

Hugh Johnson's

Pocket Wine Book

2000

The world's
favourite
wine
adviser



MITCHELL BEAZLEY

- Trentino T-AA DOC** r w dr sw ★→★★★ DOC for as many as 20 different wines, mostly named after their grapes. Best are CHARD, PINOT BL, MARZEMINO, TEROLDEGO. The region's capital is Trento.
- Triacca** ★★→★★★ Vg producer of VALTELLINA; also owns estates in TUSCANY (CHIANTI CLASSICO: La Madonnina; MONTEPULCIANO: Santavenere. All ★★).
- Trinolfo, Tenuta di** Tus VDT isolated and exceptional red wine estate (B'x varieties) in Val d'Orcia nr Chiancino Terme. Early wines jaw-dropping.
- Tuscany (Toscana)** Italy's central wine region; incl DOCS CHIANTI, MONTALCINO, MONTEPULCIANO etc, regional IGT Toscana and of course 'SUPER TUSCANS'.

Tuscany vintages

- 1998** Summer was too hot and too dry, followed by autumn rains at harvest time. Some good reds, but none excellent.
- 1997** Long, dry, warm autumn, early ripening; very concentrated reds, billed to be the vintage of the century. The omens are good.
- 1996** Some autumn rain fell after a fine summer; despite this, grapes ripened quite well (esp those whose growers held out longest before picking). Result: a relatively good vintage for reds.
- 1995** Much autumn rain, worse even than 1992. Top estates made good wines if they waited for a warm, dry October. Otherwise dull.
- 1994** Dry summer, showers in September; good to very good wines.
- 1993** A hot summer followed by October rains; nevertheless, Chianti Classico quite good, Brunello and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano vg.
- 1992** Promise of a top-quality vintage dispelled for reds by rain. The whites had better luck.

- Uberti** ★★★ Top producer of DOCG FRANCIACORTA, also vg white TERRE DI F.
- Umani Ronchi** ★→★★★ Leading Marches merchant; gd quality notably VERDICCHIO (Casal di Serra, Villa Bianchi), ROSSO CONERO (Cumaro, San Lorenzo).
- Vajra, Giuseppe Domenico** ★★★ Vg consistent BAROLO producer, esp for BARBERA, BAROLO, DOLCETTO LANGHE, etc. Also an interesting (not fizzy) FREISA.
- Val di Cornia** Tus DOC r p w ★→★★★ New DOC nr Livorno; some good producers: Ambrosini, Tua Rita, Gualdo del Re.
- Valcalepio** Lom DOC r w ★→★★ From nr Bergamo. Pleasant red; lightly scented fresh white. Good from Bonaldi, Il Calepino and Tenuta CASTELLO.
- Valdadige** T-AA DOC r w dr s/w ★→★★ Name for the simple wines of the ADIGE Valley – in German 'Etschtaler'. Best producer: ARMANI.
- Valentini, Edoardo** ★★★→★★★★ The best traditionalist maker of TREBBIANO and MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO.
- Valgella** See Valtellina.
- Valle d'Aosta** VdA DOC Regional doc for more than 20 Alpine wines incl Premetta, Fumin, Blanc de Morgex et de La Salle, Chambave, Nus Malvoisie, Arnad Montjovet, Torrette, Donnas, Enfer d'Arvier.
- Valle Isarco (Eisacktal)** T-AA DOC w ★★ DYA. Recently this DOC was incorporated into ALTO ADIGE DOC. AA Valle Isarco DOC is applicable to 7 varietal wines made NE of Bolzano. Gd MULLER-T, Silvaner. Top producers: CS Eisacktaler, Kloster Neustift and Kuenhof.
- Vallechiara, Abbazia di** ★★→★★★ Young REDMONT estate, owned by actress Ornella Muti, with astonishingly good wines, eg DOC DOLCETTO di Ovada and Dolcetto-based vDTS Due Donne and Torre Albarola.
- Valpolicella** Ven DOC r ★→★★★ (Superiore) 93 94 95 96 97 98 (others) DYA. Attractive r from nr VERONA; best young. Recent quality improvement. V best can be conc, complex and merit higher prices. Delicate nutty scent, sl bitter taste, (none true of junk sold in big bottles). CLASSICO more restricted; SUPERIORE has