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OCTOBER 2, 2007

# A Perfect Storm

## *Gianfranco Soldera's 2001 Riserva Could be His Greatest Ever*

*Gianfranco Soldera* is a veritable icon—no less towering than such other Italian winemaking giants as Romano Dal Forno, Giovanni Conterno and Bruno Giacosa.

He helped pioneer Brunello's "new wave," founding his Case Basse estate in 1972. By the early 1980's his intensely concentrated, yet highly aromatic, Brunellos were already turning heads; yet, production of just a few hundred bottles kept the lid on his reputation until the stakes were raised with his 1990's.

Today, of course, his wines are widely regarded as Brunello's Holy Grail. While other producers' wines live and die by ratings—with wide swings in demand from vintage to vintage—Soldera's small production sells out quickly each year.

Sometimes this occurs well before any ratings appear. This is because he releases his wines later than everyone else in Montalcino and doesn't give journalist "sneak previews." Often, his wines are missing from the early vintage rundowns, like those published by the *Wine Spectator*.

### **The 2001 Riserva**

With all the excitement surrounding Montalcino's great 2001 vintage, the most anticipated wine arguably has been Soldera's Brunello Riserva. Though few have tasted it, his track record for excellence in great years has been enough for most people to be champing at the bit.



*Gianfranco Soldera*

Then, in late June, the window opened ... even if only a crack. We heard reports that the wine was beginning to be delivered to some of Soldera's customers ... and the first rating appeared in Steve Tanzer's *International Wine Cellar*. The review was by Ian d'Agata, who took over Italy from Steve just in time to review the 2001 Brunello Riservas. His work on this important vintage was superb: insightful, knowledgeable, exacting and conservative. Ian's highest-scoring wine? Soldera.

The recommended retail price for this wine will be well above \$300 a bottle. Snooze, you lose.

**2001 Soldera Brunello  
'Case Basse' Riserva  
96 Ian d'Agata  
\$229.95**



Ian d'Agata in Steve Tanzer's *International Wine Cellar*: "Extremely complex nose offers very sweet ripe red cherry, high-quality tobacco, leather and delicate Oriental spices, all given added freshness by a touch of volatile acidity that Soldera enthusiasts well know to be a trademark of the house. Rich and suave, with extremely concentrated flavors of red cherry and spicy black plum, with complicating notes of vanilla, milk chocolate, smoke, coriander and raspberry jam. This has wonderfully integrated acidity and tannins that are smoother than velvet. The finish goes on into next week ...."

**On Page two:  
A Major Soldera  
Retrospective**

## TUSCANY

# *A Gianfranco Soldera Retrospective*

## *Immaculately Cellared Bottles & Magnums: 1982-1999*

- 1999 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' .....185.00**  
 Parker: "95+ rating ... an explosive bouquet of licorice, cedarwood, spice box, new saddle leather ... a very powerful, full-bodied, concentrated wine with exceptional harmony among its elements."
- 1996 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva ...159.95**  
 Daniel Thomases: "92 rating."
- 1995 Soldera Brunello 'Intistieti' Riserva .....295.00**  
 Parker: "98 rating ... prodigious ... surreal perfume ... This wine seems to change every ten seconds or so ... In short, I have never tasted anything quite like it."
- 1995 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva .. 245.00**  
 Parker: "96 rating ... exotic nose of truffle juice, roasted meats, minerals, smoke, red and black fruits, licorice, Chinese black tea, and incense ... Ausone-like ... powerful concentration and a steely delineation ... must be tasted to be believed."
- 1994 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva .....165.00**  
 Parker: "90 rating ... exotic ... intense aromatic fireworks ... a stunning nose of spice box, cedar, soy, cinnamon, red and black fruits, earth, and truffle scents."
- 1993 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' ..... 185.00**  
 Parker: "95 rating ... an intensely perfumed nose ... High tannin cuts a big, powerful path on the palate. This full-bodied wine is dense and rich, yet sweet and approachable. It should drink well for 12-15 years."
- 1993 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva\* . 225.00**  
 Parker: "95 rating." Tanzer: "95+ rating ... Ethereal, ... reminded me of a maturing bottle of Lafite ... thick and penetrating, with superb concentration, depth and sheer vinosity ... Essence of Brunello."
- 1991 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva .. 199.95**  
 Parker: "94 rating ... magnificent ... the wine of the vintage ... provocative aromas of grilled meats, sweet black-cherries, Asian spices ... superb richness, incredibly sweet ... The finish easily lasts for 35-40 seconds."
- 1991 Soldera 'Intistieti' .....95.00**  
 A rarity, this represents one of the early versions of Intistieti before it became designated as a Brunello. Aged for less time in wood, it is beautifully supple, with the classic Soldera balsamic aromatics of black fruits, roasted meat, ginger and tobacco.
- 1990 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' ..... 450.00**  
 Parker: "98 rating ... one of the greatest Brunellos I have ever tasted ... extremely powerful ... with layers of highly concentrated, ripe fruit. Despite its massive size, it retains a gracefulness and sense of elegance."
- 1988 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' .....450.00**
- 1988 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Magnum ..975.00**  
 Among Soldera's most famous Brunellos. Parker: "This large-scaled, intensely fragrant Brunello offers up a lavishly exotic and decadent bouquet of grilled meats, hickory smoke, jammy peaches as well as red and black fruits, coffee, and spices ... authoritatively rich."
- 1987 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' .....145.00**  
 This beautiful 1987 still gives plenty of pleasure, profoundly demonstrating Soldera's brilliance in less acclaimed vintages.
- 1982 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' .....450.00**
- 1982 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Magnum ..975.00**  
 From the great 1982 Brunello vintage, this was the first monumental wine Soldera ever made, and it was largely responsible for his early cult following. A wine of quintessential richness and perfume that is now virtually impossible to find.

