

DiWINEtaste

Wine Culture and Information

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Women and Youngsters: Increases Alcohol Consumption

The news of the increasing of alcohol consumption among Italian youngsters was already spread by ISTAT last April (National Institute of Statistics), a news which is not good, and to which was recently added the news the consumption of alcohol has increased among women as well. In case the increasing of alcohol consumption is to be considered as an increase of a conscious and moderate consumption, this would certainly be satisfactory, but when it is about abuse and excess, this is not something to be proud of. And there are at least two reasons for which one should be concerned: both for the development of a deplorable social custom not intelligent at all, as well as for the development of a deleterious and bad culture associated to the consumption of alcoholic beverages. We believe whoever abuses in the consumption of alcohol lacks of respect for himself or herself, as well as for the others, in particular to the people who have with them a *close* relationship. Moreover, this also represents an evident insult, a lack of consideration and respect, for producers who dedicate their efforts to the production of quality, which is then deplorably trampled.

If the future of any society and of any culture is represented by youngsters, knowing they rely on the excess and the abuse of alcohol, it is not something which can be cause of satisfaction or pleasure. And the same can be said for any other substance - with no exception - which can cause dependence and damage to the health, in particular to the health of others who, because of their own choice, do not make use of them. Moreover, knowing the excessive consumption of alcohol is a custom getting more and more common among women, this certainly makes things even more sad. Not because the abuse of alcohol in women is more deplorable than men - an abuse is always an abuse, no matter who does it - but in particular for the risks which could arise in case of pregnancy and for the potential harms for the fetus. Why did it happen an increase of alcohol consumption among youngsters and women? An expert of social customs or an anthropologist could certainly

answer to this question, something which goes far beyond our, and certainly more humble, competences.

We can simply take a look at the figures expressing consumptions and to draw conclusions or express opinions. According to the figures spread by ISTAT, almost 20% of youngsters from 11 to 15 have said they had an alcoholic beverage at least once in the last year. This statistics does not tell anything about quantities and, after all, in a country where one of the most representing beverages is an alcoholic beverage - wine - this could also be seen as normal in the cultural aspects of Italy. Moreover, this statistical research says the consumption of alcohol among young women from 18 to 19 has increased to 60.9% as opposed to 53.7% of the previous research. As for women from 20 to 24, the increase reaches 63.2%, whereas in the previous research this figure was 58.4%. This statistics does not provide any information about quantities, therefore it is not possible to know whether this increase corresponds to an excessive consumption or to a moderate and conscious consumption.

This statistic research shows some important behavioral aspects related to the preferences of alcohol consumption. Although quantities are not mentioned, the study found out an increase of alcohol consumption between meals, something which should make think about hard drinks and spirits instead of wine, generally and traditionally consumed during meals. According to this statistic, alcohol consumption between meals has increased for girls from 9.7% to 17.9%, whereas for boys the increase changes from 15.2% to 22.7%. Figures which does not give any comfort, indeed they should be considered as very preoccupying. Not only for the bad habit youngsters are getting in regard to alcohol, but also, and in particular, for healthy reasons. It is in fact known in youngsters the body is not yet capable of metabolizing alcohol because of the lack of a fundamental enzyme - alcohol dehydrogenase - which will develop in adult age. If we then consider alcohol metabolization is better when one has a stomach full of food, the habit of consuming alcohol between meals makes things even worse.

Why do youngster have the need to consume alcohol in excess in order to reach an inconvenient state of drunkenness? Is

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it the need to seem what one cannot be - and will never be - or a try to find a support in order to overcome one's fears of inadequateness? Moreover, could it simply be the search of homologation to the silly social models where one must, like to say, *break* the rules in order to be accepted from the others, and to have the illusion to feel like an adult? As much as strict one can be, it is not youngsters' fault who adopt certain behavioral models, indeed it is adults' fault who create such models without having no preoccupation about the consequences, therefore neglecting their role of *educators*. Everyone has the right to personally live experiences and to understand the consequences, there is no doubt about this. Whoever has been a youngster knows very well recommendations from adults are seen as impositions and not as advices from a person having a higher experience. Therefore, the problem is in communication, maybe the way of communicating to youngsters is inadequate and counterproductive.

