

# BUYING GUIDE

## FEBRUARY/2013

The bell tower of Saint-Émilion's Monolithic Church rises above the commune's famous vineyards.

### BUYING GUIDE

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#### 102 PORTUGAL

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#### BORDEAUX BONANZA

Over 400 wines reviewed, with 114 rated  
90 or above

#### GERMANY

Stunning dry, sweet and red wines from  
across the country

#### AUSTRALIA

Bold Cabernet Sauvignons, Shirazes and  
Red Blends, including 14 Editors' Choices  
and 8 Cellar Selections

## SOUTHERN ITALY

### TAURASI

**91 Di Meo 2006 Riserva (Taurasi).** Aglianico grapes make powerful and tightly structured red wines, but vintner Roberto Di Meo has tamed much of that massiveness and has produced an elegant, polished bottling instead. This shows a long aromatic evolution, with subtle tones of blackberry, prune, leather and spice that evolve with more time in the glass. Il Mercante di Venezia. —M.L.

**abv:** 14%

**Price:** \$58

**91 Di Meo 2004 Riserva (Taurasi).** You can't go wrong with a beautifully bold and structured red wine like this. Meant for cold winter nights and hearty meat dishes, this elegant Taurasi opens with luscious dark fruit, prune, spice and tobacco notes. The wine's texture is fine and silky, with polished, dusty tannins. Il Mercante di Venezia. —M.L.

**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$55

### IRPINIA

**92 Di Meo 2004 Don Generoso Aglianico (Irpinia).** As its name implies, Don Generoso doles out opulence and aromatic intensity, lingering long on the nose and palate. This is a smoky, masculine expression, with notes of lead pencil, slate, prune, cassis and spice. It delivers the essences of volcanic soil with dry and firm tannins at the back. Il Mercante di Venezia. *Cellar Selection.* —M.L.

**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$120

### CAMPANIA

**89 Di Meo 2008 A Aglianico (Campania).** This wine inspires a pairing with foods that have a sweet cheese or butter element. It is well shaped and opulent, with loads of crushed black pepper, dried fruit and dusty mineral nuances. Il Mercante di Venezia. —M.L.

**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$23

**88 Di Meo 2009 A Aglianico (Campania).** A stenciled "A" on the bottle makes for some very handsome packaging. The wine inside the bottle is just as successful as its label, with savory aromas of cured meat and leather, backed by black fruit and Indian spice notes. Il Mercante di Venezia. —M.L.

**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$23