

# JAMES SUCKLING

## TOP 100 ITALIAN WINES OF 2014

My Top 100 Italian Wines in 2014 focus heavily on the wonderful 2010 vintage for Barolo, plus plenty of excellent 2011 Tuscans and many other outstanding wines from other areas. The 2010 vintage is a unique year for Barolo that highlights how an exceptional, long growing season in the Langhe can produce balanced but structured nebbiolos that are beautiful to drink now but will improve for years ahead.

This is why I gave my top wine, the Giacomo Conterno Barolo 2010, a perfect score. The first commercial release of the winery's Barolo from the Ceretta vineyard, it epitomises the brilliance of the 2010 vintage with stunning richness but an ethereal polish and finesse. The character is incredibly multi-layered, offering an array of aromas and flavours. It really is like listening to a perfectly executed rendition of Tchaikovsky from one of the great symphony orchestras of the world: subtle but mind-expanding. It's clearly 100 points. I only wish more than 2,000 magnums had been made.

The legendary pure-merlot Masseto 2011 follows at No. 2; it was also my No. 3 Wine of the Year in 2014. It shows extraordinary depth of fruit and structure for a young red and rivals the phenomenal 2001 Masseto, one of the most collectible Italian wines.

The next five wines, No. 3 to No. 7, are all 2010 Barolos. Like my Italian Wine of the Year, they show phenomenal richness and depth of fruit. It's their purity of fruit and balance that makes them so very special.

Bibi Graetz, at No. 8, is no newcomer to my annual list of Top 100 Italian wines. His 2011 Testamata was one of the best Tuscan wines that I tasted this year. The wine continues to intrigue me each vintage with its stealth character of ultra-fine tannins and deep, rich fruit. It's a joy to taste now, but also one to cellar for the future.

No. 9 is from a standard bearer for Italian wine, Banfi. The American-owned winery makes and sells more outstanding Brunello di Montalcino than anyone, carrying the flag for Brunello around the world. The Castello Banfi Brunello di Montalcino Poggio All'Oro Riserva 2007 is exceptional quality, a reminder of just how superb the vintage was for Brunello. It's a late release, so you're lucky if you buy one. There's no need to cellar it.

At No. 10 is a red that might be obscure to many people but deserves much more attention, made from lagrein, the unique grape of Alto Adige. Cantina Terlano Alto Adige Porphyr Riserva 2011 is hard to describe, with its inky colour and complex aromas of plums, liquorice and minerals. It's so rich but remains sleek and agile.

There are 90 more outstanding Italian wines in this list. Just like the Top 100 Wines in 2014, my list of the Top 100 Italian Wines in 2014 was based primarily on ratings; I was less concerned with the number of bottles produced, or with prices. The wow-factor was very important; I hope these wines have the same effect on you.

## Top 100 Italian Wines of 2014

1. Giacomo Conterno Barolo Cerretta 2010
2. **Masseto Toscana 2011** 100p saadaval sama aastakäik väga limiteeritud koguses
3. Aldo Conterno Barolo Romirasco 2010
4. Roberto Voerzio Barolo Sarmassa 2010
5. **Vietti Barolo Villero Riserva 2007** saadaval sama tootja teised Barolod
6. Elio Grasso Barolo Runcot Riserva 2008
7. Andrea Oberto Barolo Brunate 2010
8. Bibi Graetz Toscana Testamatta 2011
9. Castello Banfi Brunello di Montalcino Poggio All'Oro Riserva 2007
10. **Cantina Terlano Alto Adige Porphyrr Riserva 2011** 97p saadaval sama aastakäik; üks soodsamaid veine nimekirjas
11. Petrolo Toscana Campo Lusso 2011
12. Roberto Voerzio Barolo Fossati Case Nere Reserve 10 anni 2004
13. Tua Rita Toscana Redigaffi 2012
14. **Elio Altare Barolo Cerretta 2010** saadaval sama tootja Vigneto Arborina Barolo 2004 aastakäik
15. Giacomo Conterno Barolo Francia 2010
16. La Spinetta Barbaresco Vigneto Gallina Riserva 2004
17. Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d'Oro Riserva 2007
18. Sette Ponti Toscana Oreno 2012
19. Riecine Toscana Riecine 2010
20. **Fattoria Galardi Terra di Lavoro Roccamonfina 2011** 97p saadaval sama aastakäik väga limiteeritud koguses
21. Ferrari Trento Giulio Ferrari 2002
22. Romano Dal Forno Amarone della Valpolicella 2008
23. Foradori Teroldego Vigneti delle Dolomiti Sgarzon 2012
24. Castello dei Rampolla Toscana Sammarco 2010
25. Parusso Barolo Bussia Riserva Gold Label 2004
26. **Cantina Terlano Alto Adige Terlaner I 2011** 97p saadaval sama aastakäik väga limiteeritud koguses
27. La Spinetta Barbaresco Vigneto Gallina 2010
28. Renzo Marinai Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2010
29. San Fabiano Calcinaia Chianti Classico Cellole Gran Selezione Riserva 2010
30. Orma Toscana 2011