The conscious and responsible consumption is, first of all, a cultural attitude. In case there is no attention on the spreading and the promotion of conscious and responsible culture of alcoholic beverages consumption, it is very likely the results will be same. In Italy, in public houses it is mandatory the display of tables providing information about acceptable consumption levels, also warning about the effects of alcohol according to the intake. It certainly is an useful measure in order to favor a responsible consumption, certainly not to favor the culture of conscious consumption. It is a step forward, no doubt about this, but it is also true this cannot be fixed with a simple "table". An useful informative action, but not a decisive one. Among the services offered by our magazine, the alcohol test is among the most appreciated ones, in particular from mobile devices. It certainly is not an essential contribution, but it however shows the interest of our readers in a responsible consumption. It certainly is not an essential service, but we wish it can be useful - in its simplicity - to spread the culture of using the brain when having a glass in the hand, instead of sinking the brain in a glass.

WINE TASTING

Comparing Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito

Among the most famous red berried grapes of Italy and among the richest in polyphenols, Sagrantino is a grape from Umbria and today used both for dry and sweet wines

Sagrantino certainly is among the most renowned grapes of Italy, also very successful in the world. A grape with a high content in polyphenols, Sagrantino is an autochthonous variety from Umbria, more specifically from Montefalco, in the province of Perugia, where it is the protagonist of the wines of this area since centuries. Despite today Sagrantino di Montefalco is mainly known as a dry wine, in the past the grape was allowed to dry in mats and exclusively used for the production of a sweet wine, with a strong tannic and astringent character. In Montefalco, sweet Sagrantino was mainly consumed in occasion of the Easter lunch - therefore a wine for holidays and special occasions - matched to the traditional roasted lamb. This tradition radically changes in the beginning of the 1970s, when it was produced the first dry Sagrantino: a success which distinguishes Montefalco in the world still today.

Sagrantino is considered as an autochthonous grape of Montefalco, however its origins are not clear. According to some, Sagrantino was introduced by some Franciscan monks around the fourteenth or fifteenth century, according to others, the grape is from Spain and introduced in Montefalco by Saracens. Researches done in Sagrantino's DNA did not find any genetic analogy with other varieties, a condition which further increases the mystery of the origin of this noble Umbrian grape and strengthen the hypothesis it is an autochthonous variety of Montefalco. Also the origin of the grape's name is pretty uncertain. The most common hypothesis is that the name comes from the Latin *sacer*, that is sacred, something which is referred to the probable use of Sagrantino in ancient times, that is consumed in occasion of holidays and sacred liturgies, a custom which could also be dated back to the times of ancient Rome. This hypothesis could also be confirmed by the local and ancient tradition of consuming sweet Sagrantino in occasion of Easter, matched with the traditional roasted lamb.

Wines of the Tasting

Sagrantino is among the red berried grapes having the highest content in polyphenols, therefore its wines - both in the dry style and in the sweet style - are characterized by an evident astringency and a remarkable structure. Tannins are in fact one of the most important preoccupations for Sagrantino producers, as they need to put extreme attention on the phenolic ripeness of grapes, as well as to properly age the wine in wood, in order to mitigate this *strong* aspect of the wine and to make it rounder. The production of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito provides for the drying of the grapes in proper rooms, where the bunches are placed on mats in order to allow a proper loss of water and a concentration of the substances contained in the berries. According to production disciplinary,

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The three Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito wines of our comparative tasting

Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito can be commercialized only after 30 months of aging in producer's cellars, it must have an alcohol by volume not lesser than 14.5% and a minimum of residual sugars of 30 grams per liters.

The aging of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito can be done both in cask and in barrique. The wines selected for our comparative tasting are all aged in cask, therefore favoring - in this case - the organoleptic qualities of Sagrantino. The first wine selected for our tasting is Antonelli's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito, aged for 15 months in cask, 3 months in cement tanks and then for 12 months in bottle. The second wine is Adanti's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito, also in this case aged in cask, although for a longer period of 24 months. The last wine of the tasting is Tabarrini's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito Colle Grimaldesco, aged in cask but for a longer period, more than 24 months. The wines will be selected in the current commercialized vintage and they will be tasted at the temperature of 16°C (60°F), in order to properly limit the perception of sweetness, without making the wine excessively astringent. The wines will be poured, as usual, in three ISO tasting glasses.

