

# DiWINEtaste

Wine Culture and Information

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## 2021: the Year of Records for Italian Wine

2021 will certainly be remembered as the most profitable and positive year for the Italian wine. At least for the results achieved in the exports. This news – widely anticipated by the producers’ declarations in recent months – is now positively confirmed by the results achieved by sales over the last year. The excellent result of the Italian wine has also been reported by ISTAT (the Italian National Institute of Statistics) and was awaiting, so to speak, the official confirmation spoken by the numbers in order to quantify the economic measure and growth. In 2021, as already mentioned, exports of Italian wine represented a total value of 7.1 billion euros, with an increase of +12.4% compared to 2020. This is the best result ever achieved by the trade of Italian wine in the world, an extraordinarily positive sign confirming – or rather, further confirming – the important role of the Italian wine in the world enological scenario.

Furthermore, this result is also strengthened by the economic assets of 6.7 billion euros, therefore making the Italian wine one of the most important sectors of the entire *made in Italy* production. This is what emerges from the study carried out by the Uiv-Vinitaly-Ismea Observatory which examined the data released by ISTAT and relating to exports in 2021. The study, specifically, points out that this excellent result was strongly influenced by the so-called *revenge spending* which occurred in various sectors during 2021, clearly conditioned by the socio-economic conditions imposed by the pandemic. In any case, the Italian wine records the export of a volume of 22.2 million hectoliters – therefore with an increase of +7.3% – consolidating the dominant and significant role of the Italian enology in the world. Driving this result are the wines belonging to the *Denominazione d’Origine Protetta* (Protected Designation of Origin, DOP) which marks a significant +15.8% and sparkling wines, with an extraordinary increase of +25.3%. In the latter category, the performance of Prosecco achieved an increase of +32%, well above table wines with a growth of +12.3%.

Concerning *Denominazione d’Origine Protetta*, DOP

wines, these make two thirds of the entire value exported in 2021, while wines belonging to the category *Indicazione Geografica Protetta*, IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) record an increase of +5.4% whereas “common table wines” of +8.9%. The average price of Italian wine also increased, marking an increase of +4.7%. It should also be noted the important growth of the extra-EU market, marking an increase of +14.2% and which, to date, represents 61% of Italian wine exports. In this sense, it is interesting to note the growth recorded in the various countries, a ranking led by the United States of America (+18.4%) followed by Germany and the United Kingdom. Among the countries with the greatest growth, stand out the results achieved in China (+29.2%) and South Korea (+75.5%). Among the countries recording a significant increase compared to 2020 are included Switzerland, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark.

2021 is certainly a year to remember among the most positive ever for the export of the Italian wines to the world. Good news, despite being – in some regards – overshadowed by the condition that is occurring in 2022, marked by the lack of raw materials and essential goods for the production of wine, not least by the significant increase in inflation occurring globally. As for the excellent result achieved by Italian wine exports in 2021, fifteen Italian regions have recorded the best result ever. As for the ranking of the Italian regions with the highest value of exports in 2021, the first place is occupied by Veneto, with 2.5 billion euros – and an increase of +11.1% compared to 2020 – followed by Piedmont with 1.2 billion euros and a growth of +12.2%, then Tuscany with 1.1 billion euros corresponding to an increase of +16.4%.

Following, Trentino-Alto Adige with 614 million euros, then Emilia-Romagna with 409 million, achieving a growth of +19%. It then follows Lombardy, with 286 million and a growth of +11.8%, Abruzzo with 204 million and +8.1%, then Apulia with 179 million and +8.0%, Friuli-Venezia Giulia with 142 million and +21.5% and Sicily with 139 million and +16.8%. Excellent results also for Lazio, with an increase of +20.4%, Umbria, with a growth of +23%, Liguria

### Contents

2021: the Year of Records for Italian Wine . . . . .	1
WINE TASTING	
Contrasts of Etna Bianco and Offida Pecorino . . . . .	2
Wines of the Month . . . . .	5
EVENTS	
News . . . . .	8
NOT JUST WINE	
Aquavitae . . . . .	9
Wine Guide Parade . . . . .	9

