

SPARKLING WINES AND CHAMPAGNES SPARKLING WINES

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| <p>The Sparkling wine industry in Italy is relatively modern, and until the 70's and 80's was mostly centred around Asti with production of Asti</p> | 1 | <p><u>PROSECCO DI VALDOBBIADENE DOC 12.0% vol Veneto 2009 31.50</u> Col Vetoraz</p> |
| <p>Spumante – a semi sweet effervescent wine fermented in stainless steel tanks under pressure.</p> | 2 | <p><u>CA' DEL BOSCO BRUT Cuvee Prestige 12.5% vol Lombardy NV 51.50</u> Franciacorta DOCG</p> |
| <p>The dry bottle-fermented style took longer to gain acceptance. Throughout the 80's and 90's it expanded rapidly especially in</p> | | <p><i>Situated in Erbusco, Lombardy, this house is regarded as one of the finest Italian wine estates. Founded in 1968, the then young Maurizio Zanella started the journey to fulfil his dream of producing world-class sparkling wines. Not only has he achieved this, but in 2002, the prestigious guide, Gambero Rosso nominated this estate « cellar of the year » for the consistently high quality of all its wines.</i></p> |
| <p>areas such as Franciacorta and Trentino which have emerged as the finest producers of this style - able to challenge Champagne for quality</p> | 3 | <p><u>BELLAVISTA 12.0% vol Lombardy 2008 58.00</u> Franciacorta DOC</p> |
| <p>With Food Sparkling wines and champagnes are generally perceived as a celebration drink but the majority of our selection have the structure, power and intensity to match the dishes on our menu</p> | 4 | <p><u>BELLAVISTA Gran Cuvee 12.5% vol Lombardy 2004 75.00</u> Franciacorta DOC</p> |
| | 5 | <p><u>CA'DEL BOSCO Dosage Zero 12.5% vol Lombardy 2002 65.00</u> Franciacorta DOCG</p> |
| | | <p><i>Situated in Erbusco, Lombardy, this house is regarded as one of the finest Italian wine estates. Founded in 1968, the then young Maurizio Zanella started the journey to fulfil his dream of producing world-class sparkling wines. Not only has he achieved this, but in 2002, the prestigious guide, Gambero Rosso nominated this estate « cellar of the year » for the consistently high quality of all its wines. Dosage Zero is a blend of pinot noir and chardonnay from its best vineyards, only made in exceptional years. The wine is full-flavoured, with striking fruit, freshness, minerality and intensity ; a fine creamy mousse and a long finish</i></p> |

CHAMPAGNES

Rose Champagne

Some form of sparkling wine has been around for centuries in wine producing countries, but made in an amateurish fashion by locals or in monasteries

Champagne

The Champenois are responsible for perfecting the system of making sparkling wine. By discovering the method of disgorging the wine after bottle fermentation to eliminate the sediments, they were able to mass produce a clear, consistent product that appealed to the European ruling classes

Champagne Growers and Grands Marques

Champagne is the most successful, commercial, luxury brand in the Drinks Industry. Key to this were the Grands Marques who set up the high standards needed to produce high quality sparkling wine. Each house has its own style, and consistently produces millions of bottles per year, each one reflecting that unique distinctive style

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| 6 | <p><u>BENEDICK BRUT ROSE 12.5% vol</u> France NV 58.50 Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>A family-owned negociant house with large vineyard holding, it consistently produces high quality champagnes that represent great value for money. This is a light style of rose, easy to drink, with a fresh and crisp finish</i></p> |
| 7 | <p><u>R&L LEGRAS BRUT ROSE 12.0% vol</u> France NV 75.50 Chouilly - Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>Founded in the 16th century, Legras is a well regarded Champagne House in Chouilly, the most northerly village of the Cote de Blancs. Its House style combines a firm and classic structure with a generous fruit profile and this brut rose with its aromatic, toasty nose is beautifully perfumed and quite profound. The palate is precise and taut with high acidity and real complexity.</i></p> |
| 8 | <p><u>TAITTINGER ROSE Comtes de Champagne 12.5% vol</u> France 2002 195.00 Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>This rose Comtes de Champagne is made from 70% pinot noir and 30% chardonnay all from Grand Cru vineyards with only first pressing used for this cuvee. When bottled, the wine is then aged for 5 years on the lees before being disgorged. The 2002 was a good vintage, producing wines with power, intensity, good acidity and exceptional ageing potential. Great intensity of yeasty flavours</i></p> |
| 9 | <p><u>DELAMOTTE Brut 12.5% vol</u> France NV 58.50 Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>This is the sister house of Salon (See Bin No 21), based in Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, source of the finest champagne grapes, a long-established champagne house, with its own distinctive style, where stress is on purity and elegance; the blend is 50% chardonnay, 30% pinot noir, 20% pinot meunier. All grapes are hand-picked with fermentation in stainless steel vats, medium dosage with remuage done by hand. The wine matures for 3 years before release; dry and crisp, elegant with subtle, persistent fruit – an ideal aperitive champagne</i></p> |
| 10 | <p><u>HENRI BILLIOT FILS Grand Cru 12.5% vol</u> France 2002 65.00 Ambonnay - Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>This is a 5 hectare estate in the Grand Cru village of Ambonnay, the source of the finest pinot noir grapes in Champagne. His vineyards border those of Egly-Ouriet (See Bin No 14) and like his friend, his focus is on the vineyards where he restricts yields to achieve optimum grape maturity. He favours the fragrant and exuberant fruit of the Pinot Noir, in contrast to his neighbour Egly Ouriet. The 2002, a blend of 80% pinot noir and 20% chardonnay, is elegant, made in a round style that offers remarkable softness with notes of apricot and orange peel. It is a powerful, intense and refined champagne and is great value for money</i></p> |
| 11 | <p><u>LARMANDIER-BERNIER Terre de Vertus 12.5% vol</u> France NV 68.50 Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>Run by Pierre and Sophie Larmandier, this house is one of the most highly regarded in Champagne. Its biodynamic approach ensures very low yield in the vineyard resulting in healthy, ripe grapes expressive of the terroir. The wines are fermented with indigenous yeast and bottled without filtration. The Terre de Vertus has no dosage, is intense and powerful with great purity of flavours – apricot and wild flowers with notes of honey and citrus peel; medium-bodied, a great expression of Blanc de Blancs</i></p> |
| 12 | <p><u>VEUVE CLICQUOT PONSARDIN 12.5% vol</u> France NV 69.00 Champagne AOC</p> <p><i>A very ancient house whose history started when the young widow Nicole Barbe-Clicquot, nee Ponsardin, took over the firm and became a legend in her lifetime. The wine is dry, full-bodied with a fine mousse and lovely yeasty nose</i></p> |

Winegrowers Champagnes

Instead of selling their own grapes to the Grands Marques, there is a trend for many winegrowers to make their own Champagne which has a more individual character expressing the local terroir. Here is a selection of some of these (See Bin 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15) which we particularly like

Sparkling wine, using the champagne method, is today made all over the world, but it is the climate and chalky soil of this region only which lend the unique character to its best expressions.

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| 13 | <u>LILBERT – FILS Grand Cru Cramant 12.0% vol</u> | France | 2002 | 74.50 |
| | Champagne AOC | | | |
| | <i>Bertrand Lilbert, born into a family of winegrowers dating back to 1946, now owns this 4 hectare estate in Cramant, which is the source of Chardonnay with great ageing potential. Using a classic, structured style, with good acidity to guarantee long ageing, this excellent vintage comes from their most prestigious vineyard in Cramant. Elegant, fruity and mineral-driven with body and complexity, it has a creamy, yeasty mousse and long finish</i> | | | |
| 14 | <u>EGLY-OURIET Grand Cru 12.5% vol</u> | France | 2000 | 120.00 |
| | Ambonnay – Champagne AOC | | | |
| | <i>A 4th generation champagne producer with only 9 hectares of vineyard, Egly-Ouriet is well known and highly regarded in the champagne trade, a dedicated craftsman. The key to the quality is low yield, late harvest and careful selection of grapes. The vines are at least 35 years old, tended in a traditional fashion, using organic fertilisers. Egly-Ouriet has gained the respect of his peers and of champagne lovers and his wines have become some of the most sought after in the world. The 2000 vintage has spent 82 months on its lees, bottled without fining or filtration. It has a rich mousse, fragrant with notes of vanilla and spice, great power and finesse and a creamy, silky finish</i> | | | |
| 15 | <u>DAVID LECLAPART L'Apotre 12.0% vol</u> | France | NV | 125.00 |
| | Trepail – Champagne AOC | | | |
| | <i>David Leclapart is a committed environmentalist – his philosophy is based on 4 key words: purity, energy, pleasure and ecology. His ultra-orthodox biodynamic approach is also carried through to the cellar where everything is based on the solar natural forces. A stunning 3 hectare estate produces some of the most terroir-expressive champagne – the grapes reach optimum maturity without the need to add sugar. One of the purest examples of Blanc de Blancs – mineral-driven, dry and crisp with a long finish</i> | | | |
| 16 | <u>DOM PERIGNON Moet & Chandon Eperney 12.5% vol</u> | France | 1999 | 195.00 |
| | Champagne AOC | | | |
| | <i>The wine is named after the monk who is believed to have invented or perfected champagne as we know it. Moet and Chandon was established in 1743; Jean Remy, grandson of the founder, had a great friendship with Napoleon which helped to make Moet the most famous champagne of its time and still the largest house. This is their best deluxe champagne. Only the best grapes from the grand cru vineyard go into the cuvee, and it is only made in the best years. Dom Perignon is consistently one of the finest champagnes</i> | | | |
| 17 | <u>DOM PERIGNON Moet & Chandon Eperney 12.5%</u> | France | 1996 | 225.00 |
| | Champagne AOC | | | |
| 18 | <u>TAITTINGER Comtes de Champagne 12.5% vol</u> | France | 1995 | 185.00 |
| | Blanc de Blanc – Champagne AOC | | | |
| | <i>This house was begun by Jacques Fourneaux in 1734, right at the start of the exciting Champagne trade. The company prospered under the name of Fourneaux Forest establishing some of the best vineyards. After World War II, it merged with the Taittinger family, and under the guidance of Pierre Taittinger, has become one of the most prestigious Champagne houses. This cuvee is only made in exceptional years from the first pressing of chardonnay grapes in the vineyard Cote des Blancs. The 1995 is recognised as the finest champagne of the vintage. The wine is beautifully scented with delicate but intense citrus aromas with hints of vanilla. It is an extremely elegant, balanced and complex wine, still the trendsetter of this style</i> | | | |

The Champagnes on this page represent the different styles of their finest examples

- 19 POL ROGER Cuvee Winston Churchill 12.5% vol France 1996 195.00
One of the few grand marque houses run by the founding family, it was started in 1853 by Pol Roger, who declined to follow in his father's footsteps as a lawyer, and started his own wine business at the age of 17, trading in champagne and eventually making his own unique cuvee, which was sold to the most exclusive hotels and clubs. In the UK, Pol Roger became very popular, served at royal functions. Winston Churchill became a great fan of this house, later becoming a family friend. In 1984, they dedicated this cuvee to his memory, an exclusive vintage champagne, only released in the best years. The wine is rich and full-bodied, made in the pre-1939 style, a style preferred by Churchill. It is a blend of 75% pinot noir, 25% chardonnay from the grand cru vineyards, with yeasty nose, flavours of hazelnuts and caramel, intense, persistent and elegant
- 20 BOLLINGER RD 12.5% vol France 1996 195.00
One of the grand marques, whose history goes back to 1650, when the family Hennequin de Villermont settled in Champagne. In 1750, they moved to 16 Rue Jules Lobet, destined to become the Bollinger Headquarters. In early 1829, Jacques Bollinger formed a partnership with Comte Villermont and Paul Remoudin to sell wines from Champagne, but agreed not to use the Count's name as it was not acceptable for an aristocrat to be involved in commerce. Remoudin died without an heir, and in 1837, Jacques Bollinger married Charlotte de Villermont, sealing the fate of the family house. With every generation, this house has grown in size and stature, without compromising its quality image. RD (recentement degorge) which means that the wine stays a minimum of 8 years on its lees prior to release. Its first vintage was 1952, released by Madame Bollinger in 1961. It is a rich, full-bodied style, combining power, finesse and elegance.
- 21 KRUG 12.5% vol France 1995 225.00
A symbol of extreme luxury and self indulgence, it is universally acknowledged as one of the finest expressions of Champagne. It was founded in 1843 by Johann – Joseph Krug, who learnt his trade at the Champagne house of Jacquesson. They own 20 hectares of prime vineyard, and supplement them with grapes from the finest vineyards of long term contract growers of Le Mesnil-sur-Oger. Selection is strict; the wine is fermented in small, oak casks, ageing for a minimum of 6 years on its lees, which gives its distinctive, intense and complex flavour. The vintage, only declared in exceptional years, is the result of finest cuvee of that year. The wine has great intensity with a rich yeasty nose, full bodied with a creamy texture, long persistent and balanced finish.
- 22 KRUG 12.5% vol France 1996 245.00
- 23 SALON 12.5% vol France 1996 255.00
 Champagne AOC
The company was established in 1920 by Aime Salon, a wealthy Frenchman who loved champagne, and who in 1905 devised what he reckoned was the perfect champagne for his own consumption and that of his friends. This was only to be made in the greatest vintages, leaving an important legacy for champagne connoisseurs. Made from 100% chardonnay from a 1 hectare vineyard, plus 20 other small plots in Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, there are only 60,000 bottles of this vintage. The wine was released after 10 years ageing in Salon cellars. It is the quintessential expression of finesse and elegance in Champagne; great purity of aromas, complex in a subtle way with vibrant fruit and minerality

HALF BOTTLE CARAFES

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|-------|----|--|------------|------|-------|
| WHITE | 30 | <u>SAN MICHELE Soave DOC 12.0% vol</u> Ca' Rugate | Veneto | 2008 | 12.75 |
| | 31 | <u>PINOT BIANCO Alto Adige DOC 13.0% vol</u> Cantina Andriano | Alto Adige | 2008 | 14.25 |
| | 32 | <u>VERDICCHIO DI MATELICA La Monacesca 13.0% vol</u> Az. Ag. La Monacesca | Marche | 2008 | 16.75 |
| | 33 | <u>LUGANA DOC Ca Dei Frati 13.0% vol</u> Dal Cero | Veneto | 2008 | 17.25 |
| | 34 | <u>CLIVI BRAZAN Collio Gorziano DOC 13.5% vol</u> Ferdinando Zanusso | Friuli | 2005 | 19.50 |
| ROSE | 35 | <u>BARDOLINO CHIARETTO 12.5% vol</u> Giovanna Tantini | Veneto | 2008 | 15.25 |
| RED | 36 | <u>PRIMITIVO DEL SALENTO DOC 13.0% vol</u> Cantele | Puglia | 2007 | 12.25 |
| | 37 | <u>VALPOLICELLA RIO ALBO DOC 12.0%</u> Ca'Rugate | Veneto | 2008 | 14.25 |
| | 38 | <u>DOLCETTO DI DOGLIANI 13.5% vol</u> Pecchenino | Piedmont | 2007 | 17.75 |
| | 39 | <u>IL FALCONE 13.5% vol</u> Castel del Monte Riserva DOC | Puglia | 2005 | 18.75 |
| | 40 | <u>I CORTINI Pinot Nero Langhe DOC 13.5% vol</u> Castello di Neive | Piedmont | 2008 | 23.00 |

HOUSE WINES FULL BOTTLE

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|-------|----|---|--------|------|-------|
| WHITE | 41 | <u>FIORILE GRECANICO IGT 12.0% vol</u> Duca di Castelmonte | Sicily | 2009 | 16.00 |
| RED | 42 | <u>FIORILE ROSSO IGT 12.0% vol</u> Duca di Castelmonte | Sicily | 2008 | 16.00 |

ITALY

WHITE

Light to Medium

In Italy there are over 2000 registered grape varieties. Here is a small selection of Giuseppe's favourites that offer a choice of style at every price level

- 51 CUPRESE/VERDICCHIO
DEI CASTELLI JESI DOC 12.5% vol Marche 2008 19.50
Colonnara
Only recently has the verdicchio grape been able to produce high quality wines. This is a fine example from the best vineyard of the Colonnara estate; the wine is full of flavour with peach aromas and lemony acidity
- 52 VERMENTINO DI SARDEGNA DOC 12.5% vol Sardinia 2008 21.50
Monteluna
Vermentino is a grape variety that gives its best in coastal areas. In Sardinia it has found its natural habitat, and is where some of its best expressions can be found. This is a fine example, made by a modern co-operative; it has sapid texture with notes of mineral; a medium bodied wine with a fresh clean finish
- 53 GRAVINA DOC 12.5% vol Puglia 2008 23.50
Botromagno
Puglia has traditionally been the source of wines for blending for the north of Italy and France. Today it is redefining its image, thanks to a number of producers who are making well-crafted, value for money wines. Botromagno owns 70 hectares of vineyard in Gravina; its harsh, rocky soil produces flavoursome wines with character. A blend of local grape varieties, the wine is expressive with a savoury mouthfeel, ripe apple flavours and a dry finish
- 54 SAN MICHELE Soave Classico DOC 12.0% vol Veneto 2008 23.50
Ca' Rugate
Ca'Rugate is an established winery, dating back to 1900, whose turning point came in 1930 when it acquired some prestigious vineyards on the hill of Rugate. Today it produces some outstanding Valpolicellas and Soaves. This San Michele is the entry level soave, made with 100% garganega grape and vinified in an easy to drink style, with fresh aromas of peach and apricot ; a dry and clean finish
- 55 ORVIETO TERRE VINEATE DOC 12.5% vol Umbria 2007 24.50
Il Palazzone
The Dubini family bought Il Palazzone in 1970, and having invested heavily in it since, the estate is now among the champions of Orvieto Classico. The grapes are sourced from some of the best vineyards in the area, and are all hand-picked. An excellent example of Orvieto, it is clean and fresh with lively peach-like aromas, lovely soft mouthfeel and a dry finish
- 56 FALANGHINA Sannio DOC 13.0% vol Campania 2009 24.50
Vesevo
The Campania region has suffered from lack of development of its huge potential for high quality wine. This is changing due to some dynamic producers, one of which is Vesevo founded in 1998, and now employing winemaker Mario Ercolino, formerly of Feudi di San Gregorio. The vineyards are situated in the Irpinian hills, about 500m above sea level. Vesevo is the old name for Vesuvius, because volcanic ash blown inland over the centuries has given the soil here a poor, volcanic character. Falanghina is one of the few truly Italian white grape varieties with character and personality. Its origin goes back to the Romans who made their fabled Falerno from this grape. This wine is a delicate white with flavours of pineapple and apricot.

