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NNintendo Wii Uintendo WiSony PlayStation Vitai U

Best Video Game Consoles of 2015

Updated January 23, 2015 8:30 AM PST

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It's finally time we can recommend purchasing a new or next-generation console. PlayStation 4 and Xbox One have officially hit their stride and odds are you can find a starter bundle that won't break the bank either.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeff Bakalar

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Sony PlayStation 4

The PlayStation 4's beautiful graphics, smart interface, blazing performance, near-perfect controller and better indie offerings give it a slight edge over the Xbox One as both consoles enter their second year.

Price: $399.00 - $399.99 Check prices

4

stars

EXCELLENT

Microsoft Xbox One

While the PS4 remains our overall preferred choice in the next-gen console race, the Xbox One's significant first-year course corrections -- including a welcome holiday price drop -- make it a better deal than ever, and a much better bargain than when it first debuted.

Price: $379.00 - $439.00 Check prices

3.5

stars

VERY GOOD

Sony PlayStation 3 Super Slim (250GB) Uncharted 3 Limited Edition Bundle

The latest PS3 slims down to its smallest size ever while retaining everything we like -- and a few things we don't -- about the PlayStation 3 gaming console.

Price: $300.00 Check prices

4

stars

EXCELLENT

Microsoft Xbox 360 E

The Xbox 360 remains a great video and gaming console, but fans will be better served by older 360 bundles -- or waiting for the Xbox One.

Price: $179.49 - $179.99 Check prices

3.5

stars

VERY GOOD

Nintendo 3DS XL

While it's no surprise Nintendo is super-sizing its 3D portable system, we're shocked it doesn't have a right stick.

Price: $163.90 Check prices

3.5

stars

VERY GOOD

Nintendo 2DS

At $130, the 2DS offers a huge array of compelling software and makes for a great entry-level gaming system to the uninitiated first-time gamer. Just be sure to buy a protective case along with it, too.

Price: $109.00 Check prices

3.5

stars

VERY GOOD

Sony PlayStation Vita

Overall, the PlayStation Vita is the most advanced portable gaming system ever made. While the price is deceiving because of a hidden cost, gamers are getting an impressively complete package. Now priced at $200, the Vita makes a compelling case as the ultimate indie portable console.

Price: $386.99 Check prices

4

stars

EXCELLENT

Nintendo Wii U Basic Set

Despite some clever dual-screen gaming mechanics, the Wii U's lack of compelling exclusive software and an overall unpolished user experience make it tough to recommend in its current state.

Price: $299.95 Check prices

3

stars

GOOD

See all consoles