

DiWINEtaste

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The Italian Wine is Safe. Rose Wine is Saved

This month's editorial will focus on two interesting press releases recently issued by Coldiretti - the most important Italian association of agricultural firms - and which are directly connected to the world of wine, offering interesting ideas for discussion. The first good news issued by Coldiretti is that Italian wine seems to be more safe than the one made in the past. The second one tells us the European Commission has withdrawn the project which would have allowed the production of rose wines by blending white and red wines together. Two good news, with no doubts. The first one is particularly reassuring, at least in its context, if we consider the scandals occurred in the world of Italian wine in the past, as well as supporting in the world the quality of the wine produced in the *Bel Paese*. Also the second news is a good one, at least it shows - for the first time - the support of Europe in fact of wine quality, not always safeguarded by the European Commission in recent times.

According to what Coldiretti issued in its press releases, all the wine produced in Italy resulted to be completely safe and healthy. This is what has been found in the yearly report of the Italian Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Politics on "Official tests on the residual of chemical products in foods of vegetal origin". In this report it is in fact found 100% of Italian wine samples contained a quantity of chemical residual lesser than the limits set by law. This certainly is a very good news for all consumers of Italian wine and for their health. If we consider the facts of the last year and concerning Italian wine, a news like that is a very good one. The fact the quantity of residual of chemical substances found in Italian wine are lesser than the ones set by law, emphasizes, first of all, the maturity and conscience of Italian vintners in the choices they make for their vineyards. This means, among the other things, the use of chemical treatments in vines has been limited in favor of more "natural" cultural practices.

The reduction in the use of chemical treatments in agriculture is also confirmed by a survey done by ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics), in which it is reported a progressive reduction in the use of toxic chemical products, a reduction which has been halved in the last ten years. In this survey can also be found this reduction was in favor of the adoption of eco-compatible cultural techniques. Moreover - according to ISTAT - Italy occupies today the first place in Europe in the adoption of biologic cultural principles, destining to this type of culture more than one million of hectares. The conscience and maturity of agricultural firms, and therefore of firms which are in the wine business, are also confirmed by the trend of the diminution of irregularities found in the last sixteen years. In 1993, 5.6% of the agricultural production was affected by irregularities, in 2007 only 0.9% did not meet the law: a diminution of more than six times. Results like these make the Italian agricultural production - and therefore wine too - to the highest worldwide levels in fact of food safety.

The awareness and maturity of Italian agricultural firms in the limited use of toxic chemical treatment, is also confirmed by the tests made in other products. The tests have in fact found 99.3% of vegetables was regular, as well as 98.6% of fruits and 98.7% of olive oil. A good, indeed very good, news for the safeguarding of the health of Italians as well as a further warranty abroad for the quality and healthiness of agricultural Italian products. Moreover, a clear sign of maturity and awareness, as well as the return of agricultural firms to the respect of nature which, after having believed to the miracles promised by chemistry, today they are adopting a more sound and respectful cultivation of lands. And the same can be said for wine. Whether in the past the use of chemical products both in vineyard and in cellar was considered normal, today the use of chemical substances is generally adopted only when it is necessary in order to ensure a more stable product and with no faults.

The other good news is about rose wine. You will prob-

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ably remember the European Commission was working on a project which would have allowed the production of rose wines by blending white and red wines. A project which would have damaged, for many aspects, the dignity and quality of rose wines, already scarcely considered by consumers who prefer other wine styles. According to this news, the European Commission has withdrawn this project. The news was issued by Coldiretti which also informs about 48 millions of bottles of real rose wine produced with the traditional method have been saved. The traditional method of rose wine consists in exclusively using red berried grapes. The change of opinion of European Commission was also determined by the pressure of Coldiretti - representing and safeguarding Italian producers - emphasizing this law would have uniquely generated confusion among consumers without safeguarding the quality of real rose wine. In fact, the law would have not obliged producers to write in the label the production method, therefore consumer would have not had any chance to truly know what they were about to pour in their glasses.

