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Five cold weather red wines under \$18

by Peg Melnik

The chill of winter has its grip on Wine County, and the only civilized way to brace ourselves from the harsh winds of Mother Nature is to make a fire and uncork a red. There's no need to spend a fortune, as long as you find wines that over deliver. Here's a short list that won't disappoint.

Joel Gott, 2013 California Zinfandel, 14.4%, \$17.

This zin is just a touch sweet, but it works. It has notes of black cherry, plum and vanilla. Spicy finish. Great balance.

