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Inside on Page 3
Rare 19th Century
Madeiras

Inside on Page 5
The Grandeur of
Georgian Decanters

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UMBRIA

A New Benchmark

Marco Caprai's Magnificent 2000 "25 Anni"

For nearly a decade, Marco Caprai's "25 Anni" has been an icon in Italy, regarded as highly as Redigaffi, Masseto or Messorio. To achieve the same cult status in the United States, this wine lacked only a powerful champion in the American press.

With Daniel Thomases' recent appointment to *The Wine Advocate's* Italian "chair," that moment has arrived. Thomases has long been a fervent believer in Caprai's top wine; in 1999, writing for Steve Tanzer, he called it "Italy's best single red wine of the 1990's." And in his years of reviewing for Italy's *Veronelli* guide, he has consistently rated this wine in the high nineties.

The 2000 could be the finest "25 Anni" yet. In *The Wine Advocate* last month, Thomases rated the wine at 97 points—the highest score he gave any wine. Yet, this number only scratches the surface of his admiration for what Marco Caprai has accomplished not only in 2000, but over the past decade.

Marco Caprai

Based in the Umbrian town of Montefalco, Marco Caprai has



Marco Caprai

performed one miracle after another. Having taken over his family domaine less than 15 years ago, Marco has gone on to create one of Italy's greatest wines. No less significantly, he has taken an obscure ancient variety, Sagrantino, and proved that it can make red wines as profound as any.

Working with enologist Attilio Pagli, and viticulturalist Leonardo Valenti, Marco has tirelessly sought perfection—experimenting with countless planting densities and clonal selections, and even exploring French varieties like Cabernet, Merlot and Syrah. The cellar work

here is among the most sophisticated in Italy, and it shows in the polish and richness of all the wines.

But the crown jewel is, of course, the Sagrantino Riserva named "25 Anni."

Created in 1993 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the domaine's founding, this is a result of Caprai's search for the best indigenous clones of Sagrantino. Produced from low yields, it is a wine of great power and structure—but also remarkable harmony. ►

The Italian Press on *Marco Caprai's 25 Anni*

"We thought of rumbling thunder"
Gambero Rosso on the 1993

"Leaves one straining for adjectives"
Daniel Thomases on the 1997

"Multiplies all the elements exponentially"
Daniel Thomases on the 2000

UMBRIA

The Great 2000 “25 Anni”

Continued from Page 1

While the greatness of Sagrantino “25 Anni” may be news to many *Wine Advocate* readers, it is not news to Rare Wine Co. customers. In 1997, we made the United States’ first major offering of “25 Anni” (the inaugural 1993 vintage). And we have continued to follow this remarkable wine ever since.

We had the opportunity to taste the 2000 “25 Anni” well before Thomases’ *Wine Advocate* review was published ... and before the market heated up. As a result, we were able to buy this monumental wine at a sensational price. Don’t miss out.



One of several experimental Sagrantino plantings at Caprai. Marco has taken cuttings from abandoned vineyards throughout the area, experimenting to find the optimal training, pruning and spacing. The 25 Anni’s fabulous quality is in part due to this work.

**2000 Sagrantino
“25 Anni” Riserva*
97 Wine Advocate
\$79.95**



Daniel Thomases in *The Wine Advocate*: “The 2000 Montefalco 25 Anni simply multiplies all the elements exponentially with room-filling aromas of sweet berry fruit and perfectly integrated oak and a mouth-coating cascade of ripe fruit, powerful, dense and sensual tannins in a swelling flow of unrelieved pleasure. I would be very surprised if this wine did not last another two decades.”

Past Rarities

With its small production and loyal following, finding past vintages is nearly impossible. But we have come up with three of the best. There’s just a few bottles of each wine—so, very limited.

1999 Sagrantino 25 Anni Riserva*89.95

Daniel Thomases: “96 rating.” *Gambero Rosso*: “*Tre Bicchieri* ... powerful, spicy and complex ...”

1998 Sagrantino 25 Anni Riserva*110.00

Daniel Thomases: “97 rating.”

1997 Sagrantino 25 Anni Riserva*125.00

Daniel Thomases: “97 rating.”

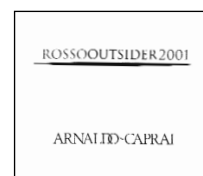
The Outsider

While Marco Caprai has devoted himself mostly to Umbria’s indigenous grapes, his curiosity compelled him to also experiment with classic French varieties—and with notable success. He appropriately calls the cuvées from such grapes “Outsiders.”

Marco’s Rosso Outsider is the best of this genre—capturing the cedary essence of the Mèdoc, but with the richness and opulence of Central Italy.

