



**Above: family producer Ottaviano Lambruschi illustrates how well Vermentino does in Liguria**

### What's next?

Where to go for the next big thing in Italian wine? Schioppettino is a native red grape of Friuli-Venezia Giulia: Schioppettino di Prepotto is the name used for wines made in a specific sub-zone, a grand cru area for the grape that covers the areas around the charming hamlets of Prepotto, Albana and Cialla. 'Schioppettino has everything going for it,' says Michele Pavan, president of the Schioppettino di Prepotto growers' association and also owner of the La Busa dal Lof estate. 'It gives a midweight wine that's easy to drink and ideal for today's modern, hectic lifestyle. We find people are enthralled by its enticing aromatic nose, which is reminiscent of green peppercorns and flinty blackcurrants.' I couldn't have said it better myself!

Liguria is an area that is often overlooked by wine lovers; admittedly, the small amount produced by many estates doesn't make finding the wines all that easy. But a good wine made from the Vermentino grape is impossible not to like, given its bright peachy and citrus notes and aromatic herb aspect. Producers such as Ottaviano Lambruschi or Giacomelli will quickly turn you into believers. Rossese di Dolceacqua is a light style of Ligurian red that is savoury and saline, and many young producers have resurrected its fortunes.

The Orcia and Montecucco areas of Tuscany have long played second fiddle to Montalcino and Chianti

*'People are enthralled by Schioppettino's enticing, aromatic nose, reminiscent of green peppercorns and flinty blackcurrants'* Michele Pavan

Classico, but actually, Sangiovese grows remarkably well there (see 'The Undiscovered Sangiovese', p60). I find some Montecucco Sangioveses to be virtually indistinguishable from Brunello, for example. Clearly, there are some splendid Orcia Rosso and Montecucco Rosso wines that give their more famous neighbours a real run for their money. Donatella Cinelli Colombini, president of the Orcia consortium (founded in 2000), sums it up best: 'This is one of the most beautiful viticultural areas of Italy, part of which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The wines are artisanally made by small, family-run estates that are very much part of the European style that many consumers are looking for.' **D**

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## A taste of what makes Italy today so exciting

### Diversity



**Cave du Vin Blanc de Morgex et de La Salle, Blanc de Morgex et de La Salle, Vini Estremi, Valle d'Aosta 2013**

17/20pts (90/100pts)  
£12-£15 Exel Wines, Les Caves de Pyrène  
Made from the Prié grape, a laser beam of acidity jolts the taste buds, awakening them to delicate but precise minty white flowers and white stone fruit aromas and flavours. **Drink 2015 Alcohol 13%**



**Villa Calcinaia, Rosato dei Colli della Toscana Centrale 2013** 16.5 (88)

£12.95 Berry Bros & Rudd  
Light salmon pink in colour, this has lovely rosehip and sour red berry aromas and flavours that will make that pizza sing. **Drink 2015 Alc 13%**

### Modern winemaking

**Volpe Pasini, Pinot Bianco, Colli Orientali del Friuli 2013**

17.25 (90+)  
N/A UK [www.volpepasini.it](http://www.volpepasini.it)  
Green apple, white stone fruit, and mint, with delicate hints of kiwi fruit. Pure and crystalline. **Drink 2015-2016 Alc 13.5%**



**Marco De Bartoli, Marsala, Superiore Vintage 1987** 17 (90)

£60-£68 Berry Bros & Rudd, Exel, Les Caves de Pyrène  
Rich and honeyed, with oxidative notes lifting the hazelnut, almond and dried flowers - like a very good Oloroso. I like the 1986 even better. **Drink 2015-2030 Alc 16%**

### Regional reinventions

**Rivera, Il Falcone, Castel del Monte Riserva 2007** 16.75 (89)

£15.84 Mondial Wine  
Leather and shoe polish add complexity to the ripe red cherry

and dark plum notes. Perfect with grilled foods. **Drink 2015-2025 Alc 13.5%**

**Falesco, Ferentano, Lazio Bianco 2011** 16.75 (89)

£15-£19 Eclectic Tastes, Liberty Wines, The Fine Wine Co  
Bright, fresh and juicy, this is like a fruit orchard in the glass. **Drink 2015-2016 Alc 13%**

### Sparkling scene

**Ca' del Bosco, Prestige Brut Franciacorta NV** 17 (90)

£26-£35 Cheers Wine, Forty-five 10, Oxford Wine Co, Petersham Cellar, Vini Italiani  
Bright and lively, with a lovely stream of tiny bubbles and rich stone fruit and floral flavours. **Drink 2015-2017 Alc 13.5%**

**Ferrari, Perlé Millesimato, Trento 2007** 17 (90)

£29 AG Wines, Great Western, Exel, Harrods, Winedirec, Vini Italiani  
Bright and light in style, with floral and peachy aromas and flavours that just go on and on.

**Drink 2015-2017 Alc 13.5%**

### What's next?

**Grillo, Schioppettino di Prepotto, Colli Orientali del Friuli 2010** 17 (90)

£20 Bottle Apostle  
Vibrant fresh herbs, green peppercorns and juicy red and dark berries are lifted by a strong note of violets. **Drink 2015-2018 Alc 13.5%**

**Terre Bianche, Rossese di Dolceacqua 2012** 16.75 (89)

£28 Vini Italiani  
Saline and savoury with lingering red berry and herbal notes. Try this light red for something completely different! **Drink 2015-2018 Alc 13.5%**

*For full details of the UK stockists listed, please turn to p88*