudding. It's very, very sweet – almost like treacle in texture and colour, but with flavours of dried fruits.

FOOD PAIRING: Anything really sweet.

■ *The Knackered Mother's Wine Club, by Helen McGinn (£12.99, Pan Macmillan)*