

# RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



## — Conversations with New Master Sommeliers:

James Bube MS, Frederick Wildman & Sons Ltd. *pg. 3*

Rebecca Fineman MS, High Treason *pg. 6*

Jeremiah Morehouse MS, Gary Danko *pg. 10*

Joshua Nadel MS, NoHo Hospitality *pg. 14*

Aaron Patrick MS, The Club at Wingtip *pg. 20*

Jackson Rohrbaugh MS, Canlis *pg. 23*

Jonathan Ross MS, The Lucas Group *pg. 28*

David Yoshida MS, Pollux Wine *pg. 30*

## — STAR LISTINGS (800+ wines) *pg. 35*

USA: Exceptional 2014 & 2015 Pinot Noirs, *pg. 52*

2013 & 2014 Cabernet Sauvignons/blends, *pg. 45*

2016 Roses & Sauvignon Blancs *pg. 41*

Italy: Franciacorta's Big Upswing in Quality *pg. 75*

Focus on Montefalco – Fine whites & reds *pg. 89*

Argentina: Top Malbecs & Cabernet Sauvignons *pg. 62*

Australia: Superb Shirazs, Grenaches, Cabernets *pg. 64*

Outstanding Values: Chile, France, South Africa

**AUSTRALIA**—Quite startling (and reassuring) how **Wakefield Estate's** wines are not only extremely consistent in quality from vintage to vintage, but also deliver great value, from its moderately priced **Promised Land** wines through its top end The Visionary and The Pioneer bottlings. Here, we strongly recommend (i.e., rate 5-stars) the company's Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Shiraz in its Wakefield Estate range; its Cabernet Sauvignon under the **Jaraman** label; and all three of its single vineyard designated Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Shiraz that bear the **St. Andrews** designation—an extraordinary showing.

**Langmeil Winery** is one of **Barossa's** best, and a Shiraz specialist. Two that we can't praise enough are its 2014 Valley Floor Shiraz and 2015 Orphan Bank Shiraz—remarkable wines, at highly competitive prices . . . **Langmeil's** 2015 The Fifth Wave Grenache is a ripe, complex, rich old vine bottling that should not be missed . . . **Kay Brothers** makes one of Australia's most esteemed old vine Shirazs, from the Amery Block 6 Vineyard, planted in 1892. The 2014 is an amazing wine, and, relative to other similarly priced wines from around the world, a stunning value.

**AUSTRIA**—The 2016 vintage yielded many excellent wines. Two great single vineyard **Gruner Veltliner** values to consider are those from **Biohof Pratsch** (Ried Steinberg) and **Domane Wachau** (Ried Achleiten) . . . **Domane Wachau's** 2016 Riesling from **Ried Achleiten** is also a superb wine—and a fine value.

**CHILE**—Recent 'top value discoveries' from Chile include the 2016 **Meli Dry Riesling**—from 70 year old, ungrafted vines; **Falernia's**, 2013 Carmenere-Syrah Reserva; and **Los Maquis'** 2014 Cabernet Franc Gran Reserva—and all are under, \$160/case wholesale . . . At the high end, **Apaltagua's** 2014 Grial is a splendid, limited production Carmenere bottling, from 70 year old vines.

**FRANCE**—**Vincent Careme's** 2015 Vouvray Sec is a terrific wine, as is **JP & M Auvigne's** 2015 Solutre, Pouilly-Fuisse . . . Corsica's dry roses are among France's best—for proof, try the 2016 **Domaine Orenge de Gaffory** Patrimonio Rose or 2016 **Domaine Vico/Clos Venturi** Vin de Corse Rose . . . Two outstanding southern France red wines are the 2016 **Domaine de la Reserve d'O**, Cuvee Bilbo (Languedoc) and **Chateau Maris'** 2015 La Touge (Minervois) . . . In a lighter style and at lower cost, the 2016 **Mont Gravet** Carignan Vieilles Vignes (Pays d'Herault) is a great 'little wine'.

**ITALY**—**Franciacorta** has made significant strides in wine quality during the past decade, and its current offerings are—easily—the best to date. Here, we recommend bottlings from **Barone Pizzini**, **Bonfadini**, **Corte Fusia**, **Elisabetta Abrami**, **La Montina**, **Lantieri**, and **Majolini** (all with USA importers)—and two without: **Franca Contea** and **Plozza**.

**Umbria** is an Italian wine region on the upswing. Greater focus on its white wines—including Montefalco Bianco, Montefalco Grechetto, and Spoleto—has yielded an increasing number of quality wines; among them, **Antonelli's** 2016 Trebium Spoleto, **Perticaia's** 2015 Del Posto Spoleto, and **Broccatelli's** 2016 Nido del Falco, Montefalco Grechetto . . . Montefalco Rosso, though, remains the

region's calling card—noteworthy bottlings include **Antonelli's** 2014, **Colpetrone's** 2014, **Perticaia's**, 2014, and **Pardi's** 2015 . . . **Montefalco Sagrantino** is one of Italy's greatest red wines. Outstanding recent versions include those from **Arnaldo Caprai** (2011, 2012), **Pardi** (2013), and **Perticaia** (2012).

Other notable Italian red wines from leading producers that are highly recommended: **Villa Matilde's** 2012 Tenuta Rocca dei Leoni, Agliancio, Campania IGP; Barberas from **Conterno Fantino** (2015 Vignota) and **Luigi Einaudi** (2015 del Piemonte); Dolcettos from **Conterno Fantino** (2016 Bricco Bastia) and **Luca Bosio** (2016); Barolos from **Ca' Rome'** (2013 Ceretta), **Conterno Fantino** (2013 Mosconi, Vigns Ped), **Luigi Einaudi** (2013 Terlo, Vigna Costa Grimaldi), and **Ettore Germano** (2010 Lazzarito, Riserva).

Terrific 2013 Chianti Classicos include those from **Castello di Albola** (Gran Selezione), **Castello di Meleto** (Vigna Casi Riserva), **Fattoria della Aiola** (both Annata and Riserva), **I Collazzi** (I Bastioni), **Molino di Grace**, and **Podere Torcillacqua**. Three other top Tuscan Sangiovese-based wines are the 2015 Le Foccaie (Maremma Toscana) from **Rocca di Montemassi**; the 2012 Sotto Casa Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva from **Boscarelli** (stunning wine); and the 2012 Poggiarelli Brunello di Montalcino from **La Manella**.

**NEW ZEALAND**—**Mt. Beautiful** more than lives up to its name in terms of wine quality—its latest releases (Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Rose, Pinot Noir) are first rate, and wonderful values . . . Meanwhile, **Escarpment Vineyard** has proven to be one of New Zealand's top Pinot Noir producers. The latest overwhelming evidence: its quartet of stunning single vineyard wines (Kiwa, Kupe, Pahi, Te Rehua) from the fine 2015 vintage.

**PORTUGAL**—The Douro is commanding more and more attention (and accolades) for its dry wines, which are among the very best in Portugal. They are also getting better by the year. One excellent, great value white is **Quinta de la Rosa's** 2015 La Rosa White (Douro) . . . **Quinta Nova's** 2015 Terroir Blend is a new red wine from one of the Douro's most dynamic wineries. The 2015 is extremely intense and complex in character, and beautifully balanced—a very seductive style . . . **Locations'** P4 is another exceptional, pioneering red wine from California vintner Dave Phinney (who produces Locations wines from seven countries). The wine is a blend of three varietals from the Douro and Alentejo; it is intensely flavored, beautifully balanced, and very reasonably priced.

**SOUTH AFRICA**—Question: Name three benchmark red wines from South Africa? We would include these three: **Glenelly**, Lady May Cabernet Sauvignon (2011); **De Toren** Fusion V (2014); and **Simonsig** Redhill Pinotage (2014).

**SPAIN**—Let's talk Rioja Tempranillo: **Bujanda** Reserva (2011) & Gran Reserva (2010). **Carlos Serres** Crianza (2013) and Old Vines Cosecha (2015). **Eguia** Cosecha (2015). **Muriel**, Finca de la Villa Crianza (2014). **Valpiedras**, Cantos Crianza (2013) and Reserva (2010). Rioja in a nutshell: vastly improving quality, great value.

**CHARMAT PROCESS SPARKLING WINE — High Priced:  
\$145-\$280/case (\$18.10-\$35/btl. full retail)**

**BERVINI, 2016 EXTRA DRY, PROSECCO, \$152 (\$19) ★★★★★**  
Very good Prosecco: fresh and fruity in character (pear, lemon peel, almond), it is light-medium bodied, crisp, balanced, and of medium length on the finish. 11% [2018] Wine Trees, Santa Rosa, CA 707.200.2859

**CASA VINICOLA CANELLA**

• **2016 EXTRA DRY, CONEGLIANO ★★★★★**  
**VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO SUPERIORE, \$168 (\$21)**

• **BRUT, PROSECCO, \$152 (\$19) ★★★★★**  
These are very fine Proseccos. The Extra Dry derives from the original (and best) Prosecco zone. It is delicately flavored, with fine character (pear, almond, lemon peel, peach), medium body, good balance, and a medium long finish. Excellent value. 62,500 cases. 11% ♦ The Brut Prosecco is excellent: round, medium bodied, and ripely flavored (peach, pear, lemon peel, grapefruit), with good depth and balance, and a medium long finish. 8,333 cases. 11% [2018] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**METODO CLASSICO SPARKLING WINES - Medium Priced:  
\$105-\$240/case (\$13.10 to \$30/btl. full retail)**

**AZ. AGR. PODERI VAIOT DI VIGNA LUCIANA, ★★★★★**  
**VAL DEL MORO, ITALY, \$100/6 (\$25)**

Excellent. Light gold color, with a very slight rust hue. Full bodied and medium rich, it is also complex, tasting of ripe grapes, almond, lime, pineapple, aniseed, roasted nut, candied lemon, and raspberry. Well balanced and long on the finish. Excellent: displays the fragrance and fruit of Arneis and the depth and length of Nebbiolo. 60% Arneis, 40% Nebbiolo. Aged 36 months on the yeast. Disgorged 2017. 13% [2018-2019] www.poderivaiot.it

**VITICOLTURE SOC. AGR. COSTARIPA**

• **MATTIA VEZZOLA, BRUT, ITALIA, \$224 (\$28) ★★★★★**  
• **MATTIA VEZZOLA, BRUT ROSE, ITALIA, ★★★★★**  
**\$224 (\$28)**

These are impressive metodo classico sparkling wine from Costaripa. The Brut is made entirely from Chardonnay, grown in Garda and Franciacorta. It is excellent; like a good Blanc de Blancs Champagne: light yellow color with a greenish tint, and fruity and fine in character (pineapple, lemon peel, roasted nut, white peach, grapefruit). On the palate it is medium full bodied, crisp, with moderately intense, and long and vibrant on the finish. Aged 24 months on the yeast. 12.5% ♦ The Rose is very fine: delicately flavored (strawberry, sour cherry, honeysuckle, pineapple), medium full bodied, well balanced, and medium long on the finish. Excellent value. 80% Chardonnay, 20% Pinot Nero. 35% barrel fermented. [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**ITALIAN WHITE WINES— Medium Priced:  
\$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)**

**ASCEVI LUWA, CEROU RONCO SUPERIORE, ★★★★★**  
**2016 PINOT GRIGIO, COLLIO, \$144 (\$18)**

Exceptional: a supple, complex Pinot Grigio of very fine quality. It has fine flavor and balance, and a very long, crisp finish, tasting of pear, apple, lemon peel, honey, and roasted nut. Great value. Aged 6 months in stainless steel tanks. 2,200 cases. 13% [2018-2019] Quintessential, Napa, CA 707.226.8300

**AZ. VITIVINICOLA PODERI VAIOT, ★★★★★**  
**2016 ARNEIS, ROERO, \$72/6 (\$18)**

Light gold-yellow color. Very distinct and elegant in character, this is an exceptional wine at the price. It is full bodied, round, ripely flavored (honeydew melon, linden blossom, passion fruit, pink grapefruit, pineapple, honey), crisp, and a medium long on the finish. Great value. Unwooded. 14% [2018-2019] www.poderivaiot.it

**BELLAFINA, VINO BIANCO SECCO, ITALIA, ★★★★★**  
**\$88 (\$11)**

Screw cap. A crisp, fizzy, dry wine that has delicate fruity aromas/flavors (lime, peach, honey), good balance, and a medium long finish. Very good value. 11.5% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

**FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO, 2016 FALANGHINA ★★★★★**  
**DEL SANNIO, \$168 (\$21)**

Excellent. This DOC Falanghina is an elegant wine: round, full bodied, and moderately intense in flavor, with good balance, and a medium long finish, tasting of pear, honeysuckle, lemon peel, and white peach. Aged 5 months in stainless steel tanks. 13% [2018] Terlato Wines Int'l, Chicago, IL 847.604.8900

**GIO, 2016 PINOT GRIGIO DELLE VENEZIE (IGT), ★★★★★**  
**\$96 (\$12)**

Very good Pinot Grigio: round, medium bodied, balanced, and moderately intense in flavor (pear, lemon peel, almond), with a lingering finish. Fine value. Unwooded. 12% [2018-2019] Wine Trees, Santa Rosa, CA 707.200.2859

**LA FIERA**

• **2016 MOSCATO, TERRE SICILIANE (IGT), ★★★★★**  
**\$80 (\$10)**

• **2016 PINOT GRIGIO, VENETO (IGT), \$80 (\$10) ★★★★★**  
Both wines have screw cap closures. The Moscato is very good: medium sweet and light medium bodied, it is lightly fizzy, smoothly textured, and medium long on the palate, with a lingering finish, tasting of apricot skin, honeysuckle, pineapple, lime, and peach. 10.5% ♦ The Pinot Grigio is medium bodied, round, balanced, moderately intense in flavor (pear, almond, white flowers), and lingering on the finish. 12% Both wines are very good values. [2018] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

**LE CASEMATTE, 2016 GRILLO, ★★★★★**  
**TERRE SICILIANE (IGP), \$144 (\$18)**

An excellent wine: round, medium full bodied, and fragrant, with peach, lime, and orange blossom aromas/flavors, good balance, and a medium length finish. Fine value. 12.5% [2018] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**MASSERIA ALTEMURA – Salento (IGT)**

• **2016 FALANGHINA, \$72/6 (\$18) ★★★★★**  
• **2016 FIANO, \$72/6 (\$18) ★★★★★**

Masseria Altemura is producing excellent, contemporary wines at attractive prices. Here the Falanghina (unwooded) is full bodied, supple, and intensely flavored (pear, roasted nut, lemon peel, almond, honey), crisp, and medium long on the finish. 13.5% ♦ The Fiano is exceptional: a refined, dry, full bodied wine that is well balanced, moderately rich, and long on the finish, tasting of pear, pineapple, guava, lime, and jasmine. Long aftertaste. Aged 6 months on its lees in stainless steel tanks. 13% [2018-2019] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**MEZZACORONA, 2016 PINOT GRIGIO, ★★★★★**  
**TRENTINO, \$104 (\$13)**

Screw cap. Softly textured and medium full bodied, this is a fruity, balanced wine with a medium length finish, tasting of pear, lime, honeydew melon, and honey. Very good value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**PROPHECY, 2015 THE STAR, PINOT GRIGIO DELLE VENEZIE (IGT), \$108 (\$13.50)** ★★★★★

Screw cap. A ripe, supple, medium full bodied Pinot Grigio. It has intense fruit character (white peach, lemon peel, pineapple), good balance, and a smooth, long finish. Excellent value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Prophecy Wines, Hayward, CA 877.628.4462

**REVERSANTI, 2016 MOSCATO D'ASTI, \$136 (\$17)** ★★★★★

Extremely aromatic and fresh in character, this is a medium sweet, light bodied wine with good balance and a very long finish, tasting of candied lime, honeysuckle, white peach, jasmine, clove, and apple. Fine value. 5.5% [2018] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**ROCCA DI MONTEMASSI, 2016 CALASOLE, VERMENTINO, MAREMMA TOSCANA, \$72/6 (\$18)** ★★★★★

Fine Vermentino: round, crisp, and medium full bodied, it is distinctly flavored (grapefruit, peach, lemon grass, honey), well balanced, and medium long on the finish. Excellent value. Aged 6 months on the lees in stainless steel tanks. 12.5% [2018-2019] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**STEMMARI, 2016 GRILLO, SICILIA, \$110 (\$13.75)** ★★★★★

Screw cap. Excellent quality and value, this is a round, fruity, crisp wine that is well balanced, and fairly long on the finish, tasting of apple, pear, lime, and honey. Aged 5 months in steel tanks. 13% [2018-2019] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**TENUTA DI CORTE GIACOBBE, 2016 CORTE GIACOBBE, SOAVE, \$136 (\$17)** ★★★★★

Screw cap. A terrific Soave, and a fine value. It is an intensely flavored wine that is medium full bodied, crisp, well balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of pear, white peach, lime, grapefruit, and oak. Can be aged a bit. 100% Garganega. 24 hours cold soak. Aged 3 months in stainless steel tanks. 11,666 cases. 12.5% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**TIAMO**

- **2016 GRILLO, TERRE SICILIANE (IGT), \$112 (\$14)** ★★★★★

- **2016 PINOT GRIGIO, VENEZIA, \$112 (\$14)** ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures, and both are very good values. The Grillo is medium bodied and supple in texture; a wine with lemon peel, grapefruit, and honeysuckle aromas/flavors, and a long finish. Organic grapes. Unwooded. 12% ♦ The Pinot Grigio is round and medium bodied, with good depth of fruit (pear, white peach, apple), fine balance, and a very long finish. Organic grapes. 12% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

**TOLLOY, 2015 PINOT GRIGIO, ALTO ADIGE, \$134 (\$16.75)** ★★★★★

Very fine quality, this is a supple, ripely flavored Pinot Grigio, with distinct character (apple, pineapple, almond, honey, grapefruit), moderate richness, good balance, and a medium long finish. Excellent value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**VILLA MATILDE, TENUTA ROCCA DEI LEONI, 2016 FALANGHINA CAMPANIA (IGP), \$136 (\$17)** ★★★★★

Screw cap. An excellent Falanghina: finely flavored (peach, pear, aniseed, jasmine), medium bodied, and supple; a wine with good balance, moderate intensity, and a medium length finish. Great value. 100% Falanghina. Aged 3 months in stainless steel tanks. 6,666 cases. 12.5% [2018] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900



*Wholesale case price (9 liter case) is listed first: \$128. Retail per bottle price is listed in parentheses: (\$16).*

**ITALIAN WHITE WINES— High Priced:**  
**\$145-\$280/case (\$18.10-\$35/btl. full retail)**
**AZ. AGR. CASA ALLE VACCHE, 2016 I MACCHIONI, VERNACCIA DI SAN GIMIGNANO, \$162 (\$20.25)** ★★★★★

Fine quality Vernaccia. It is very ripe and distinct in character (honey, pear, melon, white pepper, grapefruit), supple in texture, and quite rich in flavor, with good balance and a long finish. Great value. From the winery's top Vernaccia plots. Unwooded. Aged in stainless steel tanks. 1,500 cases. 13.5% [2018-2019] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**AZ. AGR. COSTARIPA, 2016 PIEVECROCE, TREBBIANO DI LUGANA, LUGANA, \$184 (\$23)** ★★★★★

Outstanding Lugana: very distinct in character (pear, pineapple, lemon peel, jasmine, honeydew melon), supple in texture, and full bodied; an elegant, well balanced wine with some richness, and a long finish. Best version of this wine I have tasted. 100% Trebbiano di Lugana. From 25 to 50 year old vines. 65% stainless steel fermented; 35% fermented in oak barrels. 6,666 cases. 13% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**AZ. AGR. FILIPPO GALLINO, 2016 ARNEIS, ROERO, \$152 (\$19)** ★★★★★

Outstanding Arneis: very supple in texture, full bodied, and finely flavored, it is well balanced and long on the finish, tasting of pear, white peach, lemon peel, grapefruit, and honeysuckle. Great value. Unwooded. 1,167 cases. 14% [2018-2019] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**AZ. AGR. FRATELLI BUCCI, 2015 VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI CLASSICO SUPERIORE, \$192 (\$24)** ★★★★★

Fine Verdicchio: supple in texture and quite youthful in flavor, it is a full bodied, crisp, well balanced wine with elegant character (pear, lime, apple, white peach, roasted nut), and a long finish. Great value. Aged 4 months in oak casks. 6,250 cases. 13.5% [2018-2020] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**AZ. AGR. TERRE STREGATE, 2016 SVETLATO, FALANGHINA DEL SANNIO, \$162 (\$20.25)** ★★★★★

First rate Falanghina. It is ripe and intense in character (pear, apple, lime, grapefruit, almond, white peach), full bodied, crisp, very well balanced, and long and persistent on the finish. 13% [2018-2019] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**AZ. AGR. VIRGONA, 2016 SALINA BIANCO (IGP), \$216 (\$27)** ★★★★★

An excellent wine: very fruity and floral in character (orange blossom, litichi nut, peach, apple, clove, lemon peel), it is medium full bodied, supple in texture, and medium long on the finish. Fine value. 90% Malvasia, 5% Insolia, 5% Catarratto. 12.5% [2018-2019] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**CANTINE DI SANTA SOFIA, 2016 PINOT GRIGIO, GARDA, \$76/6 (\$19)** ★★★★★

An elegant Pinot Grigio: fragrant and distinct in character (pear, lime, almond, honey, pineapple), it is round, medium bodied, balanced, and medium long on the finish. Excellent value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Duggan's Distillers (Blauvelt, NY) & Opera Wine Imports (Pennsauken, NJ)

*The wines included here are the highest rated of all those we taste—and account for only 30% to 40% of all wines tasted, percentages in line with 'award wines' at leading international wine competitions.*



**CARLO HAUNER, 2016 SALINA BIANCO (IGP), ★★★★★  
\$152 (\$19)**

A softly textured blend that is medium full in body, somewhat complex in character (pear, white peach, jasmine, lemon grass), balanced, and long on the finish. Fine value. 60% Inzolia, 40% Catarratto 1,666 cases. 12.5% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**D'ANTICHE TERRE AZ. AGR**

- **2016 FIANO DI AVELLINO, \$180 (\$22.50) ★★★★★**
- **2016 GRECO DI TUFO, \$172 (\$21.50) ★★★★★**

The 2016 Fiano is a very good wine: it is supple, full bodied, and finely flavored (lemon peel, pear, honeysuckle, white peach), with good depth and balance, and a medium long finish. Unwooded. 13% ♦ The Greco is finer still: round and full bodied, it is intensely flavored, crisp, and long on the palate, with a lingering finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of apple, lime, honey, and lemon grass. 13% [2018-2019] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**EUGENIO COLLAVINI VITICOLTORE**

- **2015 TURIAN, RIBOLLA GIALLA, COLLI ORIENTALI DEL FRIULI, \$132/6 (\$33) ★★★★★**
- **2015 BENEDETE, RIBOLLA GIALLA DELLE VENEZIE (IGT), \$132/6 (\$33) ★★★★★**

These are very fine examples of Ribolla Gialla. The Turian bottling is delicately flavored, medium bodied, crisp, and lightly toasty, it is long on the palate and lingering on the finish, and tastes of candied lemon, passion fruit, mint, and wood. Can be aged a bit. Aged 6+ months in stainless steel tanks. 12.5% ♦ The Benedete is subtle but very elegant in flavor, crisp, very long on the palate, and zesty on the finish, tasting of lemon peel, pineapple, grapefruit, and pear. Exceptional. 12.5% [2018-2020] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO**

- **2016 GRECO DI TUFO, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**
- **2016 FIANO DI AVELLINO, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**

This Campania winery is one of the best known in southern Italy—and these are excellent wines. The Greco is full bodied and crisp, with good depth of fruit (pear, white peach, lemon grass), nice balance, and a medium long finish. Aged 4 months in stainless steel tanks. 12.5% ♦ The Fiano is delicious: supple in texture, refined in flavor, and well balanced; a wine with moderate richness, pear, guava, honey, and honeysuckle aromas/flavors, and a medium long finish. Aged 4 months in stainless steel tanks. 13% [2018-2019] Terlato Wines Int'l, Chicago, IL 847.604.8900

**FEUDO PRINCIPI DI BUTERA**

- **2016 INSOLIA, SICILIA (IGP), \$76/6 (\$19) ★★★★★**
- **2015 SERO, INSOLIA SICILIA, \$140/6 (\$35) ★★★★★**

Two excellent wines from this fine producer. The Insolia is fresh and elegant in style. It is full bodied, subtle but fine in flavor (pear, apple, honeysuckle, star fruit, white peach), good balance, and a medium long finish. Very fine quality. Aged 6 months on the lees in stainless steel tanks. 13% ♦ The Sero Insolia is a complex, ripely flavored wine (orange blossom, lime, pear, candied lemon), that is lightly oaked (vanilla, toast), full bodied, and well balanced, with a long finish. Warrants modest aging. Impressive! 50% barrel fermented. Aged 7 months: 50% in stainless steel tanks, 50% in oak casks. 13% [2018-2021] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**LE CASEMATTE, 2016 PELORO BIANCO, ★★★★★  
GRILLO & CARICANTE, TERRE SICILIANE  
(IGP), \$168 (\$21)**

Excellent blend: supple, full bodied, and fairly intense in flavor, it is a balanced, finely flavored wine with a long finish, tasting of pear, white peach, honeysuckle, lemon peel, and lemon grass. Excellent value. 65% Grillo, 35% Caricante. Unwooded. 1,250 cases. 13% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**LUCA BOSIO VINEYARDS**

- **2016 GAVI, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★**
- **2016 ARNEIS LANGHE, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★**

The Gavi is a medium bodied, crisp, delicately flavored wine, tasting of white peach, honey, pineapple, and pear. It is crisp, and medium long on the finish. Aged 3 months in stainless steel tanks. Very good quality. 16,000 cases. 12% ♦ The Arneis is excellent: fragrant, supple, and finely flavored (lime, banana, honey, candied lemon, pineapple, grapefruit), it is well balanced and long on the finish. Fine value. 24 hour skin contact. Aged 5 months in stainless steel tanks. 5,000 cases. 13% [2018-2019] Quintessential, Napa, CA 707.226.8300

**MEZZACORONA, 2016 VIGNETI CLIFFHANGER ★★★★★  
VINEYARDS, PINOT GRIGIO, TRENTINO,  
\$154 (\$19.25)**

Excellent: an elegant, supple Pinot Grigio that is full bodied, well balanced, finely flavored (almond, pear, lemon peel, white peach), and long and crisp on the finish. Excellent. 13% [2018-2019] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**NITTARDI, 2016 BEN, VERMENTINO, ★★★★★  
TOSCANA (IGT), \$208 (\$26)**

A vibrant, full bodied Vermentino that is crisp and long on the palate, with zesty aromas/flavors, reminiscent of lime, lemon grass, white peach, and almond. Long aftertaste. Great value. Unwooded. Aged 4 months in stainless steel tanks. No ML. 14% [2018-2020] Louis Gluntz Wines (IL) & Weygandt Selections (NY)

**STEMMARI, 2015 DALILA RISERVA, SICILIA, ★★★★★  
\$76/6 (\$19)**

A fruity, full bodied blend. It is round, crisp, lightly oaked, and balanced, with a smooth, medium length finish, tasting of apple, lemon peel, honey, pear, and spicy oak. Excellent value. 80% Grillo, 20% Viognier. Aged 12 months—Grillo only in stainless steel tanks; Viognier for 8 months in French oak barrels. 13% [2018-2019] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**TENUTE DI ALTAVILLA**

- **2016 GRECO DI TUFO, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★**
- **2016 FIANO DI AVELLINO, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**

This winery and vineyards were rented by Villa Matilde until late 2014. Since then, the winery has come into its own, as these wines reflect. The Greco is supple, full bodied, intensely flavored (peach, grapefruit, honeysuckle, guava), well balanced, and long on the finish. Grapes cryomacerated before pressing. Aged 4 months in stainless steel tanks. 1,833 cases. 13.5% ♦ The Fiano is also exceptional: supple, rich, and full bodied, with excellent flavor and balance, and a very long finish, tasting of pear, guava, passion fruit, and white peach. Grapes cryomacerated before pressing. Aged 4 months in stainless steel tanks. 1,833 cases. 13.5% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**ITALIAN WHITE WINES— Expensive:  
\$281-\$600/case (\$35.10-\$75/btl. full retail)**

**AZ. AGR. FRATELLI BUCCI, 2014 VILLA ★★★★★  
BUCCI, VERDICCHIO DI CASTELLI DI JESI  
CLASSICO RISERVA, \$238/6 (\$59.50)**

Delicious: supple, intensely flavored, and crisp, this is an outstanding Verdicchio Riserva. It is very complex in flavor (green apple, baked bread, vanilla, lemon peel, honey), and very long and lingering on the finish. First rate. Aged 18+ months in Slavonian and French oak barrels. 1,666 cases. 13.5% [2018-2021] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

*Labels and images that appear in all issues are not paid advertisements.*

## ROCCA DI MONTEMASSI



**ROCCA DI MONTEMASSI, 2015 LE FOCCAIE, MAREMMA TOSCANA, \$72/6 (\$18)** ★★★★★

Very fine quality and value. A ripe, supple, fairly rich Sangiovese with good balance and flavor (cherry, red currant, toast, rosehips), and a medium long finish. Will be better next year. 100% Sangiovese. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels. 13.5% [2018-2021] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

## TIAMO, 2015 CHIANTI, \$112 (\$14)

★★★★+

A very good wine: round, full bodied, and fruity and spicy in flavor, tasting of plum, red currant, pepper, and herbs. It is balanced, and crisp on the finish. Organic grapes. 90% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Unoaked. Aged 12 months in stainless steel tanks. 13.5% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

## TOSCOLO, 2016 CHIANTI, \$104 (\$13)

★★★★

Screw cap. Excellent value, this is a fruity, medium full bodied Chianti that is moderately intense in flavor (red currant, cherry, pepper, herbs), crisp and well balanced, and medium long on the finish. One of the best versions of this wine I have tasted. 100% Sangiovese. Aged 6 months in oak barrels. 1,666 cases. 12.5% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900



**SANGIOVESE & BLENDS — High Priced:  
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)**

**CASA ALLE VACCHE, 2013 CINABRO, CHIANTI COLLI SENESI RISERVA, \$248 (\$31)** ★★★★★+

Delicious Colli Senesi Chianti Riserva. It is ripely flavored, lightly oaky, full bodied, and very long on the palate, with a long finish, tasting of plum, cherry, cedar, and oak. Warrants aging. Great value. 100% Sangiovese. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels. 1,000 cases. 14% [2019-2023] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**ROCCA DI MONTEMASSI, 2014 SASSABRUNA, MAREMMA TOSCANA, \$114/6 (\$28.50)** ★★★★★

