



6 BEST TEQUILAS UNDER \$40: HOLIDAY 2016

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You know who knows best which bottles to buy for holiday gifting? The people who pour and sell drinks—that’s who. For 2016, we asked dozens of top bartending and spirits industry professionals to tell us which bottles they love and why.

Heads up: The numerical order below is not organized by importance or quality; it’s a list, not a ranking. Prices are averages and can vary state to state.

1. CHINACO BLANCO (\$38)



“It tastes so specifically of itself; there’s no other tequila like it. It’s creamy, briny and full of seashells. A great sipping blanco but also great in cocktails with grapefruit.”—Zac Overman, mixologist at Rob Roy and head bartender at Sitka & Spruce Bar

2. PUEBLO VIEJO BLANCO (\$25)



“One of the better budget tequilas. Great on its own and stands up well in cocktails.”—Michael J. Neff, bar director at [Holiday Cocktail Lounge](#)

3. MILAGRO REPOSADO (\$30)



“This is my favorite daily tequila sipper of all time. This reposado has a velvety mouthfeel with beautiful notes of vanilla, caramel and a whisper of tobacco at the finish. Stunning and way underpriced, but don’t tell anyone.”—Bob Peters, head mixologist at **The Punch Room** in The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte

4. CABEZA (\$40)



“Slightly higher proof than most tequilas to stand out in cocktails. Nice minerality with vanilla, cherry and paper notes. Shoot it or mix it—you won’t regret it.”—Ramon Garcia, lead bartender at Alchemist Bar & Lounge

5. SIEMBRA AZUL BLANCO (\$39)



“Hard to find a better-made highland tequila for the price.”—Neal Bodenheimer, mixologist at and co-owner of Cure and owner of Cane & Table and Café Henri

6. CIMARRÓN BLANCO (\$23)



“By a long shot, the best value in the tequila market—at a price that may disqualify it as a gift for some people.”—David Moo, owner of Quarter Bar