- 57 CHARDONNAY Vigna del Lauro DOC 13.5% vol Friuli 2006 25.50
Azienda Agricola Fabio Coser
Friuli has become the source of the finest Italian white wines, its producers unanimously focussed on quality at all price levels. This 12 hectare estate, with its environmental ethos, produces stylish, fruit-driven wines. This Chardonnay comes from 25 year old vines on a south-west facing vineyard; it is pale yellow with elegant floral fruit similar to ripe apples, and has a harmonious, balanced finish
- 58 PINOT BIANCO Alto Adige DOC 13.0% vol Alto Adige 2008 26.50
Cantina Andriano
Founded in 1893, with 50 hectares of vineyard, this co-operative is the oldest in Alto Adige. From 2008 vintage, it has merged with the highly respected Cantina Terlano, (see Bin No 70). By reducing yields in the vineyard, and concentrating on more precise techniques in winemaking, the wines are more refined expressing the character of the soil. This Pinot Bianco has elegant, round fruit with hints of minerals and a dry, crisp finish
- 59 TOCAI (TOH!) Friulano Grave DOC 13.0% vol Friuli 2008 26.50
Di Lenardo
An estate established in 1878, it has evolved over the centuries, never losing sight of its winemaking heritage. With 40 hectares under vine, it has a state of the art winery; although it experiments with international varieties, the main focus is on producing wine made from the traditional grape varieties. The name Friulano is the result of a bizarre EEC legislation (see note). This grape variety relies on the minerality of the soil to express its individuality just as the Chenin Blanc from the Loire. It has lovely sapid fruit with citrus mineral notes; a round, fresh, soft finish
- 60 VERMENTINO DI SARDEGNA Is Argiolas DOC 14.0% vol Sardinia 2008 28.50
Argiolas
Argiolas is one of the finest and most respected wineries in Sardinia. Its turning point came when brothers Franco and Giuseppe took over the estate in the late 70's, and employed Giacomo Tachis, a leading enologist behind the iconic Italian wines (Solaia and Tignanello); together they built a great estate. Sardinia is Vermentino's natural habitat; this example is from a vineyard in Selegas, south of the island. A wonderfully, soft textured wine, it has mineral notes, balanced with a creamy finish
- 61 VERNACCIA DI SAN GIMIGNANO Inpronta DOCG 13.0% Tuscany 2008 29.50
Mattia Barzaghi
Vernaccia di San Gimignano, an indigenous grape variety, is one of the few whites produced in Tuscany, and so is often overlooked. Its appeal is in its savoury character and can be enjoyed on its own as an aperitive or as a great match with food. This is an excellent example, produced by Mattia Barzaghi, who tends his organic vineyards without use of chemicals. The wine expresses its terroir well, with lovely lemon zest aromas, dry and crisp with a minerality that tingles the palate, notes of green apple and roasted nuts with a clean, lingering finish
- 62 PINOT GRIGIO Ramato Colli Orientali 13.0% vol Friuli 2008 29.50
Visintini
The family who runs this estate is among the pioneers, who in the early 70's abandoned mixed agriculture to concentrate on producing quality wines having recognised the potential of the area. They have been proved right as Colli Orientali produces some of the finest wines in Italy. The wines have great varietal and terroir character. This Pinot Grigio is copper pink in colour due to skin maceration of this slightly red grape variety. This gives the wine the extra dimension of a full-flavoured wine, dry with good, arid palate mouthfeel, yet a clean, dry, crisp finish

Tocai Friulano is now a grape without a name due to a preposterous EEC ruling. Associated with the Tocai name are also Tocai Pinot Gris in Alsace and Tokaji in Hungary. It is no coincidence that the acquisition of prime sites in Tokaji by influential French companies precipitated this ruling

- 63 VERDICCHIO DI MATELICA La Monacesca 13.0% vol Marche 2008 31.50
Az. Ag. La Monacesca
Matelica is little known outside Italy, producing some of the best verdicchios with elegance and finesse. La Monacesca, a small winery concentrates on producing only high quality wines. This cru comes from a small vineyard with 25 year old vines of restricted yield, and wins awards year after year. It has intense bouquet of rich fruit, delicate and powerful, with long aftertaste. A great verdicchio
- 64 LUGANA DOC Ca' Dei Frati 13.0% vol Veneto 2008 32.50
Dal Cero
In the past decade, the Dal Cero family has transformed their Ca' dei Frati property into a modern model of an Italian estate, refining and improving each vintage. Made from trebbiano di soave, this wine comes from one of the finest areas of Lugana. The wine is delicate and aromatic with an underlying richness; dry and full-flavoured, well balanced with a long nutty finish
- 65 GAVI DEI GAVI "LA MINAIA" DOC 12.0% vol Piedmont 2009 35.50
Nicola Bergaglio
From an 8 hectare estate, producing high quality wines; 100% cortese grape, the wine has delicate aroma, good depth of flavour dry and crisp with a persistent underlying fruit
- 66 TIMORASSO DOC 14.0% vol Piedmont 2008 35.50
Walter Massa
Timorasso was almost extinct after the outbreak of phylloxera at the end of the 19th century. A difficult grape variety, due to its early flowering and late ripening and therefore vulnerable to disease, it requires ventilated and well-exposed sites. Thanks to Walter Massa and like-minded winemakers, this grape variety has been rescued. In Italy, it is easy to find obscure grape varieties which are interesting and intriguing, but seldom do they have that wow factor that the timorasso does. The wine is medium-full bodied with an unmistakable personality, vibrant flavours of honeysuckle, white peach and citrus notes, layers of minerals with a fresh, crisp, long finish
- 67 GRECHETTO DELL'UMBRIA 13.0% vol Umbria 2007 35.50
Arnaldo-Caprai
Founded in 1971, this winery is now in the hands of 2nd generation Marco Caprai. Focusing on indigenous grape varieties since the beginning, this estate has inspired others in the region with its high quality and standards. Grechetto is the traditional quality white grape variety in Umbria (often used in the blend for Orvieto) and has great freshness of flavour, with remarkable weight and texture, with crisp lively fruit and a balanced acidity
- 68 SOAVE LA FROSCA DOC 13.0% vol Veneto 2008 37.50
Gini
The Gini brothers are heirs to a long-established wine-grower family going back to the 16th century. They own 25 hectares of some of the finest vineyards in Soave. The soil is a complex mix of volcanic, tufa and limestone which gives the wine a fresh minerally sapidity. La Frosca is a cru of 6 hectares, where yields are naturally low. The wine expresses the complexity of the vineyard's mineral mix; medium-bodied with flavours of apricot, its light honeyed fruit is supported by savoury minerality with the refreshing acidity adding to its easy drinkability

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Full flavoured and complex

Wine History

The first evidence of winemaking is found in the Tigris-Euphrates region, in what is now Iraq, 6000 years ago

- 69 CLIVI BRAZAN Collio Goriziano DOC 13.5% vol Friuli 2005 38.50
 Ferdinando Zanusso
Ferdinando Zanusso acquired this vineyard of 70 year old Tocai Friulano in the early 90's, set on steep terraced hills in Colli Orientali del Friuli, one of the best white wine-producing districts in Italy. He believes in a non-interventionist approach, following the practice of organic cultivation, which guarantees naturally low yields, seldomly exceeding 20 hectolitres per hectare. The Brazan vineyard enjoys a cool climate, producing powerful wines with intense fruit and freshness. It has distinctive notes of ripe apple and honey with an almost Burgundian texture, and a long, elegant finish
- 70 PINOT BIANCO VORBERG Riserva DOC 13.0% vol Alto Adige 2006 38.50
 Kellerei Terlan/Cantina Terlan
The Terlan winecellar is situated in the Alto Adige region which became part of Italy in 1919. The majority of its population is German-speaking, and in order to appease the separatist movement it was granted autonomous status. This cooperative near the town of Terlan is blessed with soil rich in quartz and minerals, enabling it to produce wines that have the most ageing potential due to their complex mineral structure. This cru has spent 6 months and a further year in the bottle before being released. The wine has great intensity of flavour, rich mineral structure that reminds one of a premier cru Chablis
- 71 FELDMARSCHALL V FENNER IGT 13.0% vol Alto Adige 2007 45.50
 Tiefenbrunner
A historic estate with 300 years of winemaking tradition, Herbert and his son, Christophe Tiefenbrunner have been at the forefront of the rapid change in the wine industry in Alto Adige. This wine is made from muller-thurgau, planted in a vineyard at 1000m above sea level, the highest in the region. It is only thanks to an unusual microclimate that production at this altitude is possible, making this wine unique; the temperature fluctuation here allows some intriguing aromatic characteristics to develop: delicate alpine flower aroma, citrus and mineral notes, bone dry yet creamy texture; it has a fresh, lingering, elegant finish
- 72 ARNEIS ROERO DOC 13.5% vol Piedmont 2007 44.50
 Brovia
A family-run azienda in its 3rd generation, Raffaele Brovia, the agronomist with his brother and sister, Giacinto and Cristina the enologists, have an enlightened but traditional approach, producing intensely flavoured and austere Barolos with great ageing potential. Arneis is a traditional Piedmontese variety, which has been revived with great success. This wine comes from a small vineyard planted with 24 year old vines; it has remarkable minerality with rich fruit flavours of wild apple and pear, lovely mouthfeel with good acidity and length – a fine example of this grape variety
- 73 VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI « Vigna delle Oche » Riserva DOC 13.0% vol Marche 2006 44.50
 Fattoria San Lorenzo , Ancona
Drive and meticulous perfection are key to achieving excellence, and these qualities shine through here, combined with great talent. From Vigna delle Oche, two selections are made; the first grapes to ripen make up the basic blend, whereas the late ripening ones (late October) are used to make the Riserva. This has more perfume, extract and minerality, crucial in the two-year ageing process. The wine stays on its lees for up to 2 years before bottling. One of the great Verdicchio, it has ability to age for up to 20 years, in the mould of a premier cru Chablis

- 74 CHARDONNAY CARSO DOC 14.5% vol Friuli 2005 45.50
Kante (50 cl bottle only)
Kante, a controversial character who attracts as much criticism as following, has an unorthodox, "eccentric" approach. Yet he makes some of the most interesting and satisfying wines in Italy. The vineyards lie on the Carso plateau bordering Slovenia; the stony soil and constant ventilated microclimate allow the grapes to ripen, preserving their minerals, acidity and aromatic properties. The wine is aged in barrique and bottled without filtration. Unusually, bottles are in 50cl and 1 litre only which he believes to be the right sizes for ageing. A mineral-driven wine with notes of vanilla and apricot, it has Chablis-like sapidity and a lingering, fresh finish
- 75 COLLIO BIANCO DOC 14.5% vol Friuli 2007 48.50
Borgo del Tiglio
Nicola Monferrari is a talented winemaker, producing wine with ability to age. He owns 14 hectares of vineyard with differing soils and microclimates. Each grape variety is planted in the most suitable vineyard to express its best potential. This is a blend of sauvignon, riesling and malvasia, giving the wine its complex and multi-flavour aromas with fat, rich fruit but also elegant, balanced by crisp acidity
- 76 GEWURZTRAMINER KOLBENHOF DOC 13.5% vol Alto Adige 2006 49.50
Hofstatter
Alto Adige is also known as South Tyrol by the Germans. It is predominantly German in language and culture, but landlocked within Italian territory. Time and money have solved a few problems; some years ago, the marriage between winemaker, Paolo Foradori and Sieglinde Oberhofer, daughter of the owner of this estate might have caused family drama of the proportion of Romeo and Juliet, but here, all is well. Hofstatter is an historic family-run winery, and this union only improved on tradition, producing wine better than ever. This Gewurztraminer is stunning; lusciously rich and spicy with honey and lemon flavours, extraordinary length with freshness and balance that is unusual for this grape variety
- 77 SOAVE SUPERIORE LA ROCCA DOC 13.0% vol Veneto 2006 48.50
Pieropan
Nino Pieropan is a meticulous winemaker whose aim has been to perfect Soave. Most of his vineyards are planted with garganega and trebbiano and he has taken the potential of these grapes to a level never achieved before. He returned to traditional methods of winemaking, when in Soave modern techniques had been used to produce neutral commercial wines. La Rocca, his best vineyard is planted with garganega. The wine is fermented and aged in oak casks for 1 year. The result is a rich spicy and complex wine with an incredible ability to age
- 78 GRIS PINOT GRIGIO ISONZO DOC 13.5% vol Friuli 2006 49.50
Alvaro Pecorari Lis Neris
Alvaro Pecorari, an architect by training, took over his father's 23 hectare estate in 1982, and threw himself into creating his own style. He is a passionate experimenter, and follows a precise idea of taste and flavour. Gris is his top of the range Pinot Grigio. 40% of the wine is oak-fermented, with the balance in stainless steel tanks to maintain freshness of fruit. It has great concentration of aromas, rich mouthfilling fruit with hints of coffee and vanilla, good weight and breadth
- 79 MORUS ALBA Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC 14.0% vol Friuli 2006 49.50
Vignai da Duline
Started in 1997, this winery is run by a husband and wife who, in a few years, have built a model estate in the Colli Orientali, producing refined and fruit-driven wines. This is a blend of 60% malvasia and 40% sauvignon from their oldest vines. The wine spends 8-10 months in barrique and is bottled without filtration. It has rich aromas of pear, peach and apricot with a gorgeous mouthfilling fruit; balanced, creamy and smooth with a vanilla and butterscotch aftertaste

- 80 CHARDONNAY IGT 14.0% vol Sicily 2007 49.50
 Planeta
Buttery chardonnays have been almost unheard of in Italy, especially in the South. This oak-aged Chardonnay from La Planeta estate is an incredible surprise. Produced on selected sites where yields are kept low, the wine is rich and concentrated, mouthfilling with lots of fat buttery flavours and a long finish
- 81 BIANCO TREBEZ IGT 13.0% vol Friuli 2003 55.50
 Dario Princic
Jasco Gravner (Bin 93) has inspired winemakers with new ways to express white grape varieties, creating new styles of wine by doing so. Princic makes this wine by macerating the grapes with their skin for up to 10 days. A blend of ribolla, sauvignon and pinot grigio, it has a pink hue, due to the pigmentation of the pinot grigio. Medium to full-bodied with lots of character, well-structured, with a flavour of wild strawberries, it has a richness of fruit which is atypical for a white wine, but makes it a perfect match with the wholesome Italian white meat and fish dishes
- 82 SAUVIGNON BIANCO DOC QUARTZ 13.5% vol Alto Adige 2006 54.50
 Kellerei Terlan/Cantina Terlano
This historic winery (See Bin No.70) has vineyards around the Alpine village of Terlano, stretching up to an altitude of 1000 metres. The uniqueness of its wines is due to the soil, which is rich in minerals. Sauvignon Quartz is a sensational wine, made from grapes from its best vineyard, intensely fragrant with mineral scents, rich and complex with great persistence of flavour, and dry, crisp finish
- 83 FLORS DI UIS IGT 14% vol Friuli 2006 56.50
 Vie de Romans
Vie de Romans is one of the most prestigious estates in Italy. Situated in the North of Isonzo, the vineyards benefit from a light pebbly soil and a cool breeze that helps to retain acidity and flavours. The wines of this estate are intense, remarkably delicate and elegant, fat and rich, all at the same time, with an incredible long persistence, rarely found in this very pure style of wines
- 84 MARINA CVETIC Trebbiano D' Abruzzo DOC 14.5% Abruzzo 2007 59.50
 Masciarelli
The late Gianni Masciarelli and his wife Marina Cvetic have single-handedly raised the standard of winemaking in Abruzzo. Their great achievement has been to establish a winery which has grown gradually over the last 30 years, always at the forefront of innovation and quality, with the creation of some iconic wines. Their approach has been an entrepreneurial example for winemaking in Abruzzo. This Trebbiano, sourced from the best grapes of 2 small vineyards, San Silvestri and Ripa Teatina, is aged for 22 months in barrique; it has great intensity and richness, flavours of apricot and peach, with notes of lemon and marzipan, backed up by spices, minerals and notes of vanilla. With balance and depth, and a refreshing acidity, it has a long, smooth finish
- 85 ETNA BIANCO Pietramarina DOC 14.5% vol Sicily 2005 65.50
 Az Ag Benanti
Mt Etna is the source of some of the finest mineral-driven wines in Italy. The Benanti family winery, revived in 1988, owns great sites on the black volcanic ash slopes with vineyards at 500-950m above sea level. Here a dramatic variation in temperature between day and night creates a unique microclimate. Pietramarina is a vineyard with 80 yr old pre-phylloxera caricante vines on terraces at 950m. At this altitude, the grapes ripen in the 3rd week of October (later than in Champagne), resulting in a special intriguing wine; fermented in stainless steel tanks, the wine has a delicate, yet intense flavour, building up on the palate with fresh mint, spring flower and minerals reminiscent of a Grand Cru Chablis; it is richly textured, complex and elegant leading to a dry, crisp finish

- 86 IMPERO Pinot Nero in Bianco IGT 13.0% vol Marche 2006 65.50
Mancini
This wine has been highly acclaimed by the majority of Italian wine critics, not only for its unusual nature but also for its exceptional quality. Intriguing as it may sound to produce white wine from pinot nero (method normally used for sparkling wine), the result is a wine of the most individual style, which makes it easier to match with a greater variety of foods. The wine is full-bodied broad and fat, rich in extract, seductive and powerful with concentrated flavour of nuts and minerals, and a long elegant finish
- 87 CHARDONNAY COLLIO DOC 14.0% vol Friuli 2005 68.50
Borgo del Tiglio
Nicola Manfredari, a trained pharmacist, has built an outstanding estate, which is now producing some of the finest white wine in Italy. He owns 14 hectares of prime vineyard in Collio, and oversees every aspect of the process; in the vineyard, he has devised his own pruning technique in order to restrict the vine vigour. An expert on the Collio terroir, he knows how each variety benefits from the minerality of the soil in the different sites. This Chardonnay has an intense nose with lemony, nutty flavours, rich mouthfilling fruit, a vanilla aftertaste and a broad and elegant finish
- 88 GAVI DEI GAVI "La Scolca" DOCG 12.0% Vol Piedmont 2008 72.50
La Scolca
Gavi is one of the most popular Italian white wines; made from the cortese grape, its appeal is in its clean, dry and crisp character, which makes it versatile as an aperitif as well as being a good match for a wide range of food. Gavi La Scolca is in a class of own; the brainchild of Vittorio Soldati, it was made to rival the best French white wines. The grapes are selected from the oldest vineyards of the Rovereto subzone; the wine is aged for 9 months on its lees to gain extra dimension. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has intense citrus fruit flavours, with great minerality and a complex, dry and crisp finish
- 89 CERVARO DELLA SALA IGT 13.0% vol Umbria 2006 84.50
Marchesi Antinori
Cervaro della Sala is another trendsetter from Antinori. Made from chardonnay grapes planted in cool Umbrian hills on the Castello della Sala estate, the wine is fermented and aged in new oak casks with further bottle ageing before being released. One of the first Italian Chardonnays made in the Burgundian style, its success set the pattern that many others have followed. It is one of the finest Italian whites, and one of the few that gains complexity with bottle ageing
- 90 VINTAGE TUNINA 13.0% vol Friuli 2006 87.50
Vinnaioli Jermann
Silvio Jermann was at the forefront of the Friuli wine renaissance; now an iconic figure, his wines are a benchmark of excellence. Always a forward thinker, his wines continue to impress. His style is one of purity of grape flavour, expressive of the terroir. Vintage Tunina, one of his first premium cuvees, is a blend of chardonnay, malvasia, picolit and ribolla; it has multilayered fruit flavours, is intense, refined and elegant with a creamy and complex finish
- 91 RONCO DELLA CHIESA Collio DOC 14.5% vol Friuli 2006 95.50
Borgo del Tiglio
Another of Nicola Manfredari's great terroir wines (See Bin Nos 87,92), it is made from old tocai vines (no longer permitted name for this grape variety), possibly the greatest expression of this indigenous grape. Medium to full-bodied, it has intensity of flavour, smoky aromas of liquorice, pear and yellow plum; zesty minerality supported by rich, round fruit; complex and long

If you like chardonnays that are creamy seductive and voluptuous, this is similar to white Burgundy such as Chablis and Meursault

- 92 STUDIO DI BIANCO DOC 14.5% vol Friuli 2006 95.50
 Borgo del Tiglio
Nicola Manfredari, a trained pharmacist, has built an outstanding estate which now produces some of the finest white wines in Italy. He owns 14 hectares of prime vineyards in Collio, and oversees every aspect of the process, even devising his own pruning technique. An expert on the Collio terroir, he knows how each variety benefits from the soil minerality of the differing sites. This Studio is only released in good vintages; a blend of tocai, riesling and sauvignon from two vineyards on the Slovenian border. The wine is aged in French oak casks and is bottled without filtration. Intense nose of vanilla and spice, the wine has an earthy mineral structure, full bodied with a rich mouth-coating fruit, and a creamy, complex finish
- 93 GRAVNER BIANCO BREG IGT 12.5% vol Friuli 1999 98.50
 Jasco Gravner
Jasco is described in so many contradictory terms from revolutionary and inspiring to absolutely barmy. A controversial character, passionate about his work, he makes white wine in an unconventional manner. He has looked to the ancient Roman method for inspiration, fermenting the white grapes for up to 8 months in gigantic terracotta amphorae (specially made in Georgia USSR, where they still have ovens large enough). The wine is raked by gravity, aged for a further 3 years in large oak casks, and then bottled without filtration. Surprisingly, the wines are remarkable, with no hint of oxidisation, a feat seemingly impossible to any accomplished winemaker. The wine has a deep, golden colour, fading to dried orange peel ; it has incredible minerality and concentration, rich texture with honey and marzipan flavours, complex and multi-dimensional with unbelievable length
- 94 GRAVNER BIANCO RIBOLLA IGT 12.5% vol Friuli 2001 98.50
 Jasco Gravner
- 95 DREAMS IGT 14.5% vol Friuli 2006 98.50
 Vinnaioli Jermann
Silvio Jermann, heir to a traditional wine family of Austrian origin, has been the driving force behind the great innovation of Friulian wines. After graduating in Oenology, he spent time in Canada, exploring the different approaches to winemaking. Back in Italy, he began to implement these techniques and created his own individual style. He looks for power and concentration in his wines, together with finesse and elegance. One has to forget the name, part of Silvio's soul searching nature, and recognize that this is one of the great white wines of Italy. It is deep and intense on the nose, with vanilla and exotic fruit aromas; velvety on the palate with broad, succulent fruit of yellow peach and pineapple; great balance of elements with layers of complex flavours and great length
- 96 TREBBIANO D'ABRUZZO DOC 14.5% vol Abruzzo 2004 99.50
 Valentini
Trebbiano is an extremely widely planted grape variety in Italy, known in France as ugni blanc, and produces interesting everyday wine. Valentini's Trebbiano is in a category of its own. Created by the late Eduardo Valentini, at a time when wine in Italy was just a commodity, it was the result of an obsession with reviving a winemaking tradition going back to the the 18th century. Born into a respected wealthy family (his father was a lawyer), he was an introverted person by nature, shunned publicity, avoided any form of marketing and was uninterested in any accolades his wines might achieve. In his mind, his wines were great because they respected the course of nature. His wines have stood the test of time and achieved iconic status due both to their incredible ageing potential and his monumental reputation. No-one knows exactly how the wines are made, except that the method is very traditional; the wine reveals compelling notes of earthiness, spicy ripe peach and apricot; it is rich, intense and multilayered with notes of marzipan and has a fat texture that leads to a complex mineral finish

