

# DiWINEtaste

Wine Culture and Information

International Edition

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## The Fault of Having no Faults

Tasting wine in company is always very interesting. Of course, I am talking about friendly and informal contexts, with the sincere spirit of sharing a bottle with others. It often happens, in occasion of a meal, during which many bottles are uncorked – after all, each course wants its own wine – that the beverage of Bacchus inevitably becomes the subject of debates and comparison. Not only in regards the pairing with the specific course, but also – and above all – in the enjoyment itself, inevitably conditioned by the taste, culture and relationship with the wine each one of us has. This last factor, in particular, directs the discussion towards specific subjects and, above all, on the acceptability of certain characteristics of the wine, both in the case of faults, more or less evident or hidden, and on positive qualities. Depending on the ones with whom you are sharing a bottle – something which is always done with pleasure, regardless – the discussion, inevitably and obviously, mainly focuses on certain topics or aspects of wine.

Of course, the opinion and thought of anyone is equally important and regardless of the role or relationship one has with wine: the vision and expectations a winemaker has, for example, are very different, and often distant, from those of a wine lover. They are of course understandable and legitimate positions: if we consider the respective opinions, for what they are, they prove coherence with the role. There is one thing, however, that makes me think every time we start comparing and exchanging views around a bottle of wine. Tolerance to faults and the ability to detect them always and strongly depends on the role and relationship that each of us has with wine. It could be said that it is a *matter of experience*, or of *professional orientation*, indeed it is not just that. After all – and this is an undeniable fact – the more wines you taste, the greater the “relative knowledge” on the practice of sensorial evaluation, which inevitably contributes to the development of a certain “culture” to the concept of an objectively shared quality.

The thing that often surprises me is the relationship each one of us has with faults, regardless of the role and *passion*. Personally speaking, I reluctantly tolerate the presence of faults in wine, or – at least – those I consider as such, in

particular when they depend on viticultural and wine making negligence. In my specific case, it is about those faults that are defined as such in the totality of wine making treatises, for example oxidation, “vinegary hints”, contamination and certain enzymatic or bacterial spoilage. Not least, also the *side effects* of the activity of certain yeasts, universally considered “negative” for the fermentation. *De gustibus non est disputandum*, used to say the sages of the past, who – centuries ago – recognized the indisputability of personal taste. As long as they remain in the personal sphere and are not imposed on others. Even worse, when supported by the arrogance and blind stupidity of those who are convinced of *knowing the revealed truth* which, coincidentally, is always and only theirs, indeed showing an opinionated ignorance.

It is however interesting to see how certain faults, at least those I consider such, actually turn out to be extraordinary qualities for others. I am not talking about the inability to perceive and the skill to recognize faults in a wine, or at least those which, according to consolidated wine making criteria, are considered as such, rather the sincere belief that the perceived fault is, indeed, a magnificent quality. Even worse, in my opinion, when a fault is, not only tolerated, but even considered the indisputable proof of genuineness, not least, of honest and authentic wine making practice. Furthermore, the lack of faults, that is, a *clean* wine from a sensorial point of view, is often a reason for doubt, suspecting, not least, who knows what “abominable” artificial wine making practice and certainly made with the most sinister sophistication. In short, for many the fact a wine has no fault is a fault. A paradox which I encounter quite often and which, unfortunately, seems to be pretty frequent among wine lovers.

Sometimes I wonder if this is the consequence of the evolution of taste or, better said, what the majority today look for in a wine. In case it is like that, in all honesty, I would say it is rather a regression of taste, as if it were a *return to the past* of about 30 years ago when, in fact, finding wines with certain faults was quite frequent. And when it happened to find such wines in the glass, the reaction of disapproval, not to say “dis-

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gust”, was almost unanimous. Today, however, it seems to me there is a greater tolerance towards certain faults, almost embarrassing ones, which are even considered qualities. Those who are capable of appreciating these *faulty qualities* always emphasize the genuineness of the wine, even worse, the indisputable sign of identifying qualities of grapes and of *terroir*. I believe, in my opinion, it mainly is the inability to recognize faults, not least, the increasingly frequent habit to ignore and not to train our senses in a conscious way, relying on superficiality which, undeniably, is less tiring and gives, with a little, the illusion of being erudite.