### DiWINEtaste OnLine

- ▷ Home Page - [www.DiWineTaste.com](http://www.DiWineTaste.com)
- ▷ Wine Guide ▷ Aquavitae ▷ EnoForum ▷ Polls
- ▷ EnoGames (EnoQuiz - EnoGlass - EnoTemp) ▷ Events
- ▷ Serving Wine ▷ Back Issues ▷ Wine Place Guide
- ▷ MailBox ▷ Wine Parade ▷ Mailing List
- ▷ Tell a friend about DiWineTaste ▷ Alcohol Test

with +26.7%. In this context of generalized growth in the entire country, Calabria stands out against the trend, with a volume of 4.8 million euros, recording a loss of -25.9% compared to 2020. As regards the denominations, remarkable results have been achieved by those belonging to Veneto, Piedmont and Tuscany. In particular, the result achieved by the Prosecco DOC denominations which, in 2021, has recorded for the first time the remarkable figure of 627.5 million bottles produced and – in particular – the 100 million bottles produced in the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore DOCG, of which 24% distributed in the Italian market and 30% in foreign markets. To these results must also be added the 21 million bottles of the Colli Asolani DOCG, for a total of about 750 million bottles produced for the three famous bubbles of Veneto.

Moreover, in Veneto is also recorded the excellent result achieved by Amarone della Valpolicella with over 15 million bottles sold and an increase of +30%, as well as the good result of Delle Venezie Pinot Grigio DOC, with over 300 million bottles produced and an increase of +6%. Very good results also for the two important DOCGs of Piedmont: Barolo records an increase of +22% – with a share of 82% represented by exports – while Barbaresco records a +17%, with a share of 65% for export. Furthermore, Asti DOCG returns to produce over 102 million bottles – of these, 90% destined to foreign markets – with a growth of +11%. In Tuscany is recorded the extraordinary results of Brunello di Montalcino which, in 2021, has sold more than 11 million bottles, with an increase of +27% compared to 2020. Excellent result also for Chianti Classico with an increase of +21% compared to 2020 and 35 million bottles produced, of which 80% destined to foreign markets.

Among other Italian wines, excellent results have been achieved by Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi – with an increase of +36.9% – Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Primitivo di Manduria and the wines belonging to Sicilia DOC. The good news about the extraordinary results achieved by Italian wine in 2021, as already mentioned, are overshadowed by the forecasts that are being made in recent months regarding 2022. The generalized trend of the increase in production costs, to which are also added the growth in inflation, the global and economic conditions of recent months, suggest the 2022 to be a difficult year for almost all the production sectors, including wine. To this, unfortunately, is also added the uncertainty caused by the

pandemic and, last but not least, the increase in energy and fuel costs, factors that – inevitably – will affect the final price. In short, if for 2021 there was a general enthusiasm for the entire wine sector, for 2022 the producers do not seem to be optimistic, imagining in any case a difficult year from an economic and market point of view. If everything was ready to celebrate the extraordinary success of Italian wine achieved in 2021, 2022 forces us to mitigate the enthusiasm. However, despite the premises of this year, let's take the good news with decided optimism for the magnificent result which is nevertheless certain. In any case, it is a wonderful opportunity to make a toast to this success, by uncorking a beautiful and good bottle of Italian wine. Long live the Italian wine!

*Antonello Biancalana*

#### WINE TASTING

## Contrasts of Etna Bianco and Offida Pecorino

The white wine of the famous Sicilian volcano compared with one of the most interesting white grapes of the province of Ascoli Piceno.

The sensorial and analytical tasting of wine allows, so to speak, to continuously travel around the world. What we pour into the glass, in fact, allows you to admire unique and rare views, in which the story of the land is alive, of the men and women who live there, through the character and personality of their wines. This journey is always made up of small and big stages, discovering totally different places even by moving for few kilometers. Differences becoming even more evident in case we travel for many kilometers. In these cases – in fact – the composition of the soils and, last but not least, the enological characteristics adopted in the production of wines, including the use of different varieties, bring very different wines to our glasses and in every sense, including the sensorial one. These differences, especially those concerning the composition of the soil, represent one of the key factors of this month's tasting by contrast.

In our glasses, in fact, we will compare a wine produced in the land of the famous Sicilian volcano – Etna – characterized by a volcanic soil, with the clayey one of the territory of Offida, in the province of Ascoli Piceno, Marche. The wines we are examining, in addition to the substantial differences in the environment and in the composition of the soil, are distinguished by the use of different grapes. Although the two wines are characterized by big differences, the factor of the soil composition nevertheless becomes interesting in the sensorial evaluation of the two wines. This month's tasting by contrast compares the white wines of two distant territories and produced with different grapes: Carricante, the dominant variety used for the production of Etna Bianco, and Pecorino for Offida. These are – as we will see shortly – grapes with very different organoleptic qualities, which wines, of course, are also

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

strongly determined, in their respective sensorial profiles, by the conditions of the soil and the environment.

## Etna Bianco

The wines produced in the area of the Etna volcano certainly represent one of the most successful enological stories of recent years in Sicily. This extraordinary result is undeniably the result of concomitant and unique factors which have made this territory among those of greatest interest in the Italian wine scene. Wines of extraordinary finesse and elegance, the vineyards of this territory – in the eastern part of Sicily, in the province of Catania – are cultivated with native varieties, in particular Carricante and Catarratto for white wines, Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio for red wines. It is a decidedly interesting combination, also thanks – and above all – to the environmental conditions of this area, as well as to the composition of the soil of volcanic origin, including grape varieties that here can express themselves at excellent levels. The wines of Etna, in fact, are characterized by absolutely unique finesse and elegance, with a personality in which emerges a crispness of absolute class, both in whites and reds.

As for white wines – that is, the style we are examining in this month’s tasting by contrast – the production disciplinary provides for the use of Carricante grape, for a minimum of 60%, and Catarratto Comune or *Lucido* for a maximum of 40%. Optionally, can also be used white grapes permitted for cultivation in Sicily. Although the disciplinary of this DOC area provides – for its white wines – the use of different varieties, the majority of producers choose to use Carricante only. It is, in fact, the autochthonous variety that is typically and historically found in this territory, in particular, in the high altitudes of the Etna volcano. Grape capable of abundant production, takes its name from the Sicilian dialect expression “*u carricanti*”, that is a variety capable of “filling up carts” with its abundant grapes. The cultivation is done according to the traditional *alberello* system – widespread in Sicily – and, thanks to the altitude of the vineyards, the effect of the sea breeze and the volcanic soil of Etna, the wines are characterized by vibrant crispness and aromas of remarkable finesse.

## Offida Pecorino

Offida is one of the most interesting wine-growing areas in the Marche, becoming – in recent years – one of the most successful wine territories in the region. Land of white and red wines, Offida is today recognized as a territory with a *Denominazione d’Origine Controllata e Garantita* (Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin, DOCG) and its wines are exclusively produced with the grapes traditionally found in these lands. For the production of the Offida Rosso (red), in fact, the dominant variety is Montepulciano, whereas for white, sparkling and vin santo wines, the production provides for the use of the historic Pecorino and Passerina varieties. It must be said, in any case, the minimum quota of these varieties provided for the production of these wines is 85%, while the remainder can be represented by varieties permitted to cultivation in the Marche region. The denomination spreads in the provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo, bordering the Adriatic

Sea. The wines of this territory are distinguished – compared to wines produced with the same grapes in other territories – for a particular personality and finesse, qualities given not only by the grape varieties used, but also by the specific characteristics of the territory as well as the influence of the maritime climate.