ROSE

100 BARDOLINO CHIARETTO 12.5% vol Veneto 2008 28.50

Giovanna Tantini

(See Bin No 111) This Rosato is made from 65% corvina, 30% rondinella and 5% molinara grapes on Giovanna Tantini's 19 hectare estate in the province of Verona. The wine is strikingly fragrant with notes of white cherries; elegant with fresh acidity, appealing, soft fruit, and balanced with a crisp, dry finish

RED

101 NEGROAMARO PUGLIA IGT 13.5% vol Puglia 2007 18.50

Il Meridione

Negroamaro is the quality grape variety of Puglia; this is a lovely example. A deeply- coloured red wine with aromas of plums and red berries, it is full bodied with good fruit and a warm ripe finish

102 ROSSO PICENO DOC 13.0% vol Marche 2007 19.50

Monte Schiavo

Marche is an undeservedly little known Italian region, yet it is the source of some remarkable and interesting wines which offer great value for money at all price levels. Rosso Piceno is made from 50% sangiovese and 50% montepulciano d'Abruzzo. This is an uncomplicated, enjoyable, medium-bodied wine with supple cherry fruit, good concentration of flavour and chewy soft tannins

103 PRIMITIVO DEL SALENTO DOC 13.0% vol Puglia 2007 22.50

Cantele

The Canteles came to Puglia from Northern Italy in the 50's, and saw the potential of Salento for producing quality wine at a time when most of the wine was produced for blending. This Primitivo, an example of their efforts, offers great value for money; lovely supple fruits, medium-bodied, clean and lingering

104 CHIANTI DOCG 12.5% vol Tuscany 2009 23.50

Cantina Leonardo

This cooperative situated in the town of Vinci, home to the great Leonardo, continues to make excellent good value wines whose quality challenges some of the wines of Chianti Classico which are twice the price. It is a light-medium bodied, modern style wine fruity and easy to drink

105 NERO D'AVOLA IGT 13.0% vol Sicily 2008 24.50

Cantina Rallo

Sicily, a region of charming culture, is having a resurgence of its once ailing wine industry. This is thanks to a new generation of entrepreneurs who are exploiting its great potential. Cantina Rallo was acquired in 1996 by the Vasco family, who after years of investment are now producing some well-crafted wines. Nero D'Avola is medium bodied with ripe blackberry aromas and juicy fruit, supple and soft, embodying everything Sicilian, the sun, exotic flavours and heritage

106 ASSISI ROSSO DOC 13.0% vol Umbria 2007 24.50

Sportoletti

This estate owns 20 hectares of small vineyards around the beautiful town of Assisi. Riccardo Cotarella, appointed as enologist, has taken the wines to an international level. Assisi Rosso is a blend of merlot and sangiovese with juicy, sweet fruit and cherry aromas. It is an extremely enjoyable wine, with great length of flavour

In the last 20 years, there has been a quantum leap in the standard and quality of Italian wines. Today Italy produces some of the finest wines in the world and offers a spectrum of styles at every price level unmatched by any other country. In Italy, there are over 2000 registered grape varieties. The list is a selection of the finest and most interesting wine producing grapes.

Don't be put off by the obscure names; each grape has its own individual character which is part of what makes Italian wine exciting

- 107 VALPOLICELLA RIO ALBO DOC 12.0% vol Veneto 2008 28.50
 Ca'Rugate
Valpolicella has had a real transformation in the last 20 years, with a quantum leap in quality. This has resulted in an emergence of different styles from medium-bodied and fresh to rich and full-bodied. Ca'Rugate, an established winery, makes the Rio Alto in a light and fresh fashion; the stress is on preserving the integrity of the corvino grape flavours. The wine has wonderful cherry-like fruit, and is soft and round with refreshing acidity
- 108 SALICE SALENTINO RISERVA DOC 13.5% vol Puglia 2005 28.50
 Leone de Castris
From one of the oldest aristocratic wine producing families in Southern Italy, dating back to the 16th century, this Salice is made from negroamaro and malvasia nera. It is full bodied, soft and round with a taste of bitter chocolate on the palate, with supple juicy tannins and lasting flavor
- 109 CORTONA SYRAH DOC 13.0% vol Tuscany 2007 28.50
 Tenimenti Luigi d' Alessandro, Cortona
Located on the high plain below Cortona near lake Trasimeno, on the Umbrian border, this estate has pioneered Syrah (a Rhone variety) in this area, which has now been granted DOC status. After much experimentation, this variety was chosen because it adapted best to the area. Their premium wine, Il Bosco Syrah (Bin no 175) is one of the finest expressions of this grape. Cortona is their second wine; it has fragrant, soft fruit, and is flattering and stylish
- 110 MORELLINO DI SCANSANO DOC 13.5% vol Tuscany 2008 29.50
 Heba – Fattoria di Magliano
Scansano has been the fastest wine-growing area in Tuscany in the past 15 years, its popularity due to a number of quality-conscious winemakers producing rich, Brunello-style wines at a fraction of the price. Fattoria di Magliano is a relative newcomer, making remarkable wines in just a few years. A blend of sangiovese, aged for 8 months in barrique, the wine has an intense nose of dark cherry fruit, is rich and savoury on the palate with a long, supple finish
- 111 BARDOLINO DOC 12.5% vol Veneto 2008 29.50
 Giovanna Tantini
Behind a great product, there is a great mind. Giovanna Tantini, having graduated in Law, decided to pursue her real passion, continuation of the family tradition. She took a Masters in Viticultural Management, and started reviving this 19 hectare estate of prime viticultural land. Now with 11.5 hectares under vine, she is producing some of the finest and most elegant wines in the area. She has great respect for the environment, following a complete biodynamic practice. This naturally restricts yields in the vineyard. The wine has a delicate, yet persistent aroma, lovely fruit of strawberry and plum; round, appealing with an elegant finish
- 112 SPANNA "Lagheti" Colli Novarese DOC 13.0% Piedmont 2007 30.50
 Antonio Vallana e Figlio
Vallana is an historic winery in Colline Novarese in Piedmont, making remarkable wines from nebbiolo grapes (known locally as Spanna) in a traditional style. The Lagheti vineyard, on lower slopes, produces riper and more forward wines. This 2007 has great perfume, with notes of tar and liquorice. It is ethereal and balanced with a dry, fresh finish

- 113** VIGNA ANTICA Terre del Vulture IGT 14.0% vol Campania 2006 32.50
 Selva Nova, Caserta
In a short time, Antonio Buono has transformed a once derelict estate, building it up to produce exciting and fruit-driven wines. The wine, 100% aglianico, (the most important quality grape variety in Southern Italy) has rich dark berry aromas, mouth-coating fruit and supple tannins; it is balanced and fresh with a lingering aftertaste
- 114** DOLCETTO DI DOGLIANI S Luigi DOC 13.5% vol Piedmont 2007 33.50
 Pecchennino
Dolcetto means "sweetie", not because the wine is sweet but for its captivating, fragrant fruit, low tannins and gentle acidity. Dogliani is an area recognised as the prime source for this endearing grape variety. The Pecchennino brothers were born to a long-established wine producing family, and now make stunning fruit-driven wines. The San Luigi boasts rich, blackcurrant and blackberry sweet fruit, lovely, soft texture and has a fresh, fragrant, lingering finish
- 115** IL FALCONE Castel del Monte Riserva DOC 13.5% Puglia 2005 35.50
 Rivera
A long established, well-respected winery in Puglia, Rivera was one of the first in the region to recognise the importance of bottling wines to establish its brand. Over the years investment in the vineyard and cellar has helped to perfect their viticultural practice and winemaking technique, keeping them at the forefront of quality producers in Puglia. This riserva is named as a tribute to Frederick II of Swabia who hunted with falcons on this estate. It is a blend of 70% nero di troia and 30% montepulciano grown at 200m altitude. One of a few really important wines made in Puglia today, it is full-bodied with notes of leather, tobacco and spice, and has chewy tannins supported by a core of ripe fruit, and a balanced finish
- 116** NEBBIOLO D'ALBA DOC 14.0% vol Piedmont 2007 35.50
 Produttori del Barbaresco
Started in 1959, this cooperative has been the model and inspiration for other quality-minded co-ops around Italy. With 60 members and 100 hectares under vine in the commune of Barbaresco, it has a reputation that rivals the finest producers in the Langhe. A strict quality control guarantees that any wine not up to the required standard will be declassified. A simple, traditional approach is used in production, ageing the wine in large casks to preserve the nebbiolo grape flavours. The wine expresses the classic aromas of mint, tar and rose petals with juicy tannins, and is balanced with a dry, clean finish
- 117** BARBERA D'ALBA Maggiur DOC 15.0% vol Piedmont 2007 36.50
 Cascina Luisin
A small family-run winery (See Bin No 284) with 7 hectares of prime vineyards in Barbaresco, it is a father and son partnership with father Luigi tending the vineyards and son Roberto overseeing winemaking. There is respect for tradition in their approach, although a more modern influence is evident in the fruit-driven style of their wines. Barbera Maggiur comes from a vineyard of 80 yr old vines; the wine, aged for 12 months in large botti, is deep in colour with layers of blackberry, blueberry and currants; its soft, sweet fruit is balanced by firm, fresh acidity with a round, supple finish
- 118** SETRIOLO CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG Tuscany 2007 36.50
 Castellina in Chianti
This is a small family-run 13 hectare estate, 3.5 of which are under vine. With organic practices in the vineyard, this wine is a great expression of Chianti in Castellina. The wine has a rich, supple fruit of morello cherry and plum, balanced by round, soft tannins and acidity; fragrant with notes of vanilla, it has an elegant, lengthy finish

CENTRAL AND
SOUTH

- 119 TANCA FARRA Alghero DOC 12.5% vol Sardinia 2005 36.50
Sella and Mosca
Sella and Mosca have pioneered quality wine in Sardinia since 1899, when they moved there from Piedmont, working with traditional grape varieties as well as new imported ones. Tanca Farra is a blend of cabernet sauvignon and cannonau (local name for grenache), and is vinified in a modern style with prolonged cold maceration to preserve the fresh fruit flavours of the grapes. It is aged in barrique and large oak casks. The wine is medium-bodied with pronounced scent of overripe blackberries, soft, silky tannins and good balance of flavours
- 120 NERO D'AVOLA Terra delle Sirene IGT 14.0% vol Sicily 2005 38.50
Do Zenner
The estate was started as a hobby by Hans Zenner, an optician and his wife Nina, a physiotherapist in 1979, after acquiring half a hectare of vines near Noto. They started vinifying in 1987, and encouraged by the great results, their hobby became a business. Now the estate is 6 hectares under vine, and follows a biodynamic approach, avoiding any environmentally harmful chemicals. They only make one wine from a strict selection of grapes, with little interference in the natural process of fermentation. This Nero D'Avola has great integrity in expressing the character of the grape and terroir; it has a delicate core of ripe fruit with notes of spice and liquorice; with its silky tannins, it is pure, intense and elegant
- 121 ROCCA RUBIA Carignano del Sulcis DOC 13.5% vol Sardinia 2006 42.50
CS Santadi
In the eighties, this small co-operative employed one of the most highly rated enologists in Italy, Giacomo Tachis, as a consultant. He radically transformed winemaking at this winery. Made from carignano grapes, this wine is richly flavoured with mature and gamey nose, full-bodied, soft and spicy with plummy fruit and a concentration rarely found in this unfashionable variety
- 122 LE CRUSTE Nero di Troia IGT 14.0% vol Puglia 2006 47.50
Alberto Longo
According to myth, Diomedes after the sack of Troy, settled in Daunia, the northern part of Puglia, where he introduced horse-breeding and this vine from his homeland. However, there is no doubt that it was introduced by Greek settlers, who eventually colonised the whole of Puglia. Uva di Troia is the preferred grape variety of this region, as it produces robust, deep-coloured wines with great structure. Alberto Longo is a rising star; a financial advisor who never lost his passion for the tradition of his land, he has completely transformed this property, with great investment in the vineyard and cellar. Le Cruste is his best cuvee, made with 100% uva di troia, aged for 8 months in barrique. The wine has rich flavours with supple fruit of black cherries and blackberries, refined tannins and a long finish
- 123 CUMARO Rosso Conero DOC 13.0% vol Marche 2006 48.50
Umani Ronchi
Made from 100% montepulciano from the Cumaro vineyard and only vinified in good year, the wine has rich and concentrated blackcurrant fruit, soft tannins and a good balanced acidity. The flavours are persistent. The wine was awarded a gold medal from the prestigious International Wine Challenge 1996

- 124 TAURASI DOCG 13.5% vol Campania 2003 48.50
Vesevo
It is thanks to Mario Ercolino, previously at Feudi di San Gregorio, that Taurasi is slowly establishing itself as one of the great Italian reds on a par with Barolo or Brunello. Made from 100% aglianico, Taurasi lies in the cool, volcanic hills near Avellino, 300-500m above sea level; here the temperature fluctuates greatly between day and night, slowing the ripening process and allowing the retention of grape flavours and acidity, the hallmark of elegant, balanced and complex wines. The wine has great structure, striking flavour of blackberry and violets, has soft but firm tannins and is minerally rich with great intensity. In its first year, it has achieved accolades, including a gold medal from the International Wine Challenge
- 125 NERELLO MASCALESE IGT 14.5% vol Nonna Concetta Sicily 2007 50.50
Az. Vinicola Calabretta
Etna is blessed with a fantastic microclimate, ideal for viticulture; high altitude (up to 900m above sea level) gives great variation in temperature, even in summer, combined with minerally rich volcanic soil. This produces wine with freshness and complexity. The Calabretta estate is into its 4th generatio: the vineyards planted with nerello mascalese lie 750m high on Etna's northern slopes. A strict biodynamic approach is practised. For this cuvee, the grapes are sourced from their oldest vineyard with 100 yr old pre-phylloxera vines. The wine has great fragrance on the nose with notes of rose petals and spices; it is refined and intense on the palate, with sweet cherry-like fruit and a complex, minerally, elegant finish
- 126 MARINA CVETIC
MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO DOC 14.5% vol Abruzzo 2006 52.50
The late Gianni Masciarelli and his wife Marina Cvetic have single-handedly raised the standard of winemaking in Abruzzo. Their great achievement has been to establish a winery which has grown gradually over the last 30 years, always at the forefront of innovation and quality, with the creation of some iconic wines. Their approach has been an entrepreneurial example for winemaking in Abruzzo. This cuvee is made from a selection of the estate's best montepulciano grapes; dark in colour, the wine is full-bodied with intense spicy notes of leather and mocha coffee; rich, dark cherry fruit supported by chewy tannins, leads to a long, supple finish
- 127 PRIMITIVO DI MANDURIA DOC 15.5% vol Puglia 2007 58.50
Giuseppe Attanasio
In the last decade, Attanasio has been the rising star of the Apulian winemaking scene. His 5 hectares of 60 yr old primitivo vines is a great asset, and he is beginning to achieve iconic status in the region. His non-interventionist approach in the vineyard, with very little use of chemicals or fertilisers, allows him to produce low-yields naturally. The wine is fermented and aged in stainless steel for 9 months with a further 12 months in barrique. This is an extremely rich and concentrated Primitivo; it has notes of violet and blackcurrant liqueur, rich voluptuous, mouthfilling fruit, layered with complex minerality, and flavours of chocolate and mocha; its soft tannins lead to a long, satisfying finish
- 128 MONTIANO IGT 13.0% vol Lazio 2001 63.00
Falesco
Riccardo Cotarella has become a legend in Italy and abroad. His genius is behind the rebirth of wines from Tuscany to Sicily. Montiano is his own creation, made from 100% merlot grapes grown on the hillsides of Lazio. The wine is aged in French oak casks and is bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. It is deep in colour with aromas of smoked meats, cassis, chocolate and vanilla. It has a spectacular richness combined with beautifully integrated acidity and tannins; opulent texture, multilayered with an exceptional purity of flavours
- 129 MONTIANO IGT 13.0% vol MAGNUM 2000 126.00
Falesco

If you like the saturated richness of a great merlot, and money is no object, check out Bin 217 and the new Supertuscan cult merlots on pages 31-32

- 130** TAURASI DOCG 14.0% vol Campania 2001 65.50
 Cantine Lonardo
Sandro Lonardo is a retired Classics teacher whose classical knowledge has inspired him to research tradition and heritage to fashion his wines. He owns 5 hectares of vineyard, where he follows the biological approach, collaborating with the Universities of Naples and Palermo in clonal research. The Taurasi comes from his oldest aglianico vineyard (20-50 year old vines). His traditional method requires long skin maceration of one month and ageing in tonneau cask for 18 months. The wine is bottled without stabilizing treatment or filtration. This full-bodied Taurasi has great purity with intense flavours of violet and leather; its firm tannins give way to round, rich fruit of morello cherry and prune with a dry, velvety finish
- 131** SAGRANTINO DI MONTEFALCO Collepiano DOC 14.0% Umbria 2004 69.50
 Arnaldo Caprai
The Caprai estate lies on the hillside below the Umbrian town of Montefalco. Founded in 1971, it has become the leading producer of Sagrantino, a grape variety unique to this region, with thick skin, small berries, small bunches. The wine is rich in sugar colour, tannins, acidity and extracts. This cru is a fine expression of this grape; aged for 18 months in oak barrels, with a high percentage of new oak, it is deep in colour, intense and penetrating on the nose, blackberry and black cherry fruit richly spiced with concentrated tannins and an exceptional length of flavour
- 132** MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO Villa Gemma DOC 14.5% Abruzzo 2004 95.00
 Giuseppe Masciarelli
Giovanni Masciarelli with his wife Marina are the driving force behind this winery, recently nominated "Winemaker of the Year" by Gambero Rosso. Committed to quality and excellence, they produce world class wines with local montepulciano d'abruzzo grapes. Villa Gemma is hand-crafted, only made in good years from selected old vines, with 2 years in new oak and one in the bottle before being released. It has a dark purple, impenetrable colour, subdued and closed nose with hints of spice and minerals; extremely rich on the palate, masses of ripe blackcurrant and balsamic, soaring notes of cigar box, liquorice and coffee, incredible minerality and length, without overripe heaviness – a great wine
- 133** TERRA DI LAVORO IGT 13.0% vol Campania 2002 96.00
 Fattoria Galardi, Caserta
In a few years, this property has established itself as the Sassicaia of the south, a trendsetter. It lies on the slope of a spent volcano in the area, which once produced the fabled Falerno, considered the greatest wine in the ancient world. Made from 80% aglianico for power and depth and 20% piedirosso for aromas, the wine is aged for 12 months in new French oak and bottled without filtering or fining. It has an opaque, purple colour, with extraordinary aromas of tar, liquorice and truffle, a multilayer of flavours and a pure intense finish
- 134** TURRIGA IGT 14.0% vol Sardinia 2005 98.00
 Argiolas
Argiolas is one of the finest and most respected wineries in Sardinia. A turning point of this estate came when brothers Franco and Giuseppe took it over in the late 70's, and employed Giacomo Tachis, a leading enologist who was behind the Italian wine renaissance. Turriga was born at this time and over the years has become an iconic wine, together with his other wines Solaia and Tignanello in Tuscany. A blend of 85% cannonau and balance of malvasia nera, carignano and bovale sardo grown in the Turriga vineyard, the wine is aged for up to 2 years in barrique and offers a unique combination of spicy aromas with powerful, supple fruit of plum, cherry and orange marmalade. It has great structure with finely grained tannins, and a long, complex finish

- 135 AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE Vigna Corona 14.0% vol Basilicata 2000 98.00
 Tenuta Le Querce
Since the Pietrofesa family took over in 1997, this estate now produces world-class wines from the aglianico grape. This grape (its name coming from "hellenico" an indication of its Greek origin), is the most important variety in Basilicata and Campania, capable of producing outstandingly rich, full-bodied wines. The Vigna Corona vineyard is planted with 70 year old vines, the wines among the richest and most concentrated of this grape variety. The wine, produced in tiny quantity, is aged in French barrique. It is dark purply red, has aromas of tobacco and violets on the nose, sweet black fruit with liquorice and vanilla aftertaste; an incredible richness of minerals with a purity of flavour rarely found in this part of Italy. The high tannin starts to soften after five years, giving way to an elegant complex wine
- 136 KURNI IGT Montepulciano 15.0% vol Marche 2006 105.00
 Oasi degli Angeli
Passion and talent are fundamental to winemaking. Occasionally one comes across the deviant, extrovert with an obsessive, uncompromising compulsion. Marco and Eleonora, a lovely couple, fit this category; they run a restaurant and agriturismo and from their five and a half hectare vineyard, they make this one wine in an unconventional fashion. With yield brutally restricted to 20 quintals per hectare, they only make 4,600 bottles. After 15 days of maceration, the wine is racked in new barrique, and has two subsequent rackings with 11 months interval, both in new barrique; it is bottled without fining or filtration. The result is a wine with extraordinary concentration (50.2 grams dry extract). It has masses of fruit, multi-layered complex flavours, and finely grained, supple tannins; its acidity keeps these elements in elegant harmony and it has an astonishingly long finish
- 137 PATRIMO Irpinia IGT 13.5% vol Campania 2001 135.00
 Feudi di San Gregorio
Feudi di San Gregorio is a leading force in the Campania wine industry, and having greatly invested in vineyard and cellar, it is producing outstanding wines from indigenous grape varieties. Having accidentally discovered that one vineyard with 100 year old vines was in fact merlot, it was decided to vinify it separately, and a great wine was born. The wine has exceptional breadth and richness of structure. On the nose a hint of undergrowth and truffles and on the palate a velvety softness, low acidity and a spectacular long finish
- 138 PATRIMO Irpinia IGT 13.5% vol Campania 2000 145.00
 Feudi di San Gregorio
- 139 PATRIMO Irpinia IGT 13.5% vol Campania 1999 155.00
 Feudi di San Gregorio
- 140 DETTORI Romagia Rosso IGT 17.0% vol Sardinia 2004 135.00
 Dettori Badde-Nigolosu
Alessandro Dettori is a controversial character, speaking his mind, no matter what, and his winemaking technique defies conformity. He follows the natural course of the elements in the vineyard and cellar, banning all pesticides and chemicals, to work together with nature rather than trying to control it. He is a real craftsman, a rarity in the wine world, who by shunning convention, makes unique and outstanding wines. A late harvest from 70-80 vines producing a mere 250g of fruit per vine, it is fairly light in colour with an amazingly powerful, penetrating nose, and notes of white pepper, kirsh, plum jam and herbs. It has great concentration, packed with layers of compact flavour, and a warm, velvety, intense finish

TUSCANY

Classic sangiovese blends:

**Carmignano
Morellino di Scansano
Vino Nobile di
Montepulciano**

141 TENUTA DI LODOLA NUOVA RUFFINO
VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO 13.0% vol 2007 38.50
This DOCG has been overshadowed by its bigger brother Brunello di Montalcino, but is slowly gaining a reputation of its own. Made from 100% sangiovese, it is deep ruby red in colour, has magnificent bouquet of cherries and hints of vanilla and tobacco. A tightly structured wine balanced with soft tannins and rich flavour

142 DEI VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO DOCG 13.0% vol 2006 44.50
The Dei family have been vine growers for decades. In 1985, they started to make wines from their well located vineyards and very quickly have established themselves as an excellent producer in Montepulciano. This Vino Nobile is made from 80% prugnolo gentile (clone of sangiovese), with the balance from cannaiolo and mammolo. The aim of the producer is to have wines with concentrated flavours and extracts by restricting yield per hectare and careful selection of grapes. The wine has a rich bouquet, balanced with complex flavours of mint and liquorice

143 LA VILLA TRE ROSE
VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO DOCG 13.5% vol 2004 45.50
A dynamic, modern winery owned by the Angelini family who use a technological approach in respect of the tradition and let the minerality of the soil express itself through the grapes. La Villa is representative of their style; a single vineyard with strict selection of the grapes, the wine has a clean, precise flavour of cherry-like fruit, velvety with vanilla and liquorice on the palate; it is supple, lingering and extremely balanced

144 CARMIGNANO Villa di Capezzana DOCG 2006 45.50
Capezzana
Contini Bonacossi, an aristocrat family has been at Capezzana since they moved from Spain in the early 1900's. The estate took shape in 1945 at the helm of Count Bonacossi, when the Carmignano subzone was grouped with Chianti Montalbano, a lesser appellation. Count Hugo succeeded in obtaining the DOC for Carmignano in 1975, a precedent having been set by Cosimo di Medici in 1716, who had conceded production from this area under the name of Carmignano, the first example of a controlled appellation. In the last ten years, the new generation has taken the wines to further heights, with stricter selection of the grapes. A blend of sangiovese and cabernet sauvignon, (as in Cosimo di Medici concession), the wine is deep red, with ripe black cherry and currant aromas, notes of leather, chewy, soft tannins and a clean, refined finish

**Sangiovese is the
indigenous quality
grape variety of Tuscany,
responsible for the wines
listed here:
Morellino di Scansano
Carmignano
Chianti
Brunello di Montalcino
Nobile di Montepulciano**

145 CAPATOSTA Morellino di Scansano DOC 14.0% vol 2007 46.50
Poggio Argentiera
Thanks to a group of quality minded producers, this area, south of Bolgheri, is making world class wine from the morellino (sangiovese) grape. Gianpaolo Paglia, an agronomist, acquired 6 hectares of vineyard in 1997, and with his English wife, Justine Keeling, has built a 22 hectare estate with an international reputation. Capatosta is made from 30 year old vines, 95% morellino and 5% alicante, aged for 13 months in barrique of which 50% are new. The wine has rich flavour of dark berries, mouthcoating fruit, supple, round tannins; it is full-bodied, powerful and intense

146 POGGIO VALENTE Morellino di Scansano DOC 13.5% vol 2005 56.50
Le Pupille
This estate, started by Elisabetta Geppetti, one of the pioneering producers of Morellino, is probably responsible for putting Morellino di Scansano on the world map. Poggio Valente is a single vineyard and has become the standard against which all other Morellinos are judged. The wine is dense and full-bodied with smoky cherry-scented fruit, outstanding extraction with an overall sense of power, together with grace, elegance and balance

Chianti

- 147 CASTELLARE DI CASTELLINA CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG 13.5% vol 2007 35.50
Founded in the late seventies, this winery has been one of the most consistent in Chianti Classico. The bird on the label is there to stress the commitment to nature and the environment. The blend is a traditional one with sangiovese, cannaiole and a small percentage of other local grape varieties. It is quintessentially Chianti Classico, medium-bodied with lovely cherry fruit flavour; intense and refined, it has fragrant, silky tannins and a fresh, persistent finish
- 148 FONTODI CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG 13.5% vol 2006 39.50
The estate is situated in the Conca D'Oro near Panzano, producing wines of supreme elegance and longevity. The present owners, the Manetti family bought the property in 1968, and embarked on a process of improving viticultural practice and vinification techniques, making wines that express the character of their terroir. This is a medium to full-bodied style of Chianti, aged in barrique for 12 months; it is richly flavoured with lovely, supple tannins, vibrant fruit of plum and morello cherry and has an extremely balanced finish
- 149 CARPINETO CHIANTI CLASSICO Riserva DOC 13.5% vol 2005 42.50
Carpineto was founded in 1967 by winemakers Giovanni Sacchet and Antonio Zaccheo, who wanted to make world class wines in the Chianti Classico zone. At the time it was a brave challenge, because Chianti had such a poor image, but their vision and commitment has paid off, and today they have an award-winning winery which exports to over 60 countries. Their style is to combine richness with elegance. This Riserva is a mark of their achievement, medium to full-bodied with cherry-like fruit, clean and juicy with supple tannins, and a lovely silky finish
- 150 MONTECALVI CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG 13.5% vol 2006 46.50
There is great drive behind this micro estate (10 hectares, of which 3.5 are planted with vineyard), owned by the Bolli family. Vineyards have been planted at high density (6000-7400 vines/hectare), with research into the right clone of sangiovese for this area. An organic approach is practised, using only natural fertilisers; an artisan wine crafted from the vineyard to cellar, producing full-bodied and perfectly balanced wine; it has deep colour, aromas of morello cherry and liquorice, well-structured with sweet, supple tannins, great finesse and persistent finish
- 151 GRACE CHIANTI CLASSICO Riserva Il Margone DOCG 13.5%vol 2003 59.50
American art entrepreneur Frank Grace, who dreamed of producing great wine all over the world, chose this estate in Chianti; joined by world-famous enologist, Franco Bernabei and German banker Gerard Hirmers, invested in a state of the art cellar and vineyard where a biodynamic approach is practised. In a short time, this has become one of the finest estates in Tuscany, with stress on finesse and elegance. Il Margone is only released in great vintages, a selection of the best grapes, matured partly in oak casks and partly in barrique; the wine has great fruit richness with soft, supple tannins; intensity and depth of flavour with a long, complex finish
- 152 "SAN MARCELLINO" CHIANTI CLASSICO Riserva DOCG 13.5%vol 2001 67.50
Rocca di Montegrossi
As with other aristocratic landowners, Marco Ricasoli-Firidolfi took over the running of this old estate, owned by his family, cousins of Barone Ricasoli, in the mid nineties. After much replanting and reorganisation, this property is now achieving its potential; the riserva is only vinified in good vintages when the wine is fermented in Allier vats, matured in barrique for 18 months and bottled without filtration. Ripe, rich cherry fruit flavours with great intensity; a balanced, multilayered, complex wine; Awarded 5 by Decanter Magazine*

In the last 20 years, the quality of the traditional Tuscan wine has increased enormously. This is due to a better understanding of the Sangiovese grape, where much research has gone into finding

the best clone. A new generation of Tuscan aristocratic landowners are hands-on winemakers, committed to making Chianti a world class wine on a par with Bordeaux. Examples are Antinori, Mazzei and Ricasoli among others

- 153 VIGNA DEL SORBO CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG 13.5% vol 2001 75.50
Fontodi
The history of the estate can be traced back to Roman times, and wines have been exported since the 11th century. The present owners, the Manetti family, (See Bin No.) pottery makers, bought the estate in 1968 and embarked on a process of improving viticultural practice and vinification techniques, making wines that express the character of their territory, a perfect south-facing exposure in the Conca D'Oro or Golden Valley. Vigna del Sorbo is planted with 30 year old vines, of which 90% are sangiovese and 10% cabernet sauvignon. This is a profound medium to full-bodied wine with rich flavours of black cherry and stoned fruit; round, chewy tannins and a long finish
- 154 VIGNA RANCIA CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG 13.5% vol 2004 78.50
Felsina Berardenga
A model estate, Felsina has been at the forefront of Chianti's renaissance; focussing on the clone selection of the sangiovese grape, with outstanding results. This has led to the unusual step of producing all their Chiantis with 100% sangiovese. The greatness of the wine relies on the age of the vineyards and the quality of the clone, which is responsible for its depth and complexity. Rancia is a 6 hectare south-facing vineyard known since antiquity for quality, released only in great vintages, in a style of its own – a great expression of the purity of sangiovese
- 155 MONTECALVI VIEILLE VIGNE IGT 14.0% vol 2004 95.00
Montecalvi, Greve in Chianti
There is great drive behind this micro estate (10 hectares, of which 3.5 are planted with vineyard), owned by the Bolli family. Vineyards have been planted at high density (6000-7400 vines/hectare), with research into the right clone of sangiovese for this area. An organic approach is practised, using only natural fertilisers; This is a stunning 100% Sangiovese, only produced in exceptional years, sourced from a steep, terraced vineyard with 85 year old vines. Vinification follows a traditional approach with long skin fermentation and ageing in large "botti". The wine has great structure and is full-bodied with notes of tobacco, leather, liquorice and mint. Its clean mouthfilling fruit is supported by supple, rounded tannins; multilayered and complex with a refined, long finish
- Montalcino
- 156 ROSSO DI MONTALCINO DOCG Ginestreto 14.0% vol 2008 38.50
Fuligni
The Viscounts Fuligni can be traced back to a Venetian family, who moved to England in the 14th century. They moved to Tuscany in the 17th century, and were granted concessions in the Maremma by the Hapsburg Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo, subsequently settling in Montalcino in the 1900's. It is a 100 hectare estate run by Dott. Maria Flora Fuligni, of which 10 hectares are dedicated to vineyard. There is great attention to detail from vineyard to cellar, where the owners have a hands-on approach. They are now producing some of the most stylish and elegant wines in Montalcino. Ginestrato is the younger brother of the Brunello, aged for 6 months in barrique, with supple, rich, morello cherry-like fruit; well-structured, with firm but soft tannins, intense and balanced finish
- Brunello
- 157 VAL DI SUGA
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5 % vol 2003 56.50
Part of the Angelini group, which specialises in producing fine wines in Tuscany from the different areas; their 55 hectares of vineyard are in various parts of Montalcino, which benefit from different soils and microclimates enabling them to consistently produce well-balanced and harmonious wines. This is a muscular, full-bodied Brunello with notes of tobacco and leather, rich black cherry flavours, supple tannins and a balanced, satisfying finish

- 158 COL D'ORCIA
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.0 % vol 2004 59.50
The Marrone-Cinzano family acquired this estate after selling their interest in the vermouth Cinzano. Great investment in both the vineyard and cellar makes this estate one of the most dynamic and forward-thinking in Montalcino. This Brunello is medium to full-bodied, made in a refined style with stress on preserving the cherry-like fruit of the sangiovese grape with supple and well-judged tannins; the wine has balance, grace and purity
- 159 MASTROIANNI
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.5 % vol 2001 69.00
This long-established house has constantly produced Brunellos in a traditional style. It is owned and run by Andrea Marchetti, responsible for the great consistency of the wines. Key to the quality is the perfect exposure and terroir of his vineyards; his approach in the cellar is of minimal interference with the natural process of vinification, and stress on the purity of the sangiovese grape, expressing the minerality of the soil. This vintage is impressive with intense cherry fruit and flavours of dried herbs and tobacco; it has great depth with subtle tannins and a balanced, long finish
- 160 IL PARADISO DI FRASSINO
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5 % vol 2004 79.50
Giancarlo Cignozzi, a lawyer by trade, acquired Paradiso di Frassino in 1999, rebuilding a delapidated farmhouse to its previous splendour. His approach to winemaking is sometimes described as eccentric, but he believes that vines respond to music, growing more healthily and making better wine. In conjunction with the University of Florence, he has been at the forefront of this research, supported by Bose, the renowned audio-system manufacturer, who has supplied him with 70 advanced hi-fi speakers to play Mozart to the vines day and night. This is the first Brunello, raised on Mozart, but there is much work in the vineyard and cellar; a stunning Brunello with a well-defined fruit of dark cherry and currants; spicy with supple, chewy tannins, a powerful yet elegant wine with great length and complexity
- 161 CASANOVA NERI TENUTA NUOVA
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.5 % vol 2004 84.50
One of the great Montalcino estates, with high scores from Wine Spectator and Wine Advocate (including award for « best wine in the world »), Giacomo Neri still continues in his search for excellence. Tenuta Nuova is a densely planted vineyard in the southern part of his estate comprising 55 hectares of prime land in Montalcino. The Brunello is aged in large casks and barriques, producing a bold, fruit-driven wine with layers of dark, sweet fruit, notes of black cherry, violets and liquorice; intense with chewy, supple tannins, it has great purity, impressive depth and complexity
- 162 LISINI
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 85.50
This historic cru in Montalcino has been in the Clementi-Lisini family since renaissance times. Under the guidance of enologist Franco Bernabei (a father of the Italian wine revolution), it now produces some of the finest and most sought-after Brunellos. The wine has a blockbuster structure: rich, powerful and concentrated with tobacco, dried herbs and liquorice; great minerality, complex with incredible elegance and finesse

Brunello is a clone of Sangiovese, grown in the area of the town of Montalcino

If you are treating yourself and you like powerful, rich and elegant wines, check out Barolo and Barbaresco, pages 39-48

- 163** **FULIGNI**
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.5% vol 2004 87.00
A historic Tuscan family with a great heritage, (see Bin No 167), the Fuligni are involved in the day to day running of their estate. Their style Brunello style expresses the purity of flavours of the sangiovese grape; yields in the vineyard are restricted, the grapes are hand-harvested, and selection is supervised by the owners themselves. The wine is aged in 7.5 hectolitre tonneaux barrels, and transferred to 30 hectolitre casks to finish ageing prior to bottling. This process preserves the fruit freshness of the sangiovese grape without the intrusion of oak. In this vintage, the wine has a cherry-like flavour, juicy fruit, power and intensity with a long finish
- 164** **SESTI**
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5% vol 2001 89.50
Giuseppe Maria Sesti was born in Venice, and studied astrology, in particular, how the Lunisola Calendar System was used in ancient times, publishing 4 books on the subject. He moved to Montalcino in 1975, and bought Castello di Argiano at a time when it was in a desperate state, restoring it to its former glory. He quickly realised that his knowledge of ancient astrology had a practical relevance to agriculture and he follows the faces of the moon for intervention in the growing cycle of the vines, as well as in his winemaking. The wine is full-bodied, with purity of the sangiovese grape, fine and grained tannins, backed up by rich, supple fruit
- 165** **VALDICAVA**
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.0% vol 1999 95.00
This estate started in 1953 when Vincenzo Abruzzese, the owner's grandfather, bought the property (43 hectares), and began bottling Brunello Valdicava in 1968. 20 hectares are planted with sangiovese grosso in the Montosoli area, the finest cru in Montalcino. Vincenzo, the current owner, has slowly transformed this estate, his aim to produce wines with balance and elegance, respecting tradition and nature. His wines have been acknowledged by the international press, and rated among the best Brunellos. In this vintage, the wine is beginning to show its secondary aromas; intense and powerful with rich morello cherry fruit as well as leather and tobacco leaf flavours, refined and balanced with silky tannins and a long finish
- 166** **VAL DI SUGA Vigna del Lago**
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5% vol 1999 125.00
This modern and dynamic company makes wine with the care and attention of a craftsman. Vigna del Lago is a small vineyard producing some of the most stylish Brunellos in Montalcino. The wine is made using only the best hand-picked grapes. The result is a wine of great concentration of fruit, big and powerful and ranks among the best Brunellos of this vintage
- 167** **FULIGNI**
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO Riserva DOCG 13.5 % vol 2001 135.00
In 2001, this estate (See Bin No 163) has produced a spectacular Riserva, possibly one of its finest – very intense with multiflavours of eucalyptus, vanilla and leather, rich fruit of blackberry and sweet, pickled cherry, refined, silky tannins with a complex, long finish
- 168** **UGOLAIA**
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5 % vol 1999 135.00
One of the oldest estates in Montalcino, owned by the Clementi-Lisini family since the 16th C (see Bin No 162), the site lies on a southerly slope 400m above sea level, one of the finest crus in Brunello. Ugolaia is their finest vineyard; the wine is only made in great vintages. Using a traditional approach, the wine spends 3½ years in Slovenian oak and 6 months in chestnut botti. The result is a complex wine with a pungent bouquet and intense, focussed aromas; rich fruit of plums, redcurrant and liquorice, it is balanced with finely textured tannins and has a long finish

- 169** SALVIONI « La Cerbaiola »
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5% vol 2001 167.00
Giulio Salvioni's family have been growing grapes in Montalcino since 1900. In 1985, he took control of the 3 hectare estate, and instead of selling the grapes, he started making his own wine. With the help of consultant enologist, Attilio Paglia, he crafts his wine in an uncompromising traditional fashion, with long skin maceration, and ageing in large botti. In the vineyard, he uses a biodynamic approach where yields are naturally restricted. The wine is full-bodied, rich and powerful with sweet, expressive fruit, firm tannins, cherry, leather and wild herb flavours; a long complex finish
- 170** PIEVE SANTA RESTITUTA
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO Sugarille DOCG 13.5% vol 2001 175.00
 Angelo Gaja
The estate is named after the 11th century church on this property, bought by Gaja in 1994. An icon in the wine world, he was teased by his daughter, Gaia, that in his mid-life crisis, instead of a lover, he bought this great estate in Montalcino, the other great wine-producing region. True or not, Angelo raised this estate to the same level as his property in Barbaresco, with a keen eye in the vineyard and cellar. The wine improves with each vintage, and now is a great expression of Brunello; nothing less is expected of the great maestro. The style is of power, intensity and finesse; rich dark berry fruit on the nose with notes of vanilla and cherry liqueur; great structure with velvety tannins, pure and spicy with a complex, long finish
- 171** CERRETALTO CASANOVA NERI
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 14.5% vol 2004 240.00
(See Bin 161) Cerretalto is Casanova Neri's Riserva from the vineyard that bears its name. He harvests this vineyard last, so the grapes have a long growing season, and the wine is made only in the best vintages, spending 27 months in barrique, and is released 30 months after bottling. It is a truly opulent and richly textured Brunello: the 2004 has masses of fruit with plum, sweet black cherry and tar, spicy notes of violet and minerals. The firm but soft tannins are masked by an incredible complexity due to layers of elements; this leads to a long, memorable finish
- 172** VALDICAVA Riserva « Madonna del Piano »
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 13.5% vol 2001 275.00
All the grapes for the Riserva are sourced from a single vineyard, which takes its name from the church on the property. This wine is only made in exceptional years, using the grapes of the oldest vines, between 35 – 40 years old. Its quality and reputation has steadily increased year after year, and is now sought after, winning high scores from Wine Spectator. The wine has complex aromas of dried herbs and leather, rich fruit of plum and black cherry, great depth of flavour, silky tannins, with a powerful and elegant finish
- 173** SOLDERA
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO Riserva DOCG 14.0% vol 1999 310.00
Franco Soldera left the comfort of a secure career in Milan, to pursue his dream of making great Brunellos. In 1972, at a time when there were only 15 Brunello producers, he bought 8 hectares of a run-down property near the church of Santa Restituta, rebuilding the whole vineyard. A meticulous perfectionist, he likes to think of the vine in human terms, providing what it needs to fulfil its potential. Using a biodynamic approach, he disinfects and seals each pruning cut, as if it were a wound. A fanatical ecologist, he encourages insects to prosper in the vineyard, leaving natural grass to grow in between the vines. With an uncompromising, traditional approach in the cellar, he has long maceration and ages his wines in large botti, for up to 6 years. His wines evolve gently, showing differing complex aromas at different stages of their development, becoming more ethereal, multi-layered and powerful year after year

Supertuscans

Supertuscan is a term that started in the eighties, probably originated from wine

writer Nick Belfrage MW to define a new trend of producing high quality wines that did not comply with the limiting DOC regulations of the time.