The decision made by the European Commission seems to be positive for the future of other decisions they will make about wine. For the first wine Europe has shown a positive interest for the quality of wine, an attitude - we all hope - will always be more and more oriented to the safeguarding and the respect of consumers and honest producers. Everyone will probably remember the past laws issued by the European Commission about wine and being very disputable and certainly not in favor of quality. Since 2006 it is in fact allowed the use of wood chips in the production of wine, which in this case does not contribute to the aging of wine but to a disputable aromatization. Moreover it is already allowed the commercialization of "wines" produced by the fermentation of fruits different from grape, such as raspberry and black currant - products which can already be found in European shops - as well as a law allowing in certain countries the adding of sugar to the must. Finally, it is very likely from the first of August on, they can call *wine* also a product to which was removed part of the alcohol, the so called *dealcoholized wine*. The decision made about rose wine however gives us hope that such deplorable decisions like that will not be made by the European Commission in future. For the moment, let's be glad about the fact rose wine is saved. And, of course, for the fact Italian wine is more safe and healthy.

WINE TASTING

Comparing Dolcetto d'Alba

In the many interpretations Piedmont gives of Dolcetto, the wines produced at Alba with this grape certainly are the most common and the most famous ones

Dolcetto is the most common grape in Langhe, the great wine land of Piedmont, mother of the great and celebrated Barolo and Barbaresco, both produced with the noble Nebbiolo. Dolcetto - probably overshadowed by these two great wines of Langhe, as well as by other wines made from Nebbiolo and Barbera grapes - is not very common among consumers, maybe also because of its name, recalling something basically sweet instead of a dry wine. In fact, in Italian language, *dolcetto* literally means something having a basically sweet taste. On this regard, we should remember Dolcetto is a grape and not a style of wine, and it takes its name from the evident sweet taste of its berries. Once was particularly advised the consumption of Dolcetto grape to anyone suffering from stomach disorders, just because of its high sweetness and low acidity. Dolcetto is however capable of making excellent wines, this also thanks to the seriousness and commitment of some producers who made of Dolcetto a great wine, rich in pleasing surprises for the taster.

The origin of Dolcetto is not completely clear. Some believe this grape is native of Langhe, others believe its origin is in Liguria, where it is known as Ormeasco. In both cases, it is believed Dolcetto arrived, in one or the other area, after commercial trades in medieval times. The first certain evidences of Dolcetto are dated back to 1700s, and only in 1800s its cultivation will be spread all over Langhe, becoming one of the most typical and common wines of this lands. Dolcetto is used in Piedmont for the production of eleven *Denominazione d'Origine Controllata* monovarietal wines (Denomination of Controlled Origin, DOC) as well as two *Denominazione d'Origine Controllata e Garantita* wines (Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin, DOCG). Of these, Dolcetto d'Alba certainly is the most famous and common one outside Piedmont. Dolcetto d'Alba is produced in the lands located to the right bank of Tanaro river, in that part of territory where the renowned hazelnuts are being cultivated.

Wines of the Tasting

Dolcetto d'Alba, and the same can be said for the other Dolcettos produced in Piedmont, is a wine expressing with freshness of aromas and flavors of flowers and fruits its pleasing character. This does not however mean Dolcetto is a lesser wine or a wine having no value, as there are many cases in which this grape is capable of making wines of interesting structure and complexity, even without using wood. The quality of fruits and flowers of Dolcetto have always suggested producers to vinify this grape in inert containers and the cases in which it is used a cask or a barrique are rare. Dolcetto is a variety riping in advance than the other grapes of the area and harvesting is usually done around the

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The three Dolcetto d'Alba wines of our comparative tasting

half of September. The cultivation of Dolcetto is usually done in marnous and limestone soils, in hilly lands at altitudes from 250 to 600 meters. According to the production disciplinary, Dolcetto d'Alba is exclusively obtained with this variety only, it must have a minimum of 11.5% of alcohol by volume and there are no minimum aging times prior to commercialization. In case alcohol is higher than 12.5% and aged for at least one year, Dolcetto d'Alba can mention "superiore" in the label (superior).

