

Italian sparkling wines

Prosecco - Valdobbiadene
Minoetto Prosecco "Secolo Novo" | Minoetto 45

Prosecco – Modena „Rosa“
Lambrusco di Modena „Amabile“ | CIV ⊕ CIV 55

Prosecco - Veneto
Prosecco "Il" 45

Franciacorta

Area located northwest of the city of Brescia in the eastern part of Italy's lombardy region. Although it produces a highly regarded white still wine from Pinot Bianco and Chardonnay and a reasonably good red wine, it's the Franciacorta spumante that is widely acclaimed. Both the bianco and rosato sparkling wines are made via méthode champenoise.

French sparkling wines

Chardonnay - Pinot Noir
Champagne
Brut "Prestige Rosé" | Taittinger 150

Chardonnay - Pinot Noir - Pinot Meunier
Champagne
Brut "Préludé" | Taittinger 120
Brut "Cordon Bleu" | de Venoge 110

Pinot Noir - Chardonnay - Pinot Meunier
Champagne
Brut | Veuve Cliquot 120
Dom Pérignon | Moët ⊕ Chandon 350
Brut Rosé | Krug 450

Bruno Paillard

Krug

One of the great names in champagne, Krug is located in Reims in the northern part of the Champagne district. Although owned by Remy Martin of cognac fame, this champagne house is small (producing about 1/2 million bottles per year) and family-run. Krug simply doesn't sell inexpensive wines-its Grand Cuvée is a non-vintage (Krug calls it multivintage) champagne, made by blending wines from seven to ten different vintages. It's equivalent to most champagne houses' cuvée de prestige (see champagne). Krug also makes a small quantity of vintage wine, a rosé, and a single-vineyard, vintage champagne called Clos de Mesnil. Bruno Paillard was born in Reims in 1953 and is from an old established family of Champagne "vignerons" and brokers. He himself started as a champagne broker in 1975 and does still continue this activity, although he has created his own champagne house in the meantime (1981). The house of Bruno Paillard is the youngest and one of the smallest champagne houses.

Italian white wines

Italy

Italy is the world's largest wine producer, with production just under 25 percent of the world's total. It's also the greatest wine consumer, although second to France in per capita consumption (Italy has a larger population). Italy's a land of vast geographic diversity ranging from its northern cool-temperature vineyards in the foothills of the Alps, to the hot southland. Italy's been making wine for at least 3,500 years in a variety of styles (dry to sweet, still to fully sparkling) and in a variety of ways, such as the passito method, from many grape varieties not widely grown outside of Italy. The Italian varieties used for red and rosé wines include Aglianico, Barbera, Bonarda, Canaiolo, Dolcetto, Freisa, Grignolino, Lagrein, Lambrusco, Montepulciano, Nebbiolo, Raboso, Refosco (Mondeuse), Sangiovese, Schiava, and Teroldego. Those used for white wines are Albana, Bombino Bianco, Cortese, Garganega, Greco, Malvasia, Moscato (Muscat), Picolit, Pigato, Prosecco, Tocai friulano, Trebbiano, Verdicchio, Verduzzo, Vernaccia di Oristano, and Vernaccia di San Gimignano. Other European (primarily French and German) varieties grown here are Cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon, merlot, Pinot Nero (pinot noir), syrah, chardonnay, gewürztraminer, müller-thurgau, Pinot Bianco (pinot blanc), Pinot Grigio (Pinot Gris), Riesling Italico (Welschriesling), Riesling Renano (Riesling), Sauvignon Blanc, and Sylvaner. The Italians have implemented a system similar to France's for improving the quality of their wines. At the lowest level of this quality ranking are the vino da tavola wines, followed by IGT (indicazione geografica tipica) and then by the denominazione di origine controllata (doc), which is similar to the French appellation d'origine contrôlée. Parameters for the Italian DOC, however, weren't considered strict enough so another higher level, denominazione di origine controllata etit (d) DOCG garantita (docg) was added. status, which requires stricter rules and controls, Italy has twenty large growing regions, the boundaries of which define the area geographically, not by any common wine style, grape variety, or climate. Of these twenty regions, the four largest volume producers are Puglia, Sicily, Veneto, and Emilia-Romagna who make over 55 percent of the total wine production. The order of these four regions (as to whose is first, second, etc.) changes depending on the year. The four top regions producing quality wines (those ranked as DOC or DOCG) are Veneto, Tuscany, Piedmont, and Trentino-Alto Adige. These four areas produce over 57 percent of the DOC/DOCG wines.

Chardonnay Sicilia

Chardonnay "Angimbe" | Cretico 65

Garganega - Chardonnay Veneto

Soave Classico "Monte Fiorentine" | Azienda Agricola Ca'Rugate 45

Pinot Grigio Friuli

Pinot Grigio "di Leonardo" | Venezia Giulia 50

Pinot Grigio "Rosè" | Collavini 50

Roero Arneis Piemonte

Roero Arneis | Damilano 55

**Sauvignon
Friuli**

Sauvignon Blanc | Schioppetto 65

Piemonte

Gavi di Gavi | Stefano Farina 65

Veneto

Sauvignon "Marca" | Anna Spinato 55

**Tocai
Friuli**

Tocai Friulano "Pardès" | Mario Schioppetto 65

Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC

Colli Orientali del Friuli means "eastern hills of Friuli," which describes this area's location in the FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA region in northeast Italy-it's east of Udine and northwest of the COLLIO DOC. Part of the zone borders the former Yugoslavia. The wines are generally well regarded and considered right behind those of the Collio DOC in quality. The DOC covers twenty types of wines, seventeen of which are varietals. These wines include the sweet dessert wines made from the Verduzzo grape-Ramandolo and Ramandolo Classico (the Classico can come only from the vineyards around the village of Ramandolo). Another of this area's unusual (as well as prized and expensive) dessert wines is the Picolit varietal. This DOC is the only one where Picolit is designated. The other varietal wines are Cabernet (from Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc), Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Malvasia, Merlot, Pinot Bianco (Pinot Blanc), Pinot Grigio (Pinot Gris), Pinot Nero (Pinot Noir), Refosco dal Peducolo Rosso (Mondeuse), Ribolla, Riesling Renano

