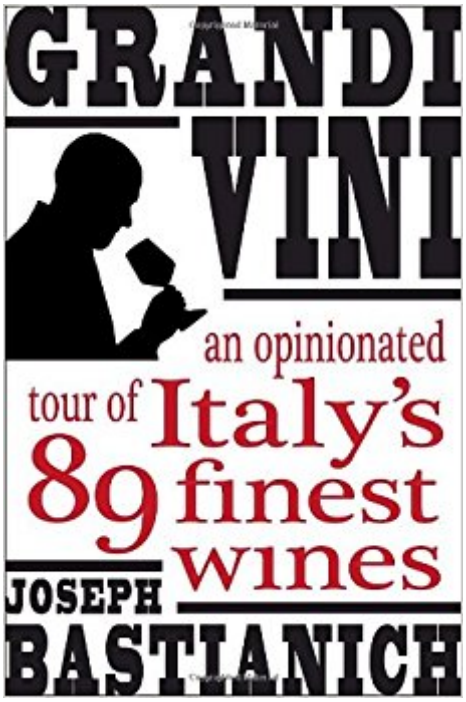
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Grandi Vini: An Opinionated Tour Of Italy's 89 Finest Wines



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Synopsis

Travel through the Italian countryside with Joseph Bastianich in search of the countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eighty-nine finest wines. Ã Â Joseph Bastianich is steeped in Italian wines like no one else. Not only is he the co-owner, with Mario Batali, of some of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s premier Italian restaurants, but he also produces wine on four separate estatesÃ¢â ¬â •three in ItalyÃ¢â ¬â •and is responsible for bringing Eataly, the groundbreaking artisanal Italian food and wine marketplace, to New York. His thoughtfully honed list of favorite wines makes for a fascinating journey that brings Italian wines to life.Ã Â Grandi Vini introduces readers to the greatest wines in Italy by bringing them to the vineyards and introducing the winemakers behind the bottles. More than simply appealing to the palate, the wines on JoeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s list have made an impact on the industry.Ã Â In Central Italy, he recommends a stunning Sangiovese in Emilia Romagna, produced at San Patrignano, the largest drug rehabilitation center in Europe. The island of Sicily is typically known for bulk commercial wine; but now, in the unique terroir of Mount Etna, wine lovers can discover the perfectly fresh, dry white Pietramarina, produced by the forward-thinking Benati family. And we canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t forget the great Barolos. Bastianich selects a specific list of wines from this legendary production regionÃ¢â ¬â •some of which come from family outfits, like Barolo Rocche dellÃ¢â ¬â„¢Annunziata Riserva of Paolo Scavino, by the son of the wineryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s founder; and others that have emerged only recently, like the Barolo Cannubi Boschis made by Luciano Sandrone, a winemaker who only started producing great wine in the 1990s.Ã Â Ã Â Grandi Vini also includes a wine list in the back of the book that shares vinification, production, and website information for every wine. With lovely hand-illustrated maps locating the wineries in their various regions, Grandi Vini is a rich exploration of eighty-nine Italian wines that rank among the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bestÃ¢â ¬â •a wonderful read for any wine enthusiast.

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Customer Reviews

"Joseph Bastianich's very provocative, enthusiastic, and personal look atÃ Â Italy's greatest wines is a must-purchase for all wine enthusiasts."--Robert M. Parker, Jr."It is difficult to be objective when talking about oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s offspring, but unequivocally Joseph Bastianich, my son, has one of the premium wine palates in the industry. His infinite passion for wine is evident in every word he writes about it, in every sip he takes, and in every bottle he makes. Grandi Vini, eighty-nine wine stops through Italy with Joe, is definitely a trip worth taking."--Lidia Bastianich"Joe has created a greatest hits list of many of my favorite wines but also added delicious illumination with wines I was not familiar with--and that are now on my must-drink list. Reading Grandi ViniÃ Â is like being a member of a secret wine geek club with access to the previously private whole magilla on the modern Italian wine world."--Mario Batali"A compelling read that brings ItalyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most important wines to life, Grandi Vini is a must-have book for anyone serious about Italian wine."--Antonio Galloni, The Wine Advocate