31. San Polino Brunello di Montalcino Helichrysum 2009
32. Zenato Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Sergio Zenato Riserva 2008
33. Petrolo Toscana Galatrona 2012
34. Azelia Barolo Margheria 2010
35. Barone Ricasoli Chianti Classico Castello di Brolio Gran Selezione 2011
36. Roberto Voerzio Barolo La Serra 2010
37. Bibi Graetz Toscana Colore 2009
38. Renato Corino Barolo 2010
39. Bosco Agostino Barolo Neirane 2010
40. Marchesi Antinori Toscana Solaia 2011 [96p saadaval sama aastakäik väga limiteeritud koguses](#)
41. Bruno Rocca Barbaresco Rabaja 2010
42. Damilano Barolo Cannubi 2010
43. Castellare di Castellina Toscana I Sodi Di S. Niccolo (Sangiovese & Malvasia Nera) 2010
44. Petrolo Sangiovese Val d'Arno di Sopra Bogginanfora 2012
45. Tenuta di Biserno Toscana Biserno 2011
46. Marchesi Antinori Umbria Cervaro della Sala 2012
47. Pio Cesare Barbaresco Il Bricco 2010
48. Ceretto Barolo Bricco Rocche 2010
49. Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore 2011
50. Cordero di Montezemolo Barolo Enrico VI 2010
51. Cantina Andrian Lagrein Riserva Alto Adige Tor di Lupo 2011
52. Duemani Cabernet Franc Costa Toscana 2011
53. Pio Cesare Barolo Ornato 2010
54. Montepeloso Toscana Gabbro 2011
55. Elvio Cogno Barolo Vigna Elena Riserva 2007
56. Fontanafredda Barolo La Rosa 2010
57. Il Palagio Toscana Sister Moon 2011
58. La Spinetta Barbaresco Vigneto Staderi 2010
59. Fabrizio Dionisio Syrah Cortona Cuculaia 2010
60. Luciano Sandrone Barolo Le Vigne 2010
61. Castelli del Grevepesa Chianti Classico Panzano Gran Selezione 2010
62. Marchesi di Barolo Barolo Coste di Rose 2010

63. Castello di Ama Toscana Haiku 2010
64. Marziano Abbona Barolo Pressenda 2010
65. Mauro Veglio Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata 2010
66. La Spinetta Barbaresco Valeirano 2011
67. Michele Chiarlo Barbaresco Asili 2010
68. Aldo Conterno Barolo Gran Bussia Riserva 2006
69. Parusso Barolo Bussia A l'e per mi un vin Special 2009
70. Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Asili Riserva 2009
71. Roberto Voerzio Barbera d'Alba Pozzo dell'Annunziata 2010
72. Cos Sicilia Pithos Rosso 2011
73. Tenuta di Biserno Toscana Lodovico 2011
74. Vietti Barolo Brunate 2010 [saadaval sama tootja Barolo Ravera 2010 \(Antonio Galloni 100p\)](#)
75. Virna Barolo Cannubi Boschis 2010
76. Aldo Conterno Barolo Colonnello 2010
77. Altesino Brunello di Montalcino Montosoli 2009
78. Andrea Oberto Barolo 2010
79. Antonelli Sagrantino di Montefalco 2007
80. Cos Vittoria Rosso Pithos Rosso 2013
81. Sette Ponti Toscana Crognolo 2012
82. Banfi Toscana Summus 2011
83. Cusumano Sicilia Tenuta San Giacomo Sàgana 2012
84. Fattoria Le Pupille Maremma Toscana Saffredi 2011
85. Foradori Teroldego, Vigneti delle Dolomiti Granato 2010
86. Girolamo Russo Etna Rosso Feudo di Mezzo 2012
87. Argentiera Toscana Lavinia Maria 2011
88. Casaloste Chianti Classico Don Vincenzo Gran Selezione 2009
89. Castello di Ama Toscana L'Apparita 2010
90. Castello dei Rampolla Toscana d'Alceo 2010
91. Fèlsina Toscana Fontalloro 2011
92. Donna Olimpia 1898 Bolgheri Millepassi 2011
93. Marco de Bartoli Passito di Pantelleria Bukkuram Padre della Vigna 2008
94. Marchesi Antinori Toscana Tignanello 2011

95. Fontodi Chianti Classico Vigna del Sorbo Gran Selezione 2010
96. Elena Walch Alto Adige Beyond the Clouds 2012
97. Fontodi Colli Toscana Centrale Flaccianello della Pieve 2011
98. Cantina Nals Margreid Chardonnay Alto Adige Baron Salvadori 2012
99. Gianni Gagliardo Barolo Serre 2010
100. Ferrari Trento Perlé 2007