



WINE ENTHUSIAST
MAGAZINE

BUYING GUIDE

APRIL / 2012

An ancient press in Yad Hashmona, a *moshav* nestled in the Judean Hills near Jerusalem, speaks to the history of wine and oil making in the region.

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stone fruit aromas. Pair it with Chinese chicken salad. Winebow. **Best Buy.** —M.L.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

85 Tasca d'Almerita 2010 Sallier de la Tour Grillo (Sicilia). Sushi, fried calamari, grilled vegetables or barbecued shrimp would all make perfect companions to this fresh, easy Sicilian white wine. It ends with citrus, lime and herbal aromas. Domaines and Appellations. —M.L.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

85 Tasca d'Almerita 2009 Sallier de la Tour Grillo (Sicilia). This is a fresh, tonic and light Grillo that would pair with endive salad and sliced oranges or red beets in vinaigrette. The wine offers citrus, green herb and fresh kiwi aromas. Domaines and Appellations. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Tenuta Barone Nicolò La Lumia 2010 Gloria Insolia (Sicilia). Here's an easy expression of Insolia that opens with citrus, kiwi and almond paste aromas. The wine is a perfect choice for appetizers of toasted tomato bruschetta and chopped basil. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Tenuta Rapitalà 2010 Grillo (Sicilia). Here's a straightforward and simple white wine that delivers fresh peach and citrus aromas backed by a touch of bitter almond. The texture is thick and creamy. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

85 Viticultori Associati Canicatti 2010 Aquilae Grillo (Sicilia). There's a touch of sulfur that takes a few seconds to blow off. Once it does, this wine offers yellow rose, exotic fruit, peach and almond skin. Franco Wine Imports. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

84 Baglio Curatolo Arini 1875 2010 Terre Grillo (Sicilia). Packaged in a screw cap bottle (still a rare sight in Italy) this fresh white is packed with almond blossom, lemon zest and dried herb aromas. Try it with lemon chicken. Winebow. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Calatrasi 2010 La Piazza (Sicilia). A blend of Catarratto and Chardonnay, this is one of those easy Italian whites that will wash down fresh seafood or chicken salad. Ripe fruit and spice build some momentum in the mouth. Pelican Brands, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

84 Calatrasi 2010 Terrale Oro Grillo (Sicilia). Easy, fresh and crisp, this well-priced Grillo would make a great choice for, predinner sipping. Aromas include citrus zest, white almond and wild flower. Vision Wine & Spirits. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 Corvo 2010 Fiore (Sicilia). Here's an easy, no-fuss white wine to pair with rice salad or grilled vegetables. Citrus, almond blossom and stone

fruit are capped by a slightly sweet feel in the mouth. Corvo Wines USA. —M.L.

abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$11

84 Di Giovanna 2010 Viognier (Sicilia). Made with organically-farmed Viognier, this is a unique, slightly awkward white wine with muddled aromas of kiwi, green fruit, green leaf and wild caper. The mouthfeel is thin, compact and fresh. Montecastelli Selections. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

84 Feudi del Pisciotto 2010 Baglio del Sole Inzolia (Sicilia). Here's a simple, clean white wine that opens with grassy tones, citrus and stone fruit aromas. The mouthfeel is somewhat heavy and thick. Vias Imports. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Feudi del Pisciotto 2010 Baglio del Sole Inzolia-Catarratto Sicilia. This is an easy-drinking Sicilian white to pair with salmon, grilled tuna or Thai spring rolls. It's crisp and clean, with notes of citrus, peach and candied fruit. Vias Imports. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Fondo Antico 2009 I Versi (Sicilia). A blend of Grecanico and Inzolia, this bright white wine opens with intense aromas of honey, exotic fruit and butterscotch. It's an easy-drinking, informal wine with a crisp close. Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 Maggiovini 2009 Pithoi Insolia (Sicilia). This creamy expression of Insolia is redolent of citrus mousse, melon and a touch of baked apricot. Pair it with spaghetti and clam sauce. Caffo Beverages Inc. —M.L.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

84 Masseria del Feudo Grottarossa 2009 Haermosa Chardonnay (Sicilia). Haermosa is made with organically-farmed fruit. It shows milky notes of peach yogurt and white chocolate. But it also shows zesty crispness on the close despite the thickness and fullness of the wine's overall texture. Massanois Imports. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

83 Fondo Antico 2009 Grillo Parlante Grillo (Sicilia). Grillo Parlante ("talking cricket") is a pure expression of Grillo with slightly oxidized aromas of butterscotch and caramel. Fresh fruit comes through as melon, apricot and candied lemon. Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