**Vermentino
Sardegna**

Costamolino Vermentino | Argiolas 55

France white wines

Alsace

Gewurztraminer

Gewurztraminer | Pfaffenheim 55

Pinot Gris

Pinot Gris | Pfaffenheim 55

Riesling

Riesling " Clos des Capucins-Cuvée Sainte Cathéine" | Domaine Weinbach 55

Bordeaux
Graves, Pessac - Léognan

Blanc | Château Carbonnieux 65

Bourgogne
Chablis

Chablis 1er Cru "Vaucoupin" | Jean – Marc Brocard 2006 65

Mâconnais

Mâcon - Fuisse "Le Ronte" | Domaine la Soufrandise 2005 75

Côte de Beaune

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru "Les Caillerets" | Domaine Amiot Guy et Fils 2004 165

Montrachet

Bienvenues-Batard-Montrachet-and nearly half of each of two others-Le Montrachet and Bâtard-Montrachet. The best wines from Le Montrachet are viewed by many as the best DRY white wines in the world, although the wines from Chevalier-Montrachet have supporters who feel the same. The other two grand cru aren't far behind, and the village's fourteen Premier Cru vineyards also produce superb wines. The best of these premier cru vineyards are Le Cailleret, Les Combettes, Les Folatières, Les Pucelles, and Les Referts

AOC Pic St. Loup - Clos St. Jean

Classique | L`Hortus bergerie 2007 65

Grand Cuvée | L`Hortus bergerie 2005 65

Domaine de L`Hortus

Domaine de L`Hortus is one of the standard bearers of the AOC Pic St Loup. In 1979 Jean Marie – Therese Orliac planted some abandoned land at the foot of two dramatic cliffs, the Pic St Loup and the Montagne de l`Hortus. They build a distinctive winery, constructed mostly of wood. In total they have now 55 hectares of vines, split over two sites, with 43 ha red grapes and 12 ha white.

German white wines

Riesling
Rheingau

Riesling | Deinhard 2007 50

Vineyards

Germany's regions), Mosel Saar Ruer. starts in eastern France's Vosges mountains, flows along the Luxembourg border into western Germany, and finally joins the Rhine River in western Germany at the city of Koblenz. There are vineyards along the river in France and Luxembourg, but wines from the German vineyards are the most widely recognized. Mosel is the German spelling; Moselle is the English and French spelling

Riesling "Spätlese" | Schloss Johannisberg 2006

65

Rheingau

The wines of this German Anbaugebiet (quality wine region) are considered by many to be some of the finest in Germany and therefore among the world's great wines. Over 80 percent of the vineyards are planted with Riesling, Germany's premier variety. The Rheingau, whose vineyards cover the right or northerly bank of the Rhine River, starts just east of Hochheim and extends north to Lorch, with the principal portion situated between the villages of rauenthal and rüdesheim. The climate and soil of this stretch of vineyards is ideal for Riesling. It's from this area that the Rheingau gets its reputation for wines that are generally rich, fruity, and full-bodied with a steely character. The better vintages can produce Auslese, Beerenauslese, and occasionally Trockenbeerenauslese wines of remarkable quality. Even though these wines are very rich, they're balanced with good acidity and are capable of very long aging. The Rheingau's only bereich is johannisberg, which covers the entire region and includes ten grosslagen-Burgweg, Daubhaus, Deutelsberg, Erntebringer, Gottesthal, Heiligensotck, Honigberg, Mehrhölzchen, Steil, and Steinmächer. Some of Germany's best-known wine estates are located here including Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Schönborn, Schloss Reinhartshausen, and Schloss Vollrads.

Austrian white wines

Austria

The world of wine in Austria is similar to that of Germany in many ways, but it's also quite different. Austria is generally warmer than Germany, and therefore the grapes ripen more fully, which produces stronger wines. Austrians also generally like their wines drier. Since the wine scandal of 1985, where traces of poisonous diethylene glycol were found in wines that were supposed to contain only natural sugars, tougher laws (very similar to those in Germany) were enacted. The Austrian quality categories are similar to Germany's-Qualitätswein Prädikatswein, Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, Eiswein, Beerenauslese, Ausbruch (not found in Germany), and Trockenbeerenauslese. In most cases, the Austrian requirements are somewhat stricter-for example, higher required sugar levels. If the name of a ried ("vineyard") is used on the label, 100 percent of the wine used must be from that vineyard location. This is also true for any local or regional name. If a variety or vintage appears on the label, 85 percent of the wine must come from the named grape or vintage. Per capita, Austrians consume over three times the wine of the United States. In fact, they consume more than they produce so wines must be imported to fill the gap. More than 80 percent of the Austrian wine produced is white. The most popular white grape is Grüner Veltliner, which produces pale, crisp, light- to

Chardonnay

Südsteiermark

110

Morillon "Zieregg" | Tement

Morillon

medium-bodied, slightly spicy wines of good quality. Other popular white varieties are Gewürztraminer, Muscat, Riesling, Müller Thurgau, Weissburgunder, Welschriesling, Rotgipfler, Zierflander, and Neuburger (a cross of Pinot Blanc and Sylvaner). The red wines, which are usually very light, are made from Blauburgunder (Pinot Noir), Portugiser, Blaufränkisch, and Zweigelt. Austria produces most of its wines in the eastern part of the country. Over half is produced in the region of Niederösterreich (or Lower Austria), followed by Burgenland and then Steiermark (or Styria) and Vienna. Most of the wines produced from the various regions are dry. The exceptions are the sweet, botrytised wines from Burgenland, which are sometimes compared to those from Sauternes.

Wachau

<i>Riesling Smaragd "Achleithen" Rudi Pichler</i>	85
<i>Riesling Smaragd "Kirchweg" Rudi Pichler</i>	85

Riesling

Riesling is considered to be one of the world's great white-wine grapes and produces some of the very best white wines. It's a native of Germany, where it's believed to have been cultivated for at least 500-and possibly as long as 2,000-years. The Riesling grape's ability to retain its acidity while achieving high sugar levels is what creates wines with considerable aging potential. Riesling wines are delicate but complex and are characterized by a spicy, fruity flavor (that's sometimes reminiscent of peaches and apricots), a flower-scented bouquet, and a long finish. Riesling is vinified in a variety of styles ranging from dry to very sweet. In Germany, these sweet wines-which are usually affected by botrytis cinerea-are graded in ascending order of sweetness as Auslese, Beerenauslese, and Trockenbeerenauslese. There are extensive Riesling plantings in California where early wines were made in a dry, oaky style. California winemakers now produce high-quality, German-style Rieslings, which are lighter, more delicate, and slightly to medium sweet. They also make some excellent late harvest wines from botrytis-infected grapes. Other states that have had success with Riesling wines include Oregon, Washington, and New York. Australia has extensive plantings of this grape and produces high-quality Riesling wines, particularly from the Eden and Clare Valleys. France's Alsace region and Italy's Alto Adige also produce excellent Rieslings. Because the name "Riesling" is used in many ways, it's sometimes difficult to find wines truly made from this variety. In California, for instance, Johannisberg Riesling is the true Riesling, whereas Gray Riesling and Emerald Riesling are actually other varieties. Californians also call the variety Sylvaner such names as Sylvaner Riesling, Franken Riesling, Monterey Riesling, and Sonoma Riesling. A bottle of California wine labeled simply "Riesling" usually means that the wine's made from one of the lesser varieties, not Johannisberg Riesling. In parts of Europe, there is also Welschriesling (or Italian Riesling), which is a different variety. In Australia, the word Riesling often refers to any type of white wine, whereas Rhine Riesling refers to the real thing. South Africans have Cape Riesling, Clare Riesling, Paarl Riesling, and South African Riesling, all of which refer to a variety officially known as cruchen blanc. Weisser Riesling is the name South Africans (and some Germans) use for the true Riesling.

Grüner Veltliner Kamptal

<i>Grüner Veltliner Loimer</i>	45
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Wachau

<i>Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Rudi Pichler</i>	65
<i>Grüner Veltliner Smaragd "Hochrain" Rudi Pichler</i>	65

Pinot gris - Chardonnay - Neuburger Neusiedlersee - Hügelland

<i>Cuvée Gustav Feiler Artinger 1999</i>	110
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White wines from our region

Okanagan Valley

Okanagan Valley

While the modern era for the Wines of British Columbia began about 15 years ago, grapes have been grown and wine made here since 1859. Oblate missionary Father Charles Pandosy planted the first vineyard at the Oblate Mission near Kelowna with commercial grape production for wines starting in the 1920's. The modern era in British Columbia winemaking began in 1990 in response to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada and the United States. Less-desirable *labrusca* varieties were pulled out and the popular commitment to producing quality wines began with widespread premium *vinifera* plantings. For the first time, in 2005, British Columbia's premium wines (VQA) became the top-selling premium wine category in the province, selling more premium wine than any other region or country.

Chardonnay

Chardonnay SLC | Mission Hill 2006 65

Semillon

Sauvignon Blanc - Semillon | Mission Hill 2006 65

Pinot Gris

Pinot Gris | Mission Hill 2007 50

Muscat

Muscat Ottonell | Hillside Estate 2007 55

Australian white wines

South Eastern Australia

Chardonnay

Chardonnay Johnny Q. | Quarisa 2006 55

South Australia

Viognier

Viognier The Loose Canon | Hugh Hamilton 2007 65

Argentin white wines

Calchaqui Valley

Torrantes, Chardonnay

Chardonnay - Torrantes. | Inca 2008 55

New Zealand white wines

Marlborough
Sauvignon Blanc

<i>Sauvignon Blanc No. 8 Wire 2008</i>	45
<i>Sauvignon Blanc Crossroads Winery 2007</i>	55

South Africa white wines

Stellenbosch
Chenin Blanc

<i>Chenin Blanc Teddy Hall 2006</i>	55
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US white wines

Napa Valley
Chardonnay

<i>Chardonnay Trefethen 2005</i>	65
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Roussanne

<i>Roussanne Truchard 2004</i>	65
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Red wines from our region

Okanagian Valley
Merlot

<i>Merlot the Legacy Poplar Grove 2004</i>	65
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Pinot Noir

<i>Pinot Noir Perigee Le Vieux Pin 2006</i>	70
<i>Pinot Noir Morning Bay 2005</i>	65

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc,
Petit Verdot

<i>Oculus Mission Hill Bordeaux Blend 2004</i>	110
<i>Oculus Mission Hill Bordeaux Blend 2005</i>	110

Syrah

Barrel Select Syrah | Morning Bay 2004

65

Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon | Morning Bay 2004

65

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec

Portfolio | Laughing Stock 2006

125

LFNG

Located on the picturesque Naramata Bench. Laughing Stock Vineyards is a serious enterprise with light – hearted attitude. David and Cynthia Euns, now releasing their fourth vintage, aim to produce the highest quality small production wines from the Okanagan Valley. Receiving Gold for the Portfolio 2005. Laughing Stock was the highest awarded B.C. winery in the Blended Red category at the Canadian Wine Awards in Niagara, Ontario 2007.

Italian red wines

Aglianico Campania

Taurasi "Radici" | Mastroberardino 1997

105

Aglianico - Piedirosso Basilicata

Aglianico del Vulture | Feudi di san Gregorio

55

Amarone (Rondinella - Corvina - Molinara) Veneto

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico | Tomasi 2004

95

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico | Allegrini 2004

105

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico | Tedeschi 2004

105

Barbaresco (Nebbiolo)
Piemonte

Barbaresco | *Stefano Farina 2004*

75

Barbaresco DOCG

One of the small number of DOCG areas in Italy, Barbaresco shares this status in northwestern Italy's Piedmont region with Barolo, Asti Spumante, and Gattinara. The DOCG zone encompasses the villages of Barbaresco, Treiso, and Neive, just east of Alba. The wines, which are made from the Nebbiolo grape, must be aged for 2 years, one of which is in wooden barrels. A riserva must be aged for 3 years, one of those in wood. Considered some of Italy's best, these wines have rich, spicy flavors, and, although, they have a perfumed sweetness. Barbaresco wines are often compared to Barolo wines because they're both made from Nebbiolo grapes. In the comparison, Barbaresco wines are usually regarded as more elegant and refined; the Barolos are thought to be more robust and longer-lived.

Barbera
Piemonte

Barbera d'Alba | *Bartolo Mascarello 2004*

70

Barolo (Nebbiolo)
Piemonte

Barolo "Rocche" | *Brovia 2000*

120

Barolo | *Damiano 2000*

120

Brunello (Sangiovese grosso)
Toscana

Brunello di Montalcino ris. | *Altesino 2004*

145

Brunello di Montalcino ris. | *Capanna 2004*

165

Cabernet Sauvignon
Marche

Cabernet Sauvignon | *Bertoluzzi 2004*

65

Castello dei Rampolla

Next to the legendary "-aia" trifecta of Sassicaia, Ornellaia, and Solaia, there are the overshadowed wines of Castello dei Rampolla. Absent here are the marketing prowess and glitz, but behold, this is one the most highly regarded wines of Toscana and is the choice of winemakers! The Vigna d'Alceo is consistently a Three Glass winner and recipient of 95+ points. The cellars of the Rampolla winery, near Panzano in central Tuscany, date back to the 13th century. Situated on 42 hectares of calcareous soil about 360 meters above sea level, these vineyards are ideal for Sangiovese, which here achieves particular vigour and potential for long-aging. The di Napoli family combines biodynamic methods in the vineyard with its modern, well-equipped cellars to produce world class wines with the famous consultant oenologist, Giacomo Tachis. The Chianti Classico bottling accounts for approximately 100,000 of the total 150,000 bottle production. The remainder is divided between the Riserva, the Sammarco and their white, Trebianco.

Cabernet Sauvignon - Cabernet Franc - Merlot

Toscana

<i>Ornellaia Tenuta dell' Ornellaia 2005</i>	290
<i>Ornellaia Tenuta dell' Ornellaia 2005 150cl</i>	620
<i>Le Serre Nuove Tenuta dell' Ornellaia 2004</i>	110

Ornellaia

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia makes outstanding wines even in poor vintages - better than any other. In the capable hands of winemaker Thomas Duroux and consultant Michel Rolland, the estate continues its long-standing, stellar record of world-class wine production. Even the estate's "second" wines demonstrate high quality grape growing and flawless production methods. Located in Tuscany's tiny coastal DOC of Bolgheri, the estate was one of the first to plant vines in the area. With producers like Tenuta San Guido Sassicaia, Antinori, Grattamacco, and Le Macchiole among others, Bolgheri is the hotbed of winemaking momentum in Toscana

Cabernet Sauvignon - Cabernet Franc - Sangiovese

Toscana

<i>Solaia Marchesi Antinori 2005</i>	310
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Solaia

The proprietary name for one of the better-known super-Tuscan wines. It's made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and some Sangiovese by the famous Tuscan wine firm Marchesi Antinori (who also make Tignanello). Solaia, which comes from a single vineyard in the Chianti Classico area, is aged in barriques for about 2 years.

Cabernet Sauvignon - Sangiovese - Cabernet Franc

Toscana

<i>Tignanello Marchesi Antinori 2005</i>	140
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Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot - Syrah

Toscana

<i>Guado al Tasso Tenuta Guado al Tasso 2005</i>	210
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Chianti: Sangiovese

(Cabernet, Merlot, Canaiolo, Trebbiano, Malvasia)

Toscana

<i>Chianti Classico Beradenga 2006</i>	65
<i>Chianti Rufina Pianirossi 2004</i>	65
<i>Chianti Classico Isole e Olena</i>	75

Merlot - Refosco - Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc

Toscana

Masseto | Tenuta dell' Ornellaia - Ludovico Antinori 2005

380

Montepulciano

Abruzzo

Montepulciano d' Abruzzo | Cantina Tollo 2004

70

Nebbiolo

Piemonte

Costa Russi | Angelo Gaja 2004

780

Gaja

While rooted in the tradition of the Langhe, Angelo Gaja has enriched this foundation with an openminded sensibility that marries traditional practices and technological innovation, thereby extending Piemonte's international reach. His philosophy recognizes the Nebbiolo grape's inherent capacity for creative expression, which enables it to accommodate the market's desire for both oak-driven and tannic styles. Though he has his detractors, their opposition has proved innocuous, as Gaja's wines rival the world's most acclaimed and sought-after bottlings. While regarded as expensive on release, they continue to appreciate, trading at premium prices and invariably elevating the price standard in Piemonte.

Nero d' Avola

Sicilia

Nero d'Avola | Cusumano 2007

45

Toscana

Cepparello | Isole e Olena 2004

160

Flaccianello | Fontodi - Giovanni Manetti 2000

250

Fontodi

Tenuta Fontodi is Chianti's class act: Her renowned crus are the Super Tuscan Flaccianello and the Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon favorite Vigna del Sorbo, while her Chianti Classico is unflinchingly reliable. Winemaking in the timeless land of Chianti Classico dates back to the 8th century, and the term "Chianti" was applied to wine as far back as 1398: Tenuta Fontodi is one of many existing estates that can trace their lineage back to these historic times. Fontodi is an all-time favorite of IWM and any Tuscan wine enthusiast. Resting near Panzano in the epicenter of Toscana's viticulture, Fontodi's vines enjoy a southern aspect, a position in a natural amphitheatre, and marl soil. These optimum conditions allow the grapes to ripen perfectly, therefore creating wines of great character and structure.

