

THE WORLD'S BEST WINE MAGAZINE

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Decanter

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ITALY'S 50 GREATEST EVER WINES

How many are in your cellar?

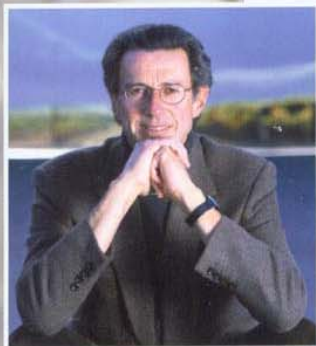


BAROLO'S
VINTAGE OF
A LIFETIME
p50

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IL VINO È CULTURA - IL VINO È NATURA
NON DISPERDERE IL VETRO NELL'AMBIENTE



MAN OF THE YEAR: CHRISTIAN MOUEIX

PLUS How Bordeaux's underdogs outshone the big names

> Tuscan travel > California Pinot > America's wine nuts

ITALY'S 50 GREATEST EVER WINES

Italy is home to myriad wine styles, and the top estates often produce several different bottlings. So which are the greatest of all Italian wines?

KERIN O'KEEFE canvassed opinion among *Decanter's* top Italian experts

Italy's free spirit ensures that Tuscany, Piedmont *et al* are not restricted by the straightjacket of the French-style classification system. Yet most wine lovers have an idea of the names perceived as each region's top estates. But within these estates, which are the most consistent, and which of their wines are the standout performers? Even more intriguingly, how do these great wines from around the country then compare to one another in terms of their status?

To find the answers, *Decanter* asked 19 Italian wine experts from four different countries to pick their top five Italian wines of all time, and to stipulate their number one choice. There were no set criteria: wines could be red or white, at any price. Rather than nominating specific vintages, we wanted wines that consistently express all that is great about Italian wine and winemaking. The wines with the most nominations are listed, in order, here.

Unsurprisingly, both Tuscany and Piedmont weighed in heavily among the top picks for the most esteemed reds, with 13 nominations for Tuscany's most prestigious Brunellos, Chianti Classicos and Supertuscans, followed by 11 illustrious Barolos and Barbarescos from Piedmont. Friuli reigned for its magnificent whites. Prestigious Amarones and pioneering Soaves from Veneto each made the grade, as did a noble Taurasi from Campania and a magnificent Trebbiano d'Abruzzo.

Our dream list underscores the undisputed diversity of the greatest Italian wines and winemaking. Remember, these are not vintage specific – just the greatest wines, year after year.

THE NAMES BEHIND THE CHOICES

Richard Baudains, Italian regional chairman, Decanter World Wine Awards.
Franz Botré, director and editor, *Spirito di Vino*. **Stephen Brook**, contributing editor, *Decanter*. **Gigi Brozzoni**, Italian wine writer and editor, *Vini di Veronelli*. **Sergio Esposito**, owner, Italian Wine Merchants, New York, and author of *Passion on the Vine*. **Andrea Gabbrielli**, Italian journalist and wine writer. **Michael Garner**, director, Tria Wines. **Rosemary George MW**, wine writer and author of *Treading Grapes: Walking Through the Vineyards of Tuscany*. **David Gleave MW**, managing director, Liberty Wines. **Ossie Gray**, general manager and wine buyer, The River Café. **Kerin O'Keefe**, Italian-based wine writer, author and lecturer. **Sergio de Luca**, director of buying, Italy, Enotria Wine Cellars. **Tom Maresca**, wine writer and author. **Peter McCombie MW**, wine consultant and writer. **Isao Miyajima**, wine writer, *Guida dell'Espresso* guide to Italian wines. **Franco Ricci**, head of AIS Roma and editor of *Bibenda* magazine and *Duemilavini* wine guide. **Neal Rosenthal**, US importer of artisanal wines. **Michèle Shah**, wine writer and author. **Franco Ziliani**, Italian wine writer.