

WELCOME

TO MY HONOURED GUESTS

Italy contains 545 registered indigenous grape varieties, though it is estimated that there are over 2,000 throughout the country. There are so many, in fact, that we don't know the exact number, but there are more wine-making grapes native to the land we call Italy than any other country in the world. It is an absolute treasure trove of wine, and we will never cease to uncover its many vinous gems.

Of Italy's 20 distinct regions, every single one contains significant wine-growing areas (an aspect also unique to the country), spanning the length of this 1,200-kilometre peninsula that covers the mountainous regions of the north to the salt-blown coastal regions of the south, and every lush green foothill in between. An astonishing array of styles and colours and flavours are produced from these native grapes, most of which are not found anywhere else in the world.

At Divino, one of our highest goals - and one of my great responsibilities as Sommelier - is to bring these one-of-a-kind, rare, and distinctly Italian wines to your table, to provide as much access as possible to this panoply of wine variety and beauty. This is no easy feat, and not one that we take lightly. But boy, is it fun: every year, we taste hundreds of wines, bringing in only those we think are best, traveling to wineries to learn more about the source behind these gems, and bring it all back to you here, on this wine list, as well as the many events we host every year here at Divino including our tasting menus, bi-monthly wine tastings, Enomatic machine, wine flights, and the many other efforts we take to give you the chance to experience these wines of passion, history, geography, heart.

I hope, wherever you're at on your wine journey or whatever the nature of your visit to Divino today, that in the following pages you will find just the wine for whatever purpose you are looking for or, perhaps, that might just surprise you too. Wine is amazing by itself, better with food, and best with people, and our goal is to combine these elements in such a way as to provide you with the best possible experience, so if there's anything that I or a member of my amazing team can do to enhance your wine or your experience, please let us know.

A couple of points to keep in mind as you peruse this list:

- The wine world is replete with terminology requiring definition - too many to list here - so if you have a question or are unsure what a word or term means, just ask me or one of my colleagues.
- Wine labels (especially Italian ones) are notoriously difficult to understand, so each entry has a basic format: The Wine/Name of the Wine, Producer, Vintage.
- Italian wine is categorized into three tiers of Italian wine law that regulate how it's made (there is a fourth, *Vino da Tavola*, that does not appear on this list) and are indicated throughout this list by their acronym: the second-lowest tier, IGT (*Indicazione Geografica Indica*), then DOC (*Denominazione d'Origine Controllata*), and the highest tier, DOCG (*Denominazione d'Origine Controllata e Garantita*).

So, please, read through this list, be curious and adventurous and open, ask any question you want, read my descriptors and point out my spelling errors, have fun with it and with the extraordinary range of flavours and emotions that Italian wine evokes. Italian wine is a world all to its own, and it is our great privilege to bring you just this small slice of it.

Cheers to you, your loved ones, your meal, and may whatever you drink today bring all of that together even more than it already was.

Salute

Troy D. Sides

Head Sommelier

SPARKLING • ROSE

CHAMPAGNE

PRICE

Cristal Prestige Cuvée, Louis Roederer, 2013*

370

The 'Prestige Cuvée' of the legendary house, Louis Roederer.

A blend of Grand Crus from old vines in Roederer's best vineyards and only made in the best vintages. 60% Pinot Noir, 40% Chardonnay.

Dom Pérignon, Moët & Chandon, 2013*

330

The story goes that the first time a monk named Dom Pérignon was able to ferment his wine twice, he got so excited that he called to his friends, 'Come quickly, I'm tasting the stars!'

With seven years' aging on its lees, the old monk may have a point. 60% Chardonnay, 40% Pinot Noir.

Brut Réserve, Taittinger, NV

120

A blend of 35 Grand Cru and Premier Cru parcels, aged 4 years on its lees.

40% Chardonnay, 35% Pinot Noir, 25% Pinot Meunier.

Refreshing, delicious, layered sparkling no matter how you pronounce it.

Special Cuvée, Bollinger, NV

110

A vivacious blend combining harvest grapes (85% of which are from Grand Cru and Premier Cru vineyards) with Reserve wines in Magnums, some of which are up to 15 years old.

60% Pinot Noir, 25% Chardonnay, 15% Pinot Meunier.

ITALIAN SPARKLING

Italian sparkling wine is undergoing a silent, delicious revolution. The entries here cover three styles of sparkling (Franciacorta DOCG in Lombardia, Trentodoc DOC in Trentino-Alto Adige, and Alta Langa DOCG in Piemonte) that utilise the Champagne or 'traditional' method of production, where secondary fermentation occurs in individual bottles, rather than in tanks. Such wines are known for having a crisper structure and mouthfeel, more concentrated flavour, and finer, more lively bubbles, as though they're happy to be there.

TRADITIONAL METHOD

Franciacorta Cuvée Prestige 45a Edizione, Ca' del Bosco, NV

130

One of the most famous sparklers to ever come out of Italy; a blend of 197 different vineyards,

162 of which are Chardonnay alone. Extra Brut style, so less sugar than most styles;

25 months lees aging. 75% Chardonnay, 15% Pinot Noir, 10% Pinot Blanc.

Franciacorta, Ferghettina, NV

74

Ferghettina's core sparkler, quintessential Franciacorta, aged 30 months on the lees.

85% Chardonnay, 15% Pinot Noir.

Franciacorta Rosé, Ferghettina, NV

98

Two days on the skins to extract colour, 36 months on the lees to extract flavour and texture.

80% Pinot Noir, 20% Chardonnay.

Trentodoc Brut Cuvée, Ferrari, NV

70

From the very first winery to produce Champagne-method sparklers in the now famous Trentodoc DOC, and with no relation to the car, though it just might get your heart racing:

20 months' aging on the lees and made entirely from Chardonnay grapes.

Alta Langa Millesimato Brut, Scrimaglio, 2021

69

The newest DOCG to hit the Italian sparkling scene, and one of the most exciting, is Alta Langa.

All sparklers here are required to be Vintage wines by law,

and this one by Scrimaglio is aged for 30 months on the lees.

80% Pinot Noir, 20% Chardonnay.

DIVINO

WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

SPARKLING • ROSE

PROSECCO

PRICE

Prosecco Millesimato, Biscardo, 2024

42

Prosecco DOC is distinct from the above styles by its use of the Glera grape (rarely seen anywhere else) and its method of production, the Charmat Method, where secondary fermentation occurs in a large tank. The wine has less contact with the lees and less pressure inside the bottle as a result, producing a fruitier, more forward, softer style.

Prosecco Rosé Millesimato, Biscardo, 2024

40

Prosecco DOC has no minimum aging time, so, with less time on the lees, this is a more fruit-forward style of sparkling Rosé, whose colour comes from 15% Pinot Noir to round out the Glera grapes used in the blend.

ROSÉ

Frappato 'Rosé', Pianogrillo, 2024

46

A short maceration of Frappato grapes lends a medium-hued, fragrant style rosé that bounces with peppers and florals and spice.

Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo, Valle Reale, 2021

42

A DOC devoted strictly to rosé production, Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo is made with Montepulciano grapes made in an almost white wine style, with a few hours of skin contact to derive its sexy, deeply-hued colour. The Valle Reale estate is situated at high elevation and this long, cool, gentle growing season, along with six months maturation on the lees, produces an elegant, fruity, ravishing rosé.

Bardolino Chiaretto Classico, Bolla, 2024

37

A DOC given specifically for rosés in 2018; our palest rosé and a classic Veneto blend of 55% Corvina, 35% Rondinella, 10% Molinara.

ORANGE

Ribolla Gialla Amfora, Gravner, 2014

168

What Andrea Pirlo was to the midfield, Josko Gravner is to orange-style wine: what everyone aspires to be, but never quite like the maestro himself. Ribolla Gialla grapes are left in contact with their skins in clay amphora for six months (six months!) in underground cellars and then aged in botti, above ground, for six years (six years!). In a category all its own.

Derthona Timorasso, Valli Unite, 2021

65

Spontaneous fermentation, low-intervention winemaking, stainless-steel maturation, and 100% Timorasso grapes from the Colli Tortonesi DOC produce a highly aromatic amber style that beautifully evokes the quality and texture that Timorasso is known for as a white.

Pinot Grigio 'Pipinot', Scarbolo, 2023

53

From the Friuli Grave DOC where Pinot Grigio reigns, these grapes are macerated for three days and then matured for seven months in 20-hl casks, on their own lees and with bâtonnage, the result a smooth, elegant amber with florals, herbs, a bit of sexiness.

WORLD WHITE

FRANCE

PRICE

BURGUNDY

Meursault Premier Cru Blagny, François Jobard, 1999

148

Chardonnay grapes are sourced from one of Meursault's highest elevation vineyards, Blagny, a plot riddled with beautiful white limestone, lending luscious cool-climate freshness and minerality that mingles effortlessly with the aged, nutty characteristics.

Chablis Premier Cru Côte de Léchet, Jean Dauvissat, 2017

92

From the 1.5 HA plot Côte de Léchet which is rich in chalk and Kimmeridgian limestone, this is an intensely floral, slightly powerful expression of Chablis Chardonnay that sees two years' aging in steel, on its lees, from the stellar 2017 vintage.

Chablis, Domaine de Vauroux, 2023

60

Chablis is the northernmost region of Burgundy and it shows in this cool-climate bottling: a zingy yet soft acidity provides the typical freshness, florals, and minerality with Chardonnay's trademark body and elegance. Four months' aging in steel on the lees.

LOIRE VALLEY

Amboise Sec Le Clocher, Bonnigal-Bodet, 2023

69

A dry, single-vineyard, wonderfully aromatic and complete expression of Chenin Blanc from 20 year-old vines on clay flint and kaolin soils in the Amboise region of the Loire Valley. Aging is entirely in steel and on its lees.

Pouilly-Fumé, Domaine Favray, 2023

60

The soil around the town of Pouilly-Fumé is high in flint and limestone, producing this smoky, flinty, concentrated style of Sauvignon Blanc.

NORTHERN RHÔNE

Condrieu, St.-Cosme, 2022

89

Apex Viognier: Condrieu is a Cru within the Northern Rhone known exclusively for its Viognier: floral, exotic, rich, full, fantastic.

GERMANY

Riesling Dry Schieferkristall, Weingut Karthäuserhof, 2021

68

Karthäuserhof is the 8th-oldest winery in the world and has made a name for itself along the Mosel River and its tributaries for its piercing, fresh, mineral style of dry Riesling, this one from the Schieferkristall vineyard.

Riesling Kabinett Binger Scharlachberg, Weingut Riffel, 2021

52

Most German Riesling is produced with some residual sugar to buffer the searing acidity natural to the grape; this is a balanced, fruity, floral expression of that style so unique to German winemaking.

WORLD WHITE

SPAIN

PRICE

Godello 'Louro do Bolo' Valdeorras, Rafael Palacios, 2023

63

Godello is the wine grape version of rags-to-riches, nearly going extinct in the 1970s but now a rising star in northwest Spain, especially in the Valdeorras region of Galicia, where this gorgeous effort comes from by one of the top producers in the region. Twenty-five year-old vines at 600 metres elevation, aged four months in 35-hl French oak foudres.

Albariño Family Estate Selection, Bodegas Castro Martin, 2022

44

The Atlantic Ocean batters the coast of northwest Spain and, in so doing, releases fog banks that deposit salt water onto Albariño grapes hanging on the vine that will soon express that fog in its salty, fresh, minerally style of white wine so beloved worldwide.

AUSTRIA

Grüner Veltliner Ried Sandgrube, Rainer Wess, 2022

59

A peppery, spicy, fresh, concentrated single-vineyard expression from Kremstal, a top appellation in Austria for its main white grape.

SLOVENIA

Ribolla, Marjan Simčič, 2023

55

From the Brda region, the primary appellation for Ribolla in Slovenia, and is just the other side of the border from Friuli in Italy, where it is known as Ribolla Gialla. Forty-eight hours of skin-contact lend depth and expressiveness to this elegant style.

GREECE

Santorini Assyrtiko, Artemis Karamolegos, 2022

76

Wine from a volcano! This is a precise, fabulous, and quite powerful expression of Assyrtiko, the most important grape in Greece, with 5% each contributed from two other indigenous varieties, Athiri and Aidani, the latter of which originates on Santorini.

NEW ZEALAND

Sauvignon Blanc, Frost Pocket, 2022

47

The term 'frost pocket' refers to the conjunction where cooler temperatures meet ocean fog, producing this crisp, refreshing, and quite quintessential expression of Kiwi Sauvignon Blanc.

ITALIAN WHITE

TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE

PRICE

Chardonnay 'Lafóá', Colterenzio, 2022

99

Aging takes place in a combination of new and used oak but the style is a more lean, mineral, medium-bodied, style. Ten months aging on the lees, a further 6 months in bottle prior to release. Like drinking Chablis on steroids.

Sauvignon 'Lafóá', Colterenzio, 2023

89

Sauvignon Blanc like you've never tasted before: a brief cold soak on the skins, 8 months aging on the lees, and half of the wine fermented in oak barrels, impeccably integrated, producing power, freshness, zest, complexity.

Gewürztraminer, Colterenzio, 2023

51

Dry Gewürztraminer, so that full-bodied unctuousness is pure fruit and winemaking, not sugar. Aromatic, exotic, yet fresh.

Chardonnay Magred Cru, Nals Margried, 2022

62

Balanced, beautiful, medium-bodied Chardonnay from a parcel the estate singled-out for its white limestone gravel located at the foot of a gentle slope in the alpine foothills, aged three weeks in 30-hl barrels then another eight months on fine lees.

VALLE D'AOSTA

Petite Arvine, La Source, 2021

53

Valle d'Aosta is its own DOC, the smallest region in Italy, and extremely mountainous, so a very cool-climate and a perfect cradle for white wine production; Petite Arvine is native to Valais Valley of Switzerland and has finesse, minerality, balance, and fruit to spare.

FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

Friuli is, in my opinion, the most exciting white wine region in Italy right now, benefitting from some amazing soils that range from volcanic to pure limestone, from its adjacency to the Adriatic Sea, and from a menagerie of indigenous varietals that leave nothing on the table. Consistently, these are wines of dazzling elegance married to complexity of flavour that dances across the palate all by itself but also performs excellently with food, from cheese to fish to chicken.

Friulano, Livio Felluga, 2023

68

One of the top expressions of Friulano you are likely to come across by a patriarch of Friuli winemaking. A short maceration period followed by 6 months of aging on the lees. Medium-bodied but with that freshness and minerality of Friuli Colli Orientali DOC soils.

Ciallabianco, Ronchi di Cialla, 2014

91

Exotic blend of 60% Ribolla Gialla, 30% Verduzzo, 10% Picolit, all native to the Cialla Valley and entirely from the Cialla subzone of the Colli Orientali DOC. A wine of dazzling depth and complexity and with that lovely dance between richness and acidity.

Chardonnay, Vie di Romans, 2023

87

From Isonzo DOC, known for its famous ponca soil, a mix of marl and sandstone that yields a more powerful, yet restrained, version of the amazing and shadow-shifting Chardonnay grape. This extraordinary effort sees 9 months aging in barrel and on the lees, but they are just part of the ensemble of exotic fruit, minerality, toast, nuttiness, elegance.

Collio Riserva, Zuani, 2020

76

A radiant, full-flavoured blend of Friulano, Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, and Chardonnay, all grown in Collio DOC's cherished ponca soil, contributing that little extra punch of texture and aroma. Fermented in steel and aged in French barriques for 10 months.

Friulano, Tenuta Stella, 2021

59

An intensely aromatic and minerally expression of Friulano from 65 year-old vines in the beloved Collio DOC, an appellation producing some of the nation's top white wines right now. Aged seven months in steel on fine lees.

Malvasia 'Dileo' Riserva, Castelveccchio, 2020

49

From Carso DOC, meaning 'rocky land' in Latin, a reference to the irony limestone soil that grape-growers can only dream of. This is a fruity, full-bodied expression of this storied grape, partially late-harvested and then aged in concrete. Complex and exotic. Such a unique and rich grape and drinking experience, it is naturally high in acidity and citrus compounds and expresses the minerality of Carso beautifully.

DIVINO

WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

6

*ALL VINTAGES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; ASK YOUR SERVER OR SOMMELIER ABOUT CURRENT AVAILABILITY.

ITALIAN WHITE

VENETO

PRICE

Soave Classico La Rocca, Pieropan, 2023

74

La Rocca is a single vineyard located on one of the few limestone outcroppings in the Soave Classico DOC and helps to produce this layered, rich, concentrated, stunning example of Garganega.

Vespaiole, Maculan, 2022

56

Only about 100 HA worldwide are devoted to this ancient varietal, most of which are found in Breganze, its homeland and the name of this DOC. It is naturally high in both sugar and acidity, producing a combination of full-bodied fruitiness with a lively beam of acidity

Gambellara Classico 'Sarò', Cristiana Meggiolaro, 2012

52

'Sarò' means 'I will be' in Italian and refers to the potential of what these Garganega grapes - from low-yield vines planted on volcanic soils rich in basaltic lava, schist, and tufa, in the underrated Gambellara Classico DOC - can become with time.

Pinot Grigio 'Monopolio', Cantina di Gambellara, 2024

40

Classic, fresh, hot-summer-day expression of Pinot Grigio from a cooperative of about 200 family-growers.

Soave Classico Superiore Vigneto Montegrando, Cantina di Monteforte, 2023

38

This bottling comes from the 4 HA of the Montegrando vineyard, one of Soave's 33 UGAs, lush with volcanic soils that deliver all the goods in this complex, fresh, classic Soave. Aged 12 months in 15-hl barrels.

LOMBARDIA

Lugana 'Cromalga', Corte Sermana, 2019

58

Some people go to Lake Garda for the villas; we go there for the wine. Lugana is a DOC for the white Turbiana grape (or Trebbiano di Lugana), a local and late-ripening varietal, located right off the lake's shores, which supplies climate-moderating winds and minerality.

Lugana Riserva 'Molceo', Ottella, 2021

75

Luxurious stuff from the shores of Lake Garda, combining this sumptuous body and flavour profile with minerality and an acidity that punctures through it all. Whole-bunch fermentation, partial malolactic, then 16 months of aging on lees in a combination of steel and large-format tonneaux.

EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Albana di Romagna 'Giovinetta', Collesanti, 2023

54

Probably the most famous white to come out of Emilia-Romagna, Albana grapes are harvested in the wee hours of the morning to retain that freshness, delicately piercing the wonderful fruit and body of this flavourful white, the first white DOCG in Italy.

TOSCANA

Bolgheri Vermentino, Antinori Guado al Tasso, 2024

69

This complex yet fresh white benefits from Bolgheri DOC's adjacency to the sea, which mitigates the Tuscan summer sun with its cooling breezes, and from being in the hands of one of the great wineries Italy has ever seen in Antinori.

Vernaccia di San Gimignano, Castellani, 2024

35

In the shadows of San Gimignano's famous medieval towers are some of the most important vines in Italy: Vernaccia di San Gimignano was the very first DOC in the country in 1966 (it is now DOCG) and holds a hallowed place in the hearts of Tuscans for its zesty, crisp flavours.

Vernaccia di San Gimignano Riserva Vigna a Solatio, Falchini, 2012

68

An extraordinary single-vineyard expression of Tuscany's hallowed white grape given a layer of nuance by the extra year in barrel; the grapes for this came from the very top of the hill, where the one-two punch of optimal sun exposure with cooling breezes is maximised; balanced, complex, exquisite.

ITALIAN WHITE

PIEMONTE

PRICE

Roero Arneis 'Pradalupo', Fontanafredda, 2023

51

Only half of the Arneis grapes are de-stemmed, resulting in a lovely herbal touch to this fresh, fruity white from the Roero DOCG.

Derthona Timorasso, Fontanafredda, 2023

62

Timorasso knows exactly how Taylor felt in 'You Belong with Me': underappreciated, in the background, not noticed for what it offers, but when given the chance, is elegant, dazzling in its complexity, and is actually what you've been looking for the whole time. From the pulverised limestone of Colli Tortonesi DOC, this 'white Barolo' is cryomacerated for 12 hours and then fermented in stainless steel, begging for your attention.

GAVI DOCG

Gavi DOCG is perhaps Piemonte's most famous white wine, based entirely on the Cortese grape, and covering an area so diverse in soils and microclimates that the expressions of Cortese are similarly as diverse, fascinating, and exciting. Limestone, clays, ancient seabeds, and volcanic soils all leave their mark on Cortese grapes that, when grown inside the commune of Gavi, will be labelled 'Gavi di Gavi', as opposed to just 'Gavi', which is when the grapes were not sourced within the town of Gavi but from other towns still within the official DOCG zone. Because of the diversity of soils, winemaking, and weather, they will all have their own refreshing, balanced, mineraly things to say.

Gavi di Gavi 'La Minaia', Bergaglio, 2024

49

100% Cortese, 100% stainless steel, 100% from the commune of Gavi, 100% delicious.

Gavi Vigneto Ciapon, Bergaglio, 2022

55

An exhilarating, complex single-vineyard expression of Cortese that captivates with its marriage of sweet, dried fruit flavours with earthy, smoky nuances.

Surely unlike any Gavi you've ever had but expresses the range and potential of this grape beautifully.

Gavi Riserva Vigna della Rovere Verde, La Mesma, 2020

74

A stunning example of what Gavi and a bit of extended aging can produce.

A single-vineyard based entirely on Old Vines from a small estate in Gavi; 18 months in concrete, then 18 months in bottle. Deeply hued and flavoured, with all that Gavi touch and freshness.

UMBRIA

'Adarmando' Umbria Bianco, Tabarrini, 2016

71

A jaw-dropping drinking experience whether or not full-bodied, exotic, aromatic whites are your thing: 100% Trebbiano Spoletino grapes are cryomacerated for 2 days then aged on the lees, in steel, for a full year. No Malolactic, no oak, nothing like it.

Orvieto Classico Superiore, Antinori San Giovanni della Sala, 2023

68

A complex, precise wine based on Grechetto, the main grape of Orvieto DOC:

50% Grechetto, 25% Procanico, 13% Viognier, 12% Pinot Bianco. Minimal intervention as everything is finished in steel with a few months of lees aging; fresh, lovely, medium-bodied.

Cervaro della Sala, Antinori Castello della Sala, 2022

150

Iconic Chardonnay and possibly the most famous to ever come out of Italy. Chardonnay grapes are harvested in the very early morning to preserve purity and acidity and then fermented (but not aged) in barrel for a few months when the remaining 15% of the wine is blended with the indigenous Grechetto, which sees only stainless steel, for further freshness and aromatics. A special wine.

Conte della Vipera, Antinori Castella della Sala, 2023

82

From the talents of Antinori winemakers, who know a thing or two about Bordeaux blends, comes this dazzling blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon, who mix Sauvignon's trademark acidity and minerality with Semillon's exotic fruit effortlessly.

Montefalco Bianco, Arnaldo Caprai, 2023

45

A lovely peppery, salty expression of a classic white blend of the Montefalco DOC: 60% Trebbiano Spoletino, 40% Chardonnay.

DIVINO

WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

8

*ALL VINTAGES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; ASK YOUR SERVER OR SOMMELIER ABOUT CURRENT AVAILABILITY.

ITALIAN WHITE

MARCHE

PRICE

The Marche is the home to the Verdicchio grape, the region's top grape and one of the white grapes of Italy with the most potential in terms of style, quality, and ageability, and is a style that is likely to only grow and grow. Grapes are concentrated around 25 towns or 'Castelli' that boast pristine hillside vineyards with excellent sun exposure and influence from the nearby Adriatic. Verdicchio is capable of piercing freshness as well as incredible complexity and ageability, and all of these traits are on display in our offerings here, some of the best white wine values in Italy.

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Riserva, Tenuta San Sisto, 2019 64

The Riservas of the Castelli di Jesi DOC were given DOCG status in 2010, and are set to become a top white category in Italy's future: brimming with quality (only the best grapes are used, and for San Sisto only released in the best years), ageability, and immediate-drinking complexity (minimum 18 months of aging is required before release), in this case one year in barrel followed by one year in bottle.

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore 'Kypra', Ca' Liptra, 2023 56

A stunning wine, combining the mineral freshness of the Castelli di Jesi DOC with the floral elegance of white Burgundy; a blend of the estate's best vineyards, 40 to 50 year-old vines, refined in cement tanks. Excellent pairing with cheese and John Coltrane.

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore, Villa Bucci, 2024 48

Forty year-old vines from limestone-rich clay soils produce a Verdicchio of dazzling elegance, freshness, and complexity.

CAMPANIA

Volcanic soils seem to lend their benefits most vividly onto white wines, and that is precisely what makes whites from Campania so special. All of these entries are DOCGs (Lacryma Christi is DOC) and continue to benefit from Mount Vesuvius' eruption 2,000 years ago, when tuff and ash and other volcanic debris blew inland, pushed by the sea breezes off the Bay of Naples, and settled on these vineyards. Volcanic soils are high in minerals and nutrients but are difficult for plants to extract, so the extra stress on the vines results in smaller berries, which increases the ratio of grape juice to skins, pulps, acidity, and everything that adds colour and flavour, which is what makes the quality of these wines just as much as anything else.

Fiano di Avellino Pietramara, I Favati, 2022 60

A lively, nutty, single-vineyard expression of one of the great white wines of Italy from one of the great producers in Campania. A short maceration on the lees but no extended aging. Exquisite mouthfeel, a touch of florals, elegant as hell, from high-elevation vineyards.

Fiano di Avellino Riserva, Feudi di San Gregorio, 2022 67

Twelve months of lees aging adds a touch of texture and length to the elegance and finesse of this medium-bodied, nutty, fruity white, produced by one of the great, most historic wineries in Campania.

Greco di Tufo Terrantica, I Favati, 2022 59

Tufo is the name of the soil composed of volcanic ash from the Vesuvius (and other) eruptions compacted over time. Six months lees aging; a fruity, smoky, peppery, minerally single-vineyard expression.

Lacryma Christi Bianco Vigna Lapillo, Sorrentino, 2022 57

Vines for this blend of 80% Caprettone and 20% Falanghina are grown at 500 metres elevation on the southern slope of Mount Vesuvius, whose generous donations of volcanic pumice and lapilli over the years have come to define the soil and name the vineyard used for this beautiful, smoky, graceful juice.

SARDEGNA

Vermentino di Gallura Superiore, Sella & Mosca, 2023 48

From the only DOCG on Sardinia and replete with granite soils unique to the area, the northeast corner of the island; this is an enticing, suave rendition of Vermentino with an impeccable mouthfeel and zing of acidity, lending freshness to the fruity, aromatic core.

PUGLIA

Verdeca 'Talo', San Marzano, 2023 38

My cat, Bucket, reminds me of Verdeca: chill, playful, full of energy, a little mysterious, expresses itself to you on its own terms, and absolutely loves fish. To add some personality, the wine rests for 3 months in barrel. The cat probably could, too.

ITALIAN WHITE

BASILICATA

PRICE

Il Preliminare, Cantine del Notaio, 2021

50

A fascinating white blend from a region and IGT, Basilicata, more known for its reds: 30% Aglianico grapes (a red) are pressed off the skins (like a white) and accompanied by 30% Chardonnay, 20% Malvasia Bianca, 20% Moscato. Brilliant.

ABRUZZO

Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Vigneto di Popoli, Valle Reale, 2019

91

An astonishing single-vineyard expression aged in stainless steel for 18 months using wild yeasts, from a small, family-owned winery that has made a habit of producing pure expressions of the land of Trebbiano d'Abruzzo DOC: packed with flavour, intensity, grace.

Trebbiano d'Abruzzo, Gran Sasso, 2024

38

Gran Sasso is the name of this winery as well as Abruzzo's most famous mountain that shields the vines from cold, Apennine winds but allows in just enough to keep the grapes from overripening in the hot summer months; fresh, citrusy, bright.

Pecorino d'Abruzzo Superiore 'La Canaglia', Fontefico, 2023

52

From the Terre di Chieti subregion of the Abruzzo DOC, this comes from the Vigna Bianca plot, just 1 kilometre from the sea, and lights up the palate with vivid minerality and a zing of acidity and that seems to reverberate; 48 hours on the skins, 6 months on the lees.

SICILIA

Chardonnay, Planeta, 2023

79

An apex and now legendary Chardonnay: 40% new oak, 30% second-use, 30% third-use. Sensual, deep, from Lake Menfi and the DOC. Available in Magnum (1.5L) as well.

Grillo, Vigneti Zabu', 2024

36

Good luck finding a Trattoria anywhere on the island that doesn't have an option for this indigenous, fresh, medium-bodied white.

Sauvignon Blanc 'Urro di Mare', Mandrarossa 2024

49

From clay-limestone soils a stone's throw from the sea, this is coastal, minerally, fully ripe Sauvignon Blanc as only Sicily could produce. Urro di Mare is a reference to the vineyard area of Menfi, within the larger Sicilia DOC, right off the shores of the Mediterranean.

MOUNT ETNA,

Mount Etna, in the northeast of Sicily, is the highest elevation to be found anywhere on the island and this, combined with its black-as-night volcanic soil, makes it a world-class DOC and winemaking region. The whites, based on the grape Carricante, are structured, elegant, and reflect the smoky, charred nature of the soils they come from in their profile too, often exhibiting pepper, ash, and minerality in the most vivid, pleasant ways.

Etna Bianco 'Aedes', I Custodi, 2022

60

Fruit from 10 year-old bush vines, aged in stainless steel, so you get what you got: smoke, concentration, zest, pure beauty.

Etna Bianco Contrada Taccione, Planeta, 2022

51

Grapes come from a single Contrada, the Etna equivalent to a village 'cru', a way of capturing the unique wine-making environments this magical mountain hosts, and is finished in 20% new oak, adding a subtle touch of body and flavour to the typicity of Etna's smokiness, minerality, pepper, acidity.

Etna Bianco 'Sul Vulcano', Donnafugata, 2022

74

Grapes for this exquisite sip come from the north slope of the volcano, the coolest flank on the mountain, and were aged for ten months in steel, with a small portion aged in 2nd and 3rd-use French oak. Herbs, flowers, pepper spice, ash, happiness.

DIV'INO

WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

10

*ALL VINTAGES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; ASK YOUR SERVER OR SOMMELIER ABOUT CURRENT AVAILABILITY.

WORLD RED

FRANCE

PRICE

BURGUNDY

You will see the influence of Burgundy throughout this wine list: it was Cistercian monks in the 1300s that first discovered that wine made in the same way with the same grapes tasted different if they came from a different vineyard. Those monks measured out some of the most reliable vineyards in the world, and to this day, Burgundians rank the quality of their vineyards based in large part on what these dedicated monks measured out centuries ago. And their influence has crossed borders: Barolo and Barbaresco have essentially adopted their 'cru' system (the Burgundian term for a single site) and will always list the vineyard name if it's not a blend. Throughout the Italian section of this list, where you see the words 'Vigna' or 'Vigneto', you can know that this is a single-vineyard wine. Monks really know their booze.

La Tâche Grand Cru, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, 1970

4,800

Well, here we are. There's not much to be said here that hasn't already been said about this winery, probably the most renowned in the world, or this vineyard, La Tâche, owned entirely by the Domaine and the largest of their vineyards at 6.06 HA. It is slightly higher in elevation than Romanée-Conti - the other monopole of the Domaine and the only other vineyard in Burgundy/the world that could compete in terms of fame and complete deliciousness - which gives wines from La Tâche a particularly robust structure and ageability. The 1970 vintage started out cool but warmed up into the fall, ensuring a long growing season, and La Tâche was listed by Decanter as being one of the wines from the region to be 'very good' in the long-term from an otherwise challenging growing season. Perhaps the peak of red Burgundy, an experience, a lifetime wine.

Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Fonteny, Domaine Henri Rebourseau, 1995

170

From one of the great communes for Pinot Noir the world over, Gevrey-Chambertin, known for producing the most powerful versions of the grape in all of the Cote d'Or, but with time, they unfold into wines of great complexity and nuance. Fonteny is a plot of very rocky soil, producing smaller berries, enhancing that power and concentration even further.

Pommard Premier Cru Les Poutures, Domaine Mazilly & Fils, 1988

132

Known more for power and tannins (for a Pinot Noir), Pommard has a highly-regarded ability to age; this is a darker, savoury, mushroomy bottling from the famous, high-elevation Poutures vineyard, from a top vintage.

Saint-Aubin Premier Cru Sur le Sentier du Clou Vieilles Vignes, Henri Prudhon, 2009

92

Saint-Aubin is an underrated darling of the Côtes de Beaune and Prudhon is one of the commune's most reliable producers, crafting a gorgeously floral, fragrant 1er Cru here from 80 year-old vines. Aged for 18 months in used oak.

Chiroubles 'Les Gatilles', Château de Javernand, 2022

49

From one of the ten 'Cru' of Beaujolais, known for producing expressions of the Gamay grape that are more structured and complex than the typical (and more common) Beaujolais bottlings you'll find in most Tesco's and Lidl's. This elegant version from Javernand is precise, fruity, and light on its feet while also showing depth.

BORDEAUX

Saint-Estèphe, Château Lilian Ladouys, 2016

84

Saint-Estèphe is technically a Left Bank commune (where blends are Cab-dominated), but this wine is led by Merlot: 62%, then 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Rich and complex, well-aged Bordeaux.

Margaux Deuxième Cru, Château Lascombes, 1990

210

This is why we play the game, for wines like this. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, from one of only 14 estates awarded Deuxieme Cru status in the 1855 Classification of Medoc; a ridiculous wine, packing flavour upon flavour onto each sip, ranging from fruits to minerals to herbs we've never even heard of, all delivered with aged Bordeaux's restrained power.

St-Emilion Grand Cru, Château Carteau, 2005

99

On the right bank, where Merlot is king: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. Fruity, full-bodied, a touch of earth and aged magic.

WORLD RED

FRANCE (CONT.)

PRICE

LOIRE VALLEY

Saumur Rouge, Brendan Stater-West, 2023

71

Phenomenally aromatic, old-vine Cabernet Franc that spends 12 months in neutral oak barrels (225L, 300L, and 400L), six months in stainless steel, and displays Saumur's magical soils all at the same time. Phenomenally aromatic, old-vine Cabernet Franc that spends 12 months in neutral oak barrels (225L, 300L, and 400L), six months in stainless steel, and displays Saumur's magical soils all at the same time.

RHÔNE VALLEY

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine de Villeneuve Vieilles Vignes, 1998

98

An old-school style, with red fruits and spice and florals and, at about 27 years old, a bit of earth and pleasant funk as well; the blend itself is pleasantly funky too: 70% Grenache, 16% Mourvedre, 8% Syrah, 4% Cinsault, 2% Clairette.

Cornas La Sabarotte, Domaine Courbis, 2006

124

Imagine a wine with a flavour profile of dark fruits, minerality, cured meat, smoke, flowers, blood, pepper, spice. All in the same wine! That is Syrah from Cornas. This 2006 is a single-vineyard bottling by Courbis, one of the most hallowed of Cornas producers; 70% was aged in oak, 30% of which was new.

Hermitage Les Dionnières, Fayolle Fils & Fille, 2012*

82

Syrah grapes for this wine come from 70 year-old vines from the lieu-dit Dionnières, a site rich in granite that lends a remarkable mineral quality to go with Syrah's other benchmarks: pepper, dark fruits, spice, and aged one year in barrel.

SPAIN

Rioja Gran Reserva, Finca Manzanos, 2015

74

From clay-limestone soils at 400 metres above sea level - a big detail in Rioja - this Tempranillo saw a whopping 8 years of aging: 3 years in barrel (70% French, 30% American), and then 5 years in bottle.

Rioja Reserva, Vivanco, 2017

53

Tempranillo in its sweet spot of red fruits with oak and spice, supplemented with 10% Graciano; aged two years in oak, combining French and American as well as new and used oak, and then a further two years in bottle.

GREECE

Goumenissa, Domaine Chatzivaritis, 2021

64

Sexy stuff, this, an indigenous blend of 70% Xinmavro and 30% Negoska, sourced from the sandy-clay soils of Fyliria in the renowned Goumenissa PDO, and is elegant yet confident, boasting flavours and structure that evoke the style of Barolo.

ARGENTINA

Malbec 'Selección de la Familia', Humberto Canale, 2022

56

Equal parts fruity and spicy, with Malbec's bewitching ability to combine red and dark fruit flavours, this is layered, full-bodied stuff and the estate's top bottling, from high-elevation vineyards in Patagonia, aged for 12 months in French and American oak.

NEW ZEALAND

Pinot Noir, Wild Earth, 2021

69

From the southernmost wine region in the world, Central Otago brings a stunning floral, herbal side to Pinot Noir; this example by Wild Earth captivates with its fruit, minerality, and cool-climate acidity.

ITALIAN RED

PIEMONTE

PRICE

BAROLO

A wine capable of stealing the show all on its own: Barolo. Made from the Nebbiolo grape, and traditionally aged in large barrels known as botti (many of which are taller than the room you sit in), Barolo DOCG has two main things going for it: a spellbinding complexity of flavour combined with the magic trick of having light-to-medium-bodied frame buttressed by hefty tannins and acidity, like a delicate croissant stuffed with filet mignon. The soils here have two main divisions: La Morra and Barolo soils have higher concentrations of calcareous marl, which produces lower tannins and a more elegant style of wine; the other three communes (Serralunga d'Alba, Castiglione Falletto, Monforte d'Alba) have more sandstone, which produces wines of elevated tannin, structure, and power. Both styles are quintessential Nebbiolo, glorious with food, and an experience all to themselves.

Barolo Cascina Francia, Giacomo Conterno, 2018

480

Conterno is a wizard with Nebbiolo and his Monfortino is one of the most famous Barolos ever produced, but in 2018 he decided to forego the Monfortino and instead blended those barrels in with his Cascina Francia. A special bottling, and a special wine.

Barolo Cannubi, Giacomo Brezza, 2020

145

The 'Grand Cru' of Barolo is widely considered to be Cannubi, Piemonte's most famous vineyard that sits smack in the heart of the Barolo zone, the surrounding hills shielding it from extreme weather and allowing the grapes to reach optimal ripeness and complexity with a long, peaceful growing season. From a traditional producer, Brezza: elegant, approachable, ravishing.

Barolo 'Tre Tine', Rinaldi, 2011

410

Tre Tine is a reference to the three vineyards from which this blend is made - Cannubi San Lorenzo, Ravera, and Le Coste - from three different communes, so you get a little of the best of each resulting in an ultra balanced, elegant, complex expression.

Barolo Coste di Rose, G.D. Vajra, 2021

135

A gorgeous nose transports you right to the commune of Barolo, where this prized cru originates, located beside the legendary Cannubi cru and right below a forest, which moderates temperature and ensures slow, even ripening. Ready to go right out of the gate.

Barolo Mosconi, E. Pira & Figli, 2015

210

Winemaker Chiara Boschis purchased this winery in 1990 and has proceeded to establish herself as one of Barolo's best. Her 0.8 hectare Mosconi cru devastates with its complexity and pedigree, delivered with Barolo's perfect teeter-totter of power with finesse.

Barolo Parussi, Massolino, 2020

178

I love finding a top-notch producer, someone whose style or quality is reliable, and following all of their wines. Massolino is one such producer, with an esteemed reputation across the Langhe, this from the esteemed Parussi cru, approachable and complex and wearing the Massolino badge of power, balance, and a staggering panoply of flavour.

Barolo, Fratelli Oddero, 1967

390

From a time when the Cru system as it is today didn't even exist, and when fully-ripened Barolo could clock in at 13.5% ABV, Oddero's wines are famous for their ability to age, and this comes from the 5-star 1967 vintage, one of the best of the century in Barolo.

Barolo Riva del Bric, Paolo Conterno, 2018

84

Riva del Bric is a plot within the highly-regarded Ginestra cru in Monforte d'Alba and an early-drinking plot which, along with 24 months' aging in French oak, means this is quite round, balanced, ready to go, and quintessential Barolo.

Barolo Roncaglie, Eraldo Viberti, 2017

110

Another gem of La Morra, Roncaglie is an underrated cru that's sitting in a perfect place in this version by Eraldo Viberti: finesse, structure, brightness, a lovely touch of spice.

Barolo, Francesco Rinaldi, 1967

350

The 60s and 70s were the golden years of Francesco Rinaldi's wines and they continue to age like it. This one, 1967, was one of Piedmont's great vintages and in Rinaldi's veterans you can expect earth, leather, spice, tertiary notes, savoury nuance.

ITALIAN RED

PIEMONTE (CONT.)

PRICE

BAROLO

Barolo Brunate, Marcarini, 2014

99

One of my favourite values in the whole book and from the highly esteemed Brunate cru, Marcarini has this lovely, mineral, red-fruited style that leans elegant and, at 12 years old, is in a beautiful spot right now.

Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata, Renato Molino, 2015

160

A refined, herbal, exquisite Barolo from the famous Rocche dell'Annunziata cru in

La Morra, from 50 year-old vines that boast perfect sun exposure on a south-facing hill.

Only the best bunches are used for this, aged 40 months in 40 hl botti, and bristles with flavour.

BARBARESCO

Only twenty kilometres from the village of Barolo lies the town of Barbaresco, on the other side of Alba, where the hills don't reach quite as high and so are a bit warmer, and the soils a bit more fertile, meaning the grapes don't experience as much stress, and so the growing season a bit shorter.

The wines that result from this environment don't have the tannic bite or power of Barolo, and so Barbaresco DOCG's reputation was set in place as being a more elegant, approachable style of Nebbiolo, but still perfectly capable of going toe-to-toe in terms of complexity, flavour profile, and that inescapable wow factor that well-made Nebbiolo induces out of its drinkers. Barbaresco also abides by the cru system, so vineyard names will occur immediately after the village name, a few of them considered among the best single-site vineyards in Italy.

Barbaresco Sori Tildin, Gaja, 2015

540

In the world of Barbaresco, there is no name that has reached the heights of Angelo Gaja, and it shows in the bottles on offer here, starting with perhaps the most famous vineyard he works, Sori Tildin, a 3.8 HA vineyard located in a south-facing amphitheatre, so full ripeness is rarely an issue but there is pedigree, awe, and grace here.

Barbaresco, Gaja, 2019

380

You know that scene in *Gladiator* when Juba, Maximus's friend, first sees the Colosseum and says, 'I did not know man could build such things?' That is how I feel when I drink this wine, a blend of Gaja's best sites,

Barbaresco, Produttori del Barbaresco, 1970

290

Founded in 1958, Produttori del Barbaresco is a cooperative of 54 families who own hectares (over 100 total) in the Barbaresco DOCG zone; they grow only one grape, Nebbiolo, and they grow it well.

This 1970 is legendary, still going strong, and likely will for some time.

Barbaresco Rabaja, Bruno Rocca, 2020

210

Rabaja is one of the most esteemed crus in the Barbaresco zone, with a soil combining clay, limestone, tuff, and marl, resulting in a wine similarly layered and multifaceted, yet woven together with such grace and seamlessness as only the Rocca family can do.

Barbaresco Roncaglie Riserva, Socré, 2015

145

The estate's most prized cru, Roncaglie, given an extra dose of aging, from the excellent 2015 vintage. The extra year in barrel pushes this on the rich side of Barbaresco yet it's laced with savoury notes, like tinsel across a Christmas tree.

Barbaresco Baluchin Riserva, Cocito, 2013*

130

Sourced from the highest part of Bric Micca, a cru of clay-sandy soils, so the cool climate from this high-elevation site lends a taut, precise acidity to complement the 22 months aging in oak, 10% of which was new barrel. Exquisite now and with room to grow.

Barbaresco Ovello, Cascina Morassino, 2021*

105

This is classic Barbaresco - spice, finesse, red fruits, flowers - with an extra dose of body lent to it by the high proportion of clay found in the soil of Ovello, one of the top crus in Barbaresco, and it doesn't hurt to have the pedigreed hand of Morassino behind it all.

Barbaresco, Socré, 2017*

91

Socré was founded as a winery in 1869, continues to be run within the same family, and have been sculpting wines of elegance, complexity, and precision now for over 150 years. This is a blend of their estate grapes and is properly hitting its stride.

ITALIAN RED

PIEMONTE (CONT.)

PRICE

LANGHE, ALTO PIEMONTE, MONFERRATO

Langhe Nebbiolo, Cascina Morassino, 2022

61

Native yeasts, 18 months in large barrels, and Morassino's beautiful calcareous marl soils help deliver the purity and beauty of these old-vine Nebbiolo grapes, most of which come from 50+ year-old vines.

Langhe Nebbiolo Sito Moresco, Gaja, 2021

148

Gaja bought vineyards in Treiso and Serralunga d'Alba from the Moresco family and named this blend of 50% Nebbiolo, 40% Barbera, and 10% Merlot after them. There's plenty of juiciness and fruitiness here but this is poised, elegant, savoury, and light on its feet.

Gattinara, Giacomo Conterno-Nervi, 2017

96

Roberto Conterno is a legend in Barolo but in the 2010s he purchased Gattinara DOCG's most famous estate, Nervi, to capitalise on the cooler, volcanic vines of Nebbiolo (locally known as Spanna). Conterno usually bottles his individual vineyards but in 2017 he decided to combine them all, so this punches above its normal weight. Cracking value.

Ghemme Riserva, Cantina Sociale di Sizzano e Ghemme, 1964

115

Just across the highway from Gattinara lies the district of Ghemme, whose hills are of alluvial origin and produce a style of Spanna in a brighter, herbal, more ethereal style, especially with this much age, where the hefty tannins of the grape are resolved; a rare bottle, displaying the characteristics of an even rarer, long-lived vintage.

Barbera di Nizza Bansella, Prunotto, 2021

61

A lovely single-vineyard expression of Barbera from Nizza, the newest DOCG for Barbera (awarded in 2014), where the vineyards are hillier and have higher concentrations of sand. Nine months' aging in small barrels.

Barbera d'Asti Superiore 'Magister', Cantine di Nizza, 2022

45

Barbera as its fullest, darkest, fruitiest self. In Alba, the best sites are devoted to Nebbiolo, but in Asti, this privilege belongs to Barbera and is part of the reason Barbera d'Asti is a DOCG. From calcareous clay soils and prime south-facing slopes.

Barbera d'Alba Superiore, Malabaila, 2020

70

Excellent Barbera for its depth, nuance, and layers upon layers of flavour; from the Alba district and DOC, where Barbera is typically more structured and masculine, this is a cracking mix of savoury backbone with Barbera's signature dark fruits and spice.

Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Bastia, Conterno Fantino, 2022

50

Dolcetto is what Piedmontese winemakers drink when they're not making Barolo; round, supple, fruity, entirely satisfying. This is a lush, single-vineyard bottling, accented by florals and a lovely, soft acidity.

Monferrato Rosso 'Nivö', Rugra, 2011

62

Nivö (or Nibio) is a rare clone of Dolcetto known for its red stems and more earthy, characterful flavour profile, and this aged Monferrato DOC is from a small (2 HA) winery combining earthy elegance with classic Dolcetto fruit, roundness, and charm.

ITALIAN RED

TOSCANA

PRICE

CHIANTI

Chianti is divided into eight subzones, the most famous of which is Chianti Classico DOCG, which is the central, older, and hillier of the subzones, as well as where loads of those ridiculously romantic photos of cypress-lined roads come from. It is known for its Albarese soil, sandstone and clay, which contribute acidity and structure, and as a result these wines bring that blast of freshness to go with its rustic, cherry, countryside frame. The quintessential wine of Tuscany and the most legendary Sangiovese worldwide.

Chianti Classico Poggio Cheto, Tenute Piccini, 2022 <i>Ten percent each of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon serves to add colour, structure, and fruitiness to this warm, enveloping Chianti.</i>	46
Chianti Classico Riserva, Castello di Meleto, 2021 <i>Imagine a Tuscan hillside with wildflowers all around and an ancient clay pot sticking out of the red, iron-laced dirt nearby, wild tomato vines trying to sprout. That is this wine. Includes 5% Merlot, but it's the Sangiovese that sings: 20 months in 54 hl barrels and concrete.</i>	60
Chianti Classico Riserva, Castello della Paneretta, 2020 <i>Special Sangiovese reinforced by a local grape, Canaiolo (10%), as well as one of the best estates in Monsanto, this Chianti Classico is aged for two years in 50 and 30 hectolitre barrels and delivers vivid, tantalising flavours.</i>	72
Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna Monna Lisa, Vignamaggio, 2017 <i>Aged 30 months in a combination of small French and large Slavonian oak barrels, this is 100% Sangiovese and Vignamaggio's top bottling, displaying wonderful concentration, power, intensity, with this gorgeous, feral edginess to it.</i>	89
Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Bucerchiale, Selvapiana, 2022 <i>If Chianti Classico is the popular, good-looking older sibling that gets all the attention, Rufina is the less outgoing, less well-known younger sibling that's just as compelling, when given the chance. The smallest and coolest of the Chianti subzones, where aromatics and single-vineyard bottlings are prioritised. This is a stunning effort from the Bucerchiale cru: finesse, fragrance, freshness.</i>	71

MONTEPULCIANO

Renaissance-era nobility adored the wines of Montepulciano so much that they requested that plantings of the grape - a biotype of Sangiovese known as Prugnolo Gentile - be increased, so the grape was planted in the Peligna Valley in Abruzzo, where local farmers referred to it as 'that Montepulciano grape' and the moniker stuck, resulting in the mass confusion, to this day, between the wines of the Montepulciano grape in Abruzzo and the wines of the Montepulciano town in Tuscany, one of the great DOCGs for Sangiovese in Italy. Once you account for the unlucky name, however, what you get is a more aromatic and rounded style of Sangiovese, coupled with extraordinary aromatics, balance, and depth. Wine fit for a king, it turns out.

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Tenuta Valdipiatta, 2020 <i>One of those wines you wish they'd make a candle out of, the aromatics on this are just insane, reinforced by 15% Canaiolo.</i>	71
Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Vigna d'Alfiero, Tenuta Valdipiatta, 2019 <i>From one of the estate's treasured vineyards, planted in the 1960s, and produced only in exceptional years - and 2019 certainly was that - this is 100% Prugnolo Gentile macerated for 4 weeks, aged for 18 months in large barrels, and refined in bottle another year.</i>	86
Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva, Il Macchione, 2016 <i>Pure Sangiovese glory here, 100% Prugnolo Gentile aged for 36 months in large barrels that seem to only help the Sangiovese along towards what it does best: savoury, complex, meaty power reined in by Tuscan rusticity and finesse.</i>	106

ITALIAN RED

TOSCANA (CONT.)

PRICE

MONTALCINO

Montalcino is a walled town sitting on the precipice of a hill, which is no small metaphor, with wines here garnering international fame and considered some of the best Italy has to offer, based on a clone of Sangiovese called Brunello, a thicker-skinned version of Italy's most-planted grape; its wines are a bit more robust, full, and structured than Chianti or Vino Nobile. There is more limestone around Montalcino as well, and the Monte Amiata range to the southeast protects the region from sudden rain or hail. At its best, Brunello di Montalcino DOCG is a full-bodied, richly flavoured tour de force that beckons us to slow down and notice the many things it can do to our palates, capable of aging as well as wowing us right now.

