



“Eat Outings”

If your sympathies were more aligned with Connie than with Michael Corleone, this lecture and tasting on Italian female winemakers is for you. Italian Wine Merchants sommelier Michann Thompson introduces six selections, including a fruit-rich 2001 Brunello “Prime Donne” from femme vintner Donatella Cinelli Colombini. A Taste of Wines by Italian Female Winemakers. 07/2007



Eat for Victory

“Italian Women Make Delicious Wine”

By Nina Lalli
The Bastianich/Batali wine shop, Italian Wine Merchants, is having a tasting event to celebrate female winemakers from Italy on Saturday. There will be six wines to taste and antipasti to wash it all down. From the invite: The future of Italy’s most respected producers and wines including Bruno Giacosa’s Barbaresco, Bartolo Mascarello’s Barolo, Castello di Monsanto’s Chianti, and Gianfranco Soldera’s Brunello, lay not in the hands of a son, but in the capable hands of their strong-minded daughters. A Taste of Wines by Italian Female Winemakers. 07/2007



“Italian Wine Merchants”

Wine/Liquor, Union Square
Quality: 27 Display: 24 Service: 25
Restaurateur Joe Bastianich's "expertise shines through" at this Union Square "haven for the wine-obsessed" (co-owned with Mario Batali), which deals only in producers from The Boot, offering a "tremendous selection" of "top-flight" "standards" as well as "hard-to-find" "gems"; it's curated by a staff so "knowledgeable and passionate" you could "get your PhD in vino Italiano" just by shopping here. 07/2007



“Barolo’s Vintage Streak Seminar”

By Alina Soler
Italian Wine Merchants invites Italian wine and cuisine lovers to a tasting of eight Barolo wines accompanied by traditional dishes from various regions of Italy on August 25 from 1-3 pm at Studio del Gusto. Educate yourself as you eat with tasting notes, maps and more. 08/2007



“On the Plate: Upcoming Food and Wine Events”

By Laren Spirer
A Study of Barolo’s Vintage Streak: So rumor has it that 1995 to 2001 were some rocking vintages on the Barolo front. The team at Italian Wine Merchants will guide you through eight wines from these golden years, paired with regional antipasti. All participants will receive a tasting booklet with IWM’s proprietary notes. 08/2007

Bloomberg

“Reclusive Abruzzo Winemaker, Roots in 1600s, Frets About Rain”

By Elin McCoy
Until a decade ago, Abruzzo's wine scene was dominated by cooperatives pumping out inexpensive, bland whites from trebbiano and popular, sturdy reds from montepulciano. Valentini was the only icon name. Now there are more than a dozen boutique producers making quality wines, though Valentini is still unique, his wines legends. “They’re what wine used to be, they can’t be deconstructed,” says Sergio Esposito, owner of Italian Wine Merchants, a New York retailer. Some people find their tastes too different and regard Valentini’s greatness as a myth. Not me. 09/2007



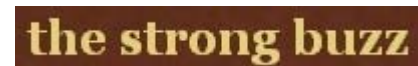
“Critics’ Pick: Studio Regionale”

By Alexandra Vallis
The wine mecca owned by Mario Batali, Joe Bastianich, and Sergio Esposito opens up its Studio del Gusto for hungry oenophiles with informal talks that pair Italian vintages with top notch bites. For the first three classes of each month students roam the spacious room to sample seven wines and snack on antipasti while grilling the featured speaker with questions. Young portfolio manager Talia Baiocchi invigorates the more classical fourth session each month when seated students may dine on risotto with black truffle and lardo or fried sardines with celery salt while she regales them with wine-related anecdotes. 09/2007

The New York Times

“At Newport Festival, Wines and Mansions”

By Hilary Howard
Fine food, fine wine and a peek inside mansions from the Colonial era through the Gilded Age, like Marble House are part of the second annual Newport Mansions Wine and Food Festival from Sept. 27 to 29 in Newport, R.I. More than 150 wineries will be represented, and wine specialists like Sergio Esposito of Italian Wine Merchants will give seminars. 09/2007



“Saturday: Drink Wine and Beer!”