Of the wines belonging to the *Denominazione d’Origine Controllata e Garantita* Offida, for our tasting we take into consideration the one produced with Pecorino, the magnificent glory of this land. For the sake of completeness, it should be noted Pecorino is also found in Abruzzo – used for the production of DOC wines – and, marginally, in Umbria, Lazio and other regions of central-southern Italy. The origin of the name of the grape is still today subject of doubts and suppositions. The hypotheses on the origin of the name “pecorino”, in fact, are still uncertain today. It should be noted *pecora* is Italian for sheep and *pecorino* is the cheese made from sheep milk, however it is – in any case – excluded the association with this cheese. Some associate it with sheep shepherds, alluding to the extreme humbleness and simplicity of its wines, others still to the fact the sheep, in fact, would be particularly fond of the sweet clusters of this grape. If the origin of the name still raises doubts, the quality of the wines produced with Pecorino grape, and in particular those from Offida, is instead absolute certainty.

## The Tasting

The wines we will pour into the glasses of our tasting by contrast are characterized – as usual – by enological and productive analogies, that is, by factors which can ensure the least possible interference due, for example, to the use of wooden containers. This premise is essential as both Etna Bianco and Offida Pecorino can be produced with the fermentation and aging in cask. We will therefore make sure the two bottles we are going to evaluate contain wines produced exclusively by fermentation and aging in inert containers, preferably the steel tank. Furthermore, we will pay attention to the composition of the two wines, as the respective production disciplinary allow the use of many varieties. For this reason, we will make sure Etna Bianco is exclusively produced with Carricante and



The color of Etna Bianco

Offida Pecorino with the homonymous variety only. As far as the vintage is concerned, we will examine wines produced in the most recent harvest. Etna Bianco and Offida Pecorino are poured into their respective tasting glasses at a temperature of 10 °C. (50 °F)

Let's pour the two wines into the glasses and start this month's tasting by contrast. The first wine we take into consideration is Etna Bianco, therefore – by tilting the glass over a white surface – we observe the base in order to evaluate the color and transparency. Etna Bianco is often characterized by an intense and brilliant straw yellow color; by placing an object in contrast between the glass and the white surface, we can detect a high transparency. The nuance of the Sicilian white – still observed by holding the glass tilted over the white surface, towards the opening – reveals and confirms a straw yellow color, frequently tending to greenish yellow. Let's move on to the evaluation of the appearance of Offida Pecorino and, by tilting the glass over the white surface, let's observe the base. The white of the Marches appears to our eyes with a brilliant straw yellow color, sometimes with greenish hues. Transparency, also in this case, is very high. The nuance of Offida Bianco, observed at the edge of the wine, towards the opening of the glass, shows a greenish yellow color.

The aromas of Etna Bianco are mainly characterized by the profile of its dominant variety – Carricante – in addition to the particular composition of the volcanic soil in which the vineyards are grown. This characteristic, which is fundamental for all the varieties, particularly distinguishes the wines produced with Carricante in the territory of the Etna volcano. To the nose are perceived extremely fine and pleasing fruity and floral sensations, in both cases of fresh fruit and flowers, never ripe, and decidedly elegant. Among the primary perceptions in Carricante wines produced in the Etna area, we have sensations of peach, citrus, pear and apple, sometimes followed by a touch of anise. As far as flowers are concerned, in Carricante wines are mainly found aromas of broom, orange blossom and hawthorn. Moreover, Etna wines offer the senses a pleasing mineral sensation. No less elegant and refined, Offida Pecorino is characterized by aromas of white and yellow pulp fruits, in particular apple, pear, peach, citrus and plum. The world of flowers is well represented by hawthorn and broom, including aromatic herbs, in particular mint, thyme and anise. In Offida Pecorino wine can also be perceived aromas of medlar, pineapple and hazelnut.

Let's resume our tasting by contrast and proceed with the analysis of the olfactory profiles of Etna Bianco and Offida Pecorino. As in the previous phase, the first wine we examine is the Sicilian one. By holding the glass in vertical position, without swirling, let's do the first smell in order to appreciate the opening of the wine, that is the identifying aromas. From the glass emerge – intense and clean – aromas of apple, citrus and hawthorn, often followed by the aroma of orange blossom. Let's now swirl the glass – an operation favoring the development of the remaining aromas – and let's do the second smell. The olfactory profile of Etna Bianco is completed with pear, plum, peach, citron, broom, sometimes followed by the scent of anise and a marked minerality. Let's now pass to the olfactory evaluation of the Offida Pecorino and, by holding the glass in vertical position, without swirling it, let's proceed with the first smell in order to evaluate the opening of the wine. From

the glass, we can perceive intense and clean aromas of apple, pear, plum and hawthorn. Let's now swirl the glass, therefore favoring the development of the wine's aromas, and let's do a new smell. The olfactory profile of Offida Pecorino is completed with peach, broom, pineapple, medlar, hazelnut and citrus fruits, also in this case, frequently followed by the scent of anise.

Let's move on to the gustatory evaluation of the two wines, proceeding with the analysis of Etna Bianco. Let's take a sip of the Sicilian wine in order to evaluate its attack, that is, the initial and primary sensations perceived in the mouth. The Sicilian wine expresses a pleasing crispness followed by a proper sensation of roundness given by alcohol, expressing a perfect balance. The flavors of apple, plum and citron are clearly perceived, as well as a pleasing hint of minerality followed by the flavor of anise. It should also be noticed the good structure of the wine, while expressing decidedly high characters of fineness and elegance. Let's now pass to the evaluation of Offida Pecorino's attack and take a sip of the wine from Marches. In the mouth can be perceived the clear crispness given by acidity, promptly balanced by the round effect of alcohol, extremely pleasing. The structure of the wine is very good, often fuller than the Sicilian wine. In the mouth can be clearly perceived the flavors of apple, plum, pear and a pleasing hint of hazelnut and peach, often followed by the flavor of anise.

Let's conclude this month's tasting by contrast with the evaluation of the final sensations Etna Bianco and Offida Pecorino leave in the mouth after swallowing. In particular, we focus on taste-olfactory persistence, one of the most important factors of the quality in a wine. The first wine of which we evaluate the finish, as in the previous phases, is Etna Bianco. The finish of the Sicilian wine is persistent and in the mouth can be clearly perceived the elegant crispness of acidity, well supported by the roundness of alcohol. Moreover, we can continue to perceive the flavors of apple, plum, citron and pear, with pleasing hints of minerality. The finish of the Offida Pecorino is equally persistent – in both wines is perceptible for over ten seconds – and in the mouth can be clearly perceived the sensation of crispness given by acidity, as well as the roundness of alcohol. The perception of the structure is also very evident, generally more intense than Etna Bianco. In the mouth, moreover, are still perceived the flavors of apple, plum, pear, peach and hazelnut.



# Wines of the Month

### Score legend

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

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



## Oltrepo Pavese Metodo Classico Dosaggio Zero Vergomberra 2017 Bruno Verdi (Lombardy, Italy)

- 🍷 Pinot Nero (85%), Chardonnay (15%)

Price: € 25.00

Score ◇◇◇◇★

- 👁️ Brilliant straw yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.
- 🌿 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, plum and bread crust followed by aromas of hawthorn, acacia, grapefruit, pear, bergamot, banana, cocoa butter, praline, linden, honey and almond.
- 👄 Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.
- 🍷 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, plum and grapefruit.
- 📅 The base wine ages for 6 months in barrique. Refermented in bottle and aged on its lees for 40 months.
- 🍴 *Pasta with mushrooms, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Mushroom soups*



## Oltrepo Pavese Rosso Riserva Cavariola 2018 Bruno Verdi (Lombardy, Italy)

- 🍷 Croatina (55%), Barbera (25%), Uva Rara (10%), Ughetta di Canneto (10%)