In a society in which appearance becomes the foundation for the affirmation of oneself, claiming at all costs the role of being an “expert”, or presumed one, superficiality undoubtedly guarantees the glory of ignorance. I guess for some this can be considered as presumptuous or exaggerated, however, every time I hear someone turn a fault into a value, the famous words of Émile Peynaud, the famous French wine maker, undisputed father of modern oenology, always come to my mind. «It is you who in a certain sense “make quality”. If there are bad wines, it is because there are bad drinkers. The taste conforms to the roughness of the intellect: everyone drinks the wine they deserve». A statement, I’m sure, which may be considered extreme or even *discriminatory* for some, but which – personally speaking – I have always appreciated and agreed.

To argue that a wine without faults is “faulty”, supporting the idea it is the result of “sophisticated” wine making practices, alluding to *unspecified or indefinable* “chemical” adulteration, is something that makes me smile. Especially for the banal consideration that, regardless of how it is made, wine is undeniably the result of chemical processes, for better or for worse. Even the *very banal* process of transforming wine into vinegar – an absolutely genuine phenomenon – is the result of chemistry. Perhaps, in all this time, I have not been able to adapt myself to the retrograde change in the taste of wine and I continue to reluctantly tolerate faults and consider them for what they are: faults. After all, I continue to be satisfied with little and with the joy of having in the glass – when it happens – wines having the fault of having no faults. And I smile, pleased and happy, thinking of Émile Peynaud.

Antonello Biancalana

## WINE TASTING

# Contrasts of Cinque Terre and Colli Martani Grechetto

Two significant and representative white wines in their respective regions – Liguria and Umbria – are being compared in the glasses of the tasting by contrast of this month

Liguria and Umbria have nothing in common, except they are two regions of Italy. The former faces completely towards the sea while having a dense network of hills behind; the latter is the only peninsular region to not bordering the sea, however it has many mountains and hills. Yet Liguria and Umbria, in enological terms, have a lot in common and, specifically, the historical vocation for the cultivation and production of white wines. In both regions we find, of course, interesting and significant examples of red wines, however it is the white ones that historically represent these regions the most. Two of them, produced in territories recognized as *Denominazione d’Origine Controllata* (Denomination of Controlled Origin, DOC) are the protagonists of this month’s tasting by contrast, wines differing in character, territory and – of course – in the grapes that make them.

Cinque Terre, in fact, is a wine produced with three distinct varieties – Vermentino, Bosco and Albarola – while Colli Martani Grechetto is produced, according to its production disciplinary, with Grechetto in prevalence therefore, at the discretion of the producer, alone. To better appreciate these two wines, it is always preferable to refer to productions carried out with fermentation and aging in inert containers, therefore avoiding those made with the use of casks and barriques. In fact, it is not a matter of a prejudice towards wooden containers, however for these two wines, the aging technique in cask tends to excessively cover the specific qualities of the grapes used for their making. Furthermore, this month’s tasting by contrast aims to compare the enology of the sea to the one of hills. Cinque Terre benefits from the influence of sea breeze and maritime climate, a factor totally absent in Colli Martani Grechetto which originates from the green hills of Umbria.

## Cinque Terre

Viticulture in Liguria is never a simple thing, especially the one in the suggestive Cinque Terre. A territory located between the sea and steep cliffs, the vines are often cultivated in conditions that are not exactly easy, especially for the harvesting operations. Despite all that, these land make white wines of excellent quality and, not least, an absolute masterpiece of Ligurian and Italian enology: Cinque Terre Sciacchetrà. At the foundation of the wine production of this wine-growing area – recognized as *Denominazione d’Origine Controllata* (Denomination of Controlled Origin, DOC) – we find three white grape varieties: Vermentino, Bosco and Albarola. It is a combination of great interest, made up of three varieties capable of creating, with their own peculiarities and characteristics, white wines with a pleasing personality. The Denomination of Controlled

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◆ Typeset with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> since 2002 ◆

Origin Cinque Terre extends over a small area in the province of La Spezia and includes the municipalities of Monterosso, Riomaggiore and Vernazza, as well as “Tramonti di Biassa” and “Tramonti di Campiglia” in the municipality of La Spezia.