By Andrea Strong
Italian Wine Merchants, in case you haven't been, is a great place to wander around and learn about wine of Tuscan variety (and more), but in addition to the library-like wine studio, the shop has a beautiful salon where they do cooking classes, host private events and teach wine seminars. 10/2007



“Birthday Dinner at Italian Wine Merchants”

By Jay McInerney

Some friends—my Knopf editor, Gary Fisketjon, and his wife, Diana; Jim Signorelli, who makes parody commercials for Saturday Night Live—threw a combo wedding/birthday celebration dinner for me at Italian Wine Merchants. Besides being a very good wine store, Italian Wine Merchants has a back room that's a great venue for a party, with an open kitchen and a long table opposite, which was set for 24 the other night. 01/2007

The New York Times

“Wine Tastings Loosen Up. Butter Pecan With That Cabernet?”

By Kristina Shevory

As with its retail shop, Italian Wine Merchants limits the focus of its private events to the grapes, wines and wineries of Italy. Food is always included—no surprise, seeing as the co-owner of the shop is the well-known New York chef Mario Batali—with selections that go beyond humdrum cheese and crackers. The fare can include black-olive-encrusted lamb chops with string beans and roasted vegetables and linguini with clams. 01/2007

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“The Overnight Wine Collector”

By Christina Lewis

Voilà! Wine. A look at some of the consultants and vendors who promise to build wine cellars from scratch. Company: Italian Wine Merchants, New York City. Service: Cellar-management unit assembles collections of specialty wines. Comment: Merchant specializes in older Italian wines but began buying more broadly last year for investment-minded clients. Owner Sergio Esposito says top clients get access to rare wines like a '41 Giacomo Conterno Barolo Monfortino Riserva (\$995). 01/2007

DAILY NEWS

“Delectables for Dad:

Super Shops for Father's Day Food Gifts”

By Jay Cheshes

Italian Wine Merchants...is as austere as an Ivy League library. Inside its hallowed halls Italian wines are all you'll find: It stocks only the top 1% of the country's production, which makes it the ideal spot for a mouth-watering bottle for Dad. Big spenders can go for a single vineyard Chianti Classico Riserva from Castello di Monsanto (\$74.95) or a 1999 Ceretto Barbaresco (\$135); other reds start at \$6.88. 06/2007

New York **WOMAN**

“Eager to Sample Special Wines? Join a Wine Club”

By Paola Vecchiolla

IWM's founder and promoter of the wine club is Sergio Esposito, known to be the leading Italian wine specialist in the U.S. Esposito is the co-owner of the IWM store, along with Mario Batali and Joseph Bastianich. Esposito travels a good deal and most of his time is spent in Italy, meeting with vintners and selecting the wines that are most representative of the wine style of the region. IWM has over 800 members in its wine club. 06/2007



“Eat Outings”

Long before there were Super Tuscan, the ancient Greeks transported their grape vines to Italy, helping to shape the vineyards the boot would become famous for. The oenophiles at Italian Wine Merchants celebrate this integration with a tasting of six wines that reflect the Hellenic influence, like the heady Mastroberardino 2001 Taurasi Radici. Antipasti, cured meats and cheeses will also be served. Salute! 06/2007



“New York Event: Wines by Female Winemakers”

There's a new generation of amazing winemakers in Italy—and they happen to be women. These rising stars on the Italian wine scene are producing some of the best wines today. Italian Wine Merchants in Manhattan is hosting a tasting event this Saturday, July 21st, from 1 to 3 PM. Guests will taste six Italian wines from leading female winemakers, along with regional food pairings. 07/2007

The New York Times

“Women and Wine”

By Florence Fabricant

At several of Italy's wineries, the daughters, not the sons, represent the younger generation taking over. There is even an Italian organization called Le Donne del Vino, Women of Wine. On Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m., Italian Wine Merchants will pour wines from six of the wineries, including Bartolo Mascarello, a Barolo producer, where Maria Teresa Mascarello is the head winemaker, with a sampling of regional food. 07/2007



“Italian Wine Merchants”

Oenophiles rejoice. Sommelier/wine consultants

Joseph Bastianich and Sergio Esposito combined talents with chef/restaurateurs Mario Batali (Po, Babbo, Lupa) and Lidia Bastianich (Felidia, Fricco Bar, Becco) to create Italian Wine Merchants. The Tuscan setting is replete with burnished wood shelves of hand-selected Italian wines; the entire stock is stored down below in a climate-controlled cellar. The handpicked treasures are only rivaled by the warmth and knowledge of the partners as they patiently describe jewels at every price point. 07/2007



“A Carefree Italian Way to Toast Mom”

By Jon Bonné

The best [wines] were on the lean side, with sweetness almost an afterthought. They offered bright acidity, citrus overtones and a white mineral character to balance out the nectar aromas, like white peach, that typify moscato. That minerality, points out Sergio Esposito, managing partner of Italian Wine Merchants in New York, is often found in moscato made from older vines grown on limestone- and chalk-heavy soil. 05/2006

St. Petersburg Times

“Pinot Grigio Perfection”

By Chris Sherman

While you may taste the cool climates, high altitude, rocky streams and German techniques in fine pinot grigio, the complexity comes from the region's unique human character, history and mix of nationalities. “The common story is all this stainless steel technique came down from Germany. That's wrong,” says Sergio Esposito, who runs Italian Wine Merchants in New York. “It's the people. These people are survivors.” 05/2006



“Where to Find Northeastern Italian Whites”

By Wolfgang Weber

Look to the experts at New York's Italian Wine Merchants to guide you through an impressive selection of ribolla gialla, tocai, and some of Europe's most engaging sauvignon blanc. Their email newsletter is a weekly education in all things vinous from up and down the boot. 08/2006



“Wine—Going Native”

By John Mariani

The question is, does the world need more Italian varietals at this point? “Absolutely!” insists Sergio Esposito, owner and buyer for Italian Wine Merchants in New York. “Exploration has taken over American wine culture. People do not want to buy the same international varietals over and over. And with 2,000 different grape varieties grown in Italy, you can spend a lifetime tasting Italian wines.” Fall 2006



“New York Rules”

By Jamie Relth

New York is dangerous—Walk the streets at your peril, for enticement waits around at every corner. One of the riskiest moves is to stroll into Italian Wine Merchants when your resolve is weak. In the airy, beautifully lit showroom off Union Square, bottles from Italy stand on display like works of art. You will find wines by the best producers of every region, from Sicilia to Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and from Valle d'Aosta to Puglia. 09/2006

Bloomberg

“Italy's Complex Amarone Attracts Thieves, Dreamers”

By Elin McCoy

“It's very difficult to make a balanced amarone,” explains Sergio Esposito of New York's Italian Wine Merchants. “Nature concentrates wacky flavors, too, so when the wine is good it's very, very good, but when it's bad it's very, very bad.” That's why the best are expensive and it's wise to keep away from cheap bottlings. 10/2006



“Collectors Find New Ways to Store Wine”

By Janet Frankston

“Wine has increasingly become a part of American popular culture,” said Sergio Esposito, owner of Italian Wine Merchants, a Manhattan wine store whose partners include restaurant superstars Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich. 12/2006



“Old-World Wine in a New Light”

By Rachel Ng

With a dizzying array of Italian wines to choose from—more than 2,000 grape varieties and 27,000 producers—simply finding the right dinner accompaniment is not an easy task. Enter Manhattan's Italian Wine Merchants (IWM). Owners Mario Batali, Sergio Esposito, and Joe Bastianich help you refine your search by carrying only the top 1 percent of fine Italian wines. A great selection is guaranteed, but IWM is doing a whole lot more, too. 12/2006



“Italian Wine Merchants”

Quality: 28 Value: 21 Service: 22

“The displays alone” are “worth a visit” to this “beautiful,” “uncrowded” Union Square shop exclusively devoted to “upscale” Italian wines; staffed by a “knowledgeable” team, and co-owned by those experts on the country's food and vino, restaurateurs Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich, it's a place to “revisit that trip to Tuscany” or to explore “high-quality” “new and obscure” producers. N.B. the tasting room is an elegant place to hold a private event. 2006