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9 comforting wines to warm up your winter

By Press Association

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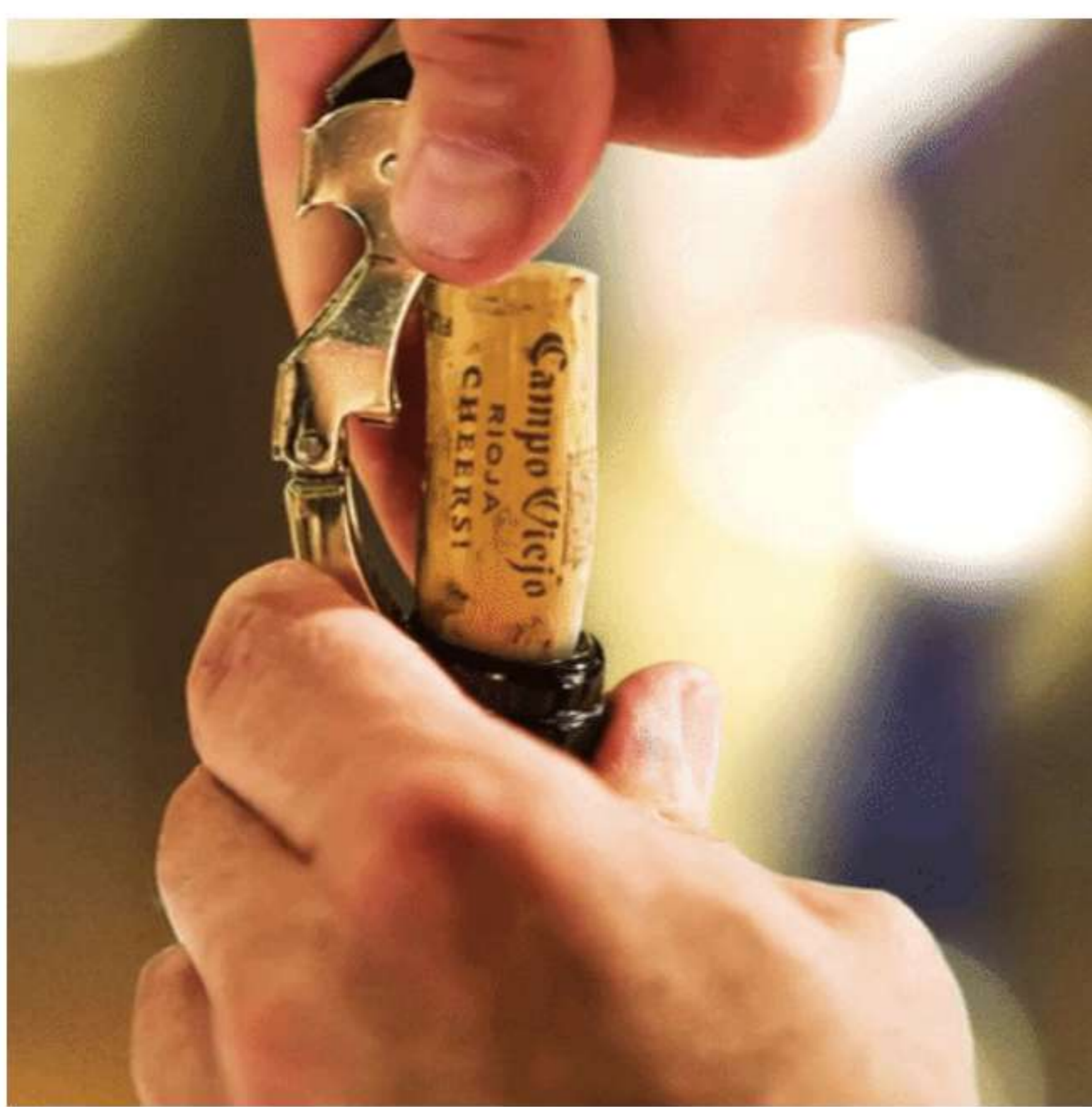
It's cold, it's dark, and everyone's feeling very 'January'. So, rather than totally give up drinking for a month (unless you want to, of course), why not make a deliciously warming glass of wine an end-of-week treat you can look forward to?

Pop a log on the fire, cosy up under a blanket and sup on a velvety-rich red while you chat with friends, read a good book or catch up on some telly. Care to join me?

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"Drinking less, but better, is a key winter theme for wines," says Deborah Zbinden, communication and consumer marketing manager at wine company Hatch Mansfield. And although a great Chablis can pair perfectly with a hearty fish pie, champagne pops with deliciousness as we tuck into cheese and we all continue to glug back the rosé, it's the season for ravishing reds, says Jamie Matthewson, buying manager for wines at Waitrose & Partners.



"For many, red wine is the go-to during winter," he says. "Who doesn't want something rich and full when it's chilly outside? I love a Terre di Faiano Organic Primitivo for this reason."

It's a great time to try new wines as well, notes Marks & Spencer wine specialist Beth Kelly: "Our Appassimento Rosso Puglia Rocca Pagliara is from Puglia at the foot of Italy, a region that specialises in rich, powerful wines which are perfect for winter.

"Malbec may usually be associated with Argentina but it's also grown elsewhere – we have delicious examples from Bordeaux and Chile. Or try a wine from a famous region's neighbour – the villages in the Rhone, which surround Chateaufort-du-Pape, offer great value for money but the same rich, full-bodied character, such as Lirac."

Here are nine beautiful bottles to get you through the gloomiest month of the year...

3. Hacienda Cunaco Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon 2018, £6.99 (was £8.99), Aldi (currently only available online)



(Aldi/PA)

This wine has spent 10 months in French barrels, giving it an intriguing smokiness, with bold blackcurrant notes. It's a classic Chilean Cabernet.

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