### *Incredible Buy on Halves & Magnums of Altesino Brunello*

Brunellos in halves and mags are rare. Even rarer are Brunellos from a top producer and vintage in these sizes at rock-bottom prices. But here they are.

**1999 Altesino Brunello di Montalcino half bottle . 19.95**

**1999 Altesino Brunello di Montalcino magnum ... 69.95**

*Wine Spectator*: "91 rating."

**2000 Altesino Brunello di Montalcino half bottle .. 17.95**

*Wine Spectator*: "90 rating."

### *Modern Sicily's First Wine*

Sicilian wine is today exploding with promise—all hinging on the potential of the native nero d'avola grape. Everyone credits one wine—Duca di Salaparuta's legendary barrique-aged 1984 Duca Enrico—with starting this movement. This wine is now very rare, and so we were excited recently to find a few bottles hidden away in a European cellar. We are pleased to offer them with a *one-bottle limit*.

**1984 Duca di Salaparuta Duca Enrico ..... 95.00**

## CHAMPAGNE & BURGUNDY

# 1990 Henriot Vinothèque Big Bottles

... direct from Henriot's Reims Cellars

At seventeen years of age, Champagne's 1990 vintage has fulfilled its early promise of producing monumental wines with great aging potential. As if to prove this point, Henriot recently released a small number of large format bottles of its 1990 "Vinothèque" Brut, which have been slumbering deep in its ancient, frigid Gallo-Roman chalk cellars in Reims.



De Valerio's striking poster for Henriot, circa 1930.

The vintage's marvelous balance of aromatic complexity, richness and structure is tailor-made for the extended aging possible in large format. This potential shows clearly in Henriot's 1990, with its creamy, toasty richness and its beautiful lime-blossom perfume. But while the vintage is crucial to the wine's character, perhaps even more important is the high proportion of Chardonnay from Henriot's famed Côte des Blancs vineyards in Le Mesnil, Chouilly, Oger, Avize and Vertus.

In 1990, the Chardonnay from these *crus* comprised half of the blend, an unusually high percentage for a vintage Brut. The result is an unusually sumptuous yet elegant and fragrant Champagne perfectly balanced for long aging.

Henriot has been a grower since 1640 and a producer since 1808. Today, under the direction of Joseph Henriot, the firm derives 75% of its fruit from its own vineyards, most of which is *grand cru* in the Côte des Blancs, Montaigne de Reims and Vallée de Marne.

But in the end it's the large portion of Chardonnay that sets Henriot apart. No other house's Brut Champagnes manage to unite creamy richness, fine mousse, biscuity complexity, subtlety, freshness and verve so harmoniously. These qualities explode in a vintage like 1990, and there is no better way to experience them than in late-release large-format bottles.

Here's your chance to acquire one of the great 1990s of unique provenance and format. Quantities are extremely limited however.

### 1990 Henriot Vinothèque

96 Juhlin

**\$179.95** 1.5L mag. **\$379.95** 3L jero

Richard Juhlin: "Only in magnum and jero boam. Elegant and beautifully youthful body with reductive-classical style."

## For Mon Oncle Henri: Cécile Tremblay's Superb 2005s

The grand-niece of Henri Jay, Cécile Tremblay emerged in 2005 as an important new source of Côtes de Nuits Burgundy. Working with her husband Pascal Roblet, Cécile emphasizes expressiveness rather than impact in her wines, and she shows an impressive attention to detail.

### Potel's 2005 Clos de la Roche

**2005 N. Potel Clos de la Roche .....295.00**

David Schildknecht in *The Wine Advocate*: "95-96 rating. Smells sweetly of cherry liqueur, blond tobacco, honey and iris ... explosively intense in the mouth, with sappy, sweet cherry, quarry dust, tobacco, pungent flowers, citrus zest, and gradually emerging hints of game, it finishes with almost indelible sweetness and complexity."

She and Pascal own only three hectares spread over seven vineyards, which means that their wines are destined to remain scarce in the marketplace. But they are well worth the search for red Burgundy lovers.

### 2005 Cécile Tremblay Morey St. Denis Trés Girard ..49.95

David Schildknecht in *TWA*: "91 rating ... smelling of cherry and anise, it comes to the palate silky and polished, with subtle smoked meat and soy-like savor accompanying its fresh, ripe fruit, then reaches for a finish of improbable length, soothing richness, and refinement ...."

### 2005 Cