

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYINGGUIDE**

APRIL 2021

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Harvest worker holding
Malbec grapes

ALAMY

FOR ADDITIONAL RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT WINEMAG.COM/RATINGS

perlage. Lively acidity keeps it bright and balanced. Roust. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

TUSCANY

CHIANTI RUFINA

96 **Selvapiana 2016 Vigneto Bucerchiale Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** Loaded with personality, this opens with aromas of forest floor, new leather, camphor and ripe black-skinned fruit. The palate boasts an earthy elegance reminiscent of top Burgundies, showcasing ripe black cherry, crushed raspberry, truffle, star anise and a hint of salted game. Firm, fine-grained tannins provide support while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2022–2036. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

91 **Marchesi de' Frescobaldi 2017 Nipozzano Vecchie Viti Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** Underbrush, camphor, coffee bean and cassis aromas follow on to the elegantly structured palate, along with hints of orange zest and star anise. Taut, fine-grained tannins provide lithe support. Drink 2022–2027. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

91 **Selvapiana 2018 Chianti Rufina.** Fragrant and loaded with finesse, this vibrant red has aromas of violet, wild berry, camphor and new leather. It's radiant and racy, offering juicy cranberry, orange zest, star anise and crushed mint before closing on a hint of rusty nail. Lithe, polished tannins and vibrant acidity provide the setting. Drink through 2023. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

90 **Frescobaldi 2017 Nipozzano Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% Price: \$20

90 **Grignano 2018 Ritratto del Cardinale (Chianti Rufina).** Made with organically farmed grapes, 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, this vibrant young red has aromas of wild berry, rose, tilled earth and camphor. Bright and savory, the bright palate features red cherry, pomegranate and star anise framed in easygoing, lithe tannins. It's made to for sheer drinking pleasure so enjoy soon. Montcalm Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

87 **Grignano 2018 Chianti Rufina.** Made with organically farmed grapes, this bright red has aromas of forest berry, violet and a whiff of moist earth. The somewhat lean palate offers sour cherry, orange rind and hints of dark spice alongside taut, drying tannins. Zesty acidity keeps it lively. Montcalm Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$10

COLLI DELLA TOSCANA CENTRALE

96 **Fontodi 2017 Flaccianello della Pieve (Colli della Toscana Centrale).** Aromas of baked plum, blue flower, French oak and camphor are front and center on this bold, full-bodied red. Made entirely with organically grown Sangiovese, the delicious palate boasts concentration and a weightless elegance, doling out layers of ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, licorice, cocoa and carob framed in tightly wound, close-grained tannins. Give it a few more years to fully develop. Drink 2023–2037. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

94 **Casa Emma 2018 Harenae (Colli della Toscana Centrale).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% Price: \$30

COSTA TOSCANA

92 **I Giusti e Zanza 2018 Dulcamara (Costa Toscana).** Made with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and Petit Verdot, this has aromas recalling ripe black-skinned berry, menthol and dark spice. The concentrated, velvety palate offers cassis, dried cherry and licorice alongside close-grained, enveloping tannins. Drink 2022–2028. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

92 **Tenuta di Ghizzano 2018 Il Ghizzano (Costa Toscana).** Made with organically farmed Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, iris and underbrush. The juicy palate offers raspberry, red cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. Enjoy through 2026. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 **I Giusti e Zanza 2019 Belcore (Costa Toscana).** Earthy aromas of underbrush, leather and blue flower mingle with grilled herb on this 80% Sangiovese and Merlot blend. Spicy and savory, the linear palate delivers juicy Marasca cherry, star anise and hints of game alongside taut, polished tannins. Tangy acidity keeps it fresh and balanced. Drink 2023–2029. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

90 **I Giusti e Zanza 2019 Nemorino (Costa Toscana).** A blend of 60% Syrah, 20% Sangiovese and Merlot, this light-bodied red has aromas of black-skinned berry, blue flower and cooking spice. Reflecting the nose, the lithe palate doles out juicy Marasca cherry and cooking spice alongside fine-grained tannins that leave a somewhat drying finish. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