Appearance Analysis

As already mentioned, Sagrantino is a grape with a high content in polyphenols - therefore of coloring substances - a quality which evidently affects both color and transparency of its wines, either dry or sweet. Sagrantino di Montefalco is characterized in the aspect by very intense and deep colors and a pretty reduced transparency, qualities which are more evident in the sweet style. Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito's color is generally deep ruby red, with ruby red or garnet red nuances. Transparency is very low, most of the times impenetrable to light, a sign of the remarkable concentration produced both by the drying of grapes and the high content in coloring substances. With time, the color of Sagrantino passito will develop in garnet red, while continuing to show in the nuances, thanks to its remarkable longevity in bottle, an evident garnet red color.

The first wine of which we will examine appearance is Antonelli's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito. By holding the

glass tilted over a white surface - a sheet of paper is enough - we will evaluate, at the base of the glass, the color of the wine. It will be noticed an evident intense ruby red color and a pretty low transparency, whereas, by observing the edge of the wine, towards the opening of the glass, will be noticed garnet red nuances. The aspect of the second wine - Adanti's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito - is characterized by a deep ruby red color, deeper than the previous wine, with a very low transparency, whereas the nuances will have a garnet red color. Also the aspect of the third wine, Tabarrini's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito Colle Grimaldesco, is characterized by a deep ruby red color and a very low transparency, with garnet red nuances, not very different from the previous wine.

Olfactory Analysis

Sagrantino generally is a grape very generous to the nose: its intense aromas of flowers and fruits, as well as more complex aromas developed with time and with the aging, gives the taster an interesting sensorial experience. In the case of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito, the aromatic qualities usually are more accentuated and *mature*, offering more concentrated and complex sensations than the dry style. Among the typical fruit aromas of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito, are mentioned blackberry, black cherry and plum - sometimes also in form of jams - that together with violet and dried violet, make the identifying qualities of the wine. Thanks to the aging in cask, in its 30 months of aging, Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito develops complex aromas, fruits aromas usually develop characteristic of jams and to the nose can also be perceived aromas of cocoa, chocolate, nail polish, carob, vanilla, cinnamon, tobacco, licorice, mace, pink pepper, star anise and clover, as well as balsamic sensations of eucalyptus and menthol.

The phase of aroma evaluation of our comparative tasting will begin from Antonelli's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito. By holding the glass in vertical position and without swirling, we will proceed with the first smell in order to perceive the opening aromas of the wine, that is the aromatic qualities identifying a wine and which volatilize with a small quantity of oxygen. From the glass will be perceived intense, clean and pleasing aromas of blackberry, plum and black cherry, a typical opening of Sagrantino, in particular the aroma of blackberry. After having swirled the glass - in order to favor the volatilization of *heavier* aromas - we will tilt the glass and we will bring it to the nose, proceeding with the second smell, therefore completing the olfactory profile of the first wine. From the glass will be perceived aromas of blueberry and violet, followed by more complex aromas of vanilla, chocolate, tobacco and mace, as well as a pleasing balsamic touch of menthol.

We will proceed now with the evaluation of the second wine of our comparative tasting: Adanti's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito. The opening of this Sagrantino is characterized, like the previous wine, by intense, clean and pleasing aromas of blackberry, plum and black cherry, the typical identifying qualities of this wine. After having swirled the glass, we will proceed with the second smell which will complete the olfactory profile of the wine with aromas of dried violet, blueberry, vanilla, chocolate, tobacco, cinnamon, star anise and mace, as well as hints of lavender and menthol. Also the

opening of the third wine - Tabarrini's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito Colle Grimaldesco di Tabarrini - is characterized by blackberry, black cherry and plum, very intense and concentrated. By proceeding with the second smell, the profile of the wine will be completed with aromas of dried violet, blueberry, vanilla, tamarind, cocoa, tobacco, pink pepper, cinnamon, dried fig, caramel, mace, coconut and the usual balsamic touch of menthol.