Our comparative tasting will study three Dolcetto d'Alba wines produced with different wine making techniques. One of them is in fact aged in barrique, whereas the other two followed the "typical" vinification method with an exclusive aging in inert containers. The first wine is Seghesio's Dolcetto d'Alba Vigneto della Chiesa, aged for 9 months in steel tanks. The second wine of the comparative tasting is Mossio's Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli, also in this case aged in steel tanks. The third wine is Enzo Boglietti's Dolcetto d'Alba Tiglineri, aged for 8 months in barrique. Whereas in the first two wines the quality of Dolcetto will be expressed without "interferences", it will be interesting to compare these two wines with the third one in order to understand the influence of wood in Dolcetto grape. The three wines will be selected according to the most recent vintages commercialized by respective producers. The first two Dolcetto d'Alba wines will be served at the temperature of 17° C (62° F), whereas for the third wine we will choose a temperature of 18° C (65° F). The wines will be served in three ISO tasting glasses.

Appearance Analysis

Dolcetto is a grape with a pretty high content in coloring substances, a quality which always distinguishes its wines. According to Piedmontese tradition, wines produced with Dolcetto grape are consumed young and they are not generally allowed to age for a long time. Despite this *traditional rule*, some producers successfully age their Dolcetto wines for some years, proving an unsuspected longevity. Transparency of Dolcetto is generally low, in some cases it can also be seen the complete impenetrabil-

ity of light. Dolcetto d'Alba shows an intense and deep ruby red color, sometimes showing an evident purple red color. Nuances in color of this wine show bright and evident purple red hue, a very frequent quality because of the custom of consuming Dolcetto after few months from production. In some exemplars of Dolcetto d'Alba - and the same can be found in other Dolcetto wines - it can be seen, when the wine is poured in a glass, the formation of a moderate foam of purple color.

We will begin the examination of appearance from Seghesio's Dolcetto d'Alba Vigneto della Chiesa. By holding the glass tilted over a white surface - a simple sheet of paper is enough - we will observe the color at the base of the glass. It will be observed an intense ruby red color with a pretty low transparency, whereas nuances, observed towards the opening of the glass, in the point where the wine has the lesser thickness, will be characterized by an evident purple red. Let's now pass to the analysis of the second wine of our comparative tasting: Mossio's Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli. The color of this wine is pretty similar to the previous one and also in this case can be observed an intense ruby red color and a pretty low transparency, whereas nuances will show the typical purple red color. Let's now pass to the examination of the third wine: Enzo Boglietti's Dolcetto d'Alba Tiglineri. As opposed to the other previous wines, this Dolcetto shows a more intense and deep ruby red color with a lower transparency, however showing in nuances the typical purple red color.

Olfactory Analysis

One of the most interesting characteristics of Dolcetto d'Alba is probably represented by its freshness in aromas, a quality which is more and more forgotten in some wines because of the use - sometime exaggerated - of casks and barriques. Wines produced with Dolcetto generally have an *immediate* and *straight* character, where aromas of fruits and flowers make the dominant qualities of the olfactory profile. In Dolcetto d'Alba can in fact be perceived aromas of cherry and blackberry, as well as a fruit which could be considered unusual and which expresses its *bitter* character: almond. Among the most frequent flower aromas in Dolcetto d'Alba is found violet and, sometimes, rose and cyclamen. Another fruit which can be perceived in Dolcetto, in particular in young wines, is peach, a sensation generally found in white wines. Other typical aromas in Dolcetto include plum, strawberry, raspberry and blueberry. The aging in wood, which in Dolcetto is quite unusual, enriches the wines with tertiary and spicy notes, which should however keep - for the sake of balance - unaltered and well perceptible the aromas of fruits and flowers, a fundamental quality of Dolcetto.