ETNA

90 Benanti 2007 Pietramarina Carricante (Etna). Pietramarina (a pure expression of Carricante) shows light touches of lemon rind and exotic fruit followed by etched mineral notes of crushed granite and brimstone. The finish is tight, fresh and capped by a slightly menthol-like sensation. Wine Warehouse Imports. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Graci 2010 Quota 600 (Etna). A blend of Carricante and Catarratto from vineyards plated 600 meters above sea level on the slopes of Mount Etna, Quota 600 is among Sicily's best white wines. Compact, tonic and streamlined, it does a beautiful job of presenting delicate floral and peach fruit aromas against an austere backdrop of crushed stone and talcum powder. Sherbrooke Cellars. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

88 Firriato 2010 Cavanera Ripa di Scorciovacca (Etna). From blackened volcanic soils comes this brilliantly pristine white wine, with aromas of pear, Golden Delicious apple, stone fruit and citrus. Saline notes of brimstone and crushed stone appear on the finish. Soilair Selection. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Scilio 2010 White (Etna). This is a terrific white wine from the Etna area of Sicily (representing a blend of Carricante and Catarratto) that delivers a rich, generous style with loads of density and intensity. Soft aromas of peach, apricot, dried hay and honey bring up the rear. North Berkeley Imports. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2010 White (Etna). Although Etna is gaining international acclaim thanks to its increasingly popular red wine production, the volcano is also home to beautifully elegant white wines. This expression opens with bright tones of white peach, citrus, honey and a drying mineral note at the back. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Firriato 2009 Cavanera Ripa di Scorciovacca (Etna). Cavanera is a white blend produced by one of the most important wine families based in Trapani, on the other side of Sicily. The wine is crisp and fresh, with a drying mineral note that gives it momentum in the mouth. Soilair Selection. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Nicosia 2010 Fondo Filara (Etna). A blend of Carricante and Catarratto (two of Sicily's most expressive indigenous varieties), this Etna white would pair well with seafood or vegetarian dishes. It boasts focused tones of citrus and Granny Smith apple. Rolivia, Inc. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

OTHER SOUTHERN WHITES

89 Donnafugata 2009 La Fuga Chardonnay (Contessa Entellina). La Fuga is a fresh and delicious Chardonnay from the popular Donnafugata winery. It opens with bright aromas of stone fruit, citrus, dried herb and exotic fruit. The wine makes a perfect pairing partner to the delightful fish dishes served regularly in Mediterranean restaurants. —M.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Cantina Santadi 2009 Cala Silente (Vermentino di Sardegna). Cala Silente is a smooth and sophisticated Vermentino that exhibits a

87 Feudo Principi di Butera 2008 Surya (Sicilia). Surya is a blend of Nero d'Avola and Merlot from the Sicilian estate of northern Italy's Zonin family. The wine shows ripe fruit qualities of blueberry and raspberry, with a touch of bitter almond so characteristic of many Sicilian red wines. Zonin USA. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Fondo Antico 2010 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Fondo Antico offers a clean and pretty Nero d'Avola without those messy, charred aromas you sometimes find in cheap versions of this indigenous grape. The nose is well put together, with elements of cherry, spice, almond and fresh citrus zest. Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Fondo Antico 2009 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Fondo Antico's entry-level Nero d'Avola offers a clean portrait of the Sicilian indigenous grape, with tones of red cherry, blackberry, red rose and lightly toasted almond. The tannins are soft and silky. Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc. —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Gulfi 2009 Rossojbleo Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Rossojbleo opens with distinct aromas of oatmeal cookie, Graham cracker and bright red fruit. It's a unique expression, with just enough acidity to keep the plate refreshed. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Gulfi 2006 Nero Baronj Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Big ripeness and bold fruit flavors characterize this sun-drenched expression of Nero d'Avola. The wine is soft and chewy, with cherry liqueur notes on the close. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —M.L.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

87 Maggiovini 2007 Amongae (Sicilia). An easy blend of oak-aged Nero d'Avola, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, Amongae represents a new, modern side of Sicilian winemaking. There are plush fruit aromas here, enhanced by tobacco, cigar box and drying mineral nuances. Caffo Beverages Inc. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 MandraRossa 2010 Syrah (Sicilia). This easy expression of Syrah is redolent of ripe berry, moist earth and forest floor. There's a touch of fresh mint or peppermint as well, and a drying mineral feel on the close. Palm Bay International. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