Brunello do Montalcino, Canalicchio di Sopra, 2016

150

Bombastic and beautiful Brunello. Canalicchio is one of the two 'crus' the estate owns, and this bottling is a combination of Canalicchio's iron-laced galestro soil with the concentrated, silty soil of Montosoli, the other cru. Four-week maceration and 36 months aging in Slavonian oak doles out red fruit, meatiness, savoury nuance, and a bit of attitude.

Brunello di Montalcino, Conti Costanti, 2015*

168

Such is Andrea Costanti's pursuit of quality that he intentionally sat out the sub-par 2014 vintage because he didn't believe in its potential. When he does make wine, it makes headlines: 36 months aging in a mix of Allier tonneaux and 30 hl casks, including contact with the lees. Changes and benefits significantly with air, so we recommend a decant.

Brunello di Montalcino, Tenuta Buon Tempo, 2010

128

Grapes are hand-harvested, macerated for a full month, fermented with wild yeasts, and prayed over by the local priest. Okay, just kidding about the priest, but it feels like it was: refined, fragrant, serious, makes you want to look to the heavens after the first sip.

Brunello di Montalcino, Biondi-Santi, 2017*

410

In 1842, Ferruccio Biondi Santi isolated a clone of the Sangiovese grape that became known as Sangiovese Grosso, or 'Brunello'. The Biondi-Santi family continues to craft one of the best expressions of this famous grape: fiercely flavoured with elegance, structure, purity of fruit, and a mouthfeel almost as legendary as the family name.

Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 'Pian di Conte', Talenti, 2016*

182

Riccardo Talenti's top bottling, made only in exceptional vintages, and using grapes from the estate's oldest vines on sandy soils with lots of stones, which radiate sunlight to enhance ripening, meaning the balance with the high elevation here is extraordinary. Six years' aging includes 2 years in large barrel, combining French tonneaux with 15-25 hl Slavonian botti.

Brunello di Montalcino Vigna La Casa, Caparzo, 1999

140

A rich, aged, full-bodied single-vineyard bottling from a stellar year and top producer in Caparzo, who combined small barriques with large-format barrel aging for three years here.

Brunello di Montalcino, Il Poggione, 2019

99

One of my favourite producers - Poggione always manages to combine pristine elegance and restraint with the wild, rustic character of powerful Brunello - and from an underrated, cooler vintage: impeccable structure, red-fruited, spicy, lovely.

Brunello di Montalcino, Antinori Pian delle Vigne, 2019

155

From vines located just outside Montalcino on low-lying, sheltered hills that ensure a long growing season - these grapes were harvested in October - Antinori has made his presence felt for Brunello, too, aged two years in large format barrel: elegant, pure, vibrant Sangiovese.

Rosso di Montalcino, Il Poggione, 2022

60

From the same Brunello grapes as its older, more famous siblings above, but from younger vines and without as much aging, yet still bringing plenty of that Sangiovese Grosso character, this 'Baby Brunello' is open and lush and from a top, traditional producer.

ITALIAN RED

TOSCANA (CONT.)

PRICE

BOLGHERI, MAREMMA, 'SUPER TUSCANS'

It all started in 1968, when Piero Antinori decided to release the Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend that had been made for family and friends. He called this wine Sassicaia, a wine produced entirely from non-native grapes, a category of Italian wine not supported by the new Italian wine laws (the DOC system, launched in 1966), and so this ground-breaking wine was labelled at the lowest tier an Italian wine could have: *Vino da Tavola*, table wine. But the wine, and the style, caught the eye of critics and consumers, and eventually a whole new tier in Italian wine law (IGT) would be created for this daring, revolutionary category of Italian wine (usually labelled *Toscana IGT*). The wines below don't carry the prestigious *DOCG* label, but they don't care, and that's perhaps the thing that makes them just a little extra delicious: they had a vision and crafted wines of quality, the way they wanted to, regardless of the lawmaking noise around them.

Sassicaia, Tenuta San Guido, 2013*

510

Sassicaia was initially categorised 'Vino da Tavola', and now it's the only wine in Italy to have its own DOC: Bolgheri Sassicaia DOC. 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Cabernet Franc of dark, intense, shockingly coherent and balanced wine, from rocky, gravelly soils very similar to Bordeaux, on which the blend is based. An experience, and slice of history.

Ornellaia, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, 1999*

540

Piero Antinori's brother, Ludovico, set out in 1985 on his own project and created a blockbuster: Ornellaia, produced in Bolgheri DOC, along the coast. The 1999 is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and they combine in what is a stunningly complete, full-bodied masterclass in concentration of flavour, in harnessing of structure and aromatics into one sip.

Tignanello, Marchesi Antinori, 2016*

310

From winemaker Giacomo Tachis (who also made Sassicaia), Tignanello was the first Sangiovese to be aged in barriques, the first red wine in Chianti that didn't use white grapes; Tignanello is a benchmark. 80% Sangiovese, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Cabernet Franc in a wildly complex wine, combining finesse and Sangiovese's savoury feral side with dark, brooding fruits.

Solaia, Marchesi Antinori, 2000*

680

During the 1978 harvest, Marchesi Antinori had a surplus of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes leftover from making Tignanello (see above entry), so decided to bottle them on their own. He called this wine Solaia, and it now includes Sangiovese and has become one of the most sought-after bottlings on the planet; 75% Cabernet, 20% Sangiovese, 5% Cabernet Franc: herbs and tobacco and power and dark, luscious fruits.

Le Serre Nuove dell'Ornellaia, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, 2014

150

The estate's 'second wine' after Ornellaia, just like what the Bordeaux houses do, offering the pedigree and fingerprint of the original at a rung lower. The blend of 50% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 7% Petit Verdot is aged for 18 months in barrel, 25% new, and then refined in bottle a further six months. Fruity, full, spicy, fascinating.

Poggio al Lupo, Tenuta Sette Ponti, 2004

140

An exotic, wildly complex wine based primarily on Cabernet Sauvignon with support from Alicante and Petit Verdot from Maremma DOC, near the coast, which provides the acidity to support this bold, aged, funky, full-bodied beast.

Cont'Ugo, Tenuta Guado al Tasso, 2022

128

From the prestigious Bolgheri DOC comes this 100% Merlot bottling from Antinori, where the best lots are blended and then aged in second-pass barrels for a year and then bottled: pure, full, muscular Merlot.

Cepparello, Isole e Olena, 2015*

180

Iconic Sangiovese from the estate's best sites, 400m in elevation on Galestro (a highly-valued schist-clay soil), barrel-aged for 20 months, a third in new oak, a third in second-use, and a third in third-use, all after extensive délestage. 'Burgundy'-style Sangiovese: elegance, red fruits, minerality, ample fruit, and a bit of awe.

ITALIAN RED

TOSCANA (CONT.)

PRICE

BOLGHERI, MAREMMA, 'SUPER TUSCANS'

Campora, Falchini, 1996

115

From San Gimignano, this is the estate's top red bottling: a Toscana IGT blend of 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot; 4 years' aging, 2 in French oak and then 2 more in bottle. From the cooler 1996 vintage; full-bodied, fruity, earthy.

Carnasciale, Podere Il Carnasciale, 2016*

105

Have you ever heard of 'Caberlot'? I hadn't either. It's a legit grape, a crossing of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, and combines their qualities beautifully in this black, concentrated wine, which leans a bit Cab Franc in terms of flavour. Magnificent at this age.

Botrosecco Cabernet, Antinori Le Mortelle, 2022

92

Antinori's estate in Maremma DOC, southern Tuscany, a powerful blending of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Cabernet Franc whose tannins are actually quite reined in for such a young age and so is wonderful to drink today, full of Cab character and yearning for food.

Promis, Gaja Ca' Marcanda, 2022*

90

An aromatic, bold, and polished Toscana IGT, as only Angelo Gaja (maestro of Barbaresco) could do, with 55% Merlot, 35% Syrah, and 10% Sangiovese to add that Mediterranean warmth. One year aging in barrel to give it depth.

Il Seggio, Poggio al Tesoro, 2023

70

A full, rich example of Bolgheri DOC, blending 50% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Petit Verdot, from vines at sea level that are cooled by the Tyrrhenian, aged for 15 months in 30% new and 70% used Allier barriques.

MAREMMA

Morellino di Scansano, Barbi, 2022

49

Morellino is the local term in Maremma for Sangiovese, and is a DOCG when Sangiovese comprises at least 85% of the blend, in this case 90% plus 10% Merlot, and benefits from the nearby Tyrrhenian sea breezes. Six months aging in French oak.

CARMIGNANO

Carmignano 'Villa di Capezzana', Capezzana, 2020

74

The power and tannins of Cabernet Sauvignon combine with the savoury spine of Sangiovese in this full-bodied, historic blend, a DOCG that was the very first appellation in all of Italy - even before the big Super Tuscans, below - allowed, by law, to blend in Cabernet.

ELBA

Elba Rosso Riserva 'Ginevra', Tenuta La Chiusa, 2019

61

Yes, even the tiny island of Elba, just off Tuscany's coast, produces wine. This is a fine, herbal, red-fruited Riserva, 60% Sangiovese and 40% Merlot, sourced from vines near sea-level on clay soils. One year aging in French barriques, one year refinement in bottle.

ITALIAN RED

VENETO

PRICE

Valpolicella Classico, David Sterza, 2024

42

All stainless-steel production highlights the beautiful flavours in this light, elegant blend of 70% Corvina, 15% Rondinella, 15% Molinara.

Valpolicella Classico Superiore Terre di Cariano, Cecilia Beretta, 2020

49

The best bunches from harvest are sorted for this wine, which then matures for 16 months in barrel, followed by 6 months in bottle. An exquisite mouthfeel to this, at this age sitting in a sweet spot. 60% Corvina, 20% Corvinone, 20% Rondinella.

Valpolicella Classico Superiore, Meroni Il Velluto, 2017

69

A special bottling from Saint'Ambrogio wherein the grapes are dried for 30 days after harvest, essentially making it a 'Baby Amarone', yet striking in its classy, exotic delivery of flavours. 30% Corvina, 30% Corvinone, 30% Rondinella, 10% Molinara.

Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore 'Maciòn', Collina dei Ciliegi, 2022*

57

One of the most complete and refined Ripasso's I've tasted. The vineyards are the highest in the Valpantena, resulting in a longer growing season due to the high diurnal shifts, a month longer than the valley, producing grapes higher in aromatic complexity. Ten-day fermentation on Amarone and Recioto pomace, 12 months in tonneau. 70% Corvina, 25% Corvinone, 5% Rondinella.

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOCG

Amarone della Valpolicella, Tedeschi, 2005

140

Exceptional Amarone from no shortage of bold winemaking decisions: 60-day fermentation after an October harvest; 3 years in oak; 16% Vol.; blends a whopping 7 varietals: 30% Corvina, 30% Corvinone, 30% Rondinella, 10% Osoleta, Rossignola, Negrara, Dindarella.

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva, Biscardo, 2011

110

High-elevation vines consisting of 75% Corvina, 20% Corvinone, and 5% Rondinella are aged in Slavonian oak tonneaux for 21 months. The evolution of this complex, meditative wine after opening is something to behold, so we recommend a decant.

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, David Sterza, 2020

95

Sterza brings such a unique style with his touches of pepper-spice, umami, and smokiness but still showcases all the hallmarks of Amarone; 90-day appassimento follows 24 months aging in barrel. 60% Corvina, 20% Corvinone, 17% Rondinella, 3% Osoleta. 16% Vol.

Amarone della Valpolicella, Torre del Falasco, 2021

84

Steep, terraced hillside vines in Valpantena with poor, chalky soil. Appassimento lasts four months, or until 40% of their weight is lost to evaporation, then allowed to mature for 18 months in barriques. 85% Corvina, 10% Corvinone, 5% Rondinella.

LOMBARDIA

If you were in my wine class, and I had to take you all a field trip to one place, it would be Valtellina. A DOCG of impossibly steep vineyards, UNESCO-listed stone walls holding the vined terraces together, donkeys carrying stones back up the mountain to replace the erosion, jagged mountain peaks in the distance, and loads of small, family wineries producing this elegant, alpine, textural expression of the Nebbiolo grape, locally known as Chiavennasca.

Valtellina Superiore Valgella Vigna Cà Morei, Sandro Fay, 2019

76

This is 'light-bodied' Nebbiolo, but with enough punch of tannins to remind you of what we're dealing with; 12 months aging in barrel, a single-vineyard expression from Fay's Cà Morei cru that remains one of my favourite values on this list.

Valtellina Superiore Valgella Vigna Carteria Riserva, Sandro Fay, 2019

94

From the finest cru in Fay's range, sitting at 500 metres elevation, Carteria is aged for 12 months in 30 hl oak casks and then another year in bottle. An enticing savoury flavour profile is supported by high-elevation acidity and pure, precise fruit.

ITALIAN RED

TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE

Teroldego Rotaliano Superiore Riserva, Castel Firmian, 2022

Teroldego is a magical varietal, exhibiting many of the same traits as Syrah - of which it is a cousin - with its dark fruit, capacity for aging and complexity, and smooth structure. Two years' aging, one of which was in Allier oak barrels.

47

Pinot Nero Riserva 'St. Daniel', Colterenzio, 2022

Pinot Noir is not widely-planted in Italy, most of the peninsula being too hot, but it has found a cool-climate home in Trentino, and this is a beautifully constructed Riserva by one of the region's top producers; two years' aging, one in barrel and another in bottle.

64

FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

Pinot Nero, Bressan, 2018

A bewitching and quite extraordinary expression as only the gifted hands of Fulvio Bressan could craft, macerating his Pinot Noir for 30 days, then aging it for three years in large-format barrels. Spice, pepper, herbs, charcoal, like you're standing next to his grill in the alpine foothills.

96

Schioppettino, Casali Roncali, 2023

Of the 500+ indigenous varietals of Italy, few are as exciting as Schioppettino, a grape capable of great complexity and elegance, all wonderfully captured in this peppery, light-bodied expression, aged 6 months, half in steel and half in used barrel after a gentle 10-day maceration.

57

LIGURIA

Rossese di Dolceacqua Superiore, Tenuta Anfosso, 2016

Dolceacqua is a quaint-as-you-like town near the Ligurian coast, famous for its old stone bridge, but it should be more famous for its wines. They're amazing, exhibiting herbs, flowers, minerals, meatiness, red fruits, a dazzling and elegant mouthfeel. Anfosso works some of the steepest slopes in the DOC, all facing the sea; 50% whole-bunch fermentation, one year aging in steel.

63

UMBRIA

Montefalco Rosso 'Ziggurat', Tenute Lunelli, 2020

The classic blend of Umbria reds from the hilltop town from which it gets its name and DOC, full-bodied and layered and meaty, 70% Sangiovese, 15% Sagrantino, 15% Merlot.

48

Montefalco Rosso Vigna Flaminia-Maremmiana, Arnaldo Caprai, 2021

Not quite a 'single' vineyard bottling but sourced from three plots located along Via Flaminia, an old road that connects Umbria with Maremma. An at once brooding yet refined Montefalco DOC blend of 70% Sangiovese, 15% Sagrantino, 15% Merlot.

59

Montefalco Sagrantino Colle Grimaldesco, Tabarrini, 2010

Sagrantino is the most hallowed grape, by far, of the region of Umbria, and shows off all of its full-bodied, vivacious, and feral potential in the Montefalco Sagrantino DOCG bottlings that most estates in the area release. Tabarrini produces so many incredible single-vineyard versions that we have two: this one is the fuller-bodied, fruitier version.

89

Montefalco Sagrantino Vigna Campo alla Cerqua, Tabarrini, 2009

Sagrantino from Giampaolo Tabarrini's smallest vineyard, Campo alla Cerqua, and probably his most refined. Drinking this is like watching a bear take a nap - you know there is power there, but it comes across so peacefully, so soothingly.

99

ITALIAN RED

MARCHE

PRICE

Rosso Piceno, Franco Aurora, 2022

48

Rosso Piceno is a little-known DOC typically combining the local Montepulciano grape with Sangiovese, and in this case, a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon to boost colour and structure. Six months aging in large, used barrel.

Cùmaro Conero Riserva, Umani Ronchi, 2020

84

Cùmaro is a nod to the Greek name for the nearby Conero Mountain, after which this DOC is named. Montepulciano grapes are aged for 14 months in oak and aided by proximity to the sea, lending its salty breezes and calcareous soil. Power, dark fruits, herbs, spice.

Lacrima di Morro d'Alba, Velenosi, 2021

36

Lacrima di Morro is a red grape indigenous to Marche and just about the only place you'll find it. Floral, herbal, bright, mouth-filling.

ABRUZZO

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOC is one of the most important red wines in all of Italy, a remarkable thing to be able to say as the grape, and its corresponding appellations, had to survive the history of sharing the same name with the town in Tuscany that produces Sangiovese-based wines. But alas! Here we are, still in awe of the range and diversity that can come from this varietal, native to Abruzzo, but it is most famous (and loved) for its full-bodied, fruity, unctuous styles that have won over hearts and critics alike.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Villa Gemma, Gianni Masciarelli, 2018

160

Masciarelli's top bottling which has received somewhat of a cult status, this is low-yield Montepulciano grapes as they were meant to be. Thirty-day maceration in oak barrels lends plenty of power and flavour that was then tempered and layered by 18 months' aging in barrel followed by another 24 months in bottle. A stunning mouthfeel, concentration, a long, lingering finish.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Vigneto Sant'Eusanio, Valle Reale, 2020

71

Stainless steel fermentation and aging (one year), from a single vineyard delightfully buried in a pine forest not far from the coast and at 500 metres, this remarkable bottling showcases a less showy but suave side to Montepulciano, like that kid in secondary school who was popular *and* volunteered at the old folks' home on the weekends.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Colline Teramane, Gran Sasso, 2022

56

A superlative wine by most measurements: high ripeness and high alcohol meet two years' aging in oak: chocolatey, fruity, rich.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Gianni Masciarelli, 2021

49

That the same winemaker is responsible for the Villa Gemma bottling, above, as this one just goes to show the remarkable range on hand in the Masciarelli lab. This is all stainless-steel production, showing the herbal, savoury, red-fruited side to this remarkable grape.

MOLISE

Aglianico del Molise Riserva 'Contado', Di Majo Norante, 2017

59

Aglianico del Molise DOC is in southeast Molise, near the coast, and enjoys a cooler climate with a long growing season; grapes were harvested in late October, fermented in steel, then aged three years, one of which was a combination of small and large barrel.

Biferno Rosso, Palladino, 2019

35

A deep, dark, earthy, delectably satisfying combination of 70% Montepulciano and 30% Aglianico, a blend typical of the Biferno DOC located along the river of the same name; this is aged for 18 months in large oak barrels and then for 18 months in stainless steel.

BASILICATA

Aglianico del Vulture, Donato d'Angelo, 2020

60

From a small estate sitting at 500m in elevation with exposed volcanic soils from Mount Vulture - an extinct volcano from which the wine and DOC gets its name - aged 18 months in botti to produce old-vine Aglianico at its spicy, smoky best. Amazing value.

ITALIAN RED

PUGLIA

PRICE

Primitivo Di Manduria Riserva 'Anniversario 62', San Marzano, 2019

72

Puglia style at its apex: grapes from the Manduria DOC are left to overripe slightly, fermentation occurs in steel but not to completion, so there are trace amounts of residual sugar in this big, beautiful beast. 18 months' aging in French oak barriques. Lip-smacking stuff.

Susumaniello, Podere Don Cataldo, 2021

44

An unheralded varietal of Puglia, Susumaniello brings a fresher, herbal side to the Puglia fruit and alcohol and pairs really well with food.

Canace, Cantina Diomede, 2022

61

100% Nero di Troia, there is nothing shy about this inky-black wine, aged 12 months in new French oak; lots of fruit, oak spice, body.

Negroamaro 'I Muri', Vigneti del Salento, 2024

38

Negroamaro means 'black bitter' in Italian but this varietal is actually on the lower end in terms of tannins among Puglian grapes, but the 'black' part of the name is accurate: dark fruits with earth and chocolate and a nice acidity to keep things bright.

Salice Salentino Riserva, Ducale, 2020

39

From the Salice Salentino DOC located on Salento, a peninsula in southern Puglia known for its red blends; this is a blend of 80% Negroamaro, 20% Malvasia Nera, and is aged for a full two years in oak before release.