Gustatory Analysis

Because of its high content in polyphenolic substances, wines produced with Sagrantino grape - both dry and sweet - are characterized by a pretty evident and aggressive astringency. These gustatory qualities require the presence of other component in order to balance the tannic strength of Sagrantino, in particular the roundness given by the aging in wood and time, as well as a proper quantity of alcohol. It is not by chance the alcohol by volume of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito is generally greater than 14.5%, a parameter which - among the other things - is also set as the minimum value by the production disciplinary. The astringency and the burning sensation of alcohol is accompanied, as we can clearly expect from a wine of this kind, by an evident sweetness which contributes, after the initial *wonder*, to make Sagrantino balanced. The combination astringency-sweetness, so unusual in sweet wines, contributes to the formation of the personality and character of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito.

Let's begin the gustatory evaluation of the wines of our comparative tasting from Antonelli's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito. The attack of this first wine - that is the initial sensation perceived in the mouth at the first sip and without swallowing the wine - is characterized by an evident sweetness accompanied by an evident astringency, promptly balanced by alcohol, and a very robust structure. The evaluation of the second wine - Adanti's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito - is not so different from the previous wine: a tannic and sweet attack, a very robust structure which is balanced by the contribution of alcohol. The last wine of our comparative tasting - Tabarrini's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito Colle Grimaldesco - does not contradict the typical personality of the wine, with a tannic and sweet attack, while leaving a space for the balance obtained from the contribution of alcohol, a robust structure and a sensation of *concentrated* and thick flavors. It should be noticed, in all the three wines, the excellent correspondence to the nose with the aromas of blackberry, plum and black cherry.

Final Considerations

Rich, thick, concentrated, robust and very good taste-olfactory persistence: these are the sensations which can be perceived in the final phase of the tasting of Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito. The finish of Antonelli's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito is persistent, leaving in the mouth intense and clean flavors of blackberry, black cherry and plum, as well as an evident sensation of structure. The finish of Adanti's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito is persistent with long and intense flavors of blackberry, plum and black cherry, a sensation of structure more robust than the previous wine. The finish of the last wine - Tabarrini's Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito

Colle Grimaldesco - is very persistent, also in this case with a very robust sensation of structure, as well as intense, clean and long flavors of blackberry, black cherry and plum with a hint of tamarind. It should be noticed, in all the three wines, how the use of wood does not excessively influence the taste of Sagrantino, leaving space to the fruit qualities of the grape.



Wines of the Month

Score legend

- ◆ Fair – ◆◆ Pretty Good – ◆◆◆ Good
- ◆◆◆◆ Very Good – ◆◆◆◆◆ Excellent
- ★ Wine that excels in its category
- 🍷 Good value wine

Prices are to be considered as indicative. Prices may vary according to the country or the shop where wines are bought



Nispero 2005 Adanti (Umbria, Italy)

Grapes: Sangiovese (85%), Merlot (10%), Barbera (5%)

Price: € 6.00

Score: ◆◆◆

Nispero shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean and pleasing aromas that start with hints of black cherry, plum and violet followed by aromas of strawberry, blueberry, cinnamon and vanilla. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of black cherry, plum and strawberry. Nispero ages for 6 months in cask.

Food match: Sauteed meat, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Broiled meat and barbecue



Amanter 2007
Adanti (Umbria, Italy)

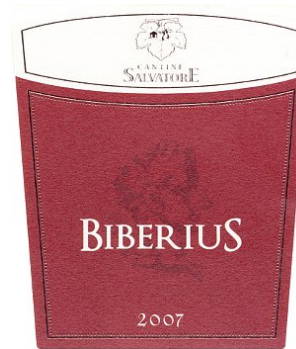
Grapes: Sangiovese, Sagrantino

Price: € 7.00

Score: ♦♦★

Amanter shows a brilliant cherry pink color and nuances of onion skin pink, transparent. The nose denotes intense, clean and pleasing aromas that start with hints of cherry, raspberry and cyclamen followed by aromas of blueberry, plum and blackberry. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, raspberry and plum. Amanter ages in steel tanks.