87 MandraRossa 2009 Bonera (Sicilia). Bonera is a blend of Nero d'Avola (50%) and equal parts Cabernets Franc and Sauvignon. The bouquet is sweet and soft, with bright tones of red cherry, chocolate and espresso bean. The mouthfeel is firm, tight and fresh. Palm Bay International. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Masseria del Feudo Grottarossa 2009 Il Giglio Syrah (Sicilia). Sicily and Syrah make perfect partners. This wine offers linear, smooth berry tones with touches of barbecue smoke and crushed

minerals or talcum powder on the finish. Massanois Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

87 Maurigi 2004 Tenuta di Budonetto Terre di Maria (Sicilia). Terre di Maria is a Sicilian blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Pinot Noir that opens with dark concentration and savory aromas of spice, cured meat, smoked bacon and dark berry fruit. The bouquet is slightly muddled but the mouthfeel is bright and fresh. USA Wine Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

87 Maurigi 2004 Tenuta di Budonetto Terre di Ottavia Pinot Nero (Sicilia). This Pinot Nero is neutral on the nose with distant tones of small berry and violet. There's more power in the mouth, thanks to the long and silky nature of the tannins. USA Wine Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

87 Mineo Family Vineyards 2008 Aliso Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Aliso opens with ripe fruit aromas of blackberry jam and cinnamon bread. It's a simple, plush red wine that would pair well with pasta, meatloaf or roast beef. Pelican Brands, LLC. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Morgante 2008 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Morgante is an excellent Sicilian estate that has shown consistency in quality throughout the years. This fruit-filled Nero d'Avola would pair well with veal encrusted with chopped pistachio or pork marinated in garlic and rosemary. Aromas here include wild fruit, cassis and black currant. Winebow. —M.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Palari 2009 Rosso del Soprano (Sicilia). This edition of Rosso del Soprano from boutique winemaker Salvatore Geraci offers bright berry tones with easy background notes of almond, pistachio and tobacco. There's also a drying mineral note of crushed stone or talcum powder that gives the wine backbone. Panebianco. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

87 Planeta 2010 La Segreta (Sicilia). A great value wine from Sicily present on restaurant lists across southern Italy, La Segreta is a famously food-friendly red blend that offers light berry, cherry, almond and spice aromas. The easy mouthfeel pairs with pasta, risotto, veal or roast chicken. Palm Bay International. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Planeta 2009 La Segreta (Sicilia). Le Segreta is an easy, popular red wine from Sicily that offers the wild berry, fennel, cola and almond-like aromas associated with the beautiful Mediterranean island. The mouthfeel is informal and crisp. Palm Bay International. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Tasca d'Almerita 2009 Regaleali Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). A great value choice from Sicily, this bright Nero d'Avola is perfumed and floral,

with red rose, violet and wild berry aromas. The mouthfeel is delicate, polished and fresh. Winebow. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Tasca d'Almerita 2007 Lamùri Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Lamùri is a solid value wine from Sicily that shows fresh fruit nuances and loads of wild berry and white almond. Try it with baked salmon or creamy shellfish dishes. Winebow. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Tenuta Barone Nicolò La Lumia 2002 Torreforte Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). This aged wine shows tertiary aromas of dried fruit, cured meat, bresaola and toasted almond. The wine is garnet in color with browning hues. Drink immediately. —M.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Tenuta di Serramarrocco 2006 Barone di Serramarrocco Perricone (Sicilia). From the Erice area of Sicily (in the southwest, near Trapani), Barone di Serramarrocco is made with Pignatello (also known by the name Perricone) and small percentages of other indigenous varieties. This oak-aged red shows dark concentration and toasted notes of almond and dried fruit. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Tenuta Rapitalà 2008 Nuhar (Sicilia). Nuhar is an innovative blend of Nero d'Avola (70%) and Pinot Nero that surpasses expectations and does justice to both grape varieties. The cherry and almond tones of the first grape are present, as are the delicate violet, raspberry and cassis aromas of the second. The finish shows bright menthol and spearmint overtones. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Valle dell'Acate 2010 Case Ibdini Syrah (Sicilia). Fresh, youthful and redolent of bright berry fruit, this Sicilian Syrah would pair perfectly with pizza, home-cooked pasta or light meat dishes. Blueberry and raspberry fruits dominate the bouquet and lend a soft, chewy feel in the mouth. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Valle dell'Acate 2009 Case Ibdini Syrah (Sicilia). Sicily is doing wonderful things with Syrah and this expression from the southern-most part of the island shows a fresh and informal side to the grape. The wine is packed tight with lush, bright red fruit flavors. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Viticultori Associati Canicatti 2008 Aquilae Merlot (Sicilia). This wine delivers plump cherry and blackberry with a soft, velvety, easy-going mouthfeel. Sober LLC. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Baglio Curatolo Arini 1875 2009 Terre Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Easy, fresh and approachable, this screw cap Sicilian red opens with raspberry, cherry and toasted almond aromas. There's a touch of bitterness on the finish. Winebow. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

ry. There's loads of fruit in the mouth, with a touch of bright potpourri at the end. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Valle dell'Acate 2009 Case Iridini Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Case Iridini is a line of value wines from the Ragusa area of Sicily, with the island's best Baroque architecture may be found. This Nero d'Avola (aged in stainless steel) presents crisp cherry and bright almond aromas. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Viticultori Associati Canicatti 2008 Aquilae Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Aquilae is an oak-aged Nero d'Avola that offers bold aromas of ripe fruit, blackberry, prune, plum and cured meat. In fact, the finish is very much driven by savory tones of leather, earth and smoked bacon. Sober LLC. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 Viticultori Associati Canicatti 2008 Aquilae Syrah (Sicilia). This solid value wine would pair perfectly with pizza. An easy expression of Syrah, the wine is soft and silky, with simple, fruity layers of blueberry and cherry. Sober LLC. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 Viticultori Associati Canicatti 2008 Calio (Sicilia). A cheerful blend of Nero d'Avola and Nerello Cappuccio, Calio would pair well with potato gnocchi with butter and chopped sage. Cherry, wild berry and almond are backed by a powerful but smooth mouthfeel. Franco Wine Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Calatrasi 2010 La Piazza Alta Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). La Piazza is a fresh and fragrant Nero d'Avola packaged in a fun, screw top bottle that would pair with easy pasta dishes or home baked pizza. The wine boasts a dark, inky color with bold cherry, mocha and tobacco flavors. Pelican Brands, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

85 Caruso & Minini 2009 Sachia Perricone (Sicilia). Perricone is a little-known variety from Sicily and this expression of the grape shows intense aromas of mint, spearmint, cola, licorice and small berry fruit. Vinifera Imports. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

85 Corvo 2009 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Corvo's entry-level Nero d'Avola opens with a bright, lean appearance and sharp berry tones with almond and cassis. It's a bit lean but fresh. Corvo Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Corvo 2008 Rosso (Sicilia). The wine that first introduced Americans to Sicily, this classic Corvo blend offers a light, bright appearance followed by easy tones of red berry, bitter almond and cassis. Corvo Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Di Giovanna 2009 Nerello Mascalese (Sicilia). Made from organically-farmed Nerello Mascalese, this simple wine does show true varietal

characteristics of wild fruit, dark mineral and cola. The aromas are mild and the mouthfeel delivers medium intensity. Montecastelli Selections. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

85 Duca di Salaparuta 2009 Calanica Frappato-Syrah (Sicilia). This version of Calanica (made from 60% Frappato and 40% Syrah) offers a low impact bouquet of earthy forest fruit and bramble. It's a light, lean wine with a touch of soft spice on the close. Corvo Wines USA. —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Duca di Salaparuta 2008 Calanica Frappato-Syrah (Sicilia). Made from an interesting blend of Frappato and Syrah, this Calanica offers the bright, fruity freshness of the first variety against the bold, soft chewiness of the second. Corvo Wines USA. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

85 Feudi del Pisciotto 2009 Baglio del Sole Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Baglio del Sole is a solid value wine that would pair with four-cheese pizza or grilled sausage sandwiches. Bright cherry and cassis is backed by zesty citrus. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Feudi del Pisciotto 2008 Carolina Marenga (Sicilia). From the fashion line of Feudi del Pisciotto's portfolio, Carolina Marenga is an oak-aged expression of Frappato that shows easy, fresh berry nuances backed by bitter almond and mild spice. Vias Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Feudo Arancio Stemmari 2010 Pinot Nero (Sicilia). It does seem crazy, but a handful of producers in Sicily do include Pinot Noir in their portfolios. The grape certainly does take on hot climate characteristics of ripe raspberry and spice, but the overall effect is not too far off from what you should expect of this delicate, feminine grape. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. **Best Buy.** —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Feudo Disisa 2007 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Jammy black fruit and inky blackberry preserves open the bouquet of this syrupy red wine. The wine's texture is both dense and gritty. Vinifera Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Fondo Antico 2009 I Versi (Sicilia). Plump, lively and packed tight with cherry and blackberry, this blend of Nero d'Avola and Merlot would pair well with grilled sausage or hamburgers. The mouthfeel is soft, easy and fresh. Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Maggiovini 2007 Rasula Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia). Rasula shows ripe aromas of blackberry and prune with lingering tones of spice and leather in the background. It's a simple value wine with a chewy, rich mouthfeel. Caffo Beverages Inc. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