An excellent wine: full bodied, medium rich, lightly oaky, and firm and long on the palate. It has black currant, cassis, herb, spicy oak, and tobacco aromas/flavors, and moderately tannic finish. Warrants modest aging. 80% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot, and 10% Syrah. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels. 13.5% [2020-2023] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

**SANGIOVESE & BLENDS — Expensive:  
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)**

## BOSCARELLI



## BOSCARELLI

- **2012 VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO RISERVA, \$440 (\$55)** ★★★★★+
- **2012 SOTTO CASA, VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO RISERVA, \$680 (\$85)** ★★★★★

Boscarelli is producing better Vino Nobiles than ever, as these two 2012s attest. The Riserva is rich and supple in style; a full bodied, well balanced, and moderately tannic wine with a long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of cherry, plum, cedar, blueberry, pepper, and spicy oak. Warrants aging. Excellent value. 88% Sangiovese, 12% Colorino. Aged 28+ months in French and Slavonian oak barrels. 750 cases. 14% ♦ The Sotto Casa is exceptional: full bodied, intensely flavored, and concentrated; a relatively powerful Vino Nobile, with excellent depth and balance, and a very long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of plum, blueberry jam, red currant, violet, vanilla, cedar, and spicy oak. One of the best Vino Nobiles I have tasted. Needs several more years of bottle aging. 80% Sangiovese (Prugnolo Gentile), 12% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. 666 cases. 14.5% [2021-2026] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**SOC. AGR. LA MANELLA – Brunello di Montalcino**

- **2012 LA MANELLA, \$300/6 (\$75)** ★★★★★
- **2012 POGGIARELLI, \$760 (\$95)** ★★★★★

Two fine Brunellos from the 2012 vintage. The La Manella is supple, full bodied, and well balanced, with moderate richness (plum, red currant, blueberry, tobacco, cedar), good balance, and a very long finish. Can be aged a bit. Aged 36 months in Slavonian oak casks. 1,666 cases. 14.5% ♦ The Poggiarelli is exceptional: supple, rich, and full bodied, it has excellent balance, complex flavors (cherry, blueberry, red currant, spicy oak, cedar, tobacco, vanilla), and a long, moderately tannic finish. Needs some aging. Aged 36 months in oak casks: 12 months in French, 24 months in Slavonian. 334 cases. 14.5% [2021-2030] Quintessential, Napa, CA 707.226.8300

**CHIANTI CLASSICO — Medium Priced:  
\$81-\$200/case (\$10.10-\$25/btl. full retail)**

**AZ. AGR. DI FIETRI, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO, ★★★★★  
\$192 (\$24)**

Excellent. A finely flavored, lightly tannic Chianti Classico of excellent quality. It is full bodied, moderately rich in flavor (plum, cedar, sour cherry), well balanced, and long on the finish. Warrants modest aging. 100% Sangiovese. Aged 18 months in French oak casks. Gaiole in Chianti. 13.5% [2019-2022] Good Company Wines, Sonoma, CA 800.518.2127

**CANONICA A CERRETO, 2012 CHIANTI CLASSICO, ★★★★★+  
\$200 (\$25)**

Excellent: full bodied, supple, and richly flavored, this is a lightly tannic wine with cassis, blackberry, cedar, black licorice, and plum aromas/flavors, and a very long finish. Needs aging. 90% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot. Aged 15 months in oak barrels. Castelnuovo Berardenga. 14% [2019-2022] Intertrade USA Co., Wheeling, IL 224.676.1083

**CARUS VINI, AZ. AGR. TERZONE, 2012 BALDERO, ★★★★★  
CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$168 (\$21)**

A round, full bodied, fairly rich Chianti Classico that is ripely flavored (cassis, plum, red licorice, cranberry), lightly oaky (cedar, toast), and long on the palate, with a persistent, mildly tannic finish. Excellent value. Warrants modest aging. 10% Merlot. Aged 9 months in French oak barrels. San Casciano Val di Pesa. 14% [2018-2022] Vinofiamma, Greenvale, NY 516.702.7000

**CASTELLO DI ALBOLA**

- **2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$168 (\$21)** ★★★★★
- **2014 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$168 (\$21)** ★★★★★+

These are very fine Chianti Classics—and both excellent values. The 2013 is a fruity, full bodied, well balanced wine that has medium intensity, crisp acidity, a hint of oak, and a long finish, tasting of cranberry, sour cherry, raspberry, rosehips, oak, and white pepper. Sangiovese, Canaiolo. Aged 12 months in Slavonian oak casks. Radda in Chianti. 13% ♦ Although the 2014 vintage was a more difficult vintage than 2013 in the region, Castello di Albola's 2014 Chianti Classico is a terrific wine. It is aromatic, crisp, full bodied, and intensely fruity, with moderate richness, excellent balance, and a very long finish, tasting of rosehips, black cherry, red currant, and oak. Great value. Sangiovese, Canaiolo. Aged 12 months in Slavonian oak casks. Radda in Chianti. 13% [2019-2021] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

**FATTORIA DELLA AIOLA**

- **2014 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$192 (\$24)** ★★★★★+
- **2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$192 (\$24)** ★★★★★+

Two very good Chianti Classics from this Castelnuovo Berardenga estate. The 2014 is youthful and fresh; a full bodied, crisp wine with moderate depth, good balance, and a medium long finish, tasting of cranberry, plum, cherry, and toast. 13% ♦ The 2013 is excellent:

round, crisp, full bodied, and moderately rich in flavor (red currant, plum, black pepper, rosehips), with good balance and a long, crisp finish. Delicious. Excellent value. Vagliagli (Castelnuovo Berardenga). 13% [2018-2021] S.P. Raye LLC, New York, NY 212.613.2713

**FATTORIA DI RIETINE, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**

An excellent wine: full bodied, youthful, and moderately rich, it is balanced, lightly tannic, and long on the finish, tasting of cassis, red currant, oak, and sour cherry. Can be aged a bit. Gaiole in Chianti. 13.5% [2018-2021] www.rietine.com

**PODERE LE CINCIOLE, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**

Very fine Chianti Classico, in a Pinot Noir style. It is full bodied, very supple, moderately intense in flavor, well balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of plum, red currant, black cherry, rose petal, and white pepper. Very fine quality. Organic. Aged 18 months in oak casks. Panzano in Chianti (Greve in Chianti). 13% [2019-2022] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

**TENUTA I COLLAZZI, 2013 I BASTIONI, CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$184 (\$23) ★★★★★**

Outstanding: a supple, rich wine. It is full bodied, ripely flavored (cassis, plum, cherry, pepper), lightly oaked, well balanced, and long and harmonious on the finish. Has modest tannin. Can be aged a bit. San Casciano Val di Pesa. 13.5% [2018-2021] www.collazzi.it

**TOSCOLO**

- **2015 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$160 (\$20)** ★★★★★+
- **2012 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$192 (\$24)** ★★★★★+

Two excellent wines from Toscolo, which are also very fine values. The 2015 Chianti Classico is full bodied, moderately rich, lightly oaky, and ripely flavored; a balanced wine with a long finish, tasting of cherry, plum, blueberry, toast, and cedar. Can be aged a bit. 95% Sangiovese, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels. 3,000 cases. 13% ♦ The 2012 Riserva is a supple, full, fairly rich wine (cassis, sour cherry, cranberry) with layers of oak complexity (toast, cedar, spicy oak). It is long and lightly tannic on the finish. Warrants modest aging. 90% Sangiovese, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot. Aged 12 months in oak casks. 13% [2018-2021] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**VILLA DEL CIGLIANO, 2013 CIGLIANO, CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★**

Excellent: full bodied, intensely flavored (cherry, blackberry, toast, plum, red currant), and somewhat woody (cedar, toast), it is very long on the palate, and lightly tannic on the finish. Warrants modest aging. Fine value. 95% Sangiovese, 5% Colorino. San Casciano Val di Pesa. 13.5% [2018-2021] Quigley Fine Wines, San Diego, CA 619.795.7043