Food match: Pasta with meat, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Cold cuts



Molise Rosso Biberius 2007
Cantine Salvatore (Molise, Italy)

Grapes: Montepulciano

Price: € 8.50

Score: ♦♦♦♦

Molise Rosso Biberius shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of purple red, little transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of black cherry, blackberry and plum followed by aromas of blueberry, violet, raspberry, geranium, cyclamen and pink pepper. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness. The finish is persistent with flavors of black cherry, blackberry and plum. Molise Rosso Biberius ages for 8 months in steel tanks.

Food match: Pasta with meat and mushrooms, Stewed meat, Broiled meat and barbecue



Rutilia 2006
Cantine Salvatore (Molise, Italy)

Grapes: Tintilia

Price: € 12.50

Score: ♦♦♦★

Rutilia shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas that start with hints of blackberry, black cherry and plum followed by aromas of violet, raspberry, blueberry and cyclamen. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of blackberry, plum and black cherry. Rutilia ages for 18 months in steel tanks.

Food match: Broiled meat and barbecue, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Roasted meat



Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli 2007
Mossio (Piedmont, Italy)

Grapes: Dolcetto

Price: € 9.80

Score: ♦♦♦♦★

Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of purple red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of cherry, blackberry and plum followed by aromas of violet, peach, raspberry, blueberry, cyclamen, anise and strawberry. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, plum and blackberry. A well made wine. Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli ages in steel tanks.

Food match: Cold cuts, Pasta with meat and mushrooms, Roasted white meat, Sauteed meat



Langhe Rosso 2005
Mossio (Piedmont, Italy)

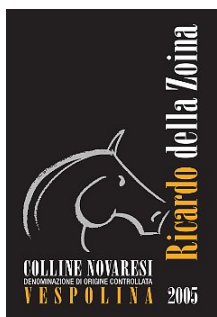
Grapes: Nebbiolo, Barbera, Dolcetto

Price: € 13.30

Score: ♦♦♦♦☆

This Langhe Rosso shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of cherry, plum and raspberry followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, vanilla, rose, cinnamon, chocolate, cinnamon and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, plum and raspberry. A well made wine. This Langhe Rosso ages in cask.

Food match: Roasted meat, Braised and stewed meat, Hard cheese



Colline Novaresi Vespolina Ricardo della Zoina 2005
Cascina Zoina (Piedmont, Italy)

Grapes: Vespolina

Price: € 8.00

Score: ♦♦♦♦

Colline Novaresi Vespolina Ricardo della Zoina shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, moderate transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean and pleasing aromas which start with hints of cherry, plum and raspberry followed by aromas of pomegranate, vanilla, cyclamen and black pepper. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a slightly tannic attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of black cherry, raspberry and plum. Colline Novaresi Vespolina Ricardo della Zoina ages for 12 months in barrique followed by 12 months of aging in bottle.

Food match: Stuffed pasta, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Broiled meat and barbecue



Colline Novaresi Nebbiolo Cordero della Zoina 2005
Cascina Zoina (Piedmont, Italy)

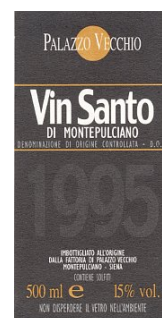
Grapes: Nebbiolo

Price: € 8.00

Score: ♦♦♦♦☆

Colline Novaresi Nebbiolo Cordero della Zoina shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of cherry, plum and rose followed by aromas of raspberry, violet, strawberry, vanilla and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, plum and raspberry. Colline Novaresi Nebbiolo Cordero della Zoina ages for 12 months in barrique, 4 months in steel tanks and for at least 12 months in bottle.

