

## WINETASTING OF NORTHERN ITALIAN WINES.

### FACT SHEET

This tasting concentrates on two areas of Italy ,namely the North West or Piedmont and the North East or Veneto/Friuli/Alto Adige region. Each is controlled by the Italian Denominazione di Origine Controllata or DOC system equivalent to Appellation Controlee in France. In addition the more prestigious wines/zones such as Barolo , Barbaresco and Gavi are also Garantita or DOCG . The rules demand that Barolo is aged in wood for 3 years and Barbaresco for 2 and both must have old fashioned corks. Unfortunately neither system is a reliable guide to quality for which it is necessary to know something about both the vintage and the maker.

Both Barolo and Barbaresco are made from the Nebbiolo grape. "the unsurpassed complexity of Barolo and Barbaresco where mint ,liquorice,truffles and myriad other aromas commingle to create a perfume of memorable dimensions. It is doubtful whether any grape even the Pinot Noir ,is capable of expressing such a dramatic range of flavours." David Gleave MW. The most common grape variety however is the Barbera from which Barbera D'Asti and Barbera D'Alba are made. Although much cheaper than either Barolo or Barbaresco ,the best examples are capable of real finesse and can age up to 10 years. Drunk young there is no better accompaniment to pizza. According to David Gleave MW. .the Langhe area in the south of Piedmont has a greater concentration of fine producers than any other wine region in the world.

Vintages in the north west are particularly important. In the last 15 years ,all but 2002 and 2003 have been good with 2010 exceptional for Barolo and 2011 for Barbaresco. The 2010 Barolo will go on improving for at least 20 years. Some are already retailing at more than £50.00 . For those interested in investing this is the one to buy now. Dolcetto which is a much lighter variety than the Nebbiolo based wines is described by Oz Clarke as "one of the most laughably delicious of all reds." The Gold Medal Dolcetto is retailed by the Wine Society but is at present sold out. The M&S alternative is highly quaffable.

Vintages in the North East are not so important as the wines both red and white are best drunk young.

The North East as well as being home to the ubiquitous Pinot Grigio and Prosecco, is also home to many of the best white wines in Italy based on varietals such as Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Riesling and Gewurtztraminer and some idiosyncratic reds such as Amarone made from the Valpolicella grape and reputedly George Clooney's favourite red! It is made by allowing the grapes to dry and shrivel before fermentation. The sweeter variety called Recioto is similar to a port. The trophy winning Red from Morrisons is a Ripasso which is a halfway house in which the young wine is passed over the detritus left after an amarone fermentation.

The recommendations are largely based on Decanter's World Wine Awards 2014 (DWWA) which involved a total of over 30 judges from all over the world. It is supplemented by Ned Halley's Best Wines in the Supermarkets 2015.

There is no one retailer who stands out as being exceptional . Many of the recommended wines are only available from specialist suppliers. Adnams, however, is a non starter. Of the supermarkets Sainsburys and M&S stand out. As a general rule those wines that are specifically linked to the retailer eg the Sainsbury's Taste The Difference selections are consistently reliable examples of their kind.

ENJOY!

Michael Cousens 01728 685 752.

## WAITROSE.

Villa Flora Lugana 2013	£9.99	Halley. "grassy zest and a discreet nutty richness; dry fresh reassuringly complete."	
<b>Masi Campofiorin 2010</b>	£9.99	Halley "iconic Veronese double ferment red ..mellow,nutty raisiny dark velvet wine with notions of cloves and cinnamon oak aged for 18 months..	<b>£59.94</b>
Cantina Negrar Amarone 2011	£18.99	Bronze.	
Barbaresco Corsini 2011	£11.99		
W/R Valpolicella Ripasso 2011	£11.99		
Barolo Terradavino. 2010	£12.99		
<b>Italian Dry White Delle Venezie</b>	<b>£4.99</b>	<b>Commended.</b>	<b>£29.94</b>

## MARKS AND SPENCER.

Bardolino 2013	£6.75.		
<b>Friuli Sauvignon Blanc Bidoli 2013</b>	<b>£6.75</b>	<b>Bronze..</b>	<b>£40.00</b>
Dolcetto D'Asti 2013	£5.50		
Barolo Pieronte 2009.	£13.50	Commended.	
Amarone Villalta 2010	£18.75	Commended.	
Barbaresco Araldica 2011	£9.00		
Arneis Langhe Ascheri. 2013	£12.99	Commended. "Halley. "Stands out from the crowd."	

## MAJESTIC.

Gavi La Toledana 2013	£10.20		
Amarone Negrar 2011.	£19.00	Bronze	
Arneis Roero Porello 2013	£9.99		
<b>Soave Classico Inama 2013.</b>	<b>£12.00</b>	<b>Silver.</b>	<b>£72.00</b>
Barolo Rocche Costamagna 2009.	£25.00		
Valpolicella Ripasso La Cassetta. 2011	£12.75	Silver	

## Valpolicella Ripasso Ca del

Laito 2010 £18.00 Halley."georgous ,intense ,dried grape reinforced chocolate and coffee infused sweetly ripe but bone dry finishing contrivance with tangy acidity has huge charm."

Valpolicella Ripasso Minini 2012 £10.00

## RUSSELL and NEWNES. Aldeburgh

Sanvigilio Merlot 2012 £6.99

Barbera D'Asti Cricera 2012 £8.69

Gargenega Il Casone 2012 £7.99

Novello di Teroldego 2013 £7.99

## ADNAMS

Nebbiolo D'Alba Mirine 2011 £13.99

Dolcetto D'Alba Manzone

2012 £9.99

Barbera D'Asti Ca Solare 2011 £7.99

## CO-OPERATIVE

**Gavi Broglia 2013 £8.99 Silver £53.94**

Valpolicella Ripasso Sopra Sasso 2012 £10.99 Halley "sublime weight to this delightfully rich but gently abrasive speciality red."

**Amarone Annaberta 2010 £17.99 Bronze £107.94**

Barbera D'Asti Ricossa 2012 £7.49

Barbera Piedmont £4.79

Prosecco Special Cuvee Brut. NV Commended

## SAINSBURYS

Winemakers Selection Valpolicella 2013 Bronze.

**Taste the Difference Barolo Ascheri 2010 £16.50 Silver. £97.50**

Taste the Difference Amarone 2013 £15.00 Commended.

**Taste the Difference Sartori Marzemino 2013. £5.00 Commended. £30.00**

**Taste The Difference. Monde Del Vino. Barbaresco. 2010 £10.00 Commended. £60.00**

Taste The Difference Pinot Grigio 2013. Commended.

## MORRISONS

Valpolicella Ripasso 2012.	£8.99	TROPHY WINNER.	£53.94.
Pinot Grigio delle Venezia 2013		Bronze	
Signature Barolo Araldica 2010		Commended.	

## ASDA

Extra Special Barbera D'Asti 2012.	£8.00	Bronze	Halley "intense but bouncy-juicy recognisable wine with a creamy lick from oak aging and familiar blueberry notes." £48.00
Extra Special Gavi 2013.	£6.00	Bronze.	
Barolo Araldica. Extra Special Barolo 2009	£15.00	Commended	
Extra Special Pinot Grigio. 2013.	£4.58	Commended	

## TESCO.

Tesco Finest. Teroldego Vigneti delle Dolimiti. 2012. £7.99

Halley " lip smacking black fruit flavours with minty leafy notes and a crisp finish."

Finest Gavi 2013 £7.99 Halley,;"This is outstanding.a lushly developed dry wine drawing on crisp apples and sweet pears."

TOTAL. Four bottles of each £468.80.

?

2010 Ronc di Vici. Vicarosso. Vaga Bond Wines. 0207 381 1717