These wines could only be sold under the inferior Vino da Tavola category, and ironically they were among the best and most expensive wines in Italy. The law has now changed and the new IGT category incorporates many of these wines

- 174 GUIDALBERTO IGT 13.5% vol 2006 58.50
 Tenuta San Guido
Guidalberto is the result of a project from Tenuta San Guido, producers of Sassicaia, to produce a second, high quality wine from vineyards enjoying the same climate and soil structure as Sassicaia. Behind this is Dott. Sebastiano Rosa, the stepson of Incisa della Rochetta, who is gradually taking over the management of the estate. The wine, made from a blend of 40% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon and 20% sangiovese, exhibits impressive, sweet fruit with blackcurrant and summer berry aromas, restrained notes of spice, with an elegant, supple texture
- 175 SYRAH "Il Bosco" CORTONA DOC 13.0% vol 2001 58.50
 Tenimenti Luigi d' Alessandro, Cortona
A very exciting estate on the east side of Tuscany near Cortona. Massimo d' Alessandro is credited with having introduced Syrah to Cortona. After lengthy experiments with different grape varieties, syrah was chosen as the best performer, and paved the way for Syrah Cortona DOC. The vines are planted at high density to reduce yields. The results are impressive. This Syrah has an astonishing fruit concentration and richness. Without doubt, it is equal in quality to the best Cote Rotie or Hermitage
- 176 SYRAH "Il Bosco" IGT 13.0% vol MAGNUM 150 cl 1998 105.00
 Tenimenti Luigi d' Alessandro, Cortona
- 177 SYRAH "Case Via" IGT 13.5% vol 2001 66.50
 Fontodi
The Manetti family has worked with Francesco Bernabei since 1980. Their 62 hectare vineyards are situated in the prime 'Conca d'Oro' (golden valley) of Panzano in the Chianti Classico area producing wines of supreme elegance and longevity. The wine is aged for 12 months in barrique, and has been called La Turque of Italy due to its resemblance to the Guigal style. It is complex with striking notes of smoke and tar, blackberries and currants, medium to full-bodied, with supple tannins, round, balanced and intense
- 178 LE SERRE NUOVE Bolgheri Rosso DOC 14.5% vol 2006 78.00
 Tenuta dell' Ornellaia
This is the second wine from the above estate, using the same vinification techniques as for Ornellaia. The 2006 is an extraordinary wine, with many of the characteristics of its superior sibling, it is more approachable now; rich and full-bodied with blackberry and blackcurrant fruit, spicy with notes of leather, mint, smoke and tobacco, it is layered and complex with a long, satisfying finish
- 179 GIUSTO DI NOTRI IGT 13.5% vol 2002 85.00
 Tua Rita Suvereto
A relative newcomer, Tua Rita has established itself as one of the great Italian wineries. Highly regarded by Robert Parker and James Sutcliffe, who have contributed to its meteoric rise and prestige, its wines have made headlines all over the world. It is made from 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot and aged for 14 months in barrique. The wine is rich with lots of blackcurrant, concentrated fruit, complex and mouthfilling with great length of flavour
- 180 GIUSTO DI NOTRI IGT 13.5% vol 2000 88.50
 Tua Rita Suvereto
- 181 GIUSTO DI NOTRI IGT 13.5% vol 2001 110.50
 Tua Rita Suvereto
- 182 GIUSTO DI NOTRI IGT 13.5% vol 1999 99.50
 Tua Rita Suvereto

- 183** PALEO IGT 14.0% vol 2004 95.00
 Le Macchiole
A model estate started by the late Eugenio Campolmi, an obsessed and driven man, it is now well established and completely focused on quality and crafting extraordinary wines, including super Merlots (See Bin No). The property lies in Bolgheri which is surrounded by Sassicaia and Ornellaia, where the wines are challenging the cru classe from Bordeaux. Since 2001, the wine has been made with 100% cabernet franc, as this grape variety has shown it can produce complex, refined wines with a purer and more defined flavour. This vintage has great depth, complex bouquet, elegant with sweet tannins, harmonious and lasting flavours
- 184** CEPPARELLO IGT 13.5% vol 2001 95.50
 Isole e Olena
Isole e Olena is a well known name in Chianti and abroad, due to Paolo de Marchi's energy and uncompromising commitment to quality, and his constant quest for perfection. Cepparello has won many awards over the years, and is one of the finest expressions of pure sangiovese. The wine is rich, with depth of flavour and wonderful length
- 185** CEPPARELLO IGT 13.5% vol 1999 95.50
 Isole e Olena
- 186** SOLENGO IGT 13.0% vol 2000 95.50
 Argiano
In 1993, this estate was taken over by Neoni Marrone Cinzano, who has transformed it with great enologist Giacomo Tachis. Solengo, the jewel in the crown, is becoming a cult wine. Tremendously rich, multilayered with complex flavours
- 187** SOLENGO IGT 13.0% vol 1999 98.00
 Argiano
- 188** SOLENGO IGT 13.0% vol MAGNUM 2000 197.00
 Argiano
- 189** SOLENGO IGT 13.0% vol DOUBLE MAGNUM 2000 394.00
 Argiano
- 190** FLACCIANELLO DELLA PIEVE IGT 13.5% vol 2004 97.50
 Fontodi
The Fontodi estate was taken over by the Manetti in 1969 and has become one of the most impressive in Tuscany. Viticultural practice is now based on organic and biodynamic principles, resulting in wines with purer and more precise flavours. Flaccianello is the name of the vineyard; the wine was first released in 1981 when it was noted that this vineyard consistently produced superior wines. 100% sangiovese, it is fresh and aromatic with layer upon layer of fruit, gorgeous aroma of blackberry and blackcurrant, great intensity, elegant and powerful; full-bodied with a long, refined finish
- 191** CAMARTINA IGT 14.0% vol 2004 110.00
 Az Ag Querciabella
A modern winery that has contributed to Chianti's renaissance, its approach is forward thinking, aiming to be true to the terroir and grape varietal. Since becoming completely biodynamic, the wines are purer, more refined and consistently great. Camartina is only released in great vintages, a blend of 70% cabernet sauvignon and 30% sangiovese, the wine is aged in French barriques. The 2004 has deep colour, with intense aromatics of violets and spices, rich blackcurrant and blackberry fruit, chewy, supple tannins with layers of complex flavours in a full-bodied style

Bordeaux has inspired winemakers all over the world, with the use of its grape varieties (Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot) as well as winemaking and wine ageing techniques

- 192 SAFFREDI IGT 13.5% vol 2004 110.00
 Le Pupille
This is the top cru of the whole estate, and is the standard bearer of Morellino di Scansano. Saffredi has now joined the ranks of cult wines and regularly wins the highest accolades in Italy and abroad. This is a blend of 50% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot and 15% alicante. The wine has a big structure, layered with rich, complex fruit, full-bodied, intense cassis flavour and a long spicy finish
- 193 SAFFREDI IGT 13.5% vol 1999 115.00
 Le Pupille
- 194 GUADO AL TASSO Bolgheri DOC 13.0% vol 2001 125.00
 Marchesi Antinori
Bolgheri is a relatively new wine growing area where some of the finest Italian wines now come from. It was put on the map by Antinori when he was overseeing the making of Sassicaia, and discovering its potential he has developed this wine. It is made from 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot with 14 months in oak. Rich and spicy on the nose with blackcurrant liquorice and sweet cherry fruit, it is medium to full-bodied, juicy and succulent with a long finish
- 195 GUADO AL TASSO Bolgheri DOC 13.0% vol 1999 135.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 196 GUADO AL TASSO Bolgheri DOC 13.0% vol MAGNUM 1999 270.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 197 TIGNANELLO IGT 13.5% vol 2004 125.50
 Marchesi Antinori
Marchese Piero Antinori is now in charge of this historic estate which received its first charter to trade in 1385 by the Medici. With over 600 years of legacy, he has had the courage and vision to modernise the company, creating new wines that have been trendsetters in Tuscany and the rest of Italy. The first of these pioneering wines was Tignanello a blend of sangiovese and cabernet. Created in 1971, it started a trend followed by the majority of the Tuscan producers. The wine has an incredible concentration of fruit with complexity and elegance
- 198 TIGNANELLO IGT 13.5% vol 2001 125.50
 Marchesi Antinori
- 199 TIGNANELLO IGT 13.5% vol 1999 135.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 200 TIGNANELLO IGT 13.5% vol MAGNUM 2001 270.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 201 TIGNANELLO IGT 13.5% vol MAGNUM 1999 270.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 202 SCRIO IGT 13.5% vol 2000 125.50
 Le Macchiole
One of the superstar estates from the Bolgheri region, this property has become a leading producer since its first vintage, thanks to the brilliant winemaker Luca d'Attoma. Scrio is 100% syrah, aged for 18 months in French oak, and exhibits a spicy eucalyptus scent with blackberry liqueur, liquorice and vanilla. It has high extracts as well as tannin, massive body, and a long, pure, concentrated finish
- 203 SCRIO IGT 13.5% vol 2001 145.00
 Le Macchiole

Except for the Syrah, the wines on pages 27-31 are made in the Bordeaux style. Sassicaia Bin No was the first Italian wine to be made in this style, starting a new trend, and until a few years ago was the one against which all others were measured

- 204 CA'MARCANDA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol 2000 140.00
 Angelo Gaja
When Angelo Gaja (See Bin No 298) acquired this estate, after a long negotiation process with two elderly brothers and a sister, the joke in Bolgheri was that we would soon see the release of " Sassi-Gaja", a reference to Sassicaia,(the wine that put Bolgheri on the map, and started a rush of winemakers to the area.) Gaja who is not without a sense of humour, named the property, Ca'Marcanda – a dialect term for the owners' continuous haggling and changing the conditions of sale. Behind the flippancy of its name, this is a very serious wine, where the genius of Gaja shines. 2000 was its first released vintage, a blend of 50% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon and 10% cabernet franc, aged for 18 months in new barrique. It shows great richness of blackcurrant and blackberry fruit with plum and raisin flavour, hints of dark chocolate, round supple tannins and a refined, elegant finish
- 205 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol 2003 220.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
The several changes of ownership have not affected the consistency of the wines, but it has fired up the team, achieving new heights with every vintage. The wine is deep in colour, with a meaty bouquet and full ripe fruit. Rich, mouthfilling flavour, ripe with lots of softening tannins and great length. Good spicy oak aromas with sweet fruit on the palate. A wine of great length and complexity (See Bin No 234)
- 206 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol 1999 240.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
- 207 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol 2000 220.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
- 208 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol 2001 270.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
- 209 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol MAGNUM 150cl 1999 480.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
- 210 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol MAGNUM 150cl 2000 480.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
- 211 ORNELLAIA Bolgheri DOC 13.5% vol DOUBLE MAGNUM 2000 880.00
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
- Sassicaia, Ornellaia and Solaia have been the trendsetters and benchmark for high quality Italian red wine. Now with well-established old vineyards, they consistently produce great wines, ranked among the best in the world
- 212 SASSICAIA DOC Tenuta San Guido 12.5% vol 2003 220.00
 Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta Bolgheri
Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta brought cuttings of cabernet sauvignon from Chateau Lafite –Rothschild. The resulting wine became a success and is now acknowledged to be one of the best wines in Italy. The wine has structure and intensity of flavour of the Bordeaux, if only with softer tannins when young. Intense colour, rich concentrated fruit and seductive character, rich plummy flavours with soft supple tannin and a spicy blackcurrant and vanilla aftertaste
- 213 SASSICAIA DOC Tenuta San Guido 12.5% vol 1999 235.00
 Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta Bolgheri
- 214 SASSICAIA DOC Tenuta San Guido 12.5% vol 1998 295.00
 Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta Bolgheri
- 215 SASSICAIA DOC Tenuta San Guido 12.5% vol 1997 350.00
 Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta Bolgheri
- 216 SASSICAIA DOC Tenuta San Guido 12.5% vol MAGNUM 1999 470.00
 Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta Bolgheri

Chateau Petrus and Le Pin, both Pomerol AOC in Bordeaux, and both 100% merlot are the ultimate cult wines, whose prices are prohibitive, £1000+ per bottle in a good vintage. The style is extremely concentrated full-bodied and saturated with rich fruit. These are the inspiration for the wines on this page, which share the same grape variety, saturated style and tiny production

| | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|-------------|
| 217 | <u>REDIGAFFI IGT 14.0% vol</u> Tua Rita <i>Merlot grape has adapted well in Tuscany and Tua Rita is proud of the result achieved by brilliant winemaker Stefano Chioccoli. Together with Messorio (See Bin No), this has become the ultimate cult Italian wine, in spite of the tiny quantity produced and its short history. Responsible for this is wine guru Robert Parker, who consistently awarded this wine in the high 90's, and for 2000 a mark of 100/100. Quoting him: "great intensity, glorious richness, formidable purity and a finish that lasts nearly a minute". Is this Le Pin in the making?</i> | 2002 | 195.00 |
| 218 | <u>REDIGAFFI IGT 14.0% vol</u> Tua Rita | 1998 | 215.00 |
| 219 | <u>REDIGAFFI IGT 14.0% vol</u> Tua Rita | 1999 | 235.00 |
| 220 | <u>REDIGAFFI IGT 14.0% vol</u> Tua Rita | 2001 | 235.00 |
| 221 | <u>REDIGAFFI IGT 14.0% vol</u> Tua Rita | 2000 | 550.00 |
| 222 | <u>MESSORIO IGT 13.5 % vol</u> Le Macchiole <i>When making this wine, Eugenio Campolmi had in mind Chateau Petrus. An expensive comparison to make, but one thing is certain; the wine is exceptional; Together with Redigaffi, this is the most sought-after wine, although it is still little known. Robert Parker has consistently awarded this wine 98+/100, which is only given to a handful of Italian wines. The wine is 100% merlot with great concentration, masses of fruit still closed, with layer after layer of complex aromas backed up by firm sweet tannins</i> | 2000 | 230.00 |
| 223 | <u>MESSORIO IGT 13.5 % vol</u> Le Macchiole | 2001 | 310.00 |
| 224 | <u>MESSORIO IGT 13.5 % vol</u> Le Macchiole | 1999 | 310.00 |
| 225 | <u>MESSORIO IGT 13.5 % vol</u> Le Macchiole | 1998 | 325.00 |
| 226 | <u>MESSORIO IGT 13.5 % vol</u> Le Macchiole | 1997 | 420.00 |
| 227 | <u>SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol</u> Marchesi Antinori <i>Solaia today, ranks among the great wines of the world, comparable to a Bordeaux first growth. A blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot, it has often been compared in style to Chateau Lafite. It has the same concentration and complexity, although more robust. Extraordinary and complex</i> | 1998 | 295.00 |
| 228 | <u>SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol</u> <u>Marchesi Antinori</u> | 1999 | 295.00 |
| 229 | <u>SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol</u> Marchesi Antinori | 1997 | 450.00 |
| 230 | <u>SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol</u> <u>Marchesi Antinori</u> | MAGNUM 150 cl | 1998 590.00 |

- 231 SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol MAGNUM 150 cl 1997 900.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 232 SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol DOUBLE MAGNUM 300 cl 1998 1180.00
 Marchesi Antinori
- 233 SOLAIA IGT 13.5% vol DOUBLE MAGNUM 300 cl 1999 1180.00
 Marchesi Antinori

- 234 MASSETO IGT 14.5% vol 1997 650.00

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia was started by Ludovico Antinori, the brother of Piero (creator of Solaia and Tignanello) and nephew to Incisa della Rocchetta who makes Sassicaia. On his estate in Bolgheri, he planted cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc and sauvignon blanc. Help and inspiration came both from his illustrious family, and from the famous Californian wine guru Andre Tchelistchev. 1985 was the first vintage for Ornellaia, and 1996 was the first for Masseto, a pomerol-like wine. Masseto happened almost by chance, as it was noticed that merlot from the clay outcrop was of a particularly high quality, so it was decided to vinify and bottle it separately. It has since become a rare and sought-after wine. The wine is spicy, full-bodied and rich, incredibly concentrated with plenty of suppleness and gorgeously pure sweet fruit.