The first wine of which we will examine aromas is Seghesio's Dolcetto d'Alba Vigneto della Chiesa. By holding the glass in vertical position and without swirling, we will proceed with the evaluation of opening aromas, that is the identifying qualities of the wine and which are expressed with pretty small quantities of oxygen. From the glass will be appreciated intense, clean and pleasing aromas of cherry, plum and blueberry, qualities which can be usually found in Dolcetto d'Alba. Let's now proceed with

the swirling of the glass, in order to allow a proper oxygenation of the wine and therefore the development of other olfactory qualities which will complete the profile of the first wine. The second smell will allow the perception of violet and cyclamen - typical flowery aromas of Dolcetto - to which will be added the sensations of blackberry and raspberry, as well as a hint of carob. It will also be perceived an aroma with a basically bitter character in which will be recognized almond, another typical quality of Dolcetto.

Let's now pass to the evaluation of the aromas of the second wine of our comparative tasting: Mossio's Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli. The opening of this second Dolcetto - evaluated without swirling the glass - allows the perception of cherry, blackberry and plum. We will now proceed with the swirling of the glass, therefore favoring the development of other aromas and which will complete the olfactory profile with violet, raspberry, blueberry and strawberry as well as the flowery sensation of cyclamen. In this Dolcetto too can be found the aroma of almond as well as a pleasing hint of anise. Let's now proceed with the examination of the third wine - Enzo Boglietti's Dolcetto d'Alba Tiglineri - the only wine of the three to be aged in barrique. The opening of this Dolcetto is characterized by cherry, plum and blackberry, whereas the swirling of the glass will express the aromas of blueberry, raspberry, violet, cyclamen and peach, as well as the pleasing hint of almond. In this wine will also be perceived aromas of vanilla and the balsamic character of eucalyptus, qualities contributed by the aging in barrique.

Gustatory Analysis

Despite of its name, wines produced with Dolcetto are absolutely dry, with a moderate astringency and acidity, leaving in the mouth - after swallowing - a pleasing and slightly bitter flavor. Dolcetto is known for its freshness and *simplicity*, however there are wines produced with this grape to have interesting characters of complexity. This *simplicity* is generally determined by the moderate acidity and a modest astringency of tannins, qualities making Dolcetto meet the favor of consumers, also for the pleasing fruit flavor perceived in the mouth. Despite the production disciplinary provides for a minimum alcohol by volume of 11.5%, there are Dolcetto wines with higher quantities of alcohol, in some cases reaching 13.5%. The aging in wood, as it can be easily thought, increases astringency and body of Dolcetto, therefore in these wines balance is obtained with a proper quantity of alcohol. Despite its acidity is modest, this characteristic is however well perceptible, in particular in wines with a modest content in alcohol, making Dolcetto even more pleasing.

Let's examine the first wine of our comparative tasting: Seghesio's Dolcetto d'Alba Vigneto della Chiesa. The attack of this wine fully confirms the characteristics of Dolcetto, with a moderate astringency and a pleasing sensation, also in this case moderate, of freshness, as well as intense flavors of fruits, in this case expressed by cherry, blueberry and plum. Let's now pass to Mossio's Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli. In this wine astringency is evidently higher than the previous Dolcetto, showing a fuller structure, although having a pleasing freshness and the typ-

ical fruit character, that in this wine is expressed by cherry, plum and blackberry. It should be noticed how alcohol contributes to the balance both of astringency and structure. Let's now pass to the third wine of the comparative tasting - Enzo Boglietti's Dolcetto d'Alba Tiglineri - in which can be perceived a rounder and fuller attack than the previous wines, qualities deriving from the aging in barrique. Also in this case the role of alcohol is fundamental for the balance of wine. Finally, it should be noticed the perception of the flavors of cherry, blackberry and blueberry, as well as the influence of wood in flavors.

