

MJ Approved: Tasting Room Wine Samplers

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For the wine novices, picky drinkers, and curious foodies in your life, give the gift of **Tasting Room Wine Samplers** this holiday season.

by Tyghe Trimble

The folks at **Tasting Room** have finally found an appropriate venue to drink from airplane wine bottles — one that's moves away from the hotel fridge, out of the stewardess's grasp, and into your the familiar comforts of your home. So for those who want to try a number of takes on a single varietal, the best from a favorite winery, or a hand-picked selection from a wine know-it-all — but don't want to spring for six bottles that you might not like — there's **the Tasting Room's 50 milliliter six-pack**. Tasting Room packs these wines themselves at an anaerobic sample

Tasting Room offers some 450 bottles from 250 wineries, with samplers curated by Mario Batali, Michael Chiarello, and Rajat Parr.

transfer facility in California. That means their list doesn't just include the big guns who can afford to take on such projects. Right now, the company offers some 450 bottles from 250 wineries, with samplers curated by **Mario Batali**, **Michael Chiarello**, and **Rajat Parr**. "The list is very impressive," says **Patrick Cappiello**, wine director for **Gilt New York**, "and there are plenty of small producers represented."

LOVE IT: Above all, samples make great gifts — for wine novices, the picky drinker, or the curious foodie. And at \$20 to \$40, they're as cheap as a bottle that might miss the mark.

LEAVE IT: A 50-milliliter glass is enough to get a sense of a wine's nose and flavor, but it's only one-third the size of an airplane bottle. Don't expect to pass sips around or make this a party favor — it's just for exploring.

[\$20 to \$40; tastingroom.com]

To receive 25% off any sampler under \$30, enter the promotional code MJ25OFF at tastingroom.com. Please note: Doesn't include shipping and taxes. Does not apply to gift cards, super flights, club membership. Limited to one use per customer. Offer Expires 12/31/2011.