Sassicaia

Sassicaia; the story

As a student in Pisa during the 1920's, the Marquis Mario Incisa della Rocchetta dreamed of creating a "noble" wine. Like most of Italian aristocracy at the time, his taste in wine ran strongly to fine Bordeaux. After settling with his wife, Clarice, into their Tuscan estate at Tenuta San Guido on the Mediterranean Coast, he experimented with several French grape varieties and concluded, "the bouquet I was looking for" was found in the Cabernet. A wine that had Cabernet Sauvignon as its primary component represented a radical shift from the traditional Tuscan and Piedmontese varieties of Sangiovese and Nebbiolo. No one had ever considered making a wine crafted along Bordeaux lines on Italian soil, much less in a region not yet established viticulturally. In addition to the Cabernet's satisfactory bouquet, the Marquis' decision to plant this grape variety at Tenuta San Guido was influenced by the Tuscan location's similarity to Graves in Bordeaux. "Graves" means "gravel" in French, and similarly, the earth at Tenuta San Guido gave Sassicaia its name, which in the Tuscan dialect means "stony ground". However, accustomed to the light, local wines, consumers did not respond well to the first vintages of Sassicaia. Wines made from the more complex Cabernet Sauvignon grapes take more time to mature and develop. Subsequently, from 1948 to 1960, Sassicaia was consumed only at the estate. Each year, a small number of cases were laid down in the cellars of Castiglioncello. The Marquis discovered that as the years went by, however, the wine greatly improved. As is often the case with wines of great pedigree, those things originally considered defects turned into virtues over time. Soon, friends and relatives were urging him to pursue his passion and to perfect his revolutionary style of winemaking. In 1965, he planted two more vineyards comprised of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc; the new "Sassicaia" vineyard was situated approximately 800 feet lower than the original Cabernet vineyard near Castiglioncello, and "Aianova" was slightly more elevated and thus exposed to the weather. Eventually, all of the wine produced on the estate came to be known by the name of Sassicaia. The 1968 vintage of Sassicaia was the first to be offered on the open market, and it was as well received as the Premier Crus from Bordeaux. In subsequent years the cellars were moved to temperature-controlled quarters wood fermentation vats were replaced with stainless steel ones and Bordeaux temperature quarters, ones, French oak barriques were used for the ageing process. The Marquis' use of Cabernet grapes and his implementation of the barriques aging process soon spread throughout Italy. Sassicaia was the first Italian wine to successfully establish itself abroad, and is almost universally recognized as the father of the new Italian wine family or simply the Super Tuscan Pioneer. Mario Incisa della Rocchetta's planting is now considered the birthplace of Italian Cabernet. The new plantings and improved methods of vinification produced stunning results, and experts worldwide took notice. Here are a few examples: At a 1978 "Decanter Magazine" tasting in London, a panel including Hugh Johnson, Serena Sutcliffe, and Clive Coates declared the 1972 Sassicaia the best Cabernet Sauvignon in a field of 33 wines from 11 countries. Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book, 1982 edition, called Sassicaia "Italy's best wine". The 1982 Sassicaia received the 1987 Vinarius Wine of the Year award. The marquis Mario Incisa della Rocchetta passed away in 1983. His son, Marquis Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta, now oversees all estate operations.

Sassicaia Tenuta San Guido - Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2005	290
Sassicaia Tenuta San Guido - Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2005 150cl	620

Valpolicella (Rondinella - Corvina - Molinara)

Veneto

Valpolicella Superiore Tedeschi 2005	60
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France red wines

Bordeaux

Canon-Fronsac

Château la Vielle Cure 2006

75

Le Libournais, Pomerol

Pomerol AC

Located on the east side of France's Dordogne River, this is the smallest of the fine-wine-producing districts of the Bordeaux region. It's also the only district not to have rated its Châteaux in some official classification. Because it's not near the better-known districts of médoc and graves, Pomerol didn't gain much of an international following until the 1960s. Now its wines led by those from the famous Château Pétrus bring some of the highest prices in all of Bordeaux. The Pomerol area's 1,800 acres are planted with Merlot and Cabernet Franc

Château Pétrus 2006

request

Château Pétrus 2000

request

Château La Grave 2006

75

Château LaTour À Pomerol 2006

110

Le Libournais, Saint-Émilion

Saint-Émilion

The village of Saint-Émilion is quite picturesque and beautiful with its medieval walls and buildings, its undulating hills, and the fields of vines that grow right up to the ancient walls. Saint-Émilion is northeast of the city of Bordeaux and sits on the east side of the Dordogne River next to the smaller, but well-known, Pomerol ac. Grapes have been cultivated here since at least the second century. Saint-Émilion is the second most important growing area in Bordeaux after the médoc, and because it's not broken up into smaller appellations like the Médoc (such as Margaux ac, Pauillac ac, Saint - Estèphe ac, and Saint-Julien ac), more fine wine is sold under the Saint-Émilion appellation than any other. Unlike the Médoc where Cabernet Sauvignon reigns, Merlot is the dominant grape in Saint-Émilion because of the clay soil. Cabernet Franc is the next most popular grape, followed by Cabernet Sauvignon and some Malbec. Because of the prevalent use of Merlot, the Saint-Émilion wines are generally softer and more drinkable at an earlier age than those from the Médoc. However, wines from good vintages of top Châteaux like Ausone and Cheval Blanc have considerable aging ability. Saint-Émilion was passed over in the classification of 1855, which established the cru classé Châteaux of the Médoc, and it wasn't until 1954 that an official classification for Saint-Émilion estates was developed. Unlike the Médoc, Saint-Émilion's classification system was set up so that it could be revised every 10 years, at which time Châteaux could be elevated or downgraded. Revisions were done in 1969 and 1985, and another is scheduled in the 1994 timeframe. The 1985 classification lists eleven Châteaux as premiers grands crus classés, the highest level. Two of the eleven, Château Ausone and Château Cheval Blanc, were set above all the rest into Category A