For this offer, we obtained a few cases of Marco’s limited-production 2001 Rosso Outsider. This is the first offer of this extraordinary wine in the United States. Quantities are extremely limited.

**2001 Caprai
Rosso Outsider*
\$59.95**



Even better than the 2000 Outsider that Thomases rated 93 points. A 50/50 blend of Cabernet and Merlot grown at 6000-8000 plants per hectare, aged in barrique for 18 months, the 2001 Outsider delivers intense aromas and flavors of pencil-shavings, blackcurrant and mocha; the palate is lush, creamy, concentrated and long. A fabulous new Italian Cabernet-Merlot to buy now.

MADEIRA

History in a Bottle

The Impressive Lineage of an Ancient Bual & Malmsey

Now that the great Madeira collections of England and America are just a memory, the only fertile sources for ancient vintages are the old families of Madeira themselves. Hardly a year goes by that we don't find some gem hidden away in a shipper's lodge, in a private Funchal cellar or on a South Coast quinta.

But few of these acquisitions have had the same ring of history as our latest purchase from the venerable firm of Henriques & Henriques (founded 1850).

In 1906, Henriques purchased two wines—a Bual and a Malmsey—from a local family. The wines were described as “old” in 1906, placing their vintage near the time of Phylloxera in the 1870's. The wines became a cornerstone of Henriques' collection.

An American Connection

One of the partners of Henriques in those days was Alberto Jardim. He was about as blue-blooded as Madeirans come: the great-grandson of Baron Con-



ceição, who had fought as a Union Army colonel in our Civil War and married into an elite Philadelphia family. As a result, Alberto's American cousins were Lehmans, Biddles, Bouviers and Drexels ... including Anthony Drexel Biddle, who wrote several classic books on Madeira. (See quote below.)

In 1930, Alberto gave birth to a son, Miguel, and 420 bottles of the old Henriques wine became Miguel's legacy—the wine to mark the major events in his life. Having gone through nearly half the wine over the course of seven

decades, Miguel Jardim last year offered to sell us a portion of the remaining bottles.

Both wines had been bottled in 1927, and then recorked in 1955, 1969 and 1991. Prior to their leaving Henriques' cellars last fall, they were recorked one more time. Before they left, Henriques' cellar master Luis Pereira commented that the wines would last at least 50 more years. It is a privilege to offer them.

Henriques & Henriques
Malvasia
Acquired 1906
\$225.00

Deep walnut brown with a yellow rim. The nose is rich and expansive, featuring aromas of fruit candy, raisins, licorice and nuts. Very sweet and lush on the palate, with Moscatel-like richness. A superb wine for chocolate desserts.

Henriques & Henriques
Boal Velho
Acquired 1906
\$225.00

Very clear medium amber with a greenish yellow rim. Highly complex nose offers hints of citrus peel, cinnamon and coffee bean. The palate is high-toned and moderately tangy, yet quite sweet with a long, smooth finish. Classically elegant bual.

“Baroness Conceição's maiden name was Miss Langstroth. She came originally from Germantown, near Philadelphia. Baron Conceição died a number of years ago, and the baroness now lives with her daughter, who is married to a Dr. Jardim. In winter they occupy the late baron's magnificent estate, which is situated on a highland directly outside the city; during the summer months the baroness resides at her home in the mountains near Camacha.” A.J. Drexel Biddle, The Madeira Islands, 1899

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RHONE VALLEY

Tardieu-Laurent Bargains

Including an Amazing Price on the Great 2001 Côte Rôtie

A *partnership* founded in 1994, Tardieu-Laurent brings together the talents of famed Burgundy winemaker Dominique Laurent and the gifted Rhône winemaker Michel Tardieu. The pair seldom divulge the sources of their wines; however, they are known to come from top growers working with exceptional sites. For example, they

will say that their famous Côte Rôtie comes from the Côte Brune, but nothing more.

All cuvées are small—some as little as 100 or 200 cases. The winemaking is as good as it gets, and so are the wines.

We have purchased a parcel of two of Tardieu-Laurent's best 2001's at a great price. Both are incredible values.

**2001 Tardieu-Laurent
Côte Rôtie
94 Tanzer
\$59.95**



**2001 Tardieu-Laurent
Gigondas
92 Tanzer
\$29.95**



Steve Tanzer: "Knockout nose combines raspberry, woodsmoke, pepper, minerals and baking spices. Big, silky and expansive; offers a quintessential, though all-too-rare, combination of sappiness, vibrancy and sheer clarity of flavor. A wine of impressive extract: saline, peppery and strongly mineral. Finishes with superb precision, perfume and peppery persistence. A dead person could identify this as Côte-Rôtie."

Steve Tanzer: "Subdued but complex, spicy nose dominated by plum, minerals, iron and fruitcake. Sweet, dense, chewy and ripe, with lush plum and chocolate flavors and terrific verve. Builds slowly and lingers long on the aftertaste, with melting tannins. Very refined Gigondas."

Fantastic New Releases from Zind-Humbrecht

From Zind Humbrecht's recent releases we have selected five standouts, including a pair of gems from the Clos Windsbuhl, a stony, limestone site adjacent to the revered Clos Ste. Hune. The second highlight is a pair of rare dessert wines: the great 2001 Tokay-Pinot Gris *Selections des Grains Nobles* (SGN's).

Prices throughout the offering are very attractive. Quantities at these low prices are limited, however.

2001 Tokay-Pinot Gris Rotenberg39.95

Rovani: "95 rating ... Vendange Tardive-like ... apricot jam aromas ... Broad, silky-textured, and lush, this is an intensely flavorful, off-dry wine for pairing with foie gras."

2001 Riesling Clos Windsbuhl54.95

Clos Winsbuhl shares the remarkable limestone soil of neighboring Clos Ste. Hune; this fact shows in the profound minerality of its Rieslings. Rovani write: "94 rating ... Immensely pure and persistent, it boasts a stone, crisp pear, and mineral-packed medium-bodied character."

2000 Tokay-Pinot Gris Clos Windsbuhl49.95

Rovani: "95 rating ... flamboyant ... explodes with the scents of juicy peaches, spices, and apricots. Possessing awesome depth ... crammed with minerals and poached pears. Most of the botrytis-affected bunches were sorted out so there is only a trace of noble rot in this exceptional, virtually dry wine's pure character."

The Great 2001 Selections des Grains Nobles

2001 Tokay-Pinot Gris Heimbουργ SGN half bottle59.95

Rovani: "98 rating. Caramel, brown sugar, peaches, and apricots ... A wide, lush, intense wine of enormous depth (9 hectoliter per hectare yields) ... a magnificently long, flavorful finish. This velvety-textured offering can be drunk over the next 30-40 years."

2001 Tokay-Pinot Gris Rotenberg SGN half bottle ..59.95

Rovani: "97 rating. Sporting 150 grams of residual sugar per liter ... explodes from the glass with stupendous aromatics of botrytis-laced peaches, spices, and apricots. Sweet yellow fruits are found in this powerful, plush, oily-textured offering."

DECANTERS

The Glassmaker's Art

Reproducing the Style & Craftsmanship of Great Georgian Decanters

From an aesthetic point of view, the wine decanters made in England and Ireland between 1760 and 1810 are arguably the finest ever made. Domestic design, generally, had reached its apex, inspired by Adam, Palladio and Chippendale. Like other things, decanters were still made by hand: hand-blown, hand-engraved and cut by hand—each decanter unique. This was before the Industrial Revolution of the early 1800's, when the power of machines replaced the delicate, skilled touch of the human hand.

The decanters of this period—the reign of England's George III—have a style and grace that are unique in modern history. And though they have become painfully rare, the surviving examples have given pleasure to six generations of wine lovers.



2000. Now, four years later, the project has come to fruition.

The Magnum Taper

If any one style of decanter embodies the Georgian period of decanters it is the taper. Produced from approximately 1770 until 1790, taper decanters take their name from their shape: a graceful broadening from neck to base. Unadorned by neck rings or heaving carving, they are some of the sleekest, most refined decanters ever made.

A decade ago, we acquired a very fine pair of magnum tapers made about 1770 in England. Though Georgian decanters were often made in sets of two, four or even more, it is rare for more than one to have survived two centuries of use. It is even rarer for a pair of magnums to have survived.

Recapturing an Era

Several years ago, we decided to attempt to recreate some of the best of the early Georgian decanters. We commissioned John Jenkins & Sons—an old British company specializing in handmade glass—to produce faithful reproductions of "high-style" Georgian decanters. As our models we used the finest examples that we have collected over the past two decades.

Our goal was to produce classic, now-rare designs in both bottle and magnum size. Each decanter would be produced entirely by hand, using the same methods that produced the original two hundred years ago. Each decanter would be made in a limited series, signed and numbered on the base.

As our first project, we selected a rare magnum taper (c. 1770), and began working drawings in the spring of

This pair is especially remarkable for its beautiful "fish-scale" cutting in the neck and the unusual band of engraving on its side. The pair also stands out for its beautiful cut star stoppers. It was only after a few years of ownership that we learned that one of the pair had been used to illustrate the best in Georgian decanters in Robin Butler's classic *Book of Wine Antiques*.

Our Offer

We have produced 120 of these magnum decanters; each signed, dated and numbered on the base. Each was hand-blown, and hand-cut and hand-engraved using stone wheels. The decanters are available in either singles or pairs, with a two-decanter limit per customer.

Magnum Taper Decanter

Reproduction C. 1790 English 325.00

Attention California residents. Proposition 65 WARNING: Consuming foods or beverages that have been kept or served in leaded crystal products will expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

PIEDMONT

1999 Vigna Cicala

A "Barolo of the Vintage" at a Sensational Price

In a repeat of its extraordinary success in 1996, Aldo Conterno's 1999 Cicala is again among the wines of the vintage.

As Piedmont-watchers know, 1999 is a vintage made to order for lovers of classic, long-lived Barolo. It is cut from the same cloth as 1989 and 1996, giving us wines that combine great richness and concentration with powerful structure. It is the kind of vintage in which Cicala's power really gets to show its stuff.

Before the dollar dropped last year, we made a great deal on a few cases of 1999 Cicala. Very limited.

**1999 Aldo Conterno
Barolo "Cicala"
95+ *Tanzer*
\$79.95 *very limited***



Tanzer: "Highly aromatic, mineraly nose of raspberry, spice and underbrush ... very pure and noble. Wonderfully sweet on entry ... A powerful, penetrating wine with superb acidity and grip ... this rather masculine Barolo has uncanny persistence. One of the stars of the vintage. \$112 retail."

The Rare First Vintage

An Amazing Offer of Voerzio's Mythic 1996 Pozzo dell'Annunziata

Within Piedmont's Barbera Revolution of the past decade, there is but one true Holy Grail wine: Roberto Voerzio's Great Pozzo dell'Annunziata Riserva.

Part of the reason for its allure is its majestic richness and opulence; but the other reason is the wine's scarcity and high price.

Made only since the 1996 vintage, Voerzio releases it only in magnum and at a price *over* \$300 per mag. (The 2000 is \$400.) Production is miniscule.



*"A legend
in its short
lifetime" Robert
Parker on Pozzo
dell'Annunziata*

The "Lost" 1996

Each Pozzo dell'Annunziata since 1997 has received a huge score; in fact the first two vintages tasted by Parker—the 1997 and 1998—won 97 and 96 ratings, respectively. But what of the 1996? From arguably the greatest vintage of all, '96's release in 2000 was little

noted in the press (Parker never reviewed it), and the wine passed quietly into the cellars of well-informed collectors. Today, it is almost impossible to find.

Thus, we were delighted recently to buy a few of these prized magnums far below the market.

**1996 Roberto Voerzio
"Pozzo dell'Annunziata"
Barbera Riserva
\$225.00 *magnum***

Like its successors, the 1996 Pozzo dell'Annunziata is as monumental a Barbera as you'll ever experience. It boasts a color that is nearly black and a nose that is intense and opulent, exuding aromas of chocolate, dark roast coffee, licorice, Asian spices and black cherry. The palate is even more hedonistic: flamboyantly layered with a creamy texture that goes on and on. A wine for the ages.

Another Rare Voerzio First Vintage

Voerzio also makes a tiny amount of Barolo from old vines in Capalot and Brunate. Produced only in magnums, 1995 was the first vintage.

**1995 Roberto Voerzio Barolo Vecchie
Viti dei Capalot e delle Brunate Riserva
96 *Wine Spectator*
\$245.00 *magnum***

Wine Spectator: "Stunning wine. Extremely ripe, with aromas of dried fruits, minerals and red licorice. Full-bodied, with rich, polished tannins and a long finish. **85 cases made.**" *1-mag. limit.*

CALIFORNIA

Solo Flight

A New Chardonnay Star Reaches Another Level

Allen Peirson and Robbie Meyer spent a total of 25 years helping to make Peter Michael one of California's elite Chardonnay producers. Robbie was assistant winemaker for five years, while Allen was the estate manager for a full two decades. In fact, it was Allen who introduced Helen Turley to Sir Peter, setting the estate's Chardonnay dynasty in motion.



In 2001, Allen and Robbie left Peter Michael to pursue their joint venture, *L'Angevin*. Last year, we offered the first L'Angevin release—the 2001 Russian River Valley Chardonnay—to raves from our customers. But with the release of the 2002's, we see this project reaching another level. We are pleased once again to receive an allocation of these limited-production gems. Highly recommended.