89 **Tenuta di Ghizzano 2017 Nambrot (Costa Toscana).** A blend of organically farmed

Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this opens with aromas of cedar, black-skinned berry and mocha. The firm palate offers blackberry jam, tobacco, toasted oak and powdered sage alongside assertive, rather drying tannins that grip the finish. Drink through 2026. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

96 **Contucci 2016 Mulinvecchio (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% Price: \$55

96 **Contucci 2016 Pietra Rossa (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Truffle, rose, new leather and menthol aromas shape the enticing nose along with scents of forest berry. Delicious and loaded with finesse, the smooth, taut palate delivers succulent red cherry, crushed strawberry, star anise and baking spice while firm, refined tannins provide noble support. It's well balanced, with fresh acidity. Drink 2024–2036. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$49

95 **Dei 2016 Madonna delle Querce (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Classic Sangiovese aromas of wild berry, blue flower, new leather and dark spice mingle together on this full-bodied red. Smooth and concentrated, it also boasts an almost weightless elegance, delivering succulent black cherry, licorice and menthol framed in tightly knit fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2022–2031. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$120

95 **Salcheto 2017 Vecchie Viti Salco (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Another stellar performance from this sustainable estate, this 100% Sangiovese made from organically farmed grapes is smooth and delicious. Opening with aromas of mature black-skinned fruit, violet and dark spice, the velvety, medium-bodied expands into juicy Morello cherry, ripe plum and licorice before closing on a tobacco note. Taut, fine-grained tannins provide elegant support. Drink through 2027. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$85

94 **Boscarelli 2017 Costa Grande (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Menthol, ripe black-skinned berry, iris and oak-driven spice aromas take shape in the glass. The full-bodied, elegantly structured palate showcases ripe Morello cherry, orange zest and licorice before closing on a note of roasted coffee bean. Tightly knit, fine-grained tannins provide firm support while surprisingly fresh acidity for the hot vintage keeps it balanced. Drink 2023–2029. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

forward palate recalls prune, star anise and vanilla alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. Conexport Italy. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

88 **Vignaioli del Morellino di Scansano 2015 Poco per Pochi (Toscana).** Made with Sangiovese, Cilieggiolo, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this has aromas of sage, toasted oak and cooking spice. The straightforward, concentrated palate shows blackberry jam, mocha and toasted hazelnut alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2026. Conexport Italy. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

87 **Bonacchi 2018 Badesco (Toscana).** A blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with roasted coffee bean, coconut and baking-spice aromas. The straightforward palate offers prune, clove and espresso alongside dusty tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

86 **Bonacchi 2018 Borghetto (Toscana).** Made with Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this has aromas recalling damp soil, leather and clove. The simple palate offers red plum, vanilla and caramel alongside pliant tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

OTHER RED WINES

92 **Selvapiana 2017 Villa Petrognano (Pomino).** Fragrant and refined, this opens with enticing scents of rose, violet, sandalwood and forest floor. All about finesse, the elegantly structured palate delivers ripe Marasca cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and ground cinnamon set against firm, fine-grained tannins. It's well balanced, with fresh acidity. Drink 2023–2029. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

88 **Frescobaldi 2019 Castiglioni (Chianti).** A blend of Sangiovese and 10% Merlot, this has pretty aromas of woodland berry, blue flower and baking spice. Fresh and savory, the easygoing palate delivers juicy black cherry, cocoa and star anise framed in supple tannins. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

OTHER ITALY

VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI CLASSICO SUPERIORE

91 **Umani Ronchi 2018 Casal di Serra Bio (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore).** Aromas of botanical herb, white stone fruit and almond carry on to the savory palate along with peach and a hint of lemon drop. It closes on a hint

of saline while tangy acidity keeps it fresh and juicy. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

