



WINE & SPIRITS

33RD ANNUAL BUYING GUIDE

100 Best Buys of 2019

ITALY SPARKLING

91 | Adriano Adami \$23
2017 Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Asciutto Rive di Colbertaldo Vigneto Giardino Abele Adami established his winery in 1920 with the purchase of the Giardino vineyard, and the family has been producing a single-vineyard Prosecco with fruit from its south-facing slope since 1933. Vigneto Giardino is made in the dry (*asciutto*) style, which, counterintuitively, means that it retains more sugar (19 to 21 grams per liter) than brut or extra dry Prosecco. That sweetness amplifies flavors of golden apple and white peach, their silkiness balanced by tangy citrus acidity. Perfect for Sunday brunch, it's also a bottle that will impress your guests on special occasions. (W&S 8/19) *Dalla Terra, Napa, CA* —S.J.

ITALY WHITE

CAMPANIA

93 | Vadiaperti \$22
2017 Irpinia Coda di Volpe Troisi makes this from vines aged 25 and 50 years, and vinifies it in stainless steel to give full expression to the fruit flavors. Light and refreshing, with notes of citrus and sage that pulse with cool salinity, it's a fantastic introduction to this variety and a great match for oysters. (W&S 6/19) *North Berkeley Imports, Berkeley, CA* —S.J.

FRIULI



92 | La Tunella \$30
2017 Friuli Colli Orientali Biancosesto

This wine brings together the floral and almond notes of friulano with the racy acidity and tangy citrus flavors of ribolla gialla. It's a lively, well-balanced blend with a cool and zesty feel, right up through the savory nut-skin finish. (W&S 10/19) *BEVA, Randolph, NJ* —S.J.

LE MARCHE

91 | La Staffa \$23
2018 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore This is a delicious introduction to the classic flavors of verdicchio. Brisk and floral, with mouthwatering notes of mandarin and golden apple, it stays vibrant through the saline-washed finish. (W&S 8/19) *Artisanal Cellars, White River Junction, VT* —S.J.

ITALY RED

PIEDMONT

93 | Guido Porro \$47
2013 Barolo Gianetto This is just the third release of Gianetto, from vines Guido Porro planted ten years ago. It's surprisingly open for a Barolo from Serralunga, bursting with flavors of fresh cherry, wild mint and sage that ride on silky tannins. Notes of violet and fresh-cut hay add to the appeal. Supremely drinkable now, this has an ample structure, with the vibrancy to cellar for at least five years. (W&S 12/18) *Kernit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA* —S.J.

91 | Produttori del Barbaresco \$28
2016 Langhe Nebbiolo This bottling is one of those sure bets to look for on glass lists, and it's livelier than ever in the 2016 vintage. You can almost taste fresh rose petals in this wine's high-toned florals, the result of a long, even growing season. Racy acidity enlivens the crunchy cherry flavors, and draws out notes of tobacco and cherry tomato. Serve it at cellar temperature to accentuate its exuberance. (W&S 12/18) *Vias Imports, NY* —S.J.

91 | Comm. G.B. Burlotto \$25
2017 Verduno Pelaverga Brisk notes of Alpine herbs and orange peel accent this wine's fresh cherry flavors. The sandy tannins and mouthwatering acidity give it a lithe frame, and a length that takes the wine into a savory, meaty finish. (W&S 12/18) *Bacchanal Imports, NY* —S.J.

90 | Paolo Scavino \$17
2017 Dolcetto d'Alba Vines more than 50 years old produce this dense, inky dolcetto. It tastes perfectly ripe, the berry flavors limned with notes of dark chocolate and freshly turned earth. It's a juicy, versatile wine for the table, and a tremendous bargain. (W&S 12/18) *Skurnik Wines & Spirits, NY* —S.J.

SICILY

91 | Murgò \$18
2017 Etna Rosso This buoyant wine is a fantastic introduction to Etna Rosso, at a bargain price. It's succulent with flavors of plum and summer strawberry, energized by lively acidity and framed by fine mineral tannins. It drinks almost like a full-bodied rosé, with a translucent ruby color to match. Serve it with a light chill to accentuate the vivid red fruit. (W&S 6/19) *North Berkeley Imports, Berkeley, CA* —S.J.

TUSCANY

92 | Fèlsina \$33
2015 Chianti Classico Riserva Berardenga This riserva shows the dark fruit and powerful tannins characteristic of Chianti Classico's southern Castelnuovo Berardenga zone. Its plump black-cherry flavors mingle with notes of grilled fennel and roasted mushrooms, wild herbs and dark spices. A streak of graphite brightens the finish. (W&S 4/19) *Polaner Selections, Mount Kisco, NY* —S.J.

VENETO



92 | Tenuta Sant'Antonio \$45
2015 Amarone della Valpolicella Selezione Antonio Castagnedi After deciding not to make any Amarone in the difficult 2014 vintage, the Castagnedi brothers must have been pleased with the quality in Selezione, their flagship 2015. The fruit comes from mature vines, and they pick it slightly early to emphasize freshness and to keep the alcohol level around 15 percent. Even so, it's a densely concentrated wine, loaded with notes of clove and vanilla picked up during two years in new French oak *tonneaux*. The spice notes give way to more savory tones as the wine opens, the flavors picking up energy as they expand across the palate. For all of its bold spiciness, it finishes dry and balanced. (W&S 2/19) *Dalla Terra, Napa, CA* —S.J.