**CHIANTI CLASSICO — High Priced:  
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)**

**AGR. VILLA CERNA, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$248 (\$31) ★★★★★**

Full bodied, intensely fruity, and crisp, this is an excellent Riserva, with firm acidity, sour cherry, red currant, rosehips, and spicy oak aromas/flavors, and a long, moderately tannic finish. Fine value. Castellina in Chianti. 13.5% [2020-2023] Terlato Wines Int'l, Lake Bluff, IL 847.604.8900

*The wines included here are the highest rated of all those we taste—and account for only 30% to 40% of all wines tasted, percentages in line with 'award wines' at leading international wine competitions.*



**AGRICOLA POGGIO AL SOLE, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$320 (\$40) ★★★★★**

A complex, full bodied, crisp Chianti Classico Riserva with moderate richness, light oakiness, and a very long, persistent finish, tasting of sour cherry, plum, blueberry, cedar, vanilla, and spicy oak. Great value. Tavarnelle Val di Pesa. 13.5% [2018-2022] Petit Pois, Moorestown, NY & Vineyard Road, Framingham, MA

**AZ. AGR. CA' DI PESA, 2012 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$248 (\$31) ★★★★★+**

An excellent wine: 94% Sangiovese, 3,4% Merlot, 2,2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 0,4% Colorino. Panzano in Chianti (Greve in Chianti). 250 cases. 13.5% [2018-2022] [www.cadipesa.it](http://www.cadipesa.it)

**AZ. AGR. DI FIETRI, 2012 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★**

Very supple in texture and ripely flavored, this is a full bodied, near-luscious Riserva. It has intense flavors (plum, baked cherry, cedar, cassis), moderate tannin, and a long finish. Excellent value. Warrants aging. Vineyards between 460 and 580 meters. 100% Sangiovese. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels. Gaiole in Chianti. 143 cases. 13% [2020-2023] Good Company Wines, Sonoma, CA 800.518.2127

**AZ. AGR. DI MONTEPALDI, 2010 VILLA MONTEPALDI, TAGLIAFUNE, CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$360 (\$45) ★★★★★**

A luscious, richly flavored Riserva of excellent quality. It is supple and full bodied, with intense cherry, blackberry, plum, cedar, and oak aromas/flavors, good balance, and a long, persistent finish. Can be aged further. From the best grapes of the vineyard owned by Florence University. Aged 24 months in oak. San Casciano Val di Pesa 14.5% [2018-2022] [www.unifi.it](http://www.unifi.it)

**AZ. AGR. PODERE TORCILACQUA**

- 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO, \$224 (\$28) ★★★★★
- 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE, \$400 (\$50) ★★★★★

Two very fine 2013 bottlings from Torcilacqua. The Chianti Classico is very supple and toasty in style; a full bodied wine with layers of oak character (cedar, toast, spicy oak), moderate richness (plum, cherry, red licorice), and a long finish. Can be aged a bit. Tavarnelle Val di Pesa. 13.5% [2018-2020] ♦ The Gran Selezione is exceptional: full bodied, complex and intense in flavor (cassis, plum, cedar, spicy oak, blueberry jam), balanced, and very long on the finish. Needs aging. 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 24 months in French oak barrels. Badia a Passignano, Tavarnelle Val di Pesa. 14% [2020-2025] Vos Vinum Importing, New Rochelle, NY 914.235.8080

**AZ. AGR. SAVIGNOLA PAOLINA, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$284 (\$33) ★★★★★+**

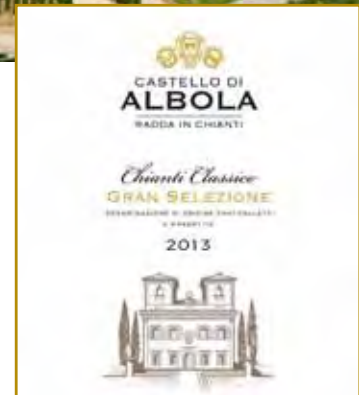
An elegant, ripe, complex Riserva of very fine quality. It is full bodied, intensely flavored (cherry, red licorice, blueberry, red currant, toast, cedar), well balanced, and crisp and long on the finish, with moderate tannin. Warrants further aging. Fine value. 90% Sangiovese, 10% Colorino. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels, 30% new. Greve in Chianti. 13.5% [2018-2022] Tesori Wines (CA), Ideal Wine & Spirits (MA), Superior Wines (NJ), among others

**BANDINI VILLA POMONA, 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$280 (\$35)+ ★★★★★**

Very good quality, this is a supple, full bodied Riserva that is smooth and medium long on the palate, with modest richness, and light tannin on the finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of plum, caramel, toast, and baked cherry. Organic. 95% Sangiovese, 5% Colorino. Aged 12 months in Slavonian oak casks. Castellina in Chianti. 13.5% [2018-2020] Mise Wines, Newton, MA 617.431.7698

**CARUS VINI, AZ. AGR. TERZONE, 2012 GAUDIO, CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$272 (\$34) ★★★★★**

Full bodied and ripe and rich in style, this is an excellent Riserva. It has good depth of fruit (cassis, plum jam), moderate oakiness (cedar, oak), and a long, mildly tannic finish. Warrants modest aging. 90% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels. San Casciano Val di Pesa. 14% [2019-2023] Vinofiamma, Greenvale, NY 516.702.7000

**CASTELLO DI ALBOLA****CASTELLO DI ALBOLA**

- 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★
- 2013 CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE, \$400 (\$50) ★★★★★

The estate of Albola in Radda in Chianti has been updated. No longer Castello d'Albola, the estate is now known as Castello di Albola. And it has a striking new label design, too. ♦ The 2013 Riserva is an excellent, elegant Riserva. It is full bodied, finely flavored, moderately rich, and well balanced; a wine with ripe fruit character (black cherry, red currant, raspberry, rosehips), light oakiness (toast, vanilla, spicy oak), and a crisp, long finish. Warrants modest aging. Great value. Sangiovese, Canaiolo. Aged 15 months: 90% in Slavonian oak casks, 10% in French oak barrels. 13.5% ♦ The 2013 Gran Selezione is exceptional; an elegant, somewhat toasty wine. It is full bodied, medium rich, crisp, fine and complex in flavor (red currant, rosehips, cherry, cedar, tobacco, spicy oak), and balanced, with a very long finish. Still youthful; warrants further aging. 100% Sangiovese. Aged 14 months: 50% in French oak barrels, 50% in Slavonian oak casks. Radda in Chianti. 13.5% [2020-2024] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180



**AGR. FRATELLI TEDESCHI, 2012 VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE, LA FABRISERIA, \$152/6 (\$38)**

★★★★★

Outstanding single vineyard Valpolicella, from this top Veneto estate. It is extremely rich and full bodied, with remarkable depth, structure, and length. It is well balanced, very long on the palate, and tannic on the finish, and tastes of plum, cassis, spearmint, and cherry. Warrants at least 5 more years of aging. Great value. 35% Corvina, 30% Corvinone, 30% Rondinella, 5% Oseleta. Aged 22 months in Slavonian oak casks. 500 cases. 15% [2023-2033] Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., New York, NY 212.818.0770

**VENETO RED — Expensive:  
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)**

**CANTINE DI SANTA SOFIA, 2012 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO, \$274/6 (\$68.50)**

★★★★★

Full bodied and powerful in style, this Amarone is round, complex in flavor (plum, cherry, red licorice, sage, cedar, leather), and quite long on the finish, with evident tannin. Needs several more years of aging. Excellent quality. Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella. Aged 26 months in Slavonian oak casks. 15% [2021-2030] Duggan's Distillers (Blauvelt, NY) & Opera Wine Imports (Pennsauken, NJ)

**SPERI VITICOLTORI, 2012 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO, VIGNETO MONTE SANT'URBANO, \$320/6 (\$80)**