1er Grand Cru Classé «A» | Château Cheval Blanc 2004

900

Château Canon La Gaffelière 2006

169

Château Clos de l'Oratoire 2006

89

1er Grand Cru Classé «A» | Château Ausone 2006

request

Graves, Pessac-Léognan

<i>Cru Classé Château Domaine de Chevalier 2006</i>	145
<i>Cru Classé Château Haut Bailly 2006</i>	135
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé Château Haut-Brion 2006</i>	1200
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé Château Haut-Brion 2006 150cl</i>	2600
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé Château Haut-Brion 2004</i>	750

Le Médoc, Haut-Médoc

<i>Cru Bourgeois Chateau La Bernadotte 2006</i>	65
<i>Cru Bourgeois Château Carbonnieux 2006</i>	65

Le Médoc, Moulis en Médoc

<i>Cru Bourgeois Château Chasse-Spleen 2006</i>	75
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Le Médoc, Margaux

<i>1er Grand Cru Classé Château Margaux 2006</i>	1600
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé Château Margaux 2005</i>	1750
<i>3ème Grand Cru Classé Château Palmer 2006</i>	950

Château Margaux

Château Margaux is one of only four Châteaux (along with Haut-Brion, Lafite-Rothschild, and Latour) to receive a premier cru (first growth) ranking in the classification of 1855 (Château Mouton-Rothschild was upgraded to premier cru status in 1973). It's also the only premier cru in the Margaux ac. This estate's exalted reputation dates back many centuries. In the fifteenth century the highly regarded wine from this estate was known as Margou or Margous. In the eighteenth century, Thomas Jefferson stated that the 1784 vintage from Château Margaux was one of Bordeaux's best. In 1978 Château Margaux emerged from over a decade of mediocre wines to reestablish itself as one of the premier Bordeaux châteaux—a result of new ownership (the Mentzelopoulos family) and extensive renovation. As a whole, the wines from Margaux during the 1980s might be considered the best of any château in Bordeaux. These wines are known for their magnificent perfumed bouquets and for being rich and full-bodied. The best vintages, such as the 1986, can last for 40 to 50 years. The estate consists of nearly 210 acres and annually produces about 25,000 to 30,000 cases of red wine and another 3,000 to 5,000 cases of dry white wine. Red wine is made from about 75 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 percent Merlot, and small amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The white wine called Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux is made from 100 percent sauvignon blanc grown on a small parcel to the north near the commune of Soussans. The Château uses a second label for red wines called Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux.

<i>Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux 2006</i>	150
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Le Médoc, Pauillac

<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1959</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1968</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1978</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1981</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1987</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1990</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 1991</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 2001</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Mouton-Rothschild 2006</i>	<i>2450</i>

Château Mouton-Rothschild

Château Mouton-Rothschild has been owned by the Barons de Rothschild for over 100 years. It was the tireless effort of Baron Philippe de Rothschild that resulted in the château's historical upgrade to premier cru (first-growth) status in 1973. The Baron began his odyssey to modify the classification in the early 1920s, when he took over the château's administration and eventual ownership. This landmark upgrade (the only change ever made to the famous classification of 1855) made Château Mouton-Rothschild one of only four premiers crus (the others being Lafite-Rothschild, Latour, and Margaux) in the médoc district. (The premier cru, Château Haut-Brion, is in graves.) Prior to the original classification, the château's wine labels declared, Premier ne puis, Second ne daigne, Mouton suis ("First I cannot be, Second I do not deign to be, I am Mouton"). After the upgrade, the motto was changed to Premier je suis, second je fus, Mouton ne change ("First I am, second I was, Mouton does not change"). The Mouton-Rothschild estate includes about 185 acres planted with around 85 percent cabernet sauvignon, 8 percent merlot, and 7 percent cabernet franc. There are 20,000 to 30,000 cases of red wine produced annually. These wines are generally big and full-bodied and the best vintages can age 40 to 50 years or more. In addition to producing marvelous wines, Baron Philippe, who died in 1988, was immensely successful at marketing. In 1945, he began a series of artistic labels featuring a different world-renowned artist (such as Chagall, Miro, Picasso, and Warhol) each year. The family of Baron Philippe de Rothschild also owns Châteaux Mouton d'Armailhacq and Clerc-Milon, as well as the proprietary brand Mouton - Cadet.

<i>4ème Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Duhart-Milon 2006</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>5ème Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Lynch-Bages 2006</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>5ème Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Clerc-Milon 2006</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>1er Grand Cru Classé</i> <i>Château Latour 2006</i>	<i>1600</i>
<i>Château Le Petit Mouton Rothschild 2006</i>	<i>210</i>
<i>Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2006</i>	<i>145</i>

Le Médoc, Saint Estèphe

Saint-Estèphe AC

The northernmost of the communal appellations in the Haut-Médoc area of France's Bordeaux region. Of the wines from the well-known communes in the Haut-Médoc, those from Saint-Estèphe AC are usually ranked fourth in quality after those of Margaux, Pauillac, and Saint-Julien. This ranking is because Saint-Estèphe contains fewer (only five) grand cru classé Châteaux and more crus bourgeois. The grand cru classé Châteaux are Calon-Ségur, Cos d'Estournel, Cos Labory, Lafon-Rochet, and Montrose. Saint-Estèphe AC wines are made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. They're often described as being full-bodied, the most tannic, and requiring the longest period to mature. Many producers are now using more Merlot to produce softer wines.

