

865+ WINES REVIEWED

WINE CITIES TO WATCH

BORDEAUX BARGAIN WINE

ITALY'S ABRUZZO

WINE ENTHUSIAST

NOVEMBER 2018

TOP 100 BEST BUYS

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New Delhi

India

A major tourist destination thanks to its monuments and cuisine, New Delhi also offers an unexpected foray into wine culture. The sommeliers in top hotels and restaurants are knowledgeable, enthusiastic and highly trained. And, perhaps unlike other emerging wine destinations, quality crystal stemware is the norm.

While wine regulations in India are complex, and many casual spots don't have a license to serve the beverage, restaurants within international or luxury hotels as well as fine-dining destinations will impress with expansive offerings and diverse cellars. Indian bottlings produced in Nashik and Nandi Hills, especially Shiraz, Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc, are some of the best and most authentic options, and often come at a more accessible price point due to the high tariffs that are placed on wine imports. Look for wines from Sula Vineyards, Vallonné Vineyards, Grover Zampa Vineyards, York Winery and Chandon India.

One of the best spots to find regional cuisine is the **ITC Maurya hotel** (right), which hides behind high walls in Chanakyapuri, an affluent neighborhood that's also considered the city's embassy district. Five restaurants, a tea lounge and an elegant wood-paneled bar offer a variety of tempting options, which includes two of India's top eateries, Bukhara and Dum Pukht. Also, the **Food Sherpa** Street Food Trail tour is not to be missed.

Other spots with excellent wine and food are **Indian Accent** (an outpost of the New York-based restaurant), **Perch Wine & Coffee Bar** and **Qla**. —M.D.

COURTESY OF ITC MAURYA