



Ian D'Agata's 100 Best Italian Wines 2025

By Ian D'Agata

As I have had occasion to write many, many times before, if there is one common denominator to my annual "Select 100 Best Italian Wines of the Year" list it is that the wines that make the list are not just some if not all of Italy's best wines that came to market that year, but always speak, with precision, of a specific grape and place: they are all wines that boast the "somewhereness" made famous by Matt Kramer, which for me is a *sine qua non* of fine wine. Given that wine to me is not a soft drink, something that follows a standard formula and is meant to taste the same no matter where you buy it, be it in Calcutta, Washington, Melbourne, Paris or Cape Town, each wine made with the same grape variety should taste different because the grapes grow in different habitats, and they will reflect that in the finished wine. Or so they should. I love a good cold soft drink on a hot day, but wine is another thing entirely, and should always speak of the grapes it is made with and where they grow. Short of that, wine as a beverage of intellectual interest and cultural significance loses practically all of its appeal.



Clearly, the wines that make by Best100 list of the year also represent, for the most part, good value for money: that mantra applies both to superexpensive unicorn wines that are worth the splurge, and to those that are available for a song (or close to it). And so, I always will include a range of wines, available at all price points, in my end-of-year list. But the goal of my listing 100 great Italian wines to drink is not to give you a telephone book of famous names you can get from almost anyone. Rather, I try to give you names of wines that have something to say and that you will hopefully find interesting and to your liking.

In this year's list of selected best wines, you will find a noteworthy presence of Barolo (which cannot surprise, given the excellence of the 2021 Barolo vintage, the wines of which were released to market this year) but there are representatives from practically all of Italy's regions, from Amarone to Brunello to Zibibbo. Clearly, a characteristic of Italian wines is the varied and numerous grape varieties they are made with (not just grape-superstars Nebbiolo and Sangiovese, but also Bellone, Kerner, Muller-Thürgau, Nascetta, Pecorino, Pelaverga Piccolo, Prié, Sylvaner and others), so expect to find many wines that you won't hear about too much elsewhere. For the most part, though I have already tasted many wines of the new vintages that will be released next year, I have avoided including them in this list which refers to 2025, but they will find their rightful place in next year's "Best of" list.

Please note that this list does not name wines in order of score: rather, it is a list of wines that have something specific to offer, and therefore some wines that have scored less highly than others might be placed ahead because of other factors, such as price, availability, and degree of true-totypeness. A 100-point wine is no doubt a great drink, but as it may be produced in only very small volumes and therefore not be easily found by the majority of wine lovers, it will not rank as highly on this list as perhaps a very well-made wine that is much easier to find. I want you to drink these wines, if you can, not give you a list of status symbols that you can only read about or dream of. A quick perusal will also confirm that, as usual, there are slightly more than 100 wines on the list: what can I do, every year I have trouble identifying "only" 100 top wines. Hope you won't mind then if I risk giving you a few extra names.

In ultimate analysis, this list provides to all of us who love wine yet another opportunity to talk, discuss, and drink it. And to tell friends about it, and to enjoy it with different foods. And even give you all the opportunity to wonder what I was thinking when I write it down, should you find that your favourite wine didn't make the cut!

The wines in this report

All the wines in this report were tasted by me during 2025, either directly at the wineries, at tastings, or in one of my offices in Europe and Asia. Please note that almost all have tasting notes available in the Ian D'Agata Wine Review data base, and those that don't will have soon, as they are included in upcoming articles.

Ian D'Agata's Select 100 best Italian wines of the Year

- 1. Sandrone 2021 Barolo Le Vigne (Piedmont) 100**
- 2. Di Meo 2010 Greco di Tufo Vittorio (Campania) 95**
- 3. GB. Burlotto 2021 Barolo Cannubi (Piedmont) 100**
- 4. Tiberio 2023 Pecorino Quarmeri Colline Pescaresi (Abruzzo) 98**
- 5. Aldo Conterno 2021 Barolo Romirasco (Piedmont) 99**
- 6. Col d'Orcia 2019 Moscadello di Montalcino Vendemmia Tardiva Pascena (Tuscany) 97**
- 7. Castello di Ama 2021 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigneto Bellavista (Tuscany) 100**
- 8. Gaja 2022 Barbaresco Sorì San Lorenzo (Piedmont) 98**
- 9. Primosic 2020 Ribolla Gialla Riserva Collio (Friuli Venezia Giulia) 97**
- 10. Tua Rita 2023 Merlot Redigaffi Toscana (Tuscany) 96**
- 11. Tedeschi 2018 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva Capitel Monte Olmi (Veneto) 95**
- 12. Argiano 2023 Solengo Toscana Rosso (Tuscany) 96**
- 13. Castello di Verduno 2024 Verduno Pelaverga (Piedmont) 95**
- 14. Paolo Saracco 2024 Moscato d'Asti (Piedmont) 95**
- 15. Castello di Volpaia 2022 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Coltassala (Tuscany) 95**
- 16. Bruno Giacosa 2021 Barolo Falletto (Piedmont) 98+**
- 17. GD Vajra 2021 Barolo Bricco delle Viole (Piedmont) 98+**
- 18. Tenuta di Trinoro 2022 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana (Tuscany) 98**
- 19. Tenuta Santa Caterina 2020 Grignolino Monferace (Piedmont) 94**
- 20. Gemin 2023 Valdobbiadene Brut Nature sui lieviti Cavalier Alvio Stramare (Veneto) 93**
- 21. Tenuta San Guido 2022 Sassicaia Bolgheri Sassicaia (Tuscany) 96**
- 22. Castiglion del Bosco 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 1100 (Tuscany) 96**
- 23. Capanna 2018 Moscadello di Montalcino Vendemmia Tardiva (Tuscany) 97**
- 24. Cagno 2021 Barolo Ravera (Piedmont) 95+**
- 25. Santadi Vini da Uve Stramature Latinia (Sardinia) 96**



Ian D'Agata

Ian D'Agata is an internationally famous, multi-award winning author who has been speaking and writing about wine for thirty years. His latest books (Native Wine Grapes of Italy, Italy's Native Wine Grape Terroirs, Italy's Grapes and Wines: The definitive Compendium Region by Region and the most recent, Barolo Terroir) are considered the bibles of Italian wine and have received numerous prestigious awards such as the Louis Roederer International Wine Awards "Book of the Year" title, the Gourmand World Book Awards "Best European Wine Book" and being named to the "Best Wine Books of the Year" lists of newspapers and magazines such as the NY Times, the Financial Times and Food & Wine. For eight years, Ian has also been the co-author of the Italy section in Hugh Johnson's Pocket Book of Wine, the world's best-selling wine guide with 46 editions to date and over 12 Million copies sold all over the world; he has since been also put in charge of the Alsace and Malta sections.

He is currently the President of Ian D'Agata Wine Culture, one of China's wine education platforms, that includes the Ian D'Agata Wine Review and the Ian D'Agata Wine Academy. Ian is a former staff writer at Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Contributing Editor of Decanter, and Senior Editor of Vinous. His writings have always focused on the wines of Italy, France, China and Canada, for which he has won numerous international awards and accolades, including the Comitato Grandi Cru d'Italia "Best Youngest Wine Journalist of Italy" and the "Best Wine Journalist of Italy" awards, as well as Canada's 2018 VQA award (Out of Ontario section) and 2017 Cuvée Award of Excellence.

Intensely devoted to the research and study of native wine grapes, Ian was officially named in 2015 to Italy's prestigious Accademia della Vite e del Vino (Italy's official association of wine academicians, researchers, and university professors) and is currently the Vice President of the Association Internationale des Terroirs.

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