Cru Bourgeois Château Haut-Marbuzet 2006	99
2ème Grand Cru Classé Château Cos D'Estournel 2006	299
Château Le Boscqu 2006	75

Le Médoc, Saint-Julien

2ème Grand Cru Classé Château Gruaud Larose 2006	125
4ème Grand Cru Classé Château Talbot 2006	115

Bourgogne

La Côte de Beaune

Côte de Beaune

The southern half of Burgundy's famous Côte d'Or, which contains the grand cru, premier cru, and village vineyards responsible for many of the renowned Burgundy wines. The Côte de Beaune includes twenty different villages, seventeen with their own appellations-Aloxe-Corton, Auxey-Duresses, Beaune, Blagny, Chassagne-Montrachet, Chorey-lès-Beaune, Ladoix-Serrigny, Meursault, Monthélie, Pernand-Vergelesses, Pommard, Puligny-Montrachet, Saint-Aubin, Saint-Romain, Santenay, Savigny-lès-Beaune, and Volnay. Three other villages-Cheilly-lès-Maranges, Dezizes-lès-Maranges, and Sampigny-lès-Maranges-are grouped in a separate appellation Les Maranges. The Côte de Beaune area is well known for both its red wines, made from Pinot Noir grapes, and white wines, made from Chardonnay. Even though the Côte de Beaune produces superb red wines led by the grand cru Corton they are somewhat overshadowed by the red wines Chardonnay. Corton, from the Côte de Nuit in the northern half of the Côte d'Or. However, the white wines from the Côte de Beaune area are considered to be the best in the world. The superstars are the wines from the grands crus of Montrachet, Bâtard-Montrachet, Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet, Chevalier-Montrachet, Corton-Charlemagne, and Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet, and from the numerous outstanding premiers crus vineyards. Wines from individual villages like Meusault also have stellar reputations. In addition to the appellations for grands crus, premiers crus, and the individual villages, there are two others-Côte de Beaune AC and Côte de Beaune-Villages AC.

Pommard 1er Cru "Les Chanlins" Domaine Vincent Girardin 1997	350
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Corton AC

A famous Grand Cru whose vineyards are located on the Montagne de Corton, a vast hill rising above Aloxe-Corton, an important wine-producing village at the northern end of the Côte de Beaune. Although usually associated with Aloxe-Corton, the Corton appellation is also part of the villages of Ladoix-Serigny and Peyrmand-Vergelesses. The Corton grand cru ranking is only for red wines made from Pinot Noir. Vineyards not authorized to produce white wines under the Corton-Charlemagne name can produce it under Corton, but the wines are not entitled to grand cru status. There are twenty-eight individually named vineyards that may label their wines with Corton by itself or use Corton followed by the individual vineyard name such as Corton Bressandes or Corton Clos du Roi. Blended wines using grapes from two or more of these vineyards may only use the designation Corton. The twenty-eight vineyards are En Charlemagne, Les Bressandes, Le Charlemagne, Les Chaumes de la Voirose, Les Chaumes (the previous two are usually grouped as one vineyard referred to as Les Chaumes), Les Combes, Le Corton, Les Fièvres, Les Grèves, Les Languettes, Les Maréchaudes, Clos des Maréchaudes (usually included with Les Maréchaudes), Clos des Meix, Les Paulands, Les Perrières, Le Village (usually included with Les Perrières), Les Pougets, Les Renardes, Le Clos du Roi, La Vigne au Saint, Les Carrières, Les Grandes Lolières, Basses Mourottes, Hautes Mourottes (the previous two are often referred to as Les Mourottes), Les Moutottes, Le Rognet et Corton, La Toppe au Vert, and Les Vergennes. The Corton AC red wines are usually regarded as the best and the longest-lived of the Côte de Beaune.

La Côte de NuitsCôte de Nuits

The Côte de Nuits makes up the northern half of Burgundy's famous côte d'or and contains the grand cru, premier cru, and village vineyards responsible for many of the renowned red Burgundy wines. Pinot Noir is the grape of choice in this region, although minute amounts of white wine are produced from chardonnay, pinot blanc, and pinot gris. The Côte de Nuits is made up of numerous villages, including eight that have their own appellations-Chambolle-Musigny, Fixin, Gevrey-Chambertin, Marsannay, Morey-Saint-Denis, Nuits-Saint-Georges, Vosne-Romanée, and Vougeot. The villages of Brochon, Comblanchien, Corgoloin, Prémieux, and Fixin can bottle their wines under the designation Côte de Nuits-Villages AC. The quality of the red wines from the seven village appellations and from the Côte de Nuits-Villages AC is generally quite high. However, it's the grand cru and premier cru vineyards that have created this area's esteemed reputation. The grands crus include famous names like Bonnes Mares, Chambertin, Chabertin-Clos de Bèze, Clos de Roche, Clos de Vougeot, Grands-Echézeaux, Musigny, Richebourg, Romanée-Conti, and la tache. Most wine lovers agree that these vineyards produce some of the very best red wines in the world.

Chambertin Clos-de-Bèze Grand Cru | Domaine Luis Jadot 2006 650
Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru "Les Cras" | Domaine Antonin Guyon 2005 115

Chambolle-Musigny

Well-known village located in the the Côte de Nuits district of France's Burgundy region. It's one of the smaller villages in this famous area and contains approximately 550 vineyard acres, all planted in Pinot Noir except for a 3/4-acre plot that grows Chardonnay. The highest-quality wines are from two well-known Grand Crus Bonnes Mares AC and Musigny AC- and they produce wines of quite different styles. The Musigny wines are flavorful but better known for their elegance and finesse; they can be drunk relatively young. Wines from Bonnes Mares, however, are full-bodied, tannic, and require aging a number of years before they mature. The small plot of Chardonnay is planted in Musigny. It produces very good wines, but they're limited, very expensive, and generally not the quality of other top Grand Cru white wines. Chambolle-Musigny also has twenty-four Premier Cru vineyards with Les Amoureuses and Les Charmes generally regarded as the two finest. Chambolle-Musigny AC wines, though generally light and elegant, normally have good structure.

