

Bricco Manzoni Pie r ★★★ V successful blend of NEBBIOLO and BARBERA from Monforte d'Alba.

Bricco dell'Uccellone Pie r ★★★ Barrique-aged BARBERA from BRAIDA the estate of the late Giacomo Bologna. Bricco della Bigotta and Ai Suma are others.

Brindisi Ap DOC r ★★ Strong NEGROAMARO. Esp Vallone's Vigna Flaminia.

Brolio, Castello di ★★-★★★ After a sad period under foreign ownership, the RICASOLI family has taken this legendary estate in hand again. The results are heartening. Vg CHIANTI CLASSICO and VDT Castelferro (SANGIO).

Brunelli ★★-★★★ Vg quality of AMARONE and VALPOLICELLA (esp Pa' Riondo).

Brunello di Montalcino Tus DOCG r ★★★-★★★★ 88' 90' 91 93 95' (96) 97' 98 With BAROLO, Italy's most celebrated red: strong, full-bodied, high-flavoured, tannic and long-lived. 4 yrs' ageing; after 5 becomes RISERVA. Quality ever-improving. Montalcino is 25 miles S of Siena.

Bukkuram Si br ★★★ Celebrated MOSCATO DI PANTELELE from P...

Ca' del Bosco ★★★-★★★★ FRANCIACORTA estate; some of Italy's best sparklers (outstanding DOCG Annamaria Clementi ★★★★★), vg CHARD and excellent reds: a CAB blend (Maurizio Zanella), PINOT NERO (Pinero).

...sequently has been widely planted. But it is becoming clearer that Cabernet only ripens in particular areas and vintages sufficiently to lose its strident varietal character. Cabernet, therefore, can decisively alter the characteristic aroma and tannin structure of native Italian grape varieties in a blend. Some winemakers rejected it in favour of the less dominant Merlot. Others prefer to increase quality with a somewhat antiquated system – they simply reduce their yields!

Cacchiano, Castello di ★★★ First-rate CHIANTI CLASSICO estate at Gaiole, owned by RICASOLI cousins.

Cafaggio, Villa ★★-★★★ CHIANTI CLASSICO estate. Solid red VDT: Solatio Basilica.

Calatrasi Si ★★-★★★ Good producer of r and w VDT labels, esp Pelavet (★★★ CAB, Syrah, Nero d'Avola), d'Istinto (esp Syrah), Terre di Ginestra.

Caldaro (Lago di Caldaro) T-AA DOC r ★ DYA Alias KALTERERSEE. Light soft bitter-almond red from SCHIAVA grapes. From a huge area. CLASSICO from a smaller area is better.

Calò, Michele ★★★ Top producer of Salento wines; look for DOC ALEZIO ROSSO and vdt Vigna Spano.

Caluso Passito Pie DOC w sw (fz) ★★ Made from Erbaluce grapes; delicate scent, velvety taste. Tiny production. Best from Bianco, Ferrando.

Candido, F ★★★ Top grower of Salento, APULIA; gd reds: Duca d'Aragona, Cappello i Prete, SALICE SALENTINO; also vg dessert wine: ALEATICO DI PUGLIA.

Canevel ★★-★★★ Vg producer of PROSECCO DI CONEGLIANO-VALDOBBIADENE.

Cannonau di Sardegna Sar DOC r (p) dr s/sw ★★ 94 95 96 97 98 Cannonau (Grenache) is S's basic red grape. Ranges from v potent to fine and mellow; Arcadu Tonino, CS di Jerzu, Giuseppe Gabbas, Loi, Gigi Picciau, SELLA & MOSCA.

Cantalupo, Antichi Vigneti di ★★-★★★ Top GHEMME wines – esp single-v'd Breclamae and Carellae.

Cantina Cellar or winery.

Cantina Sociale (CS) Growers' coop.

Capannelle ★★★ Good producer of VDT (formerly CHIANTI CLASSICO), nr Gaiole.