Final Considerations

The three wines of our comparative tasting fully confirm the *straight* character of Dolcetto d'Alba - and, of course, this is not a fault - as well as emphasizing the fact with this grape can be made quality wines and with a high sensorial interest. The finish of Seghesio's Dolcetto d'Alba Vigneto della Chiesa is persistent, leaving in the mouth the typical fruit flavors of the grape, such as cherry, plum and blueberry. Also the finish of the second wine - Mossio's Dolcetto d'Alba Bricco Caramelli - is characterized by a long persistence, leaving in the mouth intense and clean flavors of cherry, plum and blackberry. The finish of the third wine, Enzo Boglietti's Dolcetto d'Alba Tiglineri, is not anything less than the previous wines, with a long persistence, intense and clean flavors of cherry, plum, blueberry and raspberry, as well as a fuller body and roundness than the two previous wines. Finally, it should be noticed the basically bitter taste which can be perceived in the mouth after having swallowed the wines and in which can be recognized almond, like we already said, a typical characteristic of Dolcetto.



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



Franciacorta Rosé Pas Dosé Parosé 2004 Il Mosnel (Lombardy, Italy)

Grapes: Pinot Noir (70%), Chardonnay (30%)

Price: € 28.00

Score: ◇◇◇◇ ★

Franciacorta Rosé Pas Dosé Parosé shows a brilliant onion skin pink and nuances of pale pink, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas that start with hints of cherry, raspberry and tangerine followed by aromas of bread crust, yeast, strawberry, hawthorn, pink grapefruit, plum, apple and hints of vanilla. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, an effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of cherry, raspberry and strawberry. Franciacorta Rosé Pas Dosé Parosé referments in bottle on its lees for at least 30 months. The base wine used for the production of this Franciacorta ages in barrique.

Food match: Roasted white meat, Roasted fish, Fish soups, Broiled fish



Franciacorta Brut Emanuela Barboglio 2004 Il Mosnel (Lombardy, Italy)

Grapes: Chardonnay

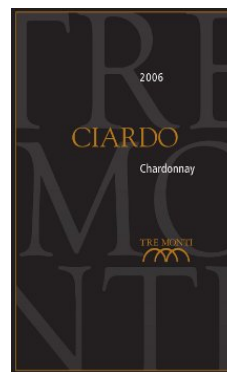
Price: € 28.00

Score: ◇◇◇◇ ★

Franciacorta Brut Emanuela Barboglio shows a brilliant straw yellow color and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent, fine

and persistent perlage. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of banana, bread crust and acacia followed by aromas of yeast, pineapple, hawthorn, pear, butter, plum, hazelnut, praline and hints of vanilla. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, an effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of banana, plum and praline. Franciacorta Brut Emanuela Barboglio referments in bottle on its lees for at least 36 months. The base wine of this Franciacorta ages in barrique for 5 months.

Food match: Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Stuffed pasta, Mushroom soups



Colli di Imola Chardonnay Ciardo 2008 Tre Monti (Emilia Romagna, Italy)

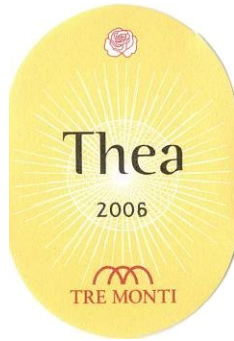
Grapes: Chardonnay

Price: € 11.00

Score: ◇◇◇◇

Colli di Imola Chardonnay Ciardo shows a brilliant straw yellow color and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of banana, apple and acacia followed by aromas of pineapple, white rose, pear, grapefruit, plum and vanilla. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of apple, banana and plum. A small part of Colli di Imola Chardonnay Ciardo ages in barrique.

