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Italy - cutting edge

Recommendations > Insiders' Buying Guide > Italy - cutting edge

By Richard Baudains

Rosso del Colline Lucchese, Tenuta di Valgiano 2001

★★★★★

From a blend of Sangiovese and Syrah, this has upfront berry fruit and a dense but very drinkable palate with great length and personality. Hard to resist now, but will develop with time. Drink 2006-10.

N/A UK Tel 39 0583 401 271

Barolo, Vittorio Camerano 1999

★★★★★

Classic bay leaf, white pepper, violets, red currants, fennel and liquorice. Authentic Barolo, full of savoury nuances. Drink 2005-12.

N/A UK Tel 39 0565 74768

Nero d'Avola, Nerobufaleffj, Gulfi 2000

★★★★★

This wine comes from black sand soils in probably Italy's hottest microzone, at Pachino. Complex and austere, with a mineral intensity which is almost overwhelming, and super fine extract. Drink up to 2012.

Nov

Aglianico del Vulture, Donato d'Angelo, d'Angelo 2001

★★★★★

This combines the body and ripe tannins of the vintage with elegance. Lovely floral-spicy nose, seamless palate and long berry fruit finish. Excellent value. Drink 2006-12. from £9.50 Bnt, Evy, Lui, Rbs, Sel, SpD, Wmb

Collazzi Toscana, Fattoria I Collazzi 2001

★★★★★

A Cabernet/Merlot blend of silky refinement with intense berry fruit and hints of tea leaf and eucalyptus. An individual take on a familiar blend. Drink 2005-09.

N/A UK Tel 39 0565 579 700

Venezia-Giulia, Carat, Bressan 2001

★★★★★

This mature, barrel-aged white is from very old vines of Tocai, Malvasia, Istrina and Ribolla. Leafy-floral-herby on the nose with a delicate vein of peach and apricot, smooth and mellow on the palate, but full of life and very long. Drink up to 2008.

N/A UK Tel 39 0481 888 131

Bolgheri Rosso, Podere Guado al Melo 2002

★★★★★

Still a little dry and firm, this Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot blend needs time to open up, but promises well. An estate to watch. Drink 2006-10.

N/A UK Tel 39 0565 74768

Testamatta, Bibi Graetz 2002

★★★★★

From native varieties grown on slopes overlooking Florence, an extreme expression of the fruit-driven school of red winemaking. Rare elegance in the tannins and overall

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