Food match: Broiled meat and barbecue, Roasted meat, Stewed meat with mushrooms



Vin Santo di Montepulciano 1995
Fattoria di Palazzo Vecchio (Tuscany, Italy)

Grapes: Malvasia Bianca, Grechetto

Price: € 42.00 - 500ml

Score: ♦♦♦♦♦

This Vin Santo di Montepulciano shows a brilliant amber yellow color and nuances of amber yellow, transparent. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of dried fig, citrus fruits peel and almond followed by aromas of apricot jam, plum jam, quince jam, candied fruits, vanilla, caramel, walnut and nail polish. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a sweet attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of dried fig, quince jam and walnut. This Vin Santo di Montepulciano ages in small oak barrels.

Food match: Confectionery, Almond tarts, Hard cheese



Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Terrarossa 2003
Fattoria di Palazzo Vecchio (Tuscany, Italy)

Grapes: Sangiovese Grosso

Price: € 24.00

Score: ♦♦♦♦ ☆

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Terrarossa shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of black cherry, plum and violet followed by aromas of raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, vanilla, tobacco, cocoa, mace and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing roundness, however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of black cherry, plum and blackberry. A well made wine. Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Terrarossa ages for 24 months in cask followed by 18 months of aging in bottle.

Food match: Game, Roasted meat, Braised and stewed meat, Hard cheese



Aglianico del Vulture La Firma 2005
Cantine del Notaio (Basilicata, Italy)

Grapes: Aglianico

Price: € 32.00

Score: ♦♦♦♦♦

Aglianico del Vulture La Firma shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of plum, blackberry and black cherry followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, raspberry, vanilla, tobacco, pink pepper, chocolate, mace and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is very persistent with long flavors of blackberry, black cherry and plum. A well made wine. Aglianico del Vulture La Firma ages for 12 months in cask followed by 4 months of aging in bottle.

Food match: Game, Roasted meat, Stewed and braised meat, Hard cheese



Aglianico del Vulture Il Sigillo 2004
Cantine del Notaio (Basilicata, Italy)

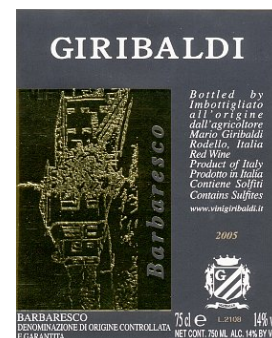
Grapes: Aglianico

Price: € 36.00

Score: ♦♦♦♦♦

Aglianico del Vulture Il Sigillo shows a deep ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of black cherry, blackberry and plum followed by aromas of black currant, blueberry, violet, vanilla, tobacco, chocolate, mace, clover, pink pepper and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing roundness, however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors. The finish is very persistent with long flavors of blackberry, black cherry and plum. A well made wine. Aglianico del Vulture Il Sigillo ages for 24 months in barrique.

Food match: Game, Roasted meat, Braised and stewed meat, Hard cheese



Barbaresco 2005
Giribaldi (Piedmont, Italy)

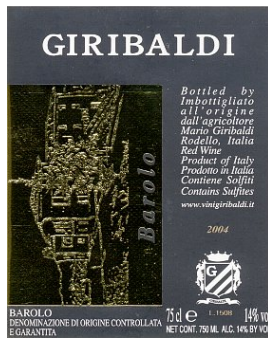
Grapes: Nebbiolo

Price: € 26.00

Score: ♦♦♦♦♦

This Barbaresco shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of cherry, plum and violet followed by aromas of rose, raspberry, strawberry, vanilla, cinnamon, tobacco and mace. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, plum and strawberry. This Barbaresco ages for more than 2 years in cask.

Food match: Game, Roasted meat, Braised and stewed meat, Hard cheese



Barolo 2004
Giribaldi (Piedmont, Italy)

Grapes: Nebbiolo

Price: € 29.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆

This Barolo shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas that start with hints of cherry, plum and violet followed by aromas of raspberry, strawberry, rose, vanilla, pink pepper, cinnamon, cocoa and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and pleasing crispness, however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, plum and strawberry. This Barolo ages for more than 2 years in cask.

Food match: Game, Roasted meat, Braised and stewed meat, Hard cheese



Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore
Casal di Serra 2007
Umani Ronchi (Marches, Italy)

Grapes: Verdicchio

Price: € 10.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore Casal di Serra shows a pale straw yellow color and nuances of greenish yellow, very transparent. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of pear, apple and plum followed by aromas of almond, citrus fruits, pineapple, hawthorn, peach and mineral. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable. The finish is persistent with flavors of apple, plum and almond. Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore Casal di Serra ages for 5 months in steel tanks.