85 Tenuta di Serramarrocco 2008 Baglio di Serramarrocco Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Baglio di Serramarrocco opens with a slightly browning hue and savory aromas of cured beef and black currant. There's an earthy tone as well, backed by mild grittiness in the mouth. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Calatrasi 2010 Terrale Oro Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Terrale Oro is a perfect pasta or pizza wine to drink on nights at home with family and friends. It delivers bright red fruit, blackberry and almond paste. Vision Wine & Spirits. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 Corvo 2010 Fiore (Sicilia). A blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato, Fiore is a sharp, tonic red wine that would pair with fried dough or cheese melts. Bramble, berry, cola and bitter almond appear on the close. Corvo Wines USA. —M.L.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

84 Corvo 2009 Fiore (Sicilia). Fiore is a down-to-earth Sicilian wine that offers simple and pure aromas of small berry fruit, almond paste and blueberry. It closes with fresh tones of citrus and spice. Corvo Wines USA. —M.L.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

84 Feudo Maccari 2009 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). This simple, easy-going Nero d'Avola opens with a slightly burnt or charred characteristic that recalls asphalt and rubber tire. Wait a few minutes for the red fruit and almond to come through. Kobrand. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

84 Maggiovini 2008 Pithoi Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Pithoi opens with light aromas of forest berry and raw fruit backed by touches of spice and bitter almond. It's an easy wine that could pair with pizza or take-out fried chicken. Caffo Beverages Inc. —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Maggiovini 2008 Rasula Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Made with organically-farmed fruit, Rasula opens with sharp and somewhat sour aromas of white cherry and bitter almond. It's a simple, no-fuss wine for informal occasions. Caffo Beverages Inc. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Resonata 2010 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). This simple Sicilian red delivers bright berry fruit, blue flower and white almond skin. It shows almost Pinot Noir-like aromas and the power and gritty mouthfeel usually associated with Nero d'Avola. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 TerrAmore 2010 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Made from organically farmed fruit, this fresh Sicilian red is appropriate for informal occasions or stay-home TV dinners. It shows bright berry fruit and bitter almond. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$6

toasted pistachio nut. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2010 Rosso (Etna). Marc de Grazia is a vocal enthusiast of Nebbiolo and Pinot Noir, so it's no surprise that he would include the indigenous grapes of Mount Etna, Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio, on his list of favorite varieties. These grapes all share similar characteristics: They are delicately nuanced and complex on the nose with a silky but firm quality of tannin. And, they all show long aging potential. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Benanti 2008 Rosso di Verzella (Etna). Benanti's Etna red opens with earthy tones of terracotta, dark chocolate, roasted espresso and crème de cassis. There's a gritty, thick feel to the tannins and the overall structure. Wine Warehouse Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Firriato 2009 Cavanera (Etna). Cavanera is Firriato's Mount Etna estate, and its flagship wine, Cavanera, is a traditional blend of Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio. It offers small berry aromas of wild strawberry and raspberry with drying nuances of talcum powder and crushed stone. Soilair Selection. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Firriato 2007 Cavanera (Etna). Cavanera is an elegant, lively red wine with forest berry, wild mushroom, talcum powder, exotic spice and cola notes. The mouthfeel is long, dusty and dry. Soilair Selection. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Graci 2010 Etna. Graci is a dynamic, young producer with a beautiful estate at the base of the Etna volcano. This lively Nerello Mascalese opens with delicate floral intensity and background notes of mint, cola, licorice, crushed mineral and rosemary oil. Sherbrooke Cellars. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Cottanera 2010 Barbazzale Etna. Barbazzale is a blended red wine that's 90% Nerello Mascalese and 10% Nerello Cappuccio. It opens with ripe berry aromas and smoky overtones of crushed granite and spice. The wine shows nice balance and firm structure. Banville & Jones Wine Merchants. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Frank Cornelissen NV Contadino 8 (Etna). Contadino 8 is a fetish wine for serious collectors of new experiences in natural and organic wines. Made with fruit from different vintages, it opens with a light ruby color and aromas of raw grapes, red candy, white pepper and dried apple. It is crisp, smooth and silky on the close. Zev Rovine Selections. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Scilio 2009 Orphéus (Etna). A blended red, Orphéus shows balance and harmony, with clean berry notes, licorice, drying mineral, pencil shav-

ing, rosemary and dried herb. It would pair well with spicy lamb in yogurt sauce. John Given Wines. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