Côte de Nuits-Villages "Les Vignottes" | Jean-Jacques Confuron 2004 115
Échézeaux Grand Cru | Domaine de La Romanée-Conti 2000 request

Argentina red wines

Argentina

The wines of Argentina have a history that has grown through the years beginning in the mid-16th century. A Chilean friar first brought wine into Argentina via a cutting. As he nurtured the seedlings, wine-making in Argentina began to morph and evolve leading to the origin of two important wine regions: Mendoza and Cuyo in the years of 1561 and 1562. To further the wine development in these areas, vine cuttings were imported from Santiago del Estero, an Argentine city. The 19th century opened another venue of wine-making with the arrival of European settlers. The presence of the French, Italians, and Spaniards added another flavor to the developing Argentine wine. The economic implication of the newly constructed railroad in 1885 was the ease of transporting wine from the wine-making regions to the cities and other areas of Argentina. As the demand for wine increased, the satisfaction for a great taste also grew. With the presence of wine innovator Tuburcio Benegas, a new taste was on the horizon. Benegas's genius brought the masterful formulas to wine-making enhancing the Argentina vino with the French varieties of Burgundy and Bordeaux. These wines were in harmony with the juicy Argentina meats, aplenty in these South American localities. By the 1970s, most of the wine produced in Argentina was common table wine, continuing with the trend to accompany the Argentinean meats. At the same time, policy regarding the agriculture of vineyards did not exist, causing many of the farms to overlook superiority for magnitude. This led to decline in the wines since a poor wine was not welcomed into the Argentine cuisine. In order to improve the quality of the wine, these vines had to be eliminated and new plants sowed. The new plants, along with the goal of excellence in wine-making, Argentine wine took on another appearance - one of first-class taste, exceptional color, and unique flair. Although wine-making in Argentina maintained a small profile until the 1980s, local wine production has over a 300 year history. Inspired by the triumph of both California and Australian wines, Argentina began to export their creations to an international audience.

Calchaqui Valley Cabernet - Malbec

Cabernet - Malbec | Inca 2007

60

Mendoza Malbec

Malbec | Enrique Foster 2007

60

España red wines

Spain

Spanish wines are wines produced in the southwestern European country of Spain. Located on the Iberian Peninsula, Spain has over 2.9 million acres (over 1.17 million hectares) planted—making it the most widely planted wine producing nation^[1] but it is only the third largest producer of wine in the world, the largest being Italy and France.^[2] This is due, in part, to the very low yields and wide spacing of the old vines planted on the dry, infertile soil found in many Spanish wine regions. The country is ninth in worldwide consumptions with Spaniards drinking, on average, 10.06 gallons (38 liters) a year. The country has an abundance of native grape varieties, with over 600 varieties planted throughout Spain though 80 percent of the country's wine production is from only 20 grapes—including Tempranillo, Albariño, Garnacha, Palomino, Airen, Macabeo, Parellada, Xarel·lo, Cariñena and Monastrell. Major Spanish wine regions include the Rioja and Ribera del Duero which is known for their Tempranillo production; Jerez, the home of the fortified wine Sherry; Rías Baixas in the northwest region of Galicia that is known for its white wines made from Albariño and Catalonia which includes the Cava and still wine producing regions of the Penedès as well the Priorat region.

Jumilla Murcia Monastrell - Cabernet Sauvignon

El Nido | Bodegas El Nido, 2002

320

Ribera del Duero
Tempranillo, Merlot

Tempranillo - Merlot | Montebaco 2004 70
Alion | Vega Secilia 2004 105

Samaniego
Rioja

Rioja Alavesa | Hacienda Ostatu 2005 65

Portugal red wines

Portugal

Portuguese wine history is longer than the foundation of Portugal. It is believed that wine was first planted in the Iberian Peninsula (in the Tagus and Sado Valley) around 2000 B.C. by the Tartessians. The Phoenicians took over the Tartessian trade, including wine trade around 10th century B.C. and have introduced new grape varieties. In the 7th century B.C. the Greeks settled in the Iberian Peninsula and developed wine growing. In the 6th century B.C. the Celts brought their own grape varieties into the Iberian Peninsula. The Romans arrived into the Iberian Peninsula during the 2nd century B. C. and contributed to the modernization of the vine culture. With fall of the Roman Empire the wine has continued to be produced by the subsequent civilizations. With the foundation of Portugal wine was Portugal's most exported product. A major boost in winemaking and wine exports happened in the second half of the 14th century. In the 15th and 16th centuries with the Portuguese Discoveries, the vessels and galleons sailing always carried wine. The Methuen treaty of 1703 opened trading between Portugal and England, setting up special duty rights for the penetration of Portuguese wine in England and wine exports experienced a major increase. In 1756 the Port wine was already so famous that with the purpose of regulating the region's wine production and trade was officially created the Alto Douro wine region, the first delimited region for wine in the world. In the 19th century the phylloxera plague devastated large areas of Portuguese vineyards. In late 19th century wine production started a slow recovery. In the beginning of the 20th century several wine regions were demarcated and in 1986 the regions were re-defined as Portugal started to be part of the European Union.

Sabrosa
Vinzelo

Douro Reserva | Quinta do Crasto 2006 65

Ribera del Duero
Verdejo

Verdejo | Prado Rey 2007 65

Roble

Roble | Prado Rey 2006 65

Chile red wines

Cordillera

Carinena, Merlot, Shiraz

Carinena - Merlot - Shiraz | Miguel Torres 2003

105

US red wines

Nappa Valley

Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon „Dare“ | Viader Vineyards

75

Cabernet Sauvignon | Sequoia Grove 2004

85

Merlot

Merlot | Rombauer Vineyards 2004

75

Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir „Tandem“ | Sangiacomo Vineyards 2004

105

Pinot Noir „Cristom“ | Louise Vineyards 2005

85

Pinot Noir „Labyrinth“ | Bien Nacido Vineyards 2004

95

Mourvedre

Syncline | Goyote Canyon Vineyards 2004

70

Australian red wines

Barossa Valley Shiraz

Shiraz „Basket Press“ | Rockford 105

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot

Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot | Alkoomi 50

Shiraz, Grenache

Shiraz - Grenache „alley cat“ | Rosedale 65

McLaren Valley Shiraz

Shiraz | Tapetstry 55