The grapes used for the production of Cinque Terre, as already said, are Vermentino, Bosco and Albarola. Of them, Vermentino is certainly the variety enjoying the greatest spreading and enological glory, a famous grape with which are made excellent wines in many Italian regions. The characteristics of Vermentino are well present and perceptible in the wines of Cinque Terre, a variety capable of giving both elegance and character. Bosco, a grape of uncertain origins, is typical of Liguria and its presence is almost limited to the Cinque Terre area. Even the third variety used in this wine – Albarola – has a rather limited spreading, mainly in the Cinque Terre area and in some parts of Tuscany. In this regard, it must be said this variety has evident genetic analogies with Bianchetta Genovese grape and, in fact, is considered by many to be the same. Finally, due to the particular characteristics of the territory, the viticulture of the Cinque Terre is considered *heroic*. The hills steeply sloping towards the sea, in fact, make cultivation and harvesting operations not exactly easy.

## Colli Martani Grechetto

Landscape and territory quite different the ones typical of Umbria, the region where Colli Martani is located, the area where the second wine of the tasting by contrast of this month is produced. In this large hilly area, the protagonists of the vineyards are undeniably Grechetto and Sangiovese. In our tasting we will focus on Grechetto, a native white grape of Umbria and widespread throughout the region. Speaking of Grechetto, however, is never simple, due to the presence of two main clones which make distinct wines. The first one, and probably the best known, is reported in the Italian Directory of Wine Grape Varieties as “G5”, commonly known as “Grechetto di Todi”, analogous to the Pignoletto grape present in the Romagna area. The second one is identified as “G109” and takes the name of “Grechetto di Orvieto”. The two clones, despite the name, have no genetic or enological analogy, therefore they are two distinct varieties.

In this regard, it should be noticed the name “Grechetto” suggests a possible Greek origin, specifically, the historical custom of attributing names recalling this country to all those grapes that were thought to have been introduced from Magna Graecia. It must also be considered in past centuries it was moreover customary to attribute “Greek” names also to those grape varieties capable of making wines “in the Greek style”. To overcome the confusion that has arisen over time between the two main clones, today we usually refer to Grechetto to the variety belonging to the G109 clone (Grechetto di Orvieto), while the G5 clone (Grechetto di Todi) generally takes the name of Grechetto Gentile. The latter is the clone mainly used for the production of Colli Martani Grechetto and is also found in many other white wines of Umbria. A variety capable of making wines of good structure, it is usually vinified in inert containers in order to preserve the characteristic olfactory profile and its good acidity.

## The Tasting

The choice of wines we will pour into the glasses of this month’s tasting by contrast is not difficult. Both wines, in fact, are quite common and available in the market, therefore the choice of the two bottles is certainly easy. As for Colli Martani Grechetto, it should be considered that – according to its production disciplinary, as well as in that of many Italian DOC wines – Grechetto must be present for at least 85%, therefore we will pay attention on choosing a wine produced with this variety alone. Cinque Terre, on the other hand, is always produced with Vermentino, Bosco and Albarola, each of these varieties can be present for a maximum of 40%. This leaves producers the choice in creating their composition of Cinque Terre, however, in most cases, the dominant variety is Vermentino. We will also pay attention to the vinification technique, preferring wines fermented and aged in inert containers, preferably steel tank. As for the vintage, we will choose bottles belonging to the last and most recent harvest. The wines are poured into tasting glasses at a temperature of 10 °C. (50 °F)

Let’s pour Cinque Terre and Colli Martani Grechetto into their tasting glasses and begin the evaluation by examining the appearance of the two wines. The first wine we evaluate is Cinque Terre, produced with Vermentino, Bosco and Albarola. Let’s tilt the glass over a white surface and observe the base. The Ligurian wine shows a brilliant straw yellow color and, by observing the edge of the glass, towards the opening, where the liquid mass becomes thin, we notice a greenish yellow nuance, also proving its young age. The transparency of Cinque Terre is very high: the object placed in contrast between the glass and the white surface is perfectly visible. Let’s now focus our attention on the appearance of Colli Martani Grechetto and, as for the previous wine, we tilt the glass over the white surface. The color of the Umbrian wine reveals a bright straw yellow color, sometimes more intense than Cinque Terre. The nuance of Colli Martani Grechetto, observed at the edge of the glass, confirms the straw yellow color although with an evident greenish hue. Again, transparency is very high.

The aromas characterizing Cinque Terre and Colli Martani Grechetto are quite different, although in both cases we can perceive aromas directly recalling white pulp fruits as well as



The color of Colli Martani Grechetto

yellow and white flowers. Moreover, in both cases we can perceive aromas recalling dried fruit, specifically, almond for Cinque Terre – mainly given by Vermentino – and hazelnut for Grechetto. In Cinque Terre can be mainly perceived aromas of apple, pear and citrus fruit, including floral aromas recalling hawthorn and broom. Furthermore, the Ligurian wine is characterized by a pleasing mineral sensation and, often, aromas recalling aromatic herbs, such as wild fennel. Colli Martani Grechetto, on the other hand, is characterized to the nose by aromas of apple, pear, plum and lemon to which are added the pleasing floral hints of hawthorn and broom, sometimes chamomile. In both wines it is possible to perceive sensations of exotic fruit, in particular pineapple.

Let's resume the tasting by contrast of this month and proceed with the olfactory analysis of the Cinque Terre and Colli Martani Grechetto, first examining – as in the previous phase – the Ligurian wine. Let's hold the glass in vertical position and, without swirling it, let's do the first smell in order to appreciate the opening of the wine, that its primary and identifying aromas. From the glass we perceive intense and pleasant aromas of apple, pear and citrus, which are joined by a pleasant sensation of mineral and a scent of hawthorn. Let's now swirl the glass, in order to favor the oxygenation of the wine, therefore the development of the other aromas, and let's proceed with the second smell. The olfactory profile of Cinque Terre is completed with peach, pineapple, plum, broom as well as a pleasant aroma of almond. Let's now move on to the olfactory analysis of Colli Martani Grechetto and, by holding the glass in vertical position, let's do the first smell in order to evaluate its opening. The Umbrian wine is characterized by pleasant aromas of apple, pear and lemon followed by aromas of hawthorn and broom. After having swirled the glass and carried out the second smell, the Umbrian wine completes its olfactory profile with peach, plum, pineapple and the characteristic hint of hazelnut.

Let's now pass to the penultimate phase of the tasting, proceeding with the gustatory analysis of the two wines. The first wine of which we examine the gustatory profile is Cinque Terre, therefore – after having taken the first sip – we evaluate its attack, that is the primary sensations perceived in the mouth. Cinque Terre is characterized by a pleasing crispness, given by acidity, balanced by the roundness of alcohol. In the mouth, moreover, we clearly perceive the flavors of apple, pear and plum, often peach, in addition to the characteristic *bitter* hint in which we can recognize almond. Let's now take a sip of Colli Martani Grechetto and evaluate its attack. The Umbrian wine is characterized in the mouth with a marked crispness given by acidity and which finds its balance in the roundness of alcohol. The structure has a good body, in some cases fuller than Cinque Terre, and we can also perceive the flavors of apple, pear and lemon as well as the characteristic hint of hazelnut.