NORTHEAST Friuli

- 235 ROSSO DI JACOPO Collio Orientali DOC 13.5% vol 2005 43.50
 Ronco del Gnemiz

Serena Palazzolo is a remarkable lady; as well as raising a family, she has revitalized this estate which is now producing impeccable, fruit-driven wines. Passionate about her work, she oversees the vineyards, where a biodynamic approach is practiced. A costly farming practice, but the results speak for themselves. A blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and the local grape schioppettino, the wine boasts a lively, fresh fruit of crushed berries, finely grained, soft tannins, supple, balanced and lingering

- 236 MERLOT Grave del Friuli DOC 13.5% vol 2006 44.50
 Croatto

The result of a joint venture between Enzo Pontoni (See Bin No 239) and Piero Croatto with Enzo in complete control of vineyard and vinification. The vines are planted at high density, ungrafted, thus they need constant monitoring for any phylloxera which could devastate the vineyard – a gamble Enzo is prepared to take in order to achieve excellence. The same care is taken as for his top cru Merlot, with the result that it is concentrated with rich fruit of blackberry and plums, full bodied with supple tannins, with an intense, long finish

- 237 ARBIS ROS Izonso DOC 13.5% vol 2005 49.50
 Borgo San Daniele

This small estate is run by a delightful brother and sister team, Mauro and Alessandra Mauri. Dedicated and passionate about their wines, they follow a biodynamic approach in the vineyard, which allows them to produce wines with pure grapey flavour and minerality. Arbis is a blend of pignolo (typical of Friuli producing wines of great structure) and cabernet (which gives the wine freshness and elegance). It is medium to full-bodied, with intense flavour of violets, and rich fruit of plums and blackberry; soft, supple tannins, and a long finish

- 238 SCHIOPPETTINO Collio Orientali DOC 14.5% vol 2006 51.50
 Ronco del Gnemiz
A rare grape variety indigenous to Friuli, (known locally as Ribolla Rossa) has its appeal in the syrah-like aromas combined with weight and freshness. Serena Palazzolo, (See Bin No 235) has 0.60 hectare planted with this grape. Grapes are picked in October to allow full maturity; the wine fermented with skin for 2 weeks, then aged in large old oak barrels to preserve the grape aromatics. It is dark in colour with intense spicy nose of violets and juniper berry, blackcurrant and plum jam on the palate; low in tannin, its supple fruit is supported by lively acidity which leads to an elegant, refined finish
- 239 MERLOT MIANI Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC 15.0% vol 2004 240.00
 Miani
Enzo Pontoni, a shy, gentle giant is at his happiest when in his vineyards or cellar among his wines. He drives an old Fiat Punto, but has the most modern fully-equipped tractor; a large cellar adjoins his small house, furnished with the best barriques money can buy. He seems the sort of person who expresses himself through what he knows best – making wine, and his wines speak volumes for him. Little known to the general public, he has become a legend, comparable to Claude Dugat in Burgundy. Enzo tends his vines like Bonsais, to produce max 500 grapes per vine. The grapes macerate for 2 weeks, ageing for 24 months in new barrique. This is one of the best Merlots produced anywhere in the world, with masses of sweet fruit of blackcurrant, blackberry, tones of chocolate and liquorice, masking its copious tannins giving the wine a long, velvety finish
- 240 REFOSCO CALVARI MIANI Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC 15% 2003 285.00
 Miani
Refosco is an indigenous grape variety in Friuli; this interpretation by Enzo Pontoni is legendary among connoisseurs – only 8.000 bottles are made from 18 hectares of vineyard. Deep purple in colour, almost impenetrable, extremely full bodied with masses of fruit, layer upon layer of complex flavours of damson plum, cherry and currants, this is an extreme wine, managing to combine richness and elegance at the highest level, a feat only achieved by the greatest wines.
- Veneto
- 241 VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE DOC 14.5% vol 2004 57.50
 Marion
Stefano Campedelli acquired this estate with some great vineyards in 1998, which he runs with his wife and brother. His wine consultant, the talented Celestino Gaspare, worked for 20 years with Giuseppe Quintarelli (See Bin No) and also advises Romano dal Forno (See Bin No). Stefano's approach is both traditional and modern: he restricts yield in the vineyard where the grapes acquire depth and minerality, and uses the traditional ripasso method as well as a modern approach of extraction and maceration. A medium to full bodied wine; great concentration of ripe fruit with flavours of plum, chocolate and blackcurrant, supple, elegant and balanced
- 242 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA Vigneto Arano DOC 15.5% vol 2005 59.50
 Le Salette
Franco Scamperle is a well-established producer with 25 hectares of prime vineyards in Valpolicella ; his approach has its roots in the Valpolicella tradition, from where he has evolved his own style of winemaking, using large botti as well as barriques in the ageing process. Vigneto Arano is a wonderfully expressive Amarone, rich and full-bodied with notes of dried herbs, prune and coffee kernels. It has mouth-coating sweet fruit and a balanced finish

- 243 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 15% vol 2004 79.50
Nicolis
This Amarone is made from a selection of the estate's finest grapes, which are left to dry in ventilated rooms for 3 months. Fermentation takes place at natural low temperatures with maceration of up to 1 month. The wine is then aged in Slovenian oak casks for 3 years. This is a full-bodied wine with flavours of leather, chocolate and raisins; intense with rich, supple fruit and a long, elegant finish
- 244 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA "Ravazzol" DOC 16.0% vol 2005 88.50
Ca' La Bionda
This is an old, established estate, founded in 1902, with 20 hectares of south-facing vineyards on the Ravazzol hill. The style is enlightened, traditionalist, and the wines are expressive of the soil. This Amarone, only made in great vintages, uses hand selected bunches from 60 yr old vines; and is full-bodied with notes of leather and tobacco, rich, intense and multi-layered, great depth of minerality, and a long finish
- 245 VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE DOC 14.0% vol 1999 92.50
Giuseppe Quintarelli
Giuseppe Quintarelli is a law unto himself; his approach to winemaking is traditional; an uncompromising perfectionist, he crafts each wine and vintage according to its potential as regards maceration and ageing, so when a wine fails to deliver on standards, it is sold on in bulk. Over the years he has become a legend in Valpolicella, and an inspiration to two generations of winemakers. Due to his fastidious approach, his wines come onto the market sporadically, and are immediately snapped up by wine enthusiasts. This Valpolicella, released in 2005, has rich, subtle flavour of marasca cherry, pure and intense, powerful and elegant
- 246 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 15.0% vol 2003 95.50
"Monte Olmi" Tedeschi
A family-run estate making traditional style of wine, keeping in touch with modern winemaking techniques. The "Monte Olmi" represents the style of the house at its best. A remarkable and unusual wine made from partly shrivelled valpolicella grapes. It is big, rich with amazing complexity of flavours of grape skins, chocolate, dried plums; smoky, almost port-like, with a dry slightly bitter finish. A great wine
- 247 VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE DOC 14.5% vol 2000 125.50
Romano dal Forno
Romano dal Forno, an undoubted icon, shares the throne with Quintarelli as the undisputed kings of the Valpolicella region. With his artisan approach, he crafts wine with voluptuous fruit and elegance, rarely found in such concentration. This wine is profoundly revolutionary, yet profoundly Valpolicella. It is concentrated, opulent and manages to keep the elegance and character of the area which puts the wine into a category of its own
- 248 VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE DOC 14.5% vol 1996 145.50
Romano dal Forno
- 249 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 15.00% vol 2001 95.50
Allegrini
Giovanni Allegrini was one of the first to pioneer high quality Valpolicella. Today his work is being carried forward by sons Walter and Franco and daughter Marilisa. They represent the modern style of Valpolicella where grape flavours and elegance are the priority. It is remarkable that they have achieved this in a wine like Amarone, which is intensely fruity with great depth of flavour and unusually elegant for a wine with 15% alcohol
- 250 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 15.00% vol 2000 98.50
Allegrini

- 251 LA POJA IGT 14.5% vol 2001 107.00
 Allegrini
La Poja is a remarkable vineyard on a plateau on the summit of the vineyard La Grola. Planted with 100% corvina grape, it has low yields due to the nature of the soil. Now established as one of the great Italian wines, it is rich and full-bodied with a fantastic concentration of damson and black cherry fruit, with layer upon layer of flavours, it has power, intensity and elegance – the hallmark of a great wine
- 252 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 16.0% vol 1998 275.00
 Giuseppe Quintarelli
(See Bin No245) Due to his fastidious approach, Giuseppe Quintarelli's wines come onto the market sporadically, and are immediately snapped up by wine enthusiasts. This Amarone was released in 2005; this is a monumental wine, 1997 being one of the great vintages of the last century. The wine has a fantastic richness, with layer upon layer of flavours, mint, tobacco and liquorice, full-bodied and complex; it has remarkable finesse and elegance for a wine with such a high alcohol content; a unique and truly great wine
- 253 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 16.0% vol 1997 295.00
 Giuseppe Quintarelli
- 254 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA DOC 16.0% vol 1998 1,100.00
 Giuseppe Quintarelli DOUBLE MAGNUM
- 255 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA Monte Lodoletta DOC 17.5% vol 1995 295.00
 Romano dal Forno
Dal Forno wines have achieved cult status around the world. The difficult task in making Amarone with this concentration is to avoid the oxidised flavour and saturated heaviness on the palate. Dal Forno manages this at a level of concentration rarely seen in any of the more traditional styles. The colour of the wine is murky-garnet-ruby- charcoal, with incredibly sweet, rich aromas of prunes, chocolate and overripe black fruits intermixed with truffle, cedar, liquorice and spice. This is a spectacular multi-dimensional Amarone that can be drunk now, but will also develop over the next 30 years
- 256 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA Monte Lodoletta DOC 1996 300.00
 Romano dal Forno 17.5% vol
- 257 ALZERO IGT 15% vol 1997 390.00
 Quintarelli
(See Bin No 245) The best way to describe Quintarelli's winemaking is that of an innovative traditionalist, a true artisan who pushes this practice to the limit. The iconic Alzero is made from cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon and a small percentage of merlot, all from old vines. The result is an extraordinary wine, often compared to a great vintage Cheval Blanc, or as has been said, a Cheval Blanc on steroids. The wine has extraordinary richness, full-bodied with sweet fruit of blackcurrant, raisin and fig, great concentration and minerality, spicy aromas of dried herbs, multilayered and complex with fantastic length
- 258 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA Riserva DOC 16.5% vol 1995 520.00
 Quintarelli
Quintarelli is the most stringent of perfectionists, who aspires only to make great wines. In this scale of values, he decides to make an Amarone Riserva only when the wine will be truly outstanding. Aged for 10 years in large oak casks, the wine has flavours of dried fruit, saddle leather, tobacco and chocolate; powerful and intense with complex aromas of dried mint and cloves, elegant with refined tannins

- 259** PINOT NERO BLAUBURGUNDER Krafuss DOC 13.5% vol 2004 48.00
 Alois Lageder
Alois's generation in the 70's/80's changed the way wines from this region were made, thereby altering their market perception. In a region with a germanic ethnic majority, they went for a cosmopolitan, modern, bilingual image, but did not abandon their heritage. The clean, fresh grapy flavours of the wines are popular in Italy as well as beyond. Now successful and well-established, with a state of the art winery, Alois is a committed environmentalist, respecting the course of nature. The pinot nero grape has been present in this region for a long time – one of the few places outside Burgundy where it retains its unmistakable character. The wine is lush, soft and supple – a selection of the best grapes of this single vineyard – medium to full-bodied with cherry aromas; balanced, fine, and long
- 260** SAN LEONARDO DI VALLA GARINA VDT 13.0% vol 1999 63.50
 Tenuta San Leonardo
This is an ancient winery founded in 1720 by the Guerrieri Gonzaga whose turning point came when Carlo Gonzaga took charge of the property in 1982. He graduated in oenology in Lausanne and then spent six years with his uncle Incisa della Rocchetta at Sassicaia. The vineyards lie on a hillside at 820 ft above sea level, which accounts for the wine's elegance and complexity. The wine is made from cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot. With scent of vanilla and hints of oak, this wine is a fine example of San Leonardo at its best; elegant complex with mineral flavours and layers of fruit
- 261** LAGREIN Berger Gei Riserva DOC 14.0% vol 2003 63.50
 Ignaz Niedrist
In his small estate of 6.5 hectares in the bilingual Italian region of Alto Adige/South Tirol, Ignaz Niedrist is a meticulous perfectionist who produces some stunning fruit-driven wines, using a traditional approach of long maceration and ageing in large oak casks. From the Berger Gei vineyard, the low yielding vines produce a wine with great concentration and notes of eucalyptus, wild herbs and rich dark berry fruit. It is luscious yet remarkably refined with a fresh, long finish
- 262** GRANATO Vigneti delle Dolomiti Rosso IGT 14.0% vol 2004 78.00
 Foradori
Elisabetta Foradori took over the estate at a young age and started to rediscover the traditional variety of the area, with clone selection of the neglected teroldego grape. Over the years, other producers have been encouraged to follow her success. She undoubtedly produces teroldego's finest expression, with Granato her premium cuvee, the best grapes of the oldest vineyards. The wine is medium to full-bodied with aromas of wild berries, candied fruit and roasted hazelnuts; chewy and fleshy, its fruit reminiscent of crushed pomegranate. It is balanced by fresh acidity. These elements in harmony make this wine truly striking and aristocratic
- 263** PINOT NERO Vigna S. Urbano 13.0% vol 2002 79.50
 J. Hofstatter
The reputation of this historic house is due to the talent of its owners and the fact that they own some of the most prized vineyards, especially Villa Barthenau which incorporates Vigna S. Urbano. To date, this is the most prestigious Pinot Nero in Italy and able to stand on a par with the grand cru from Burgundy. The wine has great power, concentration, elegance and complexity

NORTHWEST Lombardy

- 264 VALGELLA Carteria VALTELLINA SUPERIORE DOCG 13.5% vol 2005 46.50
Fay
It is very rare to see Valtellina wines on a restaurant list, primarily because there is so little; Sandro Fay has dedicated a lot of energy to building this winery, bringing his two children, Marco and Elena, into the business. His investment is now paying off, with terraced vineyards on south-facing slopes, in the mountain area, north of Milan, which are planted with nebbiolo grapes, locally known as chiavennasca. The wine has great fragrance, intense perfume, full-bodied with flavours of rich, ripe plum, finely grained tannins, fresh acidity and long finish
- 265 SFURZAT VALTELLINA RISERVA DOC 14.5% vol 2001 65.50
Nera
This is Valtellina's best wine; the style is similar to an Amarone. The grapes are partially dried on mats to concentrate sugar and extracts. The resulting wine has concentrated rich aromas with hints of violets. It is full bodied, soft and velvety with a long tarry finish
- 266 SFURZAT VALTELLINA RISERVA DOC CINQUE STELLE 14.5% vol 2004 98.50
Nino Negri
The property is run by enologist, Casinino Maule, who has made this property a model estate in Valtellina. The Sfurzat Cinque Stelle is a hand-crafted wine; only the best grapes from their best cru are selected and dried on mats. The grapes undergo a maceration of 30 days, and the wine is aged in barrique for 12 months. The wine is rich and complex, elegant with layers of flavours, only found in the best Barolos. For this reason it represents value for money

Val d'Aosta

Val d'Aosta is noted more for its stunning alpine scenery and ski resorts than for its wines. Although winemaking goes back to Roman times, the area suffered greatly due to the phylloxera of the 19thC

The inhospitable steep terraced landscape made replanting too expensive with the loss of many grape varieties.

- 267 TORRETTE SUPERIORE Clos de Chateaux Feuillet DOC 13.5% vol 2005 39.50
Cantina di Barro
This is a tiny estate whose vineyards are scattered from 500-900m on the south-facing hill, Torrette, from which the DOC takes its name, one of the first wineries to make this wine. The quality of the wine is due to the peculiar microclimate of this area – low rainfall and high summer temperatures – causing much stress to the vines, giving a small crop of concentrated grapes. It is an intriguing blend of local grape varieties, mostly petit rouge with the addition of gros rouge, mayolet, cornalin and fumin; it has fruit of blackberry and morello cherry, intense with silky, refined tannins; medium bodied with a soft, elegant finish
- 268 FUMIN Vigne La Tour VAL D'AOSTA DOC 13.0% vol 2004 47.50
Les Cretes
Costantino Charrere is part of a new generation of winemakers, committed to rediscovering indigenous grape varieties and revitalising the wine industry. Fumin is an intriguing local grape, intensely flavoured with soft, finely grained tannins, reminiscent of the syrah of Northern Rhone. Due to its long growing season in a climate of warm days and cool nights, the wine has an elegance of fruit and aromas rarely found in wines from other regions. Rich, sweet fruit, with pepperiness typical of the grape, it is balanced and refined with an intense, long finish

PIEDMONT

- 269 DOLCETTO DI DOGLIANI "Vigna Tecc" DOC 14.0% vol 2006 36.50
Podere Luigi Einaudi
With this vintage, Luigi Einaudi has succeeded in becoming a leading producer of this very likeable grape variety. The wine is dark, inky purple in colour with a sweet bouquet, and black fruit and mocha flavours. It is full-bodied, opulent, tremendously extracted, and rich with no hard edges

- 270** I CORTINI Pinot Nero Langhe DOC 14.5% vol 2008 44.50
 Castello di Neive
Castello di Neive is a family estate run by Italo Stupino, a “conservative innovator”, who has transformed this reliable azienda into one that is now achieving true excellence. With some of the finest vineyards in Piedmont, he produces terroir-driven wines. He has planted this prime vineyard with pinot noir, remembering the fine wine made by his father from this area. This vineyard wine has freshness and elegance, rarely found outside Burgundy; intense nose of raspberry with hints of vanilla, finely textured tannins, sweet fruit leading to a silky, long finish
- 271** BARBERA D’ASTI Vigna del Noce DOC 13.5%vol 1999 48.50
 Renato & Ezio Trinchero
A family-run estate, started in 1920, one of the first to bottle Barbera D’Asti. The vineyards are organically farmed with a traditional approach in the cellar. Vigna del Noce, their flagship wine, is made from 80 year old vines and undergoes 45 days maceration on the skins and ageing in large oak barrels for up to 3 years. The wine is medium to full-bodied with hints of violet, intense and complex perfume. It is a profound wine which has a soulful rusticity
- 272** NEBBIOLO Langhe Rosso DOC 13.0% vol 2003 49.50
 Luca Roagna
One of the most unconventional producers in Piedmont, the family owns 8.5 hectares of choice parcels in the historic great vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco. These are planted with old clones of nebbiolo, that produces wine with little colour but great aromatics. In the traditional approach in vineyard and cellar, with late harvest and long maceration with skin of up to 90 days, each cru is aged according to the wine’s potential, and bottled when ready, irrespective of chronological order, which makes sourcing Roagna’s wines tricky. This Langhe Rosso is made from vines less than 20 years old, in both Barolo and Barbaresco. It was released in 2009, and although it could be classified as a Barolo or Barbaresco, however, due to his exceptionally high standard, Roagna has chosen to release it as a Langhe Rosso. The wine has notes of mocha coffee and tobacco, and rich, sweet fruit of over-ripe cherry; it is warm and velvety with a firm backbone and a long finish
- 273** BARBERA D’ALBA Bricco Marun DOC 13.0% vol 2003 49.50
 Correggia
A small family-run winery, part of a generation that embraced a modern approach to winemaking, it has a well-equipped new winery, and makes wonderful, fruit driven wines, with great concentration. This Barbera from the low-yielding vineyard, Bricco Marun, has extraordinary depth, rich in colour and flavours, with a silky red texture and delicious complex finish
- 274** BARBERA D’ALBA Giada DOC 14.5% vol 2003 55.00
 Andrea Oberto , La Morra
Andrea Oberto is part of a modernist school of winemaking that believes in producing concentrated wines with soft tannins and rich, sweet fruit. He achieves this by drastically restricting yield, short maceration to avoid bitter tannins, and the use of new oak. Barbera d’Alba is one of the wines for which he is rated; dark in colour, spicy and floral with notes of violet and clove, full-bodied, and fresh in the combination of acidity and minerals with a sweet, ripe long finish
- 275** RABAJOLO Langhe DOC 13.5% vol 2004 58.00
 Bruno Rocca
Bruno Rocca is one of the great producers in Barbaresco, his crus (See Bin No 289) among the finest. His approach leans towards the modern, aiming to produce wines with concentration and silky tannins. This is an intriguing blend of 50% cabernet with a balance of 25% barbera and 25% nebbiolo. The result is a wonderful wine with rich blackcurrant and blackberry fruit, notes of cassis and roasted coffee beans, ripe and elegant with great balance and structure

