

Wine from Italy.

Italy is one of the biggest wine producers in the world; it has experienced a dramatic rebirth in its winemaking since the ninety's. There are a wide variety of wines made here, from the enigmatic and expensive "Super Tuscan" to a whole variety of respectable Table Wines. With over 800 grapes varieties and appealing, meaningless classification system and gallons of poor wine to avoid, but wait, there hundreds of awesome wines to find.

North West

Piedmont is the most important region in this part of Italy, near Alba, where the famous Barolo is made from Nebbiolo grape variety, Barbaresco is made in a similar way to Barolo but is usually less tannic. Nebbiolo has an in built tannic and acidity factor and rich in fruit, they can be enjoyed from 5 to 20 years. The other wines made in Piedmont are Barbera and Dolcetto. For the white wines, Gavi made from Cortese grape is a restaurant favourite, in account of its fine acidity and honeyed citrus palate. Arneis a rich flavoured zesty wine is comparable to Chablis. And then Moscato d'Asti made of Moscato grapes is a refreshing sparkler. Near Lake Garda, the finest white is Lugana made from Trebbiano.

North East

Most vines planted here which stretched north to south between Bolzano and Verona are planted on mountain side, where some of the purest varietals' of vines in the world are found.

White grapes include: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Bianco, Gewurstraminer, Muscat, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc.

Red grapes include: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Pinot Nero.

Most style drink well young. In the region of Veneto, the two famous wines are Soave and Valpolicella, the Recioto style has a sweet taste and the Amarone has a very Rich, almost fruity flavour and can keep up to 20 years.

Central East

There are four region on this stretched of eastern Mediterranean coastline. From North to South, Emilia Romagna producing Lambrusco and Sangiovese Di Romagna. The region of Marche is where Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi is made, this is the Italian answer to Muscadet. Abruzzo is the next region leading south where only two wines are truly worthy, Montepulciano D'Abruzzo (red) and Trebbiano D'Abruzzo(white).

Central West

This is home to Tuscany, this historic land is Sangiovese country and home to a large number of Italy's best red wine like Chianty, Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and Carmignano. To create sthe so called "Super Tuscan", a group of Ambitious Italian Wine producer from Tuscany promoted a new type of wine who would improve the region's reputation, they aimed to make wine with international appeal, that is why they decided not only to use the native grape of Tuscany " Sangiovese" but also grapes varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Super Tuscan, as the name suggest are big ,bold wine, there are expensive. On the white wine side, Vernaccia di San Giomignano is the finest of the local white wine. Trebbiano can produce some fairly ordinary wines, although Pormino, Pinot Bianco and Chardonnay from Frescobaldi is often well made. Vinsanto is the heavenly pudding wine made from drying Trebbiano and Molvasia grapes The taste is between a fino Sherry and Sauternes. On the South of Rome, on the region of Lazio, This is where Frascati is made from Trebbiano, Malvasia and a small percentage of Viognier.

Sicily

Is home to the fortified Marsala.

Sardinia

Here, Rhone varieties are very important.

My Wine recommendation,

1. Farnito, Cabernet Sauvignon, Toscana 2001, £14.50
sales@hollgarten.co.uk
2. Serra Fiorese Verdicchio Dei Castelli Di Jesi 2001
DOC classico superiore 2002
sales@hollgarten.co.uk
3. Trebbiano d'Abbruzzo "semivicoli" 2004 £12.75
fredfeyley@btconnect.com
- 4..Proseco di Conegliano Valdobriadene Spumante
fredfeyley@btconnect.com

Ciao,

Xavier Le Bellego,
FORBURYS RESTAURANT
www.forburys.com