Let's finish this month's tasting by contrast with the evaluation of the final sensations the wines leave in the mouth after swallowing, in particular the taste-olfactory persistence, primary factor for the definition of quality. The finish of Cinque Terre is persistent and in the mouth we continue perceiving its pleasing acidity as well as a bitter sensation in which we can recognize almond. The flavors of apple, pear, plum and peach also continue to be perceived as well. The finish of Colli Martani Grechetto is also persistent, leaving a pleasing acid-

ity in the mouth and contrasting the effect of alcohol. Moreover, we can still perceive the flavors of apple, pear, lemon and the characteristic hint of hazelnut, sometimes accompanied by a slightly bitter sensation. Let's now place the glasses side by side and do a new smell, first Cinque Terre and then Colli Martani Grechetto: the olfactory differences are still evident. Differences that continue to be well perceptible also in the respective gustatory profiles.

## 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



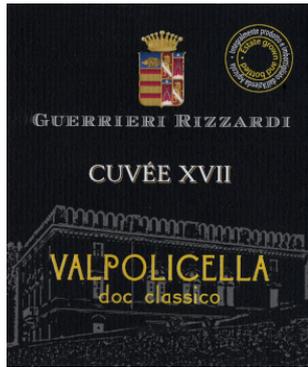
### Bardolino Classico Cuvée XV 2019 Guerrieri Rizzardi (Veneto, Italy)

- 🍷 Corvina (60%), Rondinella (20%), Merlot, Ancellotta, Sangiovese (20%)

Price: € 7.20

Score ◇◇◇★

- 👁 Intense ruby red and nuances of ruby red, little transparency.
- 👂 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of black cherry, plum and blackberry followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, raspberry and geranium.
- 👄 Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.
- 🍷 Persistent finish with flavors of black cherry, plum and blackberry.
- 📦 Aged in steel tanks and cement cask.
- 🍴 *Pasta with meat and mushrooms, Sauteed meat, Broiled meat*



**Valpolicella Classico Cuvée XVII 2019**  
Guerrieri Rizzardi (Veneto, Italy)

Corvinone, Corvina (80%), Merlot (10%), Rondinella, Croatina (10%)

Price: € 8.20

Score

Intense ruby red and nuances of ruby red, moderate transparency.

Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of plum, black cherry and blackberry followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, rose and raspberry.

Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Persistent finish with flavors of plum, black cherry and blackberry.

Aged in steel and cement tanks.

*Cold cuts, Pasta with meat and mushrooms, Stewed meat with mushrooms*



**Marche Rosso 2018**  
Lamelia (Marches, Italy)

Syrah (50%), Merlot (50%)

Price: € 9.00

Score

Intense ruby red and nuances of ruby red, little transparency.

Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of black cherry, black currant and plum followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, blackberry, black pepper and vanilla.

Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness.

Persistent finish with flavors of black cherry, black currant and plum.

Syrah aged in steel tanks, Merlot aged for 10 months in barrique, at least 4 months in bottle.

*Stuffed pasta, Broiled meat and barbecue, Roasted meat, Stewed meat, Cheese*



L A M E L I A

VERDICCHIO DI MATELICA DOP



**Verdicchio di Matelica San Vito 2019**  
Lamelia (Marches, Italy)

Verdicchio

Price: € 11.50

Score

Brilliant straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent.

Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of pear, apple and broom followed by aromas of citrus fruits, hawthorn, peach, plum and almond.

Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Persistent finish with flavors of pear, apple and peach.

8 months in steel tanks, 2 months in bottle.

*Fried fish, Risotto with fish and crustaceans, Dairy products, Sauteed fish*



**Verdicchio di Matelica Meridia 2017**  
Belisario (Marches, Italy)

 Verdicchio

Price: € 16.00

Score 

 Intense straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent.

 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of apple, plum and medlar followed by aromas of hawthorn, citrus fruits, pear, peach, broom, anise, almond and mineral.

 Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, plum and almond.

 15 months in cement tanks.

 *Stuffed pasta, Roasted white meat, Roasted fish, Broiled fish*



**Verdicchio di Matelica Riserva Cambrugiano 2017**  
Belisario (Marches, Italy)

 Verdicchio

Price: € 18.00

Score 

 Intense straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent.

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, plum and almond followed by aromas of pear, hawthorn, broom, chamomile, peach, medlar, grapefruit, honey, rosemary and hints of vanilla.

 Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, agreeable.

 Very persistent finish with long flavors of apple, plum and almond.

 A small part ages for 12 months in barrique.

 *Stuffed pasta, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Mushroom soups*



**Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore**  
**Federico II 2018**  
Montecappone (Marches, Italy)

 Verdicchio

Price: € 15.00

Score 

 Brilliant straw yellow and nuances of greenish yellow, very transparent.

 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of apple, pear and broom followed by aromas of citrus fruits, plum, hawthorn, peach, anise, almond and mineral.

 Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, pear and almond.

 5 months in steel tanks.

 *Pasta with fish, Sauteed white meat, Stewed meat, Fried fish*



**Castelli di Jesi Verdicchio Riserva Classico Ergo Sum Mirizzi 2016**  
**Montecappone (Marches, Italy)**

Verdicchio

Price: € 65.00

Score

Brilliant golden yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent.

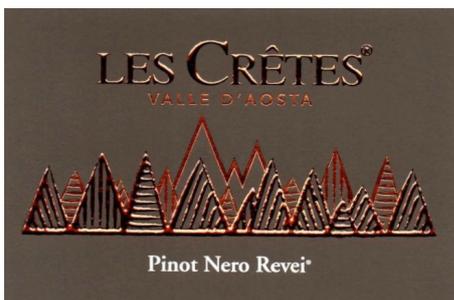
Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, plum and almond followed by aromas of hawthorn, pear, peach, medlar, broom, bergamot, anise, saffron, linden, honey and flint.

Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Very persistent finish with very long flavors of apple, plum and almond.

12 months in cement tanks, 48 months in bottle.

*Stuffed pasta with mushrooms, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Cheese*



**Valle d'Aosta Pinot Nero Revei 2017**  
**Les Crêtes (Vallée d'Aoste, Italy)**

Pinot Nero

Price: € 40.00

Score

Intense ruby red and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of cherry, plum and dried violet followed by aromas of

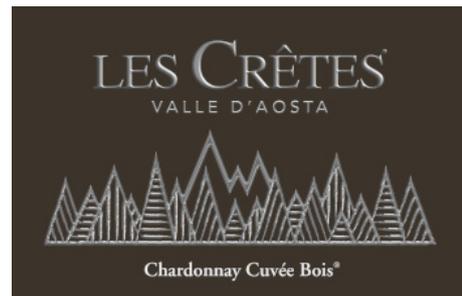
dried rose, raspberry, strawberry, blueberry, tobacco, chocolate, mace, leather, vanilla and menthol.

Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness.

Persistent finish with flavors of cherry, plum and raspberry.

18 months in cask, 18 months in bottle.

*Broiled meat and barbecue, Roasted meat, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Hard cheese*



**Valle d'Aosta Chardonnay Cuvée Bois 2018**  
**Les Crêtes (Vallée d'Aoste, Italy)**

Chardonnay

Price: € 38.70

Score

Intense straw yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent.

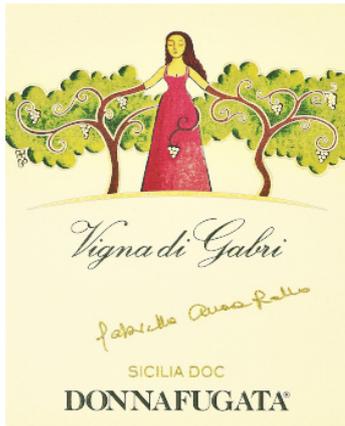
Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of banana, apple and acacia followed by aromas of pear, hawthorn, citron, passion fruit, plum, grapefruit, broom, butter, croissant, hazelnut, praline, mineral and vanilla.

Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness.

Very persistent finish with very long flavors of banana, apple and citron.

12 months in barrique, 12 months in bottle.

*Stuffed pasta with meat, Roasted white meat, Roasted fish, Cheese*



**Sicilia Bianco Vigna di Gabri 2018**  
Donnafugata (Sicily, Italy)

 Ansonica, Catarratto Bianco Lucido, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier

Price: € 15.00

Score 

 Intense straw yellow and nuances of greenish yellow, very transparent.