- 276 BARBERA D'ASTI SUPERIORE DOC 14.0% vol 2001 65.00
 La Spinetta
This Barbera from La Spinetta has achieved a great reputation and has a cult following. This Barbera is produced in Asti DOC with the same exacting standards as the Barbera D'Alba (See Bin 278). It is deep in colour, with rich spicy fruit, has the same concentration and complexity, but has a little extra depth
- 277 BARBERA Cascina Francia DOC 13.5% vol 2007 65.00
 Giacomo Conterno
This estate embodies the traditional approach to winemaking in Piedmont, producing some of the most long-lived and sought-after Barolos (See Bin No 327) The same philosophy has been applied in making this Barbera. Planted on the Cascina Francia site in Monforte, the wine has fantastic purity with raspberry and white cherry fruit; its fresh acidity is balanced by depth of flavour and minerality
- 278 BARBERA D'ALBA Gallina DOC 14.0% vol 2005 69.00
 La Spinetta
To plant Barbera in one of his grand cru sites, took Giorgio Rivetti great courage and vision. It all paid off in the end, and this wine was awarded "Wine of the Year 2000" by Gambero Rosso. It is deep in colour, extremely concentrated, incredibly complex, with stunningly rich spicy fruit, and unbelievably long finish
- 279 PIN Monferrato Rosso DOC 14.0% vol 2003 72.00
 La Spinetta
The genius of Giorgio Rivetti is apparent in all his wines (See Bin No 291) and in a few years he has become one of the most admired winemakers, winning accolades all over the world. In the prestigious wine guide, Gambero Rosso 2003, he won the award of Winemaker of the Year. Pin (short for Giuseppe), named after his father, is a blend of 50% nebbiolo, 25% barbera, and 25% cabernet sauvignon. It has a smoky nose of black fruit, vanilla and spices; on the palate it is rich and chewy with moderate tannin as well as a long, sweet, concentrated finish
- Barbaresco
- 280 BARBARESCO DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 45.00
 De Forville
Brothers Valter and Paolo Anfosso run their cantina from the picturesque medieval village of Barbaresco. Their approach to vinification is fairly traditional; this wine has a smoky nose, with soft chocolate sweetness, brambly fruit, firm integrated tannins, good structure and length and in this category is excellent value for money
- Barbaresco and Barolo
 are the two historic wine
 regions in Piedmont whose
 wines are made from
 100% nebbiolo. At their
 best they are among the
 greatest Italian wines
- 281 BARBARESCO DOCG 14.0% vol 2003 49.00
 Produttori del Barbaresco
Started in 1959, this cooperative has been a model and inspiration for other quality-minded co-ops around Italy. With 60 members and 100 hectares under vine in the commune of Barbaresco, it has a reputation that rivals the finest producers in the Langhe. A strict quality control guarantees any wine not to the required standard will be declassified. A simple, traditional approach is used in production, ageing the wine in large casks to preserve the nebbiolo grape flavours. The wine expresses the classic aromas of mint, tar and rose petals with juicy tannins, balanced with a dry, clean finish
- 282 BARBARESCO Brich Ronchi DOCG 14.0% vol 1999 52.00
 Albino Rocca
Angelo Rocca, a modernist, owns 10 hectares of prime land in Barbaresco. The style of his wine is individual with great concentration, extraction and personality. Brich Ronchi is the biggest and richest of his wines, revealing chocolate, candied cherry-like aromas, intermixed with smoky new wood. It is dense and full-bodied, beautifully balanced, concentrated with an extraordinary rich long finish. Because of this structure, it is atypical of a Barbaresco, and therefore in a style of its own

- 283 BARBARESCO “Montestefano” DOCG 14.0% vol 2003 57.00
 La Ca’ Nova
This is a small family-run winery of several generations. Completely dedicated to this way of life, they take great pride in making impeccable wines as taught by their forbears, and using modern knowledge to improve on that tradition. Montestefano is their finest vineyard, producing wines with great structure, power and ageing potential. The wine is big and full-bodied, with sweet, spicy fruit, intense and minerally, with lovely perfume of tobacco leaf and rose petal, chewy tannins leading to a clean, lingering finish
- 284 BARBARESCO “Rabaja” DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 66.00
 Cascina Luisin
The exciting thing about Barbaresco and Barolo is that one can still find little known producers making exceptional wine at reasonable prices. A great cru of Barbaresco, this Rabaja is made in a traditional way with long maceration of the grape and ageing in large oak casks; very expressive of its terroir, it has deep flavour of tar and leather with notes of plum and raspberry jam, fragrant fruit supported by supple and polished tannins with a finish that is elegant and long
- 285 BARBARESCO “Montestefano” DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 69.00
 Serafino Rivella
Montestefano is a south-facing vineyard, producing the most structured wine in Barbaresco, due to a similar soil to that in the Barolo commune. Serafino has a traditional approach, with long maceration and ageing in large oak casks. The wine has an intense, penetrating nose, full-bodied on the palate, with flavours of violet, mint and tar. Austere to start, it slowly reveals a rich fruit of raspberry and cherry, with notes of anis and cedarbox, its finely grained tannins giving way to an ever-evolving fruit
- 286 BARBARESCO Moccagatta DOCG Riserva 14.0% vol 2001 82.50
 Produttori del Barbaresco
This cooperative has some of the strictest quality control standards in Piedmont, and In great years, wines from selected vineyards are made into Riservas, remaining an extra 9 months in cask. The Moccagatta vineyard is one of the great cru in Barbaresco, where it enjoys a southeast exposure. This is the most elegant and refined of the 3 crus from this cooperative on the list; medium to full bodied with ethereal flavours of violet, lively vibrant fruit of crushed cherry, forward in style with silky tannins
- 287 BARBARESCO Paje DOCG Riserva 14.0% vol 2001 82.50
 Produttori del Barbaresco
(See Bin No 286) The smallest of the Produttori crus, it has only 2.5 hectares of south-facing vineyard, producing just 10,000 bottles; the wine has great structure, layered with ripe, dark fruit with notes of leather and tobacco; clean and minerally, with powerful personality, yet refined. Its firm tannins are well balanced by the richness of its fruit, and it has a persistent finish of liquorice and roasted coffee beans
- 288 BARBARESCO Rabaja DOCG Riserva 14.0% vol 2001 82.50
 Produttori del Barbaresco
(See Bin No 286) Rabaja is the archetypal expression of Barbaresco, producing some of the most powerful, refined wine of the cru. From a south-facing 4.5 hectare vineyard with calcareous soil, 2001 has produced one of the finest wines of the cru; it has a rich, ripe fruit with intense, refined flavours of violet, tar and roasted petal: a distinctive taste of nebbiolo; finely grained tannins with a tangy, balsamic finish

- 289 BARBARESCO Rabaja DOCG 14% vol 2004 95.00
 Bruno Rocca
This vineyard produces more austere and structured wines with rich, soft tannins. In this vintage, Rocca has produced possibly his best wine; powerful and dense, it displays sweet black cherry fruit and is full-bodied and muscular, layered and complex with a very long finish
- 290 BARBARESCO Montefico DOCG 13.5% vol 2004 125.00
 Luca Roagna
One of the most unconventional producers in Piedmont, the family owns 8.5 hectares of choice parcels in the historic great vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco. These are planted with old clones of nebbiolo, that produces wine with little colour but great aromatics. (See Bin No 272 for his approach) This wine has an incredible perfume, notes of rose petal, tar and liquorice, intermingled with dried herbs and menthol. On the palate there is a vibrant purity of cherry, raspberry liqueur and violets. With its powerful, round tannins, it has a refined, long finish. With this wine, Luca Roagna is destined to become one of the great producers in Piedmont, on a par with Bruno Giacosa and Giacomo Conterno
- 291 BARBARESCO Staderi DOCG 13.5% vol 1996 155.00
 La Spinetta
Giorgio Rivetti has made this estate one of the most talked about in Italy. Winning award after award, his wines achieve cult status. An uncompromising modernist, his style of wines shows intensity of grape flavours with power and elegance all at the same time. His reputation is also based on the fact that he owns some of the best crus in Barbaresco. The Staderi vineyard produces muscular and stylish wines with great structure, reminiscent of Barolo, but maintaining the finesse which is the hallmark of Barbaresco. Powerful and velvety, with vanilla and chocolate flavours, it is smooth and refined with a long, finish
- 292 BARBARESCO Staderi DOCG 13.5% vol 1997 155.00
 La Spinetta
- 293 BARBARESCO Gallina DOCG 13.5% vol 1997 155.00
 La Spinetta
Gallina is the most feminine of Giorgio Rivetti's crus. The wine is magnificent, with full, rounded, rich aromas of violets and sweet spices; intense and elegant, yet powerful with layers of complex fruit, balanced by lovely, ripe tannins. It has a silky, refined finish
- 294 BARBARESCO BRUNO GIACOSA Santo Stefano DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 215.00
 Bruno Giacosa
Bruno Giacosa is one of the landmarks of Albese winemaking. His wines are austere and monumental, achieved by non- interference. One of the great traditionalists, his skill lies in the meticulous selection of the finest grapes. This cru, Santo Stefano has become a legend and with tiny production, is rarely seen on restaurants' wine lists. This is a remarkable wine that shows the genius of a great winemaker, dealing with the best grapes in one of the best vineyards in Barbaresco
- 295 BARBARESCO Asili DOCG 14.0% vol 2003 215.00
 Bruno Giacosa
Bruno Giacosa and Angelo Gaja are the undisputed producers of the greatest expressions of Barbaresco, with Gaja the contemporary example, and Giacosa the traditionalist. He is a perfectionist, only vinifying the best grapes. Asili is one of the finest vineyards in this commune and Giacosa, the winemaker who can produce its finest expression. The wine has an incredible nose, fruit-driven with layers of raspberry and cherry, minerally and intense with great depth ; its richness is marked by the purity of its flavours, and it is complex, powerful and elegant

Barbaresco is traditionally seen as producing lighter wines than the Barolo, but strictly-speaking this is no longer the case as climate changes and modern wine making techniques has narrowed the differences

- 296 BARBARESCO Asili DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 255.00
Bruno Giacosa
- 297 BARBARESCO Rabaja Riserva DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 395.00
Bruno Giacosa
Giacosa only releases his Riserva in truly outstanding years; if Rabaja as a vineyard is the quintessential expression of the Barbaresco commune, Giacosa's Rabaja Riserva is the finest example of its wine. He has produced a masterpiece, capturing the essence of this vineyard; its elegance, intensity of fruit and ethereal flavour are compressed into a richness ready to explode. Deeply spiced, with layer upon layer of sweet, raspberry fruit and balsamic notes, this is a profound wine with amazing length, which accurately conveys the greatness of the nebbiolo grape
- 298 GAJA SAN LORENZO DOCG 14.0% vol 1998 355.00
Angelo Gaja
Angelo Gaja, the greatest personality in the Italian wine industry today, trained in enology at Alba University, and spent time in the late 60's/early 70's in France and California to broaden his knowledge. In 1970 he took over running the estate and embarked on research and experimentation to improve the quality of the nebbiolo grape. From then on Barbaresco was never the same again in every sense. His energy and drive have inspired a whole generation of winemakers, not only in Piedmont, but in the whole of Italy. Every vintage achieves greater perfection and his top crus compare with the great wines of the world. Sori San Lorenzo is a 3.25 hectare vineyard whose wines are firm and austere. The wine exhibits an intense nose of Asian spices, smoked meat and black cherry liqueur, low in acidity, fat and plush with richness and glycerine resulting in incredible length of flavour
- 299 GAJA SAN LORENZO DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 365.00
Angelo Gaja
- 300 GAJA SAN LORENZO DOCG 14.0% vol 1997 375.00
Angelo Gaja
- 301 GAJA SAN LORENZO DOCG 14.0% vol MAGNUM 1998 710.00
Angelo Gaja
- 302 GAJA TILDIN DOCG 14.0% vol 1998 355.00
Angelo Gaja
Sori Tildin is a 3.75 hectare vineyard which makes the most sumptuous wine. The 1997 has extraordinary concentration of flavours and extracts which make this wine the best ever made from this vineyard. It boasts explosive richness symbolised by the essence of the blackberry and black cherry fruit intermixed with earth, liquorice, oriental spices and subtle new oak
- 303 GAJA TILDIN DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 365.00
Angelo Gaja
- 304 GAJA TILDIN DOCG 14.0% vol 1997 375.00
Angelo Gaja
- 305 GAJA TILDIN DOCG 14.0% vol MAGNUM 1998 710.00
Angelo Gaja

Barolo

Barolo lies in the Langhe hills, near Alba in the heart of Piedmont. It is a relatively small area compared with Chianti or Valpolicella, and has many small producers. The style of wine is full-bodied, with a penetrating aroma of violets, rose petal and tar. Its wines can be tannic but this is compensated for by the rich, complex fruit

- 306 BAROLO Brunate DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 66.50
Marcarini, La Morra
This property run by Anna Maria Marcarini-Brava, daughter and son-in-law, is a 25 hectare estate run on traditional lines both in the vineyard and in the cellar. Over the years they have evolved, producing more refined wines, yet still retaining their house style; Brunate is one of the great vineyards in La Morra, producing wines with great structure and ageing potential. The wine reveals an aromatic nose of minerals, eucalyptus and tar followed by rich, ripe fruit of raspberry and pomegranate, supple round tannins, and a hint of violets on the finish
- 307 BAROLO Vigna Arborina DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 74.50
Mauro Veglio
Mauro Veglio family have been vinegrowers for generations and like many others, sold the grapes to negociants. In 1982, taking advantage of the fact that he had some of the finest vineyards in Barolo, Mauro followed the example of his friend, Elio Altare in making his own wine. He also has a modern approach, reducing yield per hectare in the vineyard, and vinifying the wines in rotary fermenters for 5 days to extract fruit and flavours, avoiding excessive tannins. The wine is aged in French barriques. Vigna Arborina is one of the finest crus in La Morra. The wine has fragrance of wild roses, with tobacco and vanilla, great depth of flavour, with supple, finely grained tannins and an outstanding length
- 308 BAROLO La Rocca e La Pira DOCG 3.5% vol 2001 79.50
Luca Roagna
One of the most unconventional producers in Piedmont, the family owns 8.5 hectares of choice parcels in the historic great vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco. The vineyards are planted with old clones of nebbiolo, that produces wine with little colour but great aromatics. In the traditional approach in vineyard and cellar, with late harvest and long maceration with skin of up to 90 days, each cru is aged according to the wine's potential, and bottled when ready, irrespective of chronological order, which makes sourcing Roagna's wines tricky. These 2 vineyards are planted with 20-50 year old vines. This is a big, earthy wine, pale in colour with layers of sweet, raspberry and redcurrant, notes of liquorice, tobacco and leather supported by finely grained tannins. The wine has tremendous elegance and length
- 309 BAROLO Villero DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 85.00
Brovia
One of the oldest family-run estates in Barolo, its origin can be traced back to 1863. The new generation, sisters Elena (an agronomist) and Cristina (an enologist) are responsible for its revival. The traditional approach includes long maceration and ageing in large botti. Villero is one of the finest vineyards in Castiglione Falletto, (1.5 hectares). This is a full-bodied wine with great structure; it has notes of cherry with tar and violet, notes of menthol and liquorice with firm tannic structure; a smoky, spicy, powerful finish
- 310 BAROLO Rocche dell'Annunciata DOCG 15.0% vol 2004 85.00
Gagliasso
Family-run wine-growing family, with father Mario looking after the vineyard and son, Luca, overseeing winemaking. Luca's approach is to highlight the fruit and suppleness of the nebbiolo grape, whilst taming its tannic structure. He achieves this by controlling yields, late harvests and short maceration with skin and aged in French barrique. However, it is the vineyard, Rocche dell'Annunciata, one of the great sites in La Morra, which makes this wine special. With the 2004 vintage, a new height of excellence has been reached: the wine has masses of refined fruit, cherry and raspberry, notes of liquorice and vanilla, with refined tannins, and a long, powerful, spicy finish

- 311 BAROLO Bricco Rocche Prapo DOCG 13.5% vol 1996 85.50
 Bruno & Marcello Ceretto
In Barolo and Barbaresco, the best, exposed vineyards have been classified along the lines of the French cru system. The Prapo is a 3 hectare vineyard, top cru in Serralunga, with a south, south west exposure. The nebbiolo grape in Prapo, achieves great concentration of fruit. The wine is very austere to begin with, slowly opening its aromas, showing its elegance and complexity of flavours
- 312 BAROLO Brunate DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 89.50
 Marco Marengo
Marco Marengo is an energetic producer, who drew inspiration from the modernist Barolo master Elio Altare, but has slowly evolved his own style. His wines are among the most stylish in Piedmont; the cru Brunate is the jewel in his crown, displaying ethereal perfume of cherry liqueur, tar, roasted petals with tannins underlying the glycerin and flesh. A multilayered wine combining power and elegance, that may remind enthusiasts of a great Musigny
- 313 BAROLO CERRETTA DOCG 15.0% vol 2004 95.00
 Ettore Germano
A small estate, run by Ettore and his son Sergio, which originally only produced grapes for sale. It started making wine in 1990, and since then its reputation has constantly risen. The 2.5 hectares in the Cerretta, one of the great cru in Serralunga, with south-facing exposure, was planted in 1978 with a selected clone of nebbiolo; they practice a modern approach with short maceration and ageing in barrique. The 2004 is a stunning, full-bodied wine with layers of dark fruit, notes of tobacco leaf with vanilla and liquorice, supported by refined, finely grained tannins; it has great balance and elegance and a complex, long finish
- 314 BAROLO Ciabot Mentin Ginestre DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 115.00
 Domenico Clerico
Domenico Clerico radiates passion for Piedmont, its land, its wines and its heritage. He also likes to question convention; initially rejecting the traditional method of winemaking, he has slowly evolved his own approach, reflecting the experience he has gained over the years. His pragmatic approach and open mindedness has allowed him to become one of the great Barolo producers, gaining the respect of his peers, both modernist and traditionalist. Ginestre is his first vineyard and possibly his finest. The wine has depth of flavour of violets and liquorice, rich fruit of plum and cherry liqueur with a powerful, mineral finish
- 315 BAROLO Caro Bric DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 118.00
 Paolo Scavino
This is a cuvee from two great vineyards of this archetypal modernist, one in La Morra and the other in Castiglione Falletto. The wine displays a terrific bouquet of tobacco, tinged tar and black cherry fruit. A massive Barolo, concentrated with multiple layers of richness. It will become more harmonious with age
- 316 BAROLO Brunate DOCG 14.5% vol 2004 125.00
 Andrea Oberto
One of the least known among the reputable producers in La Morra, Oberto started this estate in 1973, with 3 hectares slowly increasing to 16, acquiring some prestigious vineyards, including Brunate. Here, a forward thinking approach is practised, yields are restricted to 1kg per vine, with late harvest and a ruthless selection of grapes. Maceration lasts about 15 days, with ageing in large botti and barrique. This is a stunning Brunate; deep in colour, it has an intense scent of violet, tar and vanilla. Its mouth-coating fruit has sweet notes of dark cherry with chocolate and leather. The great structure is supported by finely grained tannins; a powerful and concentrated wine which has balance, elegance and finesse

- 317 BAROLO SAN ROCCO DOCG 4.5% vol 2004 125.00
Azelia
Luigi Scavino owns 2 great vineyards in Castiglione Falletto, Bricco Fiasco, which he shares with his cousin Paolo (See Bin No) and San Rocco. Part of the elite of Barolo producers who have modernized winemaking in Langhe, he strongly believes that wine is made first in the vineyard where no chemicals are used and by ruthlessly selecting the best grapes. Maceration lasts between 10-15 days, and the wine is aged in large botti and barrique. The San Rocco vineyard is the more structured of the two, producing wine with extra complexity. The 2004 is an outstanding vintage: the wine bursts with voluptuous black fruit, notes of violet, cedar and tar; great structure, full-bodied and layered, it is one of the great Barolos of this year
- 318 BAROLO Pajana DOCG 14.5% vol 2001 135.00
Domenico Clerico
(See Bin No 322) Pajana comes from a vineyard 300m above sea level. This is more structured than Mentin Ginestre: deeply coloured, full-bodied wine, rich fruit of dark berry, chocolate and coffee kernels, complex aromas of violet, tar and leather, round and firm tannins with flavours of vanilla on the mid-palate, great depth with layers of flavour and a long finish
- 319 BAROLO Bric del Fiasc DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 145.00
Paolo Scavino
Paolo Scavino has developed an international reputation for producing some of the finest Barolos. A small producer who owns some of the best vineyards in the area, he pays great attention to detail in the vineyards and has a forward thinking approach in the cellar. The production is tiny and only distributed by strict allocation. This wine is the most charming of his crus. It has hints of violets and tar, rich and fleshy in texture with finely layered tannins
- 320 BAROLO Vigna Rionda Riserva DOCG 14.5% vol 2001 155.00
Massolino
Founded in 1896 with a total of 20 hectares of vineyard, today it is still run by the same family. The estate took a new direction in 1990 when brothers Renato and Giovanni, both enologists, applied modern agronomic and winemaking techniques without compromising the house ethos. Vigna Rionda is a 2.5 hectare vineyard and the estate's most celebrated cru. Thanks to its exposure and soil, it produces wines with great structure and ageing potential. 2001 vintage was exceptional, one of the finest wines in the whole of Barolo, achieving high scores from all wine critics. The wine has a penetrating rose petal aroma, with notes of cocoa and liquorice, rich fruit of dark cherry and raspberry jam, great balance at a high level of concentration; tannins are polished but firm, with fresh acidity that lifts the palate. The finish is powerful, intense and complex
- 321 BAROLO Vigna Arborina DOCG 14.5% vol 2004 165.00
Elio Altare
Altare is the father of modern Barolo ; his winemaking style is elegant with silky tannins and great complexity. Low yield in the vineyard, short maceration to avoid harsh tannins and ageing in new barrique are all his hallmarks. His approach was controversial at the start, creating 2 camps, the traditionalists and the modernists. Time has proved his critics wrong, as his wines have stood the test of time, ageing beautifully and developing into sumptuous, elegant, yet powerful and complex wines. Vigna Arborina is one of the finest vineyards in La Morra : the wine has great intensity with layers of sweet fruit, notes of tobacco, violet and over-ripe cherry, silky tannins leading to a long finish with a vanilla aftertaste