88 Tenuta di Fessina 2009 Erse (Etna). Some of the best expressions from Etna share some of the brightness and beauty of Burgundian Pinot Noir. Erse offers delicate berry and blue flower aromas and is driven by polished tannins and a firm, but precise mouthfeel. Winebow. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

88 Tenuta di Fessina 2008 Erse Nerello Mascalese (Etna). Erse opens with light, delicate tones of wild berry, cassis, blue flower and polished river stone. There's an extremely finely-etched, but also firm, quality to the tannins. Winebow. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

87 Nicosia 2009 Fondo Filara Rosso (Etna). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 Scilio 2009 Rosso (Etna). With fruit harvested from 650 meters above sea level on the slopes of Mount Etna (making this one of the highest altitude vineyards in Italy), this bright red blend shows small berry nuances, with tangy almond, crushed clove and menthol notes. Drying mineral notes bring up the rear. John Given Wines. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

VITTORIA

91 COS 2008 Cerasuolo di Vittoria. COS is a natural, biodynamic and organic wine estate in southern Sicily and a leader in the rising popularity of the Cerasuolo di Vittoria denomination. This expression is particularly delicate and expressive, with nuanced layers of wild berry, white chocolate and cola. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

90 COS 2009 Cerasuolo di Vittoria. COS is a leader in Cerasuolo di Vittoria thanks to the strict organic and biodynamic philosophy applied to their production. This vintage shows bright berry, cola, dried herb, olive, tobacco and warm, earthy aromas. In the mouth, the wine is crisp, fresh and firm. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

89 COS 2007 Cerasuolo di Vittoria. Cerasuolo di Vittoria is a fresh, compact and lean red wine that can pair with white meat or shellfish. You can also serve the wine slightly chilled in warmer months. The bouquet shows layers of blue flower, mineral, cola and wild berry fruit. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Planeta 2009 Dorilli (Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico). Cerasuolo di Vittoria is one of southern Italy's most exciting red wines. It's food-friendly, fresh and easy to drink like Beaujolais, but also delivers the elegance and firmness of Pinot Noir. Try it slight-

ly chilled with chicken, pasta or a heaping summer salad. Palm Bay International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

88 Feudo di Santa Tresa 2007 Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico. Cerasuolo di Vittoria is a classic food wine. Its light, lean texture and crisp acidity go down beautifully with pasta, lasagna or veal. Aromas include bright berry, almond and barbecue smoke. Vias Imports. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Valle dell'Acate 2008 Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico. Cerasuolo di Vittoria is an easy-drinking blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato (aged in oak) that pairs with pasta, veal or even a hearty hamburger with cheese, bacon and the works. This pretty wine shows nice heft and texture with a bright cherry close. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Valle dell'Acate 2010 Il Frappato (Vittoria). Il Frappato is a seriously fun wine that would pair with pasta, pizza or even spicy Indian food. It's a light, crisp red wine (serve it slightly chilled) with bright berry aromas of blueberry and wild strawberry. It's informal but attractively layered at the same time. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Nicosia 2009 Fondo Filara (Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico). Fondo Filara is a blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato, two important indigenous grapes. This expression offers tangy spice, bright fruit and a fresh, lean mouthfeel. Rolivia, Inc. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Planeta 2010 Cerasuolo di Vittoria. Planeta has done a terrific job of communicating the merits of Cerasuolo di Vittoria to wine drinkers around the world. This light, ruby-colored red wine is packed with bright fruit nuances and a crisp mouthfeel. It makes an ideal pairing partner to the best Italian pasta recipes. Palm Bay International. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Valle dell'Acate 2009 Il Frappato (Vittoria). Il Frappato is a light, fruity red wine that is vinified in stainless steel to maintain its lively raspberry and blueberry flavors. It can be served slightly chilled and goes down easily with vegetables, veal or white meat. Polaner Selections. —M.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Maggiovini 2007 Vigna di Pettine (Cerasuolo di Vittoria). A blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato, this easygoing Cerasuolo di Vittoria offers a nice mix of freshness, informality and richness. Layers of raspberry, cherry and almond build on the close. Caffo Beverages Inc. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16