

MARNI

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“Cheers to that!”

“Moreover, most people don’t have the room or budget for a variety of shapes and sizes, so having that many different glasses is not only expensive, but also impractical,” said Geller, who himself – because of course I asked – has only four shapes of wine glasses at his house: two for reds, one for whites and one for champagne, which seems eminently reasonable.

“I want to demystify the wine glass so people can spend more time enjoying their wine and less time worrying about the vessel.”

“Me, too!” I added.

In keeping with my buy it once, buy it right motto, I asked for more specifics about this one-size-fits-all wine glass. Here’s what Geller said to look for:

- The just-right size. The universal wine glass, says Geller, should hold 13 ounces. If a glass is too big, you lose some aroma. If it’s too narrow, it won’t capture the bouquet. A 13-ounce glass leaves enough “nose room” for a 4-to-6-ounce pour. (That’s a serving, my friends. You’re not supposed to fill it up.)

- A pear shape. The perfect, all-around glass should be broader at the base than the rim. “The bowl shape brings out the aromas, which get diffused then brought together as the glass narrows,” said Geller. “Smelling the wine is the most important part of tasting wine. If you lose on the aroma, you lose on the taste as well. “

- Pick stems. Though stemless wine glasses have become trendy, avoid them. Glasses without stems force you to hold the bowl, which leaves fingerprints, so you can’t see the wine as well, and warms the wine, which you want to keep at serving temperature.

- Keep it simple. Although colored and etched glasses might look nice from a design perspective, they will take away from the appearance of the wine, which you want to see to appreciate, said Geller. Keep glasses clear.

- Make that crystal clear. As long as you’re buying only one set, splurge on crystal. To be considered crystal, glass must have at least 24 percent lead content, which allows it to be thinner and clearer. “A thick glass will take away from the experience,” said Geller. One way to determine if a glass is crystal is to gently tap it with a metal spoon. If you hear a long, high-pitched ping, it’s crystal. A short-lived clunk indicates glass.

- Avoid speed bumps. A good wine glass will have a very thin lip; cheaper ones have thick rims, or a bump around the edge that impedes flow.

- Wine glass 2.0. Though a one-size-fits-all glass is perfectly acceptable, those who have the room or interest and want to expand their stemware collection could consider a set of glasses for red wine, a set for white and a set for sparkling wine. “It’s all about surface area. Red wines have tannins and need to open up and breathe. A broader bowl provides more surface area for that,” said Geller. White wines don’t need to breathe as much and are served chilled, so the bowl of a white wine glass can be narrower, and the glass itself smaller, in the 10-ounce range. A narrower glass with slightly straighter sides helps white wine stay cooler. White wine glasses work for rosés, too. Tall, narrow glasses, or flutes, are ideal when pouring sparkling wine or champagne. Their slender shape “keeps the bubbly bubblier.”

Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson is the author of three home and lifestyle books, including “Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go” (Sterling Publishing). Reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

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