Food match: Stuffed pasta, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Stewed fish



**Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore Riserva Thea 2006
Tre Monti (Emilia Romagna, Italy)**

Grapes: Sangiovese

Price: € 17.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆◆

Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore Riserva Thea shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of ruby red, moderate 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, rose, blueberry, blackberry, vanilla, chocolate, tobacco, cinnamon, pink pepper and menthol. The mouth has excellent 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 black cherry, plum and blackberry. A well made wine. Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore Riserva Thea ages for 12 months in barrique.

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



**Principeps 2003
Castello delle Regine (Umbria, Italy)**

Grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon (60%), Sangiovese (20%), Merlot (20%)

Price: € 19.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆◆

Principeps shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, little transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of plum, black cherry and violet followed by aromas of black currant, vanilla, blueberry, tobacco, raspberry, cocoa, mace and menthol. 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 black cherry, plum and black currant. Principeps ages for 12 months in barrique followed by more than 24 months of aging in bottle.

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



**Selezione del Fondatore 2003
Castello delle Regine (Umbria, Italy)**

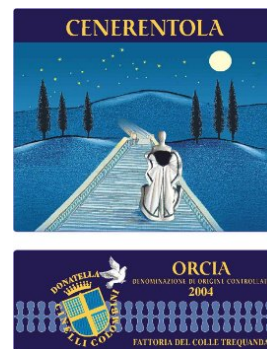
Grapes: Sangiovese Grosso

Price: € 25.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆◆★

Selezione del Fondatore shows a brilliant ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of plum, black cherry, and violet followed by aromas of blueberry, vanilla, tobacco, chocolate, cinnamon, licorice, leather, 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 persistent with flavors of plum, black cherry and blueberry. Selezione del Fondatore ages for 14 months in barrique followed by 36 months of aging in bottle.

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



**Orcia Rosso Cenerentola 2004
Donatella Cinelli Colombini (Tuscany, Italy)**

Grapes: Sangiovese (65%), Foglia Tonda (35%)

Price: € 20.00

Score: ◆◆◆◆◆

Orcia Rosso Cenerentola shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, little transparency. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints

of plum, black cherry and violet followed by aromas of blackberry, vanilla, chocolate, cinnamon, tobacco, mace and menthol. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of plum, black cherry and blackberry. Orcia Rosso Cenerentola ages for 12 months in cask and barrique.

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



Brunello di Montalcino Progetto Prime Donne 2004
Donatella Cinelli Colombini (Tuscany, Italy)

Grapes: Sangiovese

Price: € 30.00

Score: ☆☆☆☆ ☆

Brunello di Montalcino Progetto Prime Donne shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of garnet red, little transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant aromas which start with hints of plum, black cherry and violet followed by aromas of blueberry, blackberry, vanilla, chocolate, cinnamon, tobacco, licorice, 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 persistent with flavors of black cherry, plum and blackberry. Brunello di Montalcino Progetto Prime Donne ages in cask.

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



Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Castello di Semivicoli 2006
Masciarelli (Abruzzo, Italy)

Grapes: Trebbiano d'Abruzzo

Price: € 17.50

Score: ☆☆☆☆

Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Castello di Semivicoli shows a brilliant straw yellow color and nuances of greenish yellow, very trans-

parent. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas which start with hints of apple, peach and almond followed by aromas of pineapple, citrus fruits, broom, hawthorn, pear and plum. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness. The finish is persistent with flavors of apple, peach and almond. Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Castello di Semivicoli ages in steel tanks.

Food match: Stuffed pasta, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Stewed fish



Montepulciano d'Abruzzo S. Martino Rosso Marina Cvetic 2005
Masciarelli (Abruzzo, Italy)

Grapes: Montepulciano

Price: € 17.00

Score: ☆☆☆☆☆

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo S. Martino Rosso Marina Cvetic 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, plum and blackberry followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, vanilla, tobacco, cocoa, licorice, pink pepper, mace and menthol. The mouth has excellent 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 plum, black cherry and blackberry. A well made wine. Montepulciano d'Abruzzo S. Martino Rosso Marina Cvetic ages for 2 years in barrique.