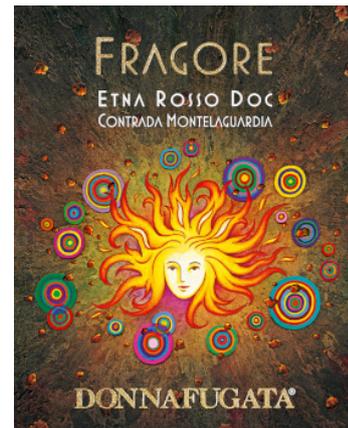
 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of apple, grapefruit and plum followed by aromas of pear, banana, acacia, hawthorn, linden, flint and hints of vanilla.

 Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, grapefruit and plum.

 7 months part in steel tanks and part in barrique, 5 months in bottle.

 *Pasta with fish, Sauteed white meat, Stewed fish, Legume soups, Dairy products*



**Etna Rosso Fragore 2016**  
Donnafugata (Sicily, Italy)

 Nerello Mascalese

Price: € 57.00

Score 

 Brilliant ruby red and nuances of garnet red, moderate transparency.

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of cherry, plum and dried rose followed by aromas of dried violet, pomegranate, raspberry, carob, cinnamon, chocolate, tobacco, licorice, leather, mace, flint, vanilla and menthol.

 Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness.

 Very persistent finish with long flavors of cherry, plum and pomegranate.

 14 months in barrique, at least 10 months in bottle.

 *Stuffed pasta with meat and mushrooms, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Roasted meat, Broiled meat and barbecue*

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](mailto:Events@DiWineTaste.com).

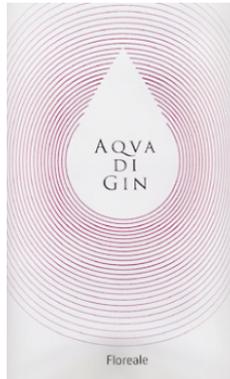
NOT JUST WINE

## Wine Guide Parade

September 2020

### Aquavitae

Review of Grappa, Distillates and Brandy



**Aqva di Gin Floreale**  
Bespoke Distillery (Campania, Italy)

 Juniper, Aromatic Herbs and Flowers Distillate

Price: € 39.00 - 70cl

Score 

 Colorless, limpid and crystalline.

 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined with aromas of juniper, lavender, rose, orange flower, jasmine, fennel and myrtle with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency.

 Intense flavors with perceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, pleasing roundness, sweet hint.

 Very persistent finish with long flavors of juniper, myrtle, fennel and honey.

 Distilled in a steam operated alembic still.

The best 15 wines reviewed in our Guide and voted by Di-WineTaste readers

Rank	Wine, Producer	Votes
1	Colli di Luni Bianco Gladius 2019, Cantine Federici - La Baia del Sole	12068
2	Coda di Volpe 2019, Masseria Frattasi	11577
3	Barbera d'Asti La Tota 2018, Marchesi Alfieri	10528
4	Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Spelt 2016, La Valentina	10119
5	Kottabos 2018, Masseria Frattasi	9923
6	Alto Adige Sauvignon Lafoa 2018, Produttori Colterenzio	9829
7	Alto Adige Pinot Nero Riserva St. Daniel 2017, Produttori Colterenzio	9613
8	Alto Adige Pinot Bianco Berg 2018, Produttori Colterenzio	9253
9	Rhyton 2018, Masseria Frattasi	9112
10	Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Binomio 2015, La Valentina	9086
11	Bianco 2017, Macondo	9071
12	Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva Terre dei Vestini Bellovedere 2016, La Valentina	9043
13	Nero di Predappio 2019, Nicolucci	8930
14	Colli di Luni Vermentino Oro d'Isée 2019, Cantine Federici - La Baia del Sole	8363
15	Alto Adige Chardonnay Lafoa 2018, Produttori Colterenzio	8316