

ITALY

Italy's wine industry is one of the oldest around. Wines have been produced for over four thousand years and the Greeks called Italy 'Oenotria' or 'Land of Wine'. Virtually all the country makes wine and Italy battles with France and Spain for the title of being the world's largest wine producer and exporter. Lots of European Union money has been invested and the U.K.'s appetite for pasta, pizza and the wines to go with them keeps growing.

So many regions, so many grape varieties and so very many growers can make it difficult to choose. This is why we have made our selection for you very carefully indeed.

CANTINA

No, not a canteen of food – more one of silver! An Italian wine Cantina is a growers' Co-operative and we have included wines in this Italian selection from two award winners - Cantina Due Palma in Southern Italy and Cantina Di Soave which includes the well-known names of Pinot Grigio and Valpolicella.

The danger with a co-operative is that it becomes a bad committee – asked to design a horse and ending up with a mule. The benefits of a good co-operative, and these are two of the best, are that modern production facilities can be financed, stricter quality control procedures applied and innovative changes introduced.

Outstanding wines produced include Brindisi Rosso from Due Palma and Di Soave's Ripasso Valpolicella.

LAKE GARDA

For a long time, Lake Garda would mean very little to a British wine drinker other than it being a beautiful holiday destination. However it can truthfully be said that this area has profited more than the rest of Italy from modern wine developments.

Try the white Lugana Tenuta Maioli from the Southern end of the lake. Still relatively rare, still produced from hand selected grapes and a 'class act' through and through.

Last year we introduced the Terre al Lago wines (the name meaning Lakeland). Their Pinot Noir and Merlot are examples of the introduction of 'foreign' grape varieties but their Pinot Grigio is very much more traditional. They are also a part of the Cantine di Soave's products and show the difference made by quality winemaking.

Lugana Tenuta Maioli
– a 'class act' through and through.



RED

	Taste Guide	Trade Sales Price
<p>Sentina Rosso Youthful, lively red with juicy cherry fruit flavours.</p>	B	£2.93
<p>Sentina Valpolicella Light and fresh with lots of soft cherry fruit.</p>	B	£3.23
<p>Sentina Merlot Made to a modern style in Veneto, this Merlot is very attractive drinking with soft, varietal berry fruits.</p>	B	£3.23
<p>Casal Bordino Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Lovely, soft approachable fruit. Well made and well balanced wine with an easy drinking style.</p>	C	£3.95
<p>££ Bella Modella Primitivo Sangiovese This is a very well made wine that combines spiciness and fruitiness with good structure and balance. Extremely tasty and really good value.</p>	C	£4.62
<p>Bella Modella Nero d'Avola The Sicilian grape Nero d'Avola is proving very popular with customers because it combines spiciness and fruitiness so well.</p>	D	£4.62
<p>Terre al Lago Merlot A typical Merlot style with ripe, plummy fruit and a lingering finish. Excellent example of modern Italian winemaking.</p>	B	£4.73
<p>Terre al Lago Pinot Nero Italian Pinot Noir is relatively rare even in this more innovative age. This shows how a class winemaker can produce ripe cherry and red fruit flavours and aromas with a savoury finish.</p>	B	£4.73
<p>Sentina Chianti Italy's most famous red made from the Sangiovese grape. Our entry level Tuscan wine is food friendly, fruity and full of flavour.</p>	C	£4.99
<p>Villa Borghetti Valpolicella Classico, Pasqua Only the finest selected grapes from the Veneto hills are used to produce this fragrant wine that is a versatile 'all rounder'. Soft and supple with vanilla edged dark fruit aromas and deep raisin flavours.</p>	C	£5.05
<p> Brindisi, Cantine due Palma A velvety smooth red from Puglia with ample body and fruit and a very soft, easy finish.</p>	C	£5.37
<p>Chianti Vernaiola, Rocca delle Macie Fresh and juicy wine for enjoying young from this progressive winery.</p>	C	£5.65
<p>Giome Rosso IGT The IGT category has been introduced for quality wines unable to fit traditional regulations. This award-winning winemaker in Lombardy has produced a smooth, delicious wine with rich fragrances of red and black fruits.</p>	C	£7.63
<p> Chianti Classico Rocca delle Macie Produced from a relatively new winery which has used modern techniques and machinery as well as low yields to produce stylish wines. Its bright ruby red colour, mature cherry fruit and rich texture are everything you should find in a well made Chianti Classico.</p>	C	£8.25





RED



Ripasso Valpolicella Superiore, Rocca Sveva

Valpolicella Ripasso is re-fermented on the grape skins to make a more intense and full-bodied wine without losing the natural ripe cherry fruit.