Price: € 30.00

Score ◇◇◇◇★

- 👁️ Deep ruby red and nuances of ruby red, little transparency.
- 🌿 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of black cherry, plum and blackberry followed by aromas of violet, blueberry, raspberry, cocoa, tobacco, cinnamon, mace, vanilla and menthol.
- 👄 Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.
- 🍷 Persistent finish with flavors of black cherry, plum and blackberry.
- 📅 20 months in barrique, 8 months in cement tanks, at least 10 months in bottle.
- 🍴 *Roasted meat, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Broiled meat and barbecue, Cheese*



## Castelli di Jesi Verdicchio Riserva Serra Fiorese 2017 Garofoli (Marches, Italy)

- 🍷 Verdicchio

Price: € 18.00

Score ◇◇◇◇◇

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

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of plum, apple and hawthorn followed by aromas of broom, peach, pear, quince, grapefruit, pineapple, honey, anise, almond, flint and vanilla.

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

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

 12 months in barrique, 2 years in bottle.

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



**Conero Riserva Grosso Agontano 2018**  
Garofoli (Marches, Italy)

 Montepulciano

Price: € 22.00

Score     

 Deep ruby red and nuances of garnet red, little transparency.

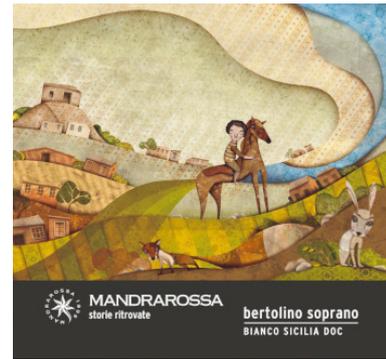
 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of black cherry, blackberry and plum followed by aromas of dried violet, blueberry, tobacco, face powder, chocolate, cinnamon, licorice, leather, vanilla and menthol.

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

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

 18 months in barrique, at least 24 months in bottle.

 *Game, Roasted meat, Stewed and braised meat, Hard cheese*



**Sicilia Bianco Mandrarossa Bertolino Soprano 2018**  
Cantine Settesoli (Sicily, Italy)

 Grillo

Price: € 16.50

Score     

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

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, medlar and peach followed by aromas of broom, hawthorn, citron, melon, pear, plum, honey, lavender, rosemary and mineral.

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

 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, peach and citron.

 One month in cement tanks, 11 months in cask.

 *Stuffed pasta with fish, Roasted fish, Legume soups, Roasted white meat*



**Sicilia Rosso Mandrarossa Terre del Sommacco 2017**  
Cantine Settesoli (Sicily, Italy)

 Nero d'Avola

Price: € 21.50

Score     

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

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of blackberry, black cherry and plum followed by aromas of dried violet, blueberry, tamarind, tobacco, carob, chocolate, mace, leather, vanilla and menthol.

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

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

 8 months in cement tanks, 19 months in cask, 8 months in bottle.

 *Roasted meat, Broiled meat and barbecue, Stewed meat with mushrooms, Cheese*



**Gavi Selezione 2020**  
**La Cedraia (Piedmont, Italy)**

 Cortese

Price: € 11.00

Score 

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

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

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

 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, plum and medlar.

 Aged in steel tanks.

 *Pasta with fish and vegetables, Sauteed fish, Sauteed white meat, Vegetable flans, Dairy products*



**Sicilia Rosso Mille e Una Notte 2018**  
**Donnafugata (Sicily, Italy)**

 Nero d'Avola, Petit Verdot, Syrah, Other Grapes

Price: € 61.50

Score 

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

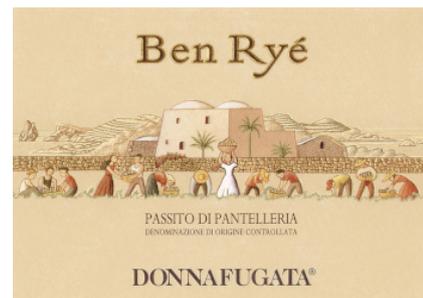
 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of plum, blackberry and black cherry followed by aromas of dried violet, blueberry, cocoa, tobacco, face powder, leather, mace, licorice, vanilla and eucalyptus.

