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The first two wines that I want to talk about come from a company called Octavin Home Wine Bar. They have created a series of 3-liter box wines that represent values from around the world. A 3-liter box wine is the equivalent to 4 regular bottles and typically represents outstanding values. In 2009, table wine sales in the U.S. rose just 2% while premium box wine sales increased a whopping 24%.

2009 Silver Birch Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 3-liter Box, \$19.99 In an earlier article I talked about the over-supply of wine coming out of New Zealand because of the popularity of the zesty, crisp, refreshing Sauvignon Blanc from the region of Marlborough. More and more vineyards were planted during the 2000s to keep up with demand, and then the recession hit. Consumption went down, and supply of wine continued to rise. Prices for grapes dropped, and the result is this awesome value-packed 3-liter box from Silver Birch. It is everything you expect from New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc at about half the price. Perfect for summertime consumption at home, the lake or almost anywhere.

Bodegas Osborne Seven Red Blend 3 Liter Box, \$19.99 Bodegas Osborne is a large winery that sources grapes from many regions within Spain. The Seven Red 3-liter Box Wine is a blend of, you guessed it, seven grape varieties that include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Petit Verdot, Tempranillo, Grenache and Graciano. You get the best of both worlds in this box wine. There is the old-world earthiness from the Tempranillo, Grenache and Graciano that perfectly blends with the Cabernet, Merlot and Syrah and Petit Verdot. What you end up with is a smooth, medium-bodied red that is perfect for light hors d'oeuvres or traditional tapas dishes.