- 322** BAROLO Mosconi Percristina RISERVA DOCG 14.0% vol 1996 165.00
 Domenico Clerico
Domenico Clerico is a founder member of the modernist school; From the Mosconi Percristina vineyard, he makes the most structured and powerful of his wines The wine is aged in 100% new oak, and bottled without filtration. It possesses fabulous purity of fruit, sweet scent of freshly baked bread complimenting the wine's highly concentrated black cherry, chocolate character; dense and layered, with considerable viscosity, low acidity, moderate tannins and an impressive long finish
- 323** BAROLO Connubi Boschis DOCG 14.0% vol 2001 165.00
 Sandrone
This is the wine that has made Sandrone a legend in Langhe, two hectares of land, the greatest vineyard in Barolo. Sandrone's wish to make this great wine starts in the vineyard, restricting yields and producing absolutely perfect fruit. It continues in the cellar from vinification to ageing of the wine. The result is a masterpiece, rich and concentrated, generous with extraordinary depth and bouquet. Harmonious and elegant with great complexity of flavours
- 324** BAROLO Monprivato DOCG 13.5% vol 2004 175.00
 Giuseppe Mascarello
One of the oldest Barolo houses founded in 1881, it was in 1904 with the purchase of the Monprivato vineyard that that its reputation began to take shape. Maurizio, the original founder's grandson is now in charge, having worked alongside his father, and raising standards further, by vinifying each cru separately to highlight the different terroirs. It is a very traditional approach with long maceration and ageing in large botti. Barolo Monprivato has for a long time been a benchmark barolo and one of the finest wines in the world. Although expensive, it is good value compared to Bordeaux and Burgundy. The 2004 has incredible purity of flavour, with intense, penetrating notes of rose petal and violets ; the abundant sweet fruit of strawberry and raspberry masks its firm tannic structure.
- 325** BAROLO Le Vigne DOCG 13.5% vol 1996 185.00
 Sandrone
Le Vigne is a blend of five different parts. The wine is monumental with all the attributes of great Barolos. It has powerful sweet tannins, lots of rich, black, cherry fruit, intermixed with minerals. It is full-bodied and opulent with great elegance and complexity
- 326** BAROLO Le Vigne DOCG 13.5% vol 1997 195.00
 Sandrone
- 327** BAROLO Cascina Francia DOCG 13.5% vol 2003 185.00
 Giacomo Conterno
Giovanni Conterno is the ultimate traditionalist in Barolo. This stubbornness caused his brother Aldo to depart from their father's estate. The result of the separation is two great styles of Barolo. Giovanni believes in long maceration of the grapes with little interference in the cellar, letting nature take its course. His wines display a complexity of aromas and depth of flavours never found in any other Barolos. This wine has an incredible ability to age and develop giving different sensations at every stage of its life
- 328** BAROLO Cascina Francia DOCG 13.5% vol 1996 235.00
 Giacomo Conterno

- 329 BAROLO Falletto di Serralunga DOCG 13.5% vol 2001 215.00
 Bruno Giacosa
Serralunga is the source of some of the finest Barolos; this vineyard from Giacosa produces profound and complex wines with 2001 showing great harmony of elements: extraordinary depth with flavours of truffle, liquorice and wet earth; mouthfilling fruit; its muscular, firm tannins are overshadowed by the sweet fruit, clean and elegant, with notes of balsamic on the finish
- 330 BAROLO GRAN BUSSIA DOCG 14.0% vol 1996 255.00
 Aldo Conterno
Aldo Conterno is universally recognised as one of the best Barolo producers. He owns some of the best vineyards in Bussia Soprana. The Gran Bussia is only made in exceptional years, from a selection of the best grapes from the best cru vineyards. All the crus are separately aged for 3 years in oak casks, and after a careful selection of the casks, the wine is assembled and kept for a further 3 years in stainless steel tanks before bottling. The result is a wine of extraordinary complexity and richness with a capacity of unlimited ageing
- 331 BAROLO GRAN BUSSIA DOCG 14.0% vol 1995 265.00
 Aldo Conterno
- 332 BAROLO Rocche dell' Annunziata DOCG 14.5% vol 1999 265.00
 Paolo Scavino
The jewel in the crown of genial Paolo Scavino, this vineyard was planted in 1942, and released as a Riserva only in the greatest vintages. The wine is aged in barrique for 1 year, with a further 2 years in large botti. A monumentally sophisticated wine, high toned with ripe red berry fruit, packed with flavours of bramble, cherry, sloe and damson; great depth of minerality, powerful, with an intense finish
- 333 GAJA Sperss DOCG 14.5% vol 1998 275.00
 Angelo Gaja
Gaja only started making Barolos in 1990, and since then this property has improved to such an extent that this vintage is the most expensive Barolo and has achieved the highest accolade. The wine is deep purple-blue red; it has a striking nose of truffle, liquorice, black cherry and tar; full-bodied with spectacular intensity, mind-blowing opulence and a multi-layered sweet mid-palate that is found only in the greatest
- 334 GAJA Sperss DOCG 14.5% vol 2001 285.00
 Angelo Gaja
- 335 GAJA Sperss DOCG 14.5% vol 1999 285.00
 Angelo Gaja
- 336 BAROLO
Le Rocche del Falletto di Serralunga RISERVA DOCG 14.5% vol 2000 395.00
 Bruno Giacosa
Bruno Giacosa is an up to date traditionalist, in the sense that without abandoning the traditional methods, he will use modern technology and techniques if he feels it will improve the product. His wines are among the most profound and complex in the world, needing at least a decade before they begin to blossom. He is uncompromising in his methods and makes no concession to modern day tastes for upfront fruits which instantly gratify the palate
- 337 BAROLO
Le Rocche del Falletto di Serralunga RISERVA DOCG 14.5% 2001 395.00
 Bruno Giacosa

338 BAROLO
Falsetto di Serralunga RISERVA DOCG 14.5% 1996 450.00
 Bruno Giacosa
The 1996 was a spectacular vintage. The wine has an extraordinary nose of smoke, earth, white truffle, black fruit, liquorice and floral scent; massive with layers of concentration, high tannin, a muscular personality and an extremely long finish

339 BAROLO Monfortino DOCG 14.0% vol 1999 585.00
 Giacomo Conterno
Monfortino is a mythical wine in Barolo and a reference for all Barolo producers; only made in the greatest vintages, the wine is aged for up to 7 years in large "botti". It is in a class of its own, ranking among the finest wine in the world; the 1999 is the best ever made by Conterno: the wine is still youthful with fantastic concentration of flavours, multilayered with notes of tobacco, cedar and leather; it has a refined and penetrating nose, intense and minerally with great structure, firm tannins and complex spiciness

340 BAROLO Monfortino DOCG 14.0% vol MAGNUM 1999 1170.00
 Giacomo Conterno

DESSERT WINES

501 TORCOLATO IGT (37.5cl) Veneto 2006 42.00
 Maculan
Fausto Maculan, one of the pioneering figures of quality winemaking in Veneto, started in the late 70's by visiting all the most advanced wine regions around the world. When he went back to take over his father's business, he embarked on a program that was to transform his winery and inspire others to follow. Torcolato is made from the vespaiolo grape (so called because its sweet berries attract wasps), carefully dried for 5 months. The wine is aged in barriques, one third of which are new, for 12 months. Pronounced flavour of honey and wild flowers, sweet without being cloying, fresh acidity with a lingering vanilla finish

503 COTEAUX DU LAYON (50 cl) Loire 2007 45.00
 Chateau de Pierre Bise
This Coteaux du Layon, harvested from chenin blanc at the peak of botrytisation, has a wonderful balance of sweetness and acidity, and is exceptional value. The 2005 vintage is believed to be the best vintage of recent years

504 VIN SANTO BIANCO DELL'EMPOLESE DOC (50 cl) Tuscany 2004 39.00
 Tegrino Cantina Leonardo
This Vin Santo comes from a cooperative situated in the town of Vinci, home to the great Leonardo. Literally translated "holy wine", it is made from dried grapes which are pressed and vinified in the traditional manner, the resulting must racked into small oak barrels and aged for 4 years. It is deep amber in colour, with perfumes of dried fruit on the nose, together with figs, almonds and honey. Rich and velvety in the mouth

505 AUREUS IGT 37.5cl Alto Adige 2005 49.00
 Niedermayr
Founded in 1852 by Josef Niedermayr, it is one of the oldest estates in Alto Adige still in the same family. This wine, which started as an experiment more for personal enjoyment, is now one of the finest dessert wines in the region, winning many awards. A blend of sauvignon, chardonnay and pinot bianco, the grapes are harvested from end September to October and then left to dry on racks until December. The wine is matured in old casks to retain its grapy flavours. Golden in colour, it has honey and apricot aromas, velvety sweetness with notes of botrytis and an elegant long finish

- 506 TOKAJI 5 PUTTONYOS ASZU (50cl) Hungary 2003 56.50
 Royal Tokaji Wine Company
The history of Tokaji dates back to the 16th century, when wine made from Aszu (botrytised grape paste) was first recorded. It also claims to be the first historic wine controlled appellation, because in 1730 the vineyards were divided into 3 categories according to soil, sun exposure and potential to develop botrytis. By the 19th century, Tokaji had become one of the most fashionable wines enjoyed by popes, tsars, emperors, European aristocracy as well as writers and actors. Its decline started when production and distribution was controlled by the communist state, when vineyard classification became irrelevant and vinification was standardised. Since 1990 with the collapse of the communist regime, the fortunes of Tokaji have been revived, thanks to privatisation of wineries and foreign investment and it is now producing some of the greatest dessert wine in the world. Made from a selection of the best botrytised grapes, sourced from first growth vineyard of Nyuloso, the wine is rich with apricot and orange peel flavours, lovely honeyed sweetness with balanced and refreshing acidity
- 507 RECIOTO DELLA VALPOLICELLA Le Tordare Veneto 2006 58.00
 Ca' La Bionda
The estate was founded in 1902, with 20 hectares of prime vineyard in the classico area. Their style can best be described as enlightened traditionalist. This is one of the finest Reciotos, made only in great vintages with selected bunches from their oldest vines. The grapes are left to dry on racks until March/April, when they are vinified. After 20 days maceration, the wine is racked and aged for 24 months in oak casks. Deep purple in colour, it has great concentration, with dark raisin and dried fig aromas ; multi-layered, dense and sweet, it has round, silky tannins that give it a lovely, dry finish
- 508 VIN SANTO Riserva (37.5 cl) Tuscany 2003 59.00
 Cappezana
Tenuta di Cappezana, owned by the Contini Bonaccossi family for generations has taken a major step forward with the appointment of Stefano Chioccioli in 1998, bringing the quality of its wines to new heights. This is particularly evident in its excellent Vin Santo, one of the finest examples produced at the moment. Vin Santo, literally translated as "holy wine", is made using the appassimento method, (drying of the grapes); the wine is aged in casks without stoppers to allow natural oxidisation. Amber in colour, it has an aroma of roasted hazelnuts, nutty complex flavour, sweet with a dry finish; a very special wine
- 509 MARSALA SUPERIORE DOC 10 year old (50cl) Sicily 56.50
 Marco de Bartoli
Marco de Bartoli was one of the first to recognize Marsala as a serious post prandial drink at a time when it was mainly found in restaurant kitchens. It was first imported to England in 1770 by John Woodhouse, becoming fashionable, but when it was superceded by the more popular port and sherry, the industry declined, and Marsala became a commercial drink, increasingly used in hotel and restaurant kitchens. Marco reintroduced the more traditional methods such as the Perpetuum (an ageing method similar to the Solera for Sherry), as well as sourcing the best grapes for his wines. His Marsala ranks among the great after dinner drinks more of a meditation wine rather than a dessert wine. Amber in colour, with multilayered, complex aromas of caramel, marzipan and roasted nuts and a dry, minerally long finish

Cleopatra was recorded as having served ARP HULP wine from Anthylla in Egypt to Mark Anthony. The Greek geographer, Strabo, describes this wine as "its colour white, its quality excellent and it is sweet and light with a fragrant smell"

- 510** SCACCOMATTO Albana di Romagna DOCG (37.5cl) Emilia Romagna 2005 66.00
 Fattoria Zerbina
It is ironic that one of the great Italian dessert wines is sold under the Albana di Romagna Passito DOCG (dried grapes) but in fact the wine is made with naturally botrytised grapes, like the great Sauternes or German Trockenberenauslese. This estate is run by the charismatic Cristina Geminiani, who has completely transformed it and crusades tirelessly to improve winemaking in the region as a whole. The Scaccomatto is the result of a study in Bordeaux, where Cristina studied in Oenology. She spotted the perfect microclimate on her property at the bottom of a valley facing the lake, where the morning fog encouraged Botrytis Cineria. The harvest is protracted over a long period until mid November, during which only the botrytised grapes are picked. This is unquestioningly an exceptional wine, ranking among the great dessert wines of the world. It has intense flavour of honey, apricot and pineapple with orange and mandarin peel; a rich sweetness coats the palate with a complex botrytised taste balanced by fresh acidity
- 511** SCACCOMATTO Albana DOCG (75cl) Emilia Romagna 2005 132.00
 Fattoria Zerbina
- 512** PASSITO DELLA ROCCA IGT (50 cl) 13.5% vol Veneto 2003 59.50
 Pieropan
Pieropan, a pioneer of high quality Soave, is now highly regarded all over the world. This passito is made from sauvignon and riesling italico dried until mid-December and vinified in barrique. The resulting wine is voluptuously rich with flavours of apricot, honey and caramel. It has firm acidity and great length, and its richness and complexity allows it to evolve beautifully with age
- 513** I CAPITELLI (75cl) Veneto 2008 74.00
 Anselmi
Roberto Anselmi, one of a new breed of winemakers has become a model for other white wine makers in Italy, becoming one of the top producers in a relatively short space of time. He believes in minimal handling of the wine to bring out the full flavour of the grapes. This wine is 100% garganega, where ripe bunches are dried on mats, pressed in pneumatic presses and the must allowed to ferment naturally in oak barrique. It is packed with apricot, honey and pear flavours with tobacco and cedar notes, stunningly rich and complex
- 514** PASSITO DI PANTELLERIA Kamma DOC (50cl) Sicily 2001 78.00
 Salvatore Murana
Pantelleria is a volcanic island between Sicily and Tunisia; although nearer to Tunisia, its history has always been linked to Sicily. The origin of Passito di Pantelleria is clouded in mystery and mythology going back to the Greeks and Carthaginians. This is a sweet wine made from zibibbo grapes (Moscato d'Alessandro). Its production is small and labour intensive. Salvatore Murano has been an inspiration to the island's wine industry since 1994 when he decided to dedicate himself to the revival of this once sacred dessert wine. Today, Passito di Pantelleria ranks among the great dessert wines of the world. Kamma is a vineyard on the rocky volcanic terraces of the island. The vines produce small bunches of minerally-rich grapes which are dried in the sun for up to one month. This is a rich and complex wine with dried fig and apricot aromas. It is layered with dried citrus zest, butterscotch and caramel; the minerality and acidity balance its lush sweetness giving way to a long finish

- 515 TOKAJI ASZU 6 PUTTONYOS
Szt Tamas Primae Classis Hungary 1999 120.00
 Royal Tokaji Wine Company
(See Bin No 506) Royal Tokaji Wine Company has been a leader in the revival of quality wines of Tokaji and was the first to reintroduce vineyard classification. Szt Tamas is a 12 hectare vineyard that was first classified as a Primae Classis (first growth) in 1700 and regarded as the best vineyard in the Mad Commune. Its south-facing exposure allows it to produce wines of great concentration and finesse. Marked by intense flavour of apricots, rich in minerals with dried orange peel, it is lushly sweet with firm acidity, giving the wine a long lingering finish
- 516 COTEAUX DU LAYON Apres Minuit (50 cl) Loire 1997 160.00
 Domaine de la Cour d'Ardonnay
This is the top cru made by Patrick Baudouin and represents his masterpiece. It has a great structure, richness and complexity with an indefinite lifespan. Certainly one of the great dessert wines in the world achieving 99/100 from R. Parker, American wine guru
- 517 TOKAJI ASZU 6 PUTTONYOS
Mezes Maly Hungary 1999 180.00
 Royal Tokaji Wine Company
This vineyard, classified as a Premier Classe in 1700, has always been recognized as the finest of the classified vineyards and today is jointly owned with the British Wine writer, Hugh Johnson. Enjoying a renaissance of its own, it now produces one of the best expressions of this wine. Great intensity and layered with apricot jam and orange marmalade fruit, this is a multidimensional wine with great concentration and sweetness balanced by remarkable fresh acidity; and a lingering minerality that leads to a complex finish
- 518 CH TIRECUL LA GRAVIERE Cuvee Madame (50 cl) Monbazillac 1996 180.00
Monbazillac has never produced wines of great interest, but this has surprised the critics the world over, achieving an astonishing 100/100 from R. Parker, placing it above Ch. D'Yquem. Bruno Bilancini took over this property in 1992 and transformed its method of producing wine with the introduction of low yield and careful grape selection. The cuvee Madame is only made in exceptional years, where selected grapes from its oldest vines are vinified separately to produce 3 or 4 barrels. The wine is extremely rich, extraordinarily complex and high-toned and will keep evolving on your palate for a long time
- 519 VOUVRAY CUVEE CONSTANCE (50 cl) Loire 2005 210.00
 Gaston Huet
A 35 hectare estate run by Noel Pinguet on biodynamic principles, the wines are an expression of the terroir and the vintage. They have achieved cult status and he is recognized as one of the greatest producers in the Loire. Cuvee Constance is only produced in exceptional years, the result of hand picked, perfectly botrytised grapes from the finest vineyards. The wine has a great spectrum of flavours, marzipan, lemon candy, quince jelly. Its intense, jammy sweetness is balanced by grapefruit and lemon tangy acidity that lifts the palate leaving a long lingering finish with complex confectionary flavours

520 CH. D'YQUEM 1er grand cru classe Sauterne (75 cl) Bordeaux 1989 550.00
Ch. D'Yquem is a world-famous wine. Classified a premier grand cru classe in 1855, its name has always symbolised the ultimate decadent luxury. It has the reputation of having unlimited longevity and vintages from the 1800s can still be found on some restaurants wine lists. The property was in the Lur-Saluces family since 1785 until recently, after it was taken over by a big company due to a big family feud. The legend of the Chateau lives on and the wine is still made in the same traditional way. Expert pickers pick only botritised grapes with a sugar content of 22 Beaume. The wine is aged in wood cask for 3 years before being bottled. Production per hectare is between 12-14 hectolitres and very labour intensive, whereas a Grand cru classe in Pauillac can produce 3 times as much. To drink Ch. D'Yquem is a memorable experience and if wine means that much to you, worth every penny

PORT

522 LBV QUINTA DO CRASTO 2005 37.00
Late-bottled vintage port is wine of a single vintage, matured in cask until ready to drink. The wine is beautifully sweet with rich chocolate flavours

523 QUINTA DO NOVAL 1985 75.00
One of the few original Portuguese houses. It is a relatively small house that produces some of the best and good value for money wines. The vintage port comes from their own vineyards. The wine is very rich and concentrated, still maintaining the house style which is grace and finesse. 1985 was declared a vintage by all the major houses. It is highly rated compared in quality to the 1970. It is sweet, rich and fleshy with a wonderful length of flavour

524 DOW'S 1977 165.00
The company was sold in 1798 but Dow's connection was made in 1877 when James Ramsay Dow became a partner. Dow's vintage port is consistently one of the very best. The style is very concentrated and has great depth of spicy chocolatey fruit and complex character. The 1977 was the best vintage of the 70's

525 TAYLOR'S 1977 180.00
Founded by Job Beazley, this house underwent 21 changes of title before adopting its present one. The turning point of this shipper came when it bought Quinta do Vargellas in 1890, a prestigious property that provides the heart and soul of Taylor's Vintage Port, the darkest, deepest and most massive of all vintage ports. Taylor's is the highest valued port on the auction market. 1977 was a great vintage, one of the best, if not the best since 1963