★★★★★

Fleshy in texture and full bodied, this is a rich Amarone with complex aromas/flavors (cherry, red currant, tobacco, red licorice, cedar, black pepper), excellent balance, and a long, lightly tannic finish. Fine quality and value. Warrants aging. A single vineyard Amarone. 70% Corvina Veronese, 25% Rondinella, 5% Corvinone. Aged 36 months in French and Slavonian oak casks. 8,333 cases. 15% [2020-2024] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**VENETO RED — Very Expensive:  
\$801/case & Up (\$100.10/btl. & Up full retail)**

**CANTINE DI SANTA SOFIA, 2011 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO, GIOE, \$504/6 (\$126)**

★★★★★

A fleshy, complex, richly flavored Amarone of excellent quality. It is very concentrated, very full bodied, and lavishly oaked, yet also balanced (for the long run), and very long and persistent on the finish, tasting of plum jam, sour cherry, cedar, red currant, dark chocolate, rose petal, pepper, and herbs. Very fine quality; warrants 5-10 years of further aging. 70% Corvina & Corvinone, 25% Rondinella, 5% Molinara. 42 months: 24 months in large Slavonian oak barrels and 18 months in French oak barrels. 15.5% [2022-2030] Duggan's Distillers (Blauvelt, NY) & Opera Wine Imports (Pennsauken, NJ)

**AGR. FRATELLI TEDESCHI, 2011 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO RISERVA, LA FABRISERIA, \$1000/6 (\$250)**

★★★★★

Extraordinary single vineyard Amarone, combining concentration, exemplary finesse, and stunning complexity. It is very rich and very ripe in style, with full body, fleshy texture, outstanding depth and balance, and a remarkably long and harmonious finish, tasting of plum jam, blueberry, cooked beef, red currant, and sour cherry. Can be aged for years. Remarkable wine. 35% Corvina, 30% Corvinone, 30% Rondinella, 5% Oseleta. La Fabriseria vineyard is on the Valpolicella Classica hill, in the communes of Sant'Ambrogio and Fumane. Aged 24 months in Slavonian oak casks. An extremely rare bottling, produced only 8 times since 1973. 208 cases. 17% [2023-3035]

**TUSCAN RED BLENDS — Expensive:  
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)**

**PODERE ORMA, 2013 ORMA, TOSCANA (IGT), \$288/6 (\$72)**

★★★★★

An exceptional Bolgheri red. It is very full bodied, very supple and richly flavored, with firm acidity, a long flavor evolution (black currant, cherry, cassis, black pepper, herbs), and an extremely long, moderately tannic finish. First rate; great value. Warrant at least 5 more years of aging. 50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc. Aged 12+ months in French oak barrels, partly new. Orma's first vintage was 2005. 15% [2020-2026] Winebow, Inc., New York, NY 212.255.9414

**CIGNALE, 2012 COLLI DELLA TOSCANA CENTRALE (IGT), \$304/6 (\$76)**

★★★★★

Best version of this wine. It is full bodied, richly flavored (cherry, cassis, tobacco, cedar, blueberry jam, red licorice, spicy oak), and balanced; a wine with excellent depth of fruit, layers of oak character, and a long, mildly tannic finish. Excellent; warrants further aging. 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, from a single vineyard in Greve in Chianti. Aged 20+ months in French oak barrels. Unfiltered. 1,000 cases. 13.5% [2020-2026] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES — Low Priced:  
Up to \$80/case (Up to \$10.10/btl. full retail)**

**LA FIERA**

- 2016 MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO, \$80 (\$10) ★★★★★
- 2016 PRIMITIVO, SALENTO (IGT), \$80 (\$10) ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures, and both are excellent values. The Montepulciano is soft, moderately rich, and full bodied, with plum jam, cranberry, and blackberry aromas/flavors, and good balance. 13% ♦ The Primitivo is supple and full bodied wine with a Zinfandel-like 'taste and feel' to it: blackberry, plum, and pepper aromas/flavors, with crisp acidity and a medium length finish. 13% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

**SOUTHERN/ISLAND RED WINES — Medium Priced:  
\$80-\$160/case (\$10.10-\$20/btl. full retail)**

**CANTINE MOTHIA, 2015 MOSAIKON, NERO D'AVOLA, TERRE SICILIANE, \$156 (\$19.50)**

★★★★★

A supple, full bodied medium rich Nero d'Avola. It is intensely flavored (blackberry, cedar, plum, spicy oak), lightly oaky, and medium long on the finish. Can be aged further. Aged in oak barrels. 14.5% [2018-2020] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**FEUDO PRINCIPI DI BUTERA, 2015 NERO D'AVOLA, SICILIA, \$76/6 (\$19)**

★★★★★

Delicious Nero d'Avola: intensely flavored, full bodied, and very distinct (blackberry jam, cherry, black currant, blueberry), with light oakiness (cedar, spicy oak), good balance, and a long finish. Can be aged a bit. Great value. 100% Nero d'Avola. Aged 12 months in oak barrels and casks. 14% [2018-2021] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**LE CASEMATTE, 2016 NERO D'AVOLA, TERRE SICILIANE (IGP), \$144 (\$18)**

★★★★★

An excellent, appealing wine. It is round, fairly rich, full bodied, and very ripe in flavor (plum, cherry), with overtones of pepper and tobacco. It is smooth and long on the palate, and lingering on the finish. Unwooded. Aged 6 months in stainless steel tanks. 14% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900



**MASSERIA ALTEMURA, 2015 SASSEO, PRIMITIVO, SALENTO (IGT), \$76/6 (\$19)**

★★★★★



An excellent wine: full bodied, lightly oaked, and supple, with blackberry, plum jam, tomato, pepper, and cedar aromas/flavors, and a medium long finish. Fine value. Aged 6 months in Slavonian oak casks. 14.5% [2018-2020] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**PRODIGO, 2016 NERO D'AVOLA, APPASSITE, TERRE SICILIANE (IGT), \$112 (\$14)**

★★★★★



Full bodied and richly flavored (blackberry jam, plum jam, pepper, cedar, oak), it is a powerful, somewhat rugged wine with a long palate evolution and a lingering finish. Great value. From partially dried grapes. Aged in oak 5+ months. 13.5% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

**STEMMARI**

- **2015 NERO D'AVOLA, SICILIA, \$120 (\$15)** ★★★★★
- **2015 CANTODORO ROSSO RISERVA, SICILIA, \$76/6 (\$19)** ★★★★★

These are excellent wines from Stemmari. The Nero d'Avola (screw cap closure) is round and full bodied; a ripely flavored wine with a hint of wood character, and a medium length finish, tasting of blackberry jam, cherry, red licorice, raspberry, and wood. Excellent value. Aged 6 months in French oak barrels. 13% ♦ The Cantodoro Riserva is exceptional: fleshy in texture and full bodied, it is a luscious, complex, ripely flavored blend that is long on the palate, and lingering on the finish, with aromas/flavors reminiscent of cassis, blackberry, cedar, plum jam, black licorice, spicy oak, and vanilla. Can be aged further. Fine value. 80% Nero d'Avola, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 16 months: Nero d'Avola, 4 months in stainless steel tanks and 12 months in French oak barrels; Cabernet Sauvignon, 16 months in French oak barrels. 13.5% [2018-2020] Prestige Wine Imports, New York, NY 212.229.0080

**VILLA MATILDE**



**VILLA MATILDE, TENUTE ROCCA DEI LEONI, 2012 AGLIANICO, CAMPANIA (IGP), \$160 (\$20)**

★★★★★

A supple, medium rich wine that is both lightly tannic and long on the palate, with relatively complex aromas/flavors (cherry, aniseed, tobacco, black olive, cranberry), and a long finish. Great value. 13.5% [2018-2020] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**SOUTHERN/ISLAND RED WINES — High Priced: \$161-\$320/case (\$20.10-\$40/btl. full retail)**

**FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO, 2015 RUBRATO, IRPINIA AGLIANICO, \$176 (\$22)**

★★★★★

An excellent Aglianico, in a medium full style. It is distinct in character (blueberry, red currant, tobacco, rosehips, guava), full bodied, well balanced, moderately intense, and long on the finish. Fine value. Unwooded. Aged 8+ months in stainless steel tanks. 13.5% [2018-2020] Terlato Wines Int'l, Chicago, IL 847.604.8900

**FEUDO PRINCIPI DI BUTERA, 2014 SYMPOSIO, TERRE SICILIANE (IGT), \$124/6 (\$31)**

★★★★★

A rich, supple, full bodied blend that is complex in flavor, balanced (if quite youthful), and long and tannic on the finish, tasting of blackberry, cassis, red licorice, cedar, and spicy oak. Wonderful value; can be aged further. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Aged 18 months in oak barrels and casks. 14% [2020-2025] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**GUIDO STRAPPELLI, 2011 CELIBE, MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO RISERVA, COLLINE TERANANE, \$210 (\$26.25)**

★★★★+

A powerful, richly flavored Montepulciano that is full bodied and oaky in style. It has intense fruitiness (berry jam, plum), and a very long, somewhat tannic finish. A big wine, in need of several more years of bottle aging. Aged 12 months in Slavonian oak casks. 15% [2020-2024] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060



**LE CASEMATTE, 2015 PELORO ROSSO, NERELLO MASCALESE & NOCERA, TERRE SICILIANE (IGP), \$168 (\$21)**

★★★★★

An exceptional blend, and a great value. Pinot Noir-like in style. It is a supple, very fragrant wine, with moderate richness, excellent balance, and a very long finish, tasting of strawberry, raspberry jam, pepper, vanilla, herbs, and nutmeg. 70% Nerello Mascalese, 30% Nocera. Aged several months in stainless steel tanks, followed by two months in French oak barrels. 20,833 cases. 13% [2018-2019] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**LOCATIONS, I4, ITALIAN RED WINE, ITALIA, \$184 (\$23)**

★★★★★

Delicious blend: luscious in texture, full bodied, and ripe and complex in flavor (plum jam, blackberry, toast, spicy oak), with good depth and balance, and a long, persistent finish. Great value. Primarily a blend of Negroamaro and Nero d'Avola from Puglia, with some Barbera from Piedmont. Aged 10 months in oak barrels. 14.5% [2018-2021] Locations Wines, Baltimore, MD 707.244.1189

*Telephone numbers are main office numbers of producers, agents, and importers of wines and other beverages reviewed.*

**MASSERIA ALTEMURA**

- **2014 PETRAVIA, PUGLIA (IGT), \$114/6 (\$28.50) ★★★★★+**
- **2015 ALTEMURA, PRIMITIVO DI MANDURIA, \$116/6 (\$29) ★★★★★**

Two fine wines from Masseria Altemura. The Petravio is 100% Aglianico that has been aged 12 months in French oak barrels. It is an intensely flavored, full bodied wine that is round, distinct in character (blackberry, red currant, cherry, pepper), with light oakiness (toast, cedar), good balance, and a long, lightly tannic finish. Can be aged a bit. 13% ♦ The Primitivo di Manduria is exceptional: a fleshy, full bodied wine that is rich, very ripe and complex in flavor (blackberry, plum jam, black licorice, cedar, oak), balanced, and long on the finish. Can be aged further. 100% Primitivo. Aged 14 months in French oak casks. 14.5% [2019-2023] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196

**TENUTA AGRICOLA IL FEUDUCCIO DI SANTA MARIA D'ORNI, 2014 MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO, \$164 (\$20.50) ★★★★★+**

Excellent: a supple, richly flavored Montepulciano that is full bodied, lightly tannic, well balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of blackberry, leather, blueberry jam, and black pepper. Can be aged a bit. Fine value. 13.5% [2018-2020] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**SOUTHERN/ISLAND RED WINES — Expensive: \$321-\$640/case (\$40.10-\$80/btl. full retail)**

**AZ. AGR. CENTORAME, 2013 CASTELLUM VETUS, MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO COLLINE TERAMANE, \$180/6 (\$45) ★★★★★+**

An excellent Montepulciano. It is full bodied, supple in texture, and rich and complex in flavor (blackberry, blueberry jam, cedar, vanilla, spicy oak), with good balance, and a very long finish. Can be aged a bit. Aged 15 months in French oak barrels. Colline Teramane is Abruzzo's first DOCG designation. 583 cases. 14% [2018-2021] Villa Italia, S. San Francisco, CA 650.873.6060

**FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO, 2012 TAURASI, \$188/6 (\$47) ★★★★★**

A complex Taurasi that is full bodied, medium rich, and structured; a wine evident oakiness, light tannin, and a very long finish, tasting of baked potato skin, tobacco, cherry, cranberry, and spicy oak. Excellent. Warrants further aging. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels. 14% [2020-2024] Terlato Wines Int'l, Chicago, IL 847.604.8900

**VILLA MATILDE, 2011 TENUTE DI ALTAVILLA, TAURASI, \$448 (\$56) ★★★★★+**

Excellent estate Taurasi: youthful, full bodied, medium rich, and somewhat tannic; a wine with blackberry, cranberry, cherry, aniseed, tobacco, and spicy oak aromas/flavors, and a long, firm finish. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels and oak casks. Great value. Needs further aging. 14% [2021-2029] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**SOUTHERN/ISLAND RED WINES — Very Expensive: \$641/case & Up (\$80.10/btl. & Up full retail)**

**FEUDO PRINCIPI DI BUTERA, 2014 DELIELLA, NERO D'AVOLA, SICILIA, \$374/6 (\$93.50) ★★★★★**

An excellent Nero d'Avola, in a rich, complex style. It is full bodied, supple, and concentrated; a young wine in need of several more years of aging. It has intense flavors (blackberry, blueberry jam, cedar, red licorice, spicy oak), good balance, and a long, moderately tannic finish. Very fine quality. 100% Nero d'Avola. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels. 14% [2020-2026] Zonin USA, N. Miami Beach, FL 305.456.7196



**NEW ZEALAND**

(WHITE, ROSE & RED WINES)

**SAUVIGNON BLANC — Medium Priced: \$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)**

**FIRE ROAD, 2016 MARLBOROUGH, \$128 (\$16) ★★★★★+**

Screw cap. An excellent Sauvignon: fresh, ripe, and distinct, it is full bodied, crisp, and balanced, with lingering finish, tasting of lime, pineapple, guava, and honeysuckle. Great value. 13% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100



**MT. BEAUTIFUL, 2016 NORTH CANTERBURY, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★**

A crisp, complex Sauvignon of exceptional quality and value. (Screw cap closure.) It is full bodied and crisp, with elegant pineapple, lemon grass, lime, toast, and guava aromas/flavors, fine balance, and a long, crisp finish. Top value. Aged 9 months in both oak barrels (partly new) and stainless steel tanks. 12,000 cases. 14% [2018-2019] Mt. Beautiful USA, Benicia, CA 707.745.3649

**PROPHECY, 2016 HIGH PRIESTESS, MARLBOROUGH, \$108 (\$13.50) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. A distinct, medium full bodied Sauvignon with good character (grapefruit, passion fruit, lemon grass, lime) and balance, and a medium length finish. Fine value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Prophecy Wines, Hayward, CA 877.628.4462

**SEVEN TERRACES, 2016 MARLBOROUGH, \$104 (\$13) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. An excellent Marlborough Sauvignon: distinct in character (lime, dried fig, lemon grass, guava), medium full bodied, and crisp, with a long finish. Fine value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Meadowbank Estates, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900



**STARBOROUGH, 2016 MARLBOROUGH, \$128 (\$16) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Round, medium full bodied, and both ripe and distinct in character (lime, passion fruit, guava, lemon grass), this is a moderately intense, balanced Sauvignon with a medium long finish. Excellent value. 12.5% [2018-2019] Starborough Vineyards, Healdsburg, CA 877.488.2783