Food match: Pasta with fish, Roasted white meat, Stewed fish, Broiled fish



Rosso Conero Riserva Cumaro 2005
Umani Ronchi (Marches, Italy)

Grapes: Montepulciano

Price: € 20.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆★

Rosso Conero Riserva Cumaro shows a deep ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas that start with hints of black cherry, plum and black currant followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, blackberry, vanilla, tobacco, chocolate, cinnamon, clover and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of black cherry, plum and black currant. A well made wine. Rosso Conero Riserva Cumaro ages for 14 months in barrique followed by 8 months of aging in bottle.

Food match: Game, Roasted meat, Braised and stewed meat, Hard cheese

EVENTS

News

In this column are published news and information about events concerning the world of wine and food. Whoever is interested in publishing this kind of information can send us a mail to the address Events@DiWineTaste.com.

NOT JUST WINE

Aquavitae

Review of Grappa, Distillates and Brandy

Distillates are rated according to DiWineTaste's evaluation method. Please see score legend in the "Wines of the Month" section.



Grappa Nobile
Fassati (Tuscany, Italy)
(Distiller: Distillerie Bonollo)

Raw matter: Pomace of Prugnolo Gentile, Canaiolo Nero, Mammolo

Price: € 25.00 - 500ml

Score: ♦♦♦♦☆

This grappa is colorless and crystalline. The nose denotes intense, clean and pleasing aromas of plum, hazelnut, raspberry, pear and violet, with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency. In the mouth has intense flavors, with perceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, pleasing roundness and balanced sweetness. The finish is persistent with flavors of plum, hazelnut and raspberry. This grappa is distilled with a discontinuous alembic still. Alcohol 45%.



Grappa di Verdicchio Stravecchia
Fazi Battaglia (Marches, Italy)
(Distiller: Distilleria Aquileia)

Raw matter: Pomace of Verdicchio

Price: € 36.00 - 500ml

Score: ♦♦♦♦☆

This grappa shows a pale and brilliant amber yellow color, crystalline. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas of almond, dried fig, chocolate, tobacco, honey, prune, vanilla and praline. In the mouth has intense flavors, with perceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, pleasing roundness and balanced sweetness, agreeable. The finish is persistent with flavors of honey, prune, dried fig and almond. This grappa is distilled in discontinuous alembic still and ages for 18 months in oak cask. Alcohol 44%.



Wine Parade

The best 15 wines according to DiWineTaste's readers. To express your best three wines send us an E-mail at WineParade@DiWineTaste.com or fill in the form available at our WEB site.

Rank		Wine, Producer
1	↗	Blanc des Rosis 2006, Schiopetto (Italy)
2	↘	Chianti Classico Riserva Novecento 2000, Dievole (Italy)
3	↗	Sforzato di Valtellina San Domenico 2002, Triacca (Italy)
4	↘	San Leonardo 2001, Tenuta San Leonardo (Italy)
5	↘	Bradisismo 2003, Inama (Italy)
6	↗	Aglianico del Vulture La Firma 2004, Cantine del Notaio (Italy)
7	↘	Wine Obsession 2001, Vignamaggio (Italy)
8	↗	Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore Riserva Thea 2005, Tre Monti (Italy)
9	↘	Barolo Bussia 2001, Prunotto (Italy)
10	↗	Sagrantino di Montefalco Collepiano 2003, Arnaldo Caprai (Italy)
11	↗	Moscato d'Asti 2007, Vignaioli di S. Stefano (Italy)
12	↗	Villa Gresti 2004, Tenuta San Leonardo (Italy)
13	↘	Collio Bianco Col Disore 2004, Russiz Superiore (Italy)
14	↘	Barolo Cannubi Boschis 2001, Sandrone (Italy)
15	↔	Sforzato di Valtellina Canua 2001, Conti Sertoli Salis (Italy)

Legend: ↗ up ↘ down ↔ stable ☆ new entry