CAMPANIA

Taurasi Riserva, Cantina Sanpaolo, 2012

72

Old-vine Aglianico at 500m are cooled by breezes from the Bay of Naples, the same natural force that has, over time, blown volcanic soil inland from Vesuvius. This Riserva shows class and strength all at once: aged three years, including two in oak.

Taurasi Riserva, Mastroberardino, 2009*

140

Probably the most famous wine from Campania is this Taurasi DOCG bottling by Mastroberardino, the great pioneer of Campanian indigenous varietals since 1878. From the highest portion of the Montemarano estate, this wine is aged 5 years in total: 30 months in French and Slavonian oak, 30 months in bottle after that. Sensual, smoky, smooth, sculpted Aglianico.

Sciapo', Terre di Valter, 2018

75

In the film Jurassic Park, Ian Malcolm - played so brilliantly by Jeff Goldblum - makes the point that it's possible to get random results from normal systems, where you can get chaos out of order, what he calls 'Chaos Theory'. That is this wine. What seems like perfectly orderly Aglianico grapes from the unassuming Irpinia Campi Taurasini DOC undergo 'chaos': partial appassimento, old withered vines, 12 months in barriques, so you get smoke and roasted fruits and meat and chocolate and funk. That, that's Chaos Theory.

Falerno del Massico Riserva 'Onn'Anto', Nuges, 2015

89

A stunning, full-bodied blend from one of the most historic DOCs in the country - the Romans used to make a wine known as Falernum, likely with Aglianico and Piediroso grapes, which make up 70% and 20% of this blend, respectively, supported by 10% Primitivo. Aged 24 months in French oak. Plummy, dark, complex, mouth-filling.

CALABRIA

Ciro Rosso Classico 'Segno', Librandi, 2022

35

Gaglioppo is native to Calabria and Ciro is its main DOC, making red-fruited, elegant wines with wonderful structure and earthiness.

Ciro Rosso Classico Superiore Riserva Vigna Franco, A' Vita, 2020

69

Deep, layered, nuanced, savoury Gaglioppo, delicately medium-bodied with plenty of refreshing acidity; 30-day maceration was followed by 12 months' aging in barrel; wonderful value, this. Pairs excellently with tomato-based sauces and long eye contact.

ITALIAN RED

SARDEGNA

PRICE

Cannonau di Sardegna 'Bantu', Antichi Poderi Jerzu, 2023

38

Cannonau is the native name for Grenache, but from the Cannonau di Sardegna DOC, it's light-to-medium bodied, red fruited, extravagantly floral, and carries the island's signature rustic freshness.

Cannonau di Sardegna Riserva 'Berteru', Cantina Gungui, 2017

81

Old vine, high-elevation Cannonau is fermented in steel and then aged in 30 hl casks for 12 months. You feel like you're on the island - there's saltiness, herbs, red fruits, something pleasantly rustic about it - and all this is delivered with poise and elegance.

Carignano del Sulcis Riserva, Rocca Rubia Santadi, 2022

61

Robust yet refined Carignano, from poor, well-draining sandy soils typical of the Sulcis DOC and which always seem to produce wines of high aromatics and finesse, and that combined with the heft added from 12 months' aging in new and used oak is a profound experience.

Montessu Isola dei Nuraghi, Agripunica, 2022

72

A high-octane collaboration between Santadi and Tenuta San Guido, author of Sassicaia, this 'Super Sardinian' is a powerhouse of a blend based on Carignano (60%) with 10% each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Syrah; from a portion of Isola dei Nuraghi IGT rich in sandy clay-limestone, aged in cement a few months, then bottled.

SICILIA

Etna Rosso 'Cirneco', Terrazze dell'Etna, 2019

64

This wine is 100% Nerello Mascalese, indigenous to the island and to Europe's most active volcano, Mount Etna, whose black volcanic soils speak just as loudly in the wine as anything else. This is a succulent bottling, spicy and balanced, aged for 12 months in French tonneaux.

Etna Rosso Contrada Moganazzi 'Aetneus', I Custodi, 2018

82

Excellent, serious, savoury yet elegant Etna Rosso, 80% Nerello Mascalese and 20% Nerello Cappuccio, from 100 year-old vines, aged for four years before release, including two years in 5-hl used tonneaux.

Nero d'Avola 'Nero di Pianogrillo', Pianogrillo, 2024

40

Nero d'Avola is the most important grape in Sicily, the most-planted and the most-exported, and this bottling is similar to Malbec and other such grapes with its beguiling red and dark fruit flavours, lovely spice, full body, and fruit-forward nature.

Frappato, Mandrarossa, 2023

36

Frappato is a delightfully light-bodied and light-hued varietal native to the Ragusa area of Sicily whose build and body is similar to a Pinot Noir, only lighter. One of those reds you could not go wrong chilling, if it's hot out. From the large Terre Siciliane IGT.

MAGNUM WINES

	PRICE
Chardonnay, Planeta, 2023 (1.5L) <i>An apex and now legendary Chardonnay: 40% new oak, 30% second-use, 30% third-use. Sensual, deep, from Lake Menfi and the DOC.</i>	158
Santa Cecilia, Planeta, 2018 (1.5L) <i>Planeta's top-of-the-line Nero d'Avola, sourced from the chalky limestone soil vineyards in the southeast of the island in the Noto DOC, macerated 35 days and then aged in barrel, 15% new, for 14 months. Powerful, complex expression here.</i>	94
La Grola, Allegrini, 2008 (1.5L) <i>One of Allegrini's single-vineyard bottlings, a vivacious blend of 90% Corvina and 10% Osoleta, so the purity and grace of Corvina really comes through here. Two and half years total aging, including 16 months in barrel, lends a beautifully elegant, complex wine.</i>	175
Barbera d'Alba Vigna Francia, Giacomo Conterno, 2013 (1.5L) <i>Barbera at its apex in the hands of one of the best, Giacomo Conterno, and from the limestone soils of Vigna Francia, aged two years in used, large-format botti. Full body, structure, elegance, plenty of fruit.</i>	290

DESSERT WINES

FRANCE	50ML	BOTTLE
Sauternes Premier Cru Classé, Château Suduiraut, 2003 (375ml) <i>From the famous Château Suduiraut, one of only 11 Châteaux to earn the Premier Cru Classé distinction in the famous 1855 Classification. From the 5-star 2003 vintage, this is a uniquely complex, tantalising dessert wine experience. 90% Semillon, 10% Sauvignon Blanc.</i>	-	88
Sauternes Premier Cru Superieur Classé, Château d'Yquem, 2006 (375ml) <i>If I had to guess what wine Jesus turned the water into at the wedding in Cana, I would guess Château d'Yquem: Noble Rot mould develops on the grape to impart flavour (from death to life, if you will), made in a sweet style (as most wines were in the ancient world), and from the only begotten Premier Cru Superieur estate in the Sauternes Classification of 1855, Château d'Yquem, a name that demands our worship. 80% Semillon, 20% Sauvignon Blanc, nectar of the gods, worthy of any special occasion.</i>	40	320
HUNGARY	50ML	BOTTLE
Tokaji Aszú 5 Puttonyos, Grand Tokaj, 2019 (500ml) <i>'The Wine of Kings, and the King of Wines' as Tokaji Aszú has been known through antiquity, the first style of wine to utilise Noble Rot in its production, with varying degrees of sweetness, so at 5 Puttonyos this wine has between 12 to 15% residual sugar. From 100% Furmint grapes; delicate, honeyed, floral.</i>	9	72

DESSERT WINES

ITALIA

	50ML	BOTTLE
Recioto di Soave Classico 'Le Colombaré', Pieropan, 2020 (500ml) <i>The top dessert style this wonderful winery releases, Le Colombaré is only produced in the best vintages, when Garganega grapes are left to dry for 5 months on bamboo cane mats. Only free-run juice is used, then aged 2 years in 25 hl acacia barrels.</i>	9	72
Recioto della Valpolicella, Allegrini Corte Giara, 2022 (500ml) <i>The 'red' DOC of Recioto, using 70% Corvina and 30% Rondinella, dried for 4 months, or until about 50% of the weight is lost, and then fermented and aged 5 months in steel, matured a further 15 months in Slavonian and second-use barriques, then 6 more in bottle.</i>	8	62
Vin Santo del Chianti 'Serelle', Ruffino, 2020 (375ml) <i>Tuscany's (and Italy's?) most famous sweet wine style, from the Vin Santo del Chianti DOC, Malvasia Bianca and Trebbiano Toscana are dried for 2 months, undergo a long fermentation in French oak, and then are aged in small barrels for 3 years.</i>	7	52
Primitivo Dolce 'Arcano', Tenuta Giustini, 2023 (750ml) <i>Late-Harvest Primitivo, naturally high in sugar, are left on the vine to concentrate those sugars to produce a big, sweet, fruity wine.</i>	7	58
Passito di Noto, 2024, Planeta (500ml) <i>Moscato Bianco grapes from Noto DOC's beautiful, chalky-white limestone soils undergo appassimento for 5 weeks, then are finished in steel and bottled, no oak treatment, so you get this fresh, mineral style that highlights the soil and grape with lovely transparency.</i>	8	65
Marsala Superiore Riserva 10-Year, Vito Curatolo Arini (750ml) <i>A special bottling that is only made in the best vintages and utilises the three main indigenous varietals of Sicily: Cataratto, Inzolia, and Grillo. Aged 10 years in cask and with a sweetness that basically splits the difference between Sherry and Port. Pairs excellently with cheese and deep conversation.</i>	8	61
Moscato d'Asti 'Centive', Olim Bauda, 2024 (750ml) <i>Moscato has some of the highest concentrations of aromatic compounds of any wine grape in the world, so in any style it will showcase this gorgeously fragrant style. In this DOCG, ultra sweet, a touch sparkling, sitting at 5% ABV, amazing with cheese.</i>	-	39

PORTUGAL

Late Bottled Vintage Port, Sandeman, 2020 (750ml) <i>Dark, chocolatey, luscious juice; Late-Bottled Vintage Port is produced every year, aged 6 years in barrel, and then bottled. A blend of 43% Touriga Franca, 29% Touriga Nacional, 15% Tinta Roriz, 8% Barroca, 5% Cão.</i>	8	65
Tawny Port 20-Year, Quinta de la Rosa, NV (500ml) <i>Local varietals Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca Tinta Roriz, and Sousao are aged an average of 20 years in 550-litre oak 'pipes' to produce this gorgeously-hued, nutty, honeyed drinking experience.</i>	9	74