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



Trebbiano d'Abruzzo 2008
Valori (Abruzzo, Italy)

Grapes: Trebbiano d'Abruzzo

Price: € 5.80

Score: ✧✧

This Trebbiano d'Abruzzo shows a brilliant greenish yellow color and nuances of greenish yellow, very transparent. The nose denotes intense, clean and pleasing aromas that start with hints of apple, plum and almond followed by aromas of hawthorn, broom and pineapple. 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 apple, plum and almond. Trebbiano d'Abruzzo ages in steel tanks.

Food match: Vegetable and egg appetizers, Risotto with vegetables, Boiled crustaceans



Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2006
Valori (Abruzzo, Italy)

Grapes: Montepulciano

Price: € 6.50

Score: ✧✧✧

This Montepulciano d'Abruzzo shows an intense ruby red color and nuances of purple red, little transparency. The nose denotes intense, clean and pleasing aromas which start with hints of black cherry, plum and violet followed by aromas of blueberry, blackberry and raspberry. The mouth has good correspondence to the nose, a slightly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors. The finish is persistent with flavors of black cherry, plum and blackberry. This Montepulciano d'Abruzzo ages for 12 months in barrique.

Food match: Broiled meat and barbecue, Sauteed meat, 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 di Albana Dalbana
Tre Monti (Emilia Romagna, Italy)
 (Distiller: Distillerie Giovi)

Raw matter: Pomace of Albana

Price: € 16.50 - 50cl

Score: ✧✧✧✧

This grappa is colorless and crystalline. The nose denotes intense, clean and pleasing aromas of pear, hazelnut, apple, almond and peach, with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency. In the mouth has intense flavors, with perceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, good correspondence to the nose, pleasing roundness, balanced sweetness. The finish is persistent with flavors of apple, pear and almond. This grappa is produced with a discontinuous steam operated alembic still. Alcohol 42%.



Grappa Bricco dell'Uccelletta
Vicara (Piedmont, Italy)
 (Distiller: Distilleria Rosignano Cellamonte)

Raw matter: Pomace of Grignolino

Price: € 18.84 - 50cl

Score: ◆◆◆◆

Grappa Bricco dell'Uccelletta shows a pale amber yellow color, limpid and crystalline. The nose reveals intense, clean, pleasing and refined aromas of plum, black cherry, hazelnut, tobacco, black tea leaf, chocolate, honey and date with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency. In the mouth has intense flavors with perceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, good correspondence to the nose, pleasing roundness, balanced sweetness. The finish is persistent with flavors of plum, honey, date and black cherry. Alcohol 40%.



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	↔	Aglianico del Vulture La Firma 2004, Cantine del Notaio (Italy)
2	↔	Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore Riserva Thea 2005, Tre Monti (Italy)
3	↗	Villa Gresti 2004, Tenuta San Leonardo (Italy)
4	↘	Moscato d' Asti 2007, Vignaioli di S. Stefano (Italy)
5	↗	Arkezia Muffo di San Sisto 2004, Fazi Battaglia (Italy)
6	↘	San Leonardo 2001, Tenuta San Leonardo (Italy)
7	↘	Sforzato di Valtellina San Domenico 2002, Triacca (Italy)
8	↗	Merlot 2004, Castello delle Regine (Italy)
9	↘	Sagrantino di Montefalco Collepiano 2003, Arnaldo Caprai (Italy)
10	↗	Barolo Bussia 2001, Prunotto (Italy)
11	↗	Collio Bianco Col Disòre 2004, Russiz Superiore (Italy)
12	↘	Blanc des Rosis 2006, Schiopetto (Italy)
13	↗	Barolo Sorano 2004, Alario (Italy)
14	↗	Sagrantino di Montefalco Passito 2004, Adanti (Italy)
15	↘	Chianti Classico Riserva Novecento 2000, Dievole (Italy)

Legend: ↗ up ↘ down ↔ stable ☆ new entry