91 **Umani Ronchi 2018 Vecchie Vigne (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore).** Made with organically farmed, old vines and aged in concrete, this medium-bodied white has delicate aromas of white stone fruit, Spanish broom and a whiff of hazelnut. Reflecting the nose, the rounded palate offers ripe yellow pear, lemon drop and honeyed almond alongside bright, tangy acidity. A hint of saline lingers on the close. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI

89 **Umani Ronchi 2017 Plenio Riserva (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi).** This has delicate aromas suggesting chamomile, honey and balsamic aromas of eucalyptus. The aromas carry over to the rounded palate along with ripe yellow pear and toasted almond before a hint of saline marks the close. It has an almost glycerine like texture. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

88 **Umani Ronchi 2019 Villa Bianchi (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi).** Tangy and fresh, this offers aromas of fragrant spring flower, tropical fruit and citrus. On the tangy palate, crisp acidity accompanies juicy pineapple, grapefruit and a hints of peach. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

BARBERA D'ALBA

90 **Anselma Giacomo 2018 Barbera d'Alba.** Earthy and savory, this juicy red opens with aromas of ripe Marasca cherry, truffle, tilled earth and blue flower. The smooth, succulent palate doles out ripe red cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and white pepper framed in supple tannins. Drink through 2022. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

89 **Ettore Germano 2017 della Madre (Barbera d'Alba).** Ripe and concentrated, this has a subtle nose that eventually reveals mature black-skinned fruit, toasted nut and cooking-spice aromas. On the densely concentrated palate, polished tannins gently support fleshy black cherry, ripe plum and white pepper. Sussex Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

BAROLO

93 **Mirafiore 2016 Barolo.** Delicate aromas of forest berry, new leather, violet and camphor waft out of the glass. Elegantly structured, the savory palate doles out strawberry compote, crushed raspberry and star anise alongside bright acidity. It's full bodied but the lithe tannins and the

freshness give it an almost weightless feel. Drink through 2026. Trinity Beverage Group. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$47

91 **Fontanafredda 2016 Barolo.** Aromas of red woodland berry, menthol, rose and an earthy whiff of tilled soil are front and center on this lovely red. The vibrant, elegant palate doles out strawberry compote, star anise and baking spice, alongside taut, polished tannins. It's already going down easily but will offer several years or more of sheer drinking pleasure. Enjoy through 2026. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$47

DOLCETTO D'ALBA

90 **Sandrone 2018 Dolcetto d'Alba.** Savory and elegant, this lithe red has inviting aromas of crushed berry, violet, star anise and botanical herb. The linear, juicy palate delivers Morello cherry, star anise and a hint of bitter almond alongside graceful tannins and bright acidity. Drink through 2022. Vintus LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

LANGHE

92 **Cascina delle Rose 2019 Langhe.** All about fragrance and finesse, this radiant red opens with enticing scents of perfumed berry, menthol, rose petal and a hint of dried aromatic herb. Vinified only in steel, it's precise, pristine and delicious, delivering strawberry compote, white pepper and star anise alongside polished tannins. Bright acidity keeps it fresh and focused. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

88 **Ettore Germano 2019 Langhe.** Bright and savory, this shows Nebbiolo's playful side, offering aromas and flavors of juicy red cherry, botanical herb, menthol and star anise. Bright acidity and lithe tannins keep it fresh and easygoing. Drink through 2022. Sussex Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

SPARKLING WINES

92 **Travaglini 2015 Metodo Classico Nebolè Dosaggio Zero (Vino Spumante).** Made entirely with Nebbiolo, this vibrant sparkler offers inviting aromas of white stone fruit, chamomile and bread crust. On the bone-dry, savory palate, an elegant perlage accompanies pomegranate, Empire apple and baking-spice notes lifted by crisp acidity. A fennel note lingers on the close. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

91 **Colonnara 2013 Metodo Classico Ubaldo Rosi Brut (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi).** Aromas of