JOSEPH BASTIANICH is AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s foremost authority on Italian wine. The co-owner, with Mario Batali, of several of the most acclaimed Italian restaurants in the United States and the co-founder of Eataly New York, he also owns the shop Tarry Wine Merchants and is the proprietor of four wine estates. A recipient of the James Beard Foundation Award for Outstanding Wine and Spirits Professional, he lives with his wife and children in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Is there any other sort? After all, 'taste' is seldom more than 'opinion' well seasoned with snobbery. For example, I can hear an exquisite difference in the voices of Mel Torme and Frank Sinatra -- the former is a 'Barolo Riserva' and the latter is a pizza parlor Chianti -- while Joseph Bastianich can justify a preference for one Brunello di Montalcino over another. Actually, Bastianich is gracious and mild in comparison to most wine gurus. There's little of the uppity know-it-all about his opinions. He tells us about the vintners, the varietals that yield their best vintages, and the 'terroir' that determines the character of each wine. I tend to trust his opinions because our 'snobberies' seem compatible. His choices, for the regions where I've spent the most time, are just about what mine

would be: four of his 89 finest wines, for example, are Brunellos, but he is justifiably alarmed that the recent international popularity of Montalcino vintages is undermining the consistency of their quality, with the acreage deemed Brunello-worthy being doubled every decade.His admiration for the white wines of Alto Adige is justified - by my taste - and he includes five of them among the 89 finest, particularly the celestial "Isarco Kerner Praepositus of Abbazia di Novicella". He even discovers one of the few tolerable wines produced in Lazio near Roma -- well, honestly, it's nearer to Umbria -- the robust white wine made from "grechetto" grapes by vintner Sergio Mottura, and he spends three three full pages detailing the oenological artistry that goes into "Grechetto Latour a Civitella".The problem with such a book -- and it's a serious problem -- is the difficulty of finding most of the "89" in a bottega near you. Even in Roma it isn't easy to enter a wine shop with such a book in hand and to emerge confidently with one's rightful quota of the world's best wines. Possibly Bastianich could have done us a favor by also enumerating some of the nastiest wines that seemingly come from the same grapes and the same terroir. His solution, I think, would be to focus on the vintners -- the "winemakers behind the bottles" he says -- and to expect consistency from them. The book concludes with a simple list of the 89 wines, their makers, the varietals from which they're made, and for most of them a website. You may learn that the only way to enjoy many of the "89" is to go to the winery itself, but you'll also learn which of them has a restaurant, which is located in a splendid village, etc. "Wine touring" in Italy is probably the best way to see the country.

I'm not a fan of top down learning for wine beginners or regional wine guides that simply drop names of local wine celebrities. But this is much more than that. Bastianich takes each of Italy's many wine regions and uses the wines of several of the leading producers in the area as an introduction to the region. It's a sound approach because he's able to place each region in context while keeping his focus on the wines. The stories of the producers add human interest to the descriptions of the techniques, topography and other characteristics unique to each area and also allow the classic wines the area is known for to be showcased. I would want to have an e-version of this book with me whenever I was travelling in Italy and would refer to it in advance to plan the trip. In writing this book and others, the author has developed a deep understanding of Italian wines and has used it to advantage by meeting with the leading growers of each region and extracting the essence of what's unique and valuable about the region from them. For money, there's no better guide to Italian wine currently on the market.

This book contains a brief presentation of the wines the author considers as Italy's finest. Despite

being based on a personal view, I find it particularly useful for the beginner or apprentice in Italian wine, since he/she will get introduced to some wines which are considered as Italian classics (like Cepparello, Tignanello, Barolo Monfortino Riserva etc.) but will also discover hidden treasures like Arnaldo Caprai's Sagrantino di Montefalco 25 Anni. All Italy's wine producing areas are represented here, but of course the book is too brief to include all Italian wine gems, so many of them are missing. The book is quite pleasent and easy to read, and includes a fair amount of information on the people behind the wines. I think a "best vintages" list on every wine included here would be a usefull addition for the reader.

Anything Joe Bastianich writes is bound to be fun to read! This book, however, is not nearly as amusing as his autobiography. The wines he pursues in this book are indeed of very high quality, but they are also of very high cost. If you consider yourself an oenophile, you will be much more likely to find pleasure in this book than will a wine drinker. These wines are sippers, not drinkers, the French distinction being "vins de bouche, pas de geule." I spend at least a month a year in Italy. I doubt if I would ever drink any of Mr. Bastianich's recommended wines there. There's just too much else to enjoy at far lower cost.

Purchased this book for my niece's boyfriend for Christmas. He's Italian and into restauranteuring - at a fine Italian restaurant in SE Portland. Was delighted to find this available for him and he was delighted to receive it as well.

A very personal trip through some of Italy's finest and most interesting wines. Includes nice portraits of the vinyards' histories.Absolutely Delightful!

I have only browsed through the pages but it promises to well worth my attention

very good book

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