Caparzo, Tenuta ★★★ MONTALCINO estate. Excellent BRUNELLO La Casa; also vg ROSSO DI M (esp La Caduta), red blend Ca' del Pazzo and white blend Le Grance.

110

Fontana Candida ★-★★ One of the biggest producers of FRASCATI. Single-v'd Santa Teresa stands out. See also GIV.

Fontanafredda ★★-★★★ Big historic producer of PIEDMONT wines on former royal estates, incl BAROLO from single v'ys and a range of ALBA DOCS. Also very good DOCG ASTI and SPUMANTE Brut (esp ★★★ Vigna Gattinera).

Fonterutoli ★★★ Historic CHIANTI CLASSICO estate of the Mazzei family at Castellina. Noted VDT Concerto while splendid RISERVA Ser Lapo now replaced by new RISERVA 'Castello di Fonterutoli' (dark, oaky, fashionable Chianti).

Fontodi ★★★ Top Panzano CHIANTI CLASSICO esp Chianti and RISERVA, esp Vigna del Sorbo; also red VDT Flaccianello (SANGIO), vg VDT Case Via (Syrah).

Foradori ★★★ Elizabetta F makes very best TEROLDEGO (Morei, Sgarzon). Also oak-aged Teroldego Granato, vg CHARD.

Franciacorta Lom DOCG w (p) sp ★★-★★★★ Small sp wine centre fast growing in quality and renown. Wines exclusively bottle-fermented. Top producers: BELLAVISTA, CA' DEL BOSCO, Castelveder, CAVALLERI, Faccoli, Gatti, Guarischi, Lo Sparviere, UBERTI, Villa; also vg: Contadi Gastaldi, Cornaletto, Ferghettina, Il Mosnel, Monte Rossa, Castellino-Bonomi. For w and r, see Terre di Franciacorta.

... sweet is known as Cannellino. The best place to drink it is from the jug in a trattoria in Trastevere, Rome.

Freisa Pie r dr s/sw sw (sp) ★★ DYA Usually v dry (except nr Turin), often FRIZZANTE red, said to taste of raspberries and roses. With enough acidity it can be highly appetizing, esp with salami. Gd wines from CIGLIUTI, CONTERNO, Cozzo, Gilli, PARUSSO, Pecchenino, Pelissero, Sebaste, Trinchero, VAIRA and VOERZIO.

Frescobaldi ★★-★★★ Ancient noble family, leading CHIANTI pioneers at NPOZZANO, E of Florence. Also white POMINO and PREDICATO SALV BL (Vergena) and CAB (Mormoreto). See also Montesodi. Also owns Castelfiocondo (★★★), a big estate for BRUNELLO DI M and vg VDT MERLOT Lamaione. From '97: joint TUSCAN venture with Mondavi of California nr MONTALCINO producing LUCE.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia The NE region on the Slovenian border. Many wines; the DOCS COLLIO and COLLI ORIENTALI include most of the best.

Friuli vintages

- 1998** Very hot summer; good whites, but then September rains damaged reds, esp Cabernets.
- 1997** Long, warm and dry autumn; results not as homogenous as in other regions; good whites and possibly superb reds.
- 1996** Rains from mid-August to mid-October. Whites have surprising body and aroma; reds: not bad.
- 1995** Promising year, then heavy rains in August and September. Light whites, better reds.
- 1994** Wet spring and September, hot between. Whites can lack acidity; reds better.

Frizzante (fz) Semi-sparkling. Used to describe wines such as LAMBRUSCO.

Gaja ★★★★★ Old family firm at BARBARESCO under meteoric direction of Angelo G. Top-quality – and price – wines, esp BARBARESCO (single v'ys SORI Tildin, Sori San Lorenzo, Costa Russi), BAROLO Sperss. Also sets trends with excellent CHARD (Gaia & Rey), CAB DARMAGI. Latest acquisition: Marengo-Marenda estate (BAROLO), commercial Gromis label, PIEVE DI SANTA RESTITUTA (BRUNELLO) and recently planted new v'd at BOLGHERI.

116