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

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

 14 months in barrique, at least 24 months in bottle.

 *Game, Braised meat, Roasted meat, Cheese*



**Passito di Pantelleria Ben Ryé 2019**  
**Donnafugata (Sicily, Italy)**

 Moscato d'Alessandria

Price: € 56.00

Score 

 Intense amber yellow and nuances of amber yellow, transparent.

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of raisin, dried apricot and dried fig followed by aromas of date, candied fruit, peach jam, quince jam, citrus fruit peel, banana, lychee, lavender, honey, rosemary, linden and almond.

 Sweet and round attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness.

 Very persistent finish with long flavors of raisin, dried apricot and candied fruits.

 8 months in steel tanks, at least 12 months in bottle.

 *Dried fruit and jam tarts, Confectionery, Hard and piquant cheese*



**Barolo Bricat 2016**  
Manzone Giovanni (Piedmont, Italy)

 Nebbiolo

Price: € 55.00

Score 

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

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of cherry, plum and violet followed by aromas of rose, raspberry, strawberry, blueberry, tobacco, chocolate, cinnamon, leather, licorice, vanilla and menthol.

 Tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness.

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

 3 years in cask.

 *Game, Roasted meat, Stewed and braised meat, Hard cheese*



**Barolo Riserva Gramolere 2013**  
Manzone Giovanni (Piedmont, Italy)

 Nebbiolo

Price: € 80.00

Score 

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

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of cherry, plum and dried violet followed by aromas of dried rose, raspberry, strawberry, blueberry, cocoa, tobacco, leather, licorice, cinnamon, cinchona, mace, thyme, vanilla and menthol.

 Tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing crispness.

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

 5 years in cask.

 *Game, Stewed and braised meat, Roasted meat, Hard cheese*

EVENTS

## News

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



NOT JUST WINE

## Aquavitae

Review of Grappa, Distillates and Brandy



### Grappa Bianca Quaranta Fratelli Brunello (Veneto)

 Pomace of Friulano, Prosecco and Garganega

Price: € 26.00 - 70cl

Score 

 Limpid, colorless and crystalline.

 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined with aromas of pear, apple, linden, broom and peach with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency.

 Intense flavors with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, balanced sweetness, pleasing roundness.

 Persistent finish with flavors of pear, apple and peach.

 Distilled in steam operated batch alembic.

## Wine Guide Parade

December 2021

The best 15 wines reviewed in our Guide and voted by DiWineTaste readers

Rank	Wine, Producer	Votes
1	Addamanera 2020, Poggio di Bortolone	13191
2	Vittoria Frappato 2020, Poggio di Bortolone	12051
3	Oltrepo Pavese Barbera Malgheria 2019, La Sbercia	11930
4	Oltrepo Pavese Cabernet Sauvignon I Ginepri 2019, La Sbercia	11336
5	Donna Rosa 2020, Fattoria San Francesco	10665
6	Sicilia Rosato Rosachiana 2020, Poggio di Bortolone	10532
7	Armuar 2014, La Sbercia	10277
8	Petitverdò 2019, Poggio di Bortolone	10218
9	Bonarda dell'Oltrepo Pavese Perafogalia 2020, La Sbercia	9819
10	Piemonte Albarossa del Marusè 2019, Poggio Ridente	9561
11	Pinot Nero dell'Oltrepo Pavese Lagàs 2019, La Sbercia	9057
12	Barbera d'Asti Vallia 2020, Poggio Ridente	8902
13	Villaroja 2019, Fattoria San Francesco	8730
14	Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico Poggio di Bortolone 2018, Poggio di Bortolone	8635
15	Lumare 2020, Tenuta Iuzzolini	8634