Taste
Guide

Trade
Sales Price

D

£10.09

Barolo Cortese

Classically Barolo is Italy's greatest red with the Nebbiolo grape producing a dense but fragrant and dry red with lots of tannin and a clean finish. This has real elegance.

E

£14.99

Amarone Classico

The grapes are dried to increase fruit concentration and power. The result is then matured in barrel for two to three years to produce an intense, rounded wine.

E

£25.95



ROSÉ



Sentina Pinot Grigio Rosé

Great value with attractive fruit and a clean, fresh, dry aftertaste.

2A

£3.23

££

Tempo Pinot Grigio Rosé

A delicate pink wine full of the flavours of summer fruits.

2A

£4.25



Le Poesie Pinot Grigio Blush

This wine has a slightly fuller bodied style while retaining the aromatic and refreshing qualities of the Pinot Grigio grape.

2A

£5.09



SPARKLING



Moscato Spumante

For those looking for a sparkler with a touch of sweetness but a light easy drinking texture.

4

£4.29

Casa Gheller Prosecco Treviso

We have added this Prosecco to our list given the continuing growth in popularity of the Prosecco style. Plenty of crisp but creamy bubbles.

2

£5.67

Asti Spumante Martini

Italy's classic sparkler. Slightly sweeter than most but very popular.

4

£6.28

Prosecco di Valdobbiadene

Very clean apple fruit flavours predominate in this superior Prosecco which is extremely refreshing and excellent value.

2

£7.95



Casa Gheller Rosato Frizzante

This pink Prosecco is full to bursting of summer berries which give it its off-dry finish. The colour and fruit come from the Raboso grape.

3A

£5.67



WHITE

Taste
Guide

Trade
Sales Price

Sentina Bianco

Refreshing, full of floral and apple fruit flavours.

2

£2.93

Sentina Soave

A good example of generic entry level Soave. Flowery and delicate bouquet with a crisp, dry aftertaste.

2

£3.23

Sentina Chardonnay

Typical light style Italian Chardonnay with soft lemon flavours and refreshing acidity.

2

£3.23

Sentina Pinot Grigio

Extremely popular. Spicy and aromatic texture with a crisp, clean finish.

2

£3.23

Casal Bordino Trebbiano d'Abruzzo

A refreshing, tangy wine with a tasty finish which is very good value for money.

2

£3.95

Frascati Superiore, Colle Fiorito

Truly a 'superior' version of this famous wine. A much greater concentration of flavour and a longer finish.

2

£4.21

££ Tempo Pinot Grigio Garganega

The blending of the ever-popular Pinot Grigio with the grape used for Soave produces a smooth white combining aromatic and mineral flavours.

2

£4.25



Bella Modella Pinot Grigio

Light, vibrant and very tasty. Very drinkable with or without food and strikingly presented.

2

£4.62

Villa Borghetti Soave Classico, Pasqua

Floral flavour with delicate hints of apple. This wine is extremely elegant, combining fresh acidity with a bitter almond aftertaste.

1

£5.05

Terre al Lago Pinot Grigio

A premium Pinot Grigio with a large helping of creamy, tropical fruits, spicy and aromatic in the mouth and a lively finish.

2

£5.53

Gavi Neirano

Popular Italian white with pineapple and citrus fruit flavours and a crisp finish.

2

£5.60

Verdicchio Classico, Sartarelli

This wine is an excellent example of superb winemaking at a remarkably modest price. Elegance and a hint of hazelnuts in the finish make this one of Italy's best whites. Rated highly by Hugh Johnson.

2

£6.74



Lugana DOC Tenuta Maiolo

This superb white wine is produced from hand selected grapes. It has a delicate aroma of almonds and mixed fruit flavours to match and a clean but long finish.

2

£7.13