Russian River Valley

Allen and Robbie's flagship Chardonnay is from an extraordinary plot of 30-year-old Chardonnay on the eastern side of the Russian River Valley. The wine-making mirrors the classic Peter Michael techniques, including natural yeast fermentation, 100% malo, aging on the lees and unfinned/unfiltered bottling.

2002 L'Angevin Chardonnay
Russian River Valley
\$34.95

Once again a remarkable Chardonnay, marrying the essence of the full-throttle Turley/Michael style with cooler Russian River Valley fruit. The nose is gorgeous, combining pineapple, jasmine, pear, grapefruit, lemon zest and toast. On the palate, the wine is quite full and expansive, with a leesy complexity and a rich vanilla component. The citrus and tropical fruits reintroduce themselves in the long finish.

Charles Heintz Vineyard

This is the exciting inaugural vintage of this cuvée. The Heintz vineyard receives abundant sun because it lies just above the Sonoma Coast fogline. The Heintz fruit is enormously ripe, but has superb acidity, thanks to the high elevation and marine influence.

2002 L'Angevin Chardonnay
Charles Heintz Vineyard
\$42.95

The richness and minerality of this wine recalls a top *premier cru*—or even *grand cru*—from Burgundy. The wine has fabulous palate persistence and an even fuller body than the Russian River Valley bottling. The first night, our bottle continued to evolve for several hours; and the small amount left in the bottle proved even more beautiful three days later. Has a great future.

A 2001
Châteauneuf
Superstar
at a
Great Price

2001 Cuvée de Vatican
"Réserve Sixtine"
95 Parker
\$45.00 limited



Parker: "The special cuvée, the stunning 2001 Châteauneuf du Pape Réserve Sixtine, is ... an elegant effort with freshness yet tremendous power and flavor intensity, it is a full-bodied, layered, provocative 2001 with exceptional depth as well as richness. While the tannin levels are high, there are even higher levels of concentration and fruit. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring, and drink it over the following 15-20. This brilliant wine should ultimately be even better than my lofty score suggests."

WHITE BURGUNDY

Quintessence

Girardin's Rare Corton Charlemagne

The 2002 White Burgundy vintage is likely to produce several legends, and it's a good bet that Vincent Girardin's Corton Charlemagne "Quintessence" will be one of them.

This is the first time that Girardin has made this special cuvée; it's a selection of his best five barriques yielding a paltry 125 cases. Given the wine's monumental quality and tiny production, and the stature of the 2002 vintage, you may not have another chance to buy this wine ... and certainly not at a price this low.

**2002 Vincent Girardin
Corton Charlemagne "Quintessence"*
93-95 Tanzer
\$125.00**

Tanzer: "Knockout nose combines pineapple, flint, minerals and cinnamon spice. Wonderfully rich, pure and ripe, with vibrant, extremely intense pineapple, mineral and spice flavors offering a powerful impression of energy. As precise as the flavors are, the wine has an extraordinarily silky mouthfeel and great fullness. Finishes creamy and extremely long. This is the first time Girardin has made this special cuvée, which comes from vines in excess of 50 years of age."

More Lustworthy Corton-Charlemagnes

Rare Jeroboams of 2001 Louis Latour

"Potentially the finest Corton-Charlemagne Louis Latour has fashioned in years." Pierre Rovani

We can offer several rare 3-liter jeroboams of the great 2001 at the lowest price *anywhere*.

2001 Louis Latour Corton-Charlemagne 3-Liter . 285.00

Rovani: "91-94 ... bursts from the glass with oak-laced spices and minerals. There is great depth and density ... Loads of minerals and gravel interplay with pears in its satin-textured, focused personality."

Louis Latour's Famous 1989

1989 Louis Latour Corton-Charlemagne175.00

Parker: "95 rating ... huge, weighty ... the length is formidable ... Stylistically, it reminds me of the opulent, flamboyant 1979 Corton-Charlemagne. This is an outstanding white burgundy by any standard of measurement."

Roumier's Rare Corton-Charlemagne

2001 Roumier Corton-Charlemagne115.00

From a .2 hectare parcel of vines—always one of the scarcest and most sought-after Corton-Charlemagnes. A strict 1-bottle limit.

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2002 AMERICAN WINE AWARDS IMPORTER

INSIDE

Caprai "25 Anni" Page 1 *1999 Conterno Cicala ...Page 6*
Rare MadeirasPage 3 *Roberto Voerzio Rarities Page 6*
Tardieu-LaurentPage 4 *L'Angevin Chardonnays .Page 7*
Zind-HumbrechtPage 4 *2001 Cuvée de Vatican*
Magnum DecantersPage 5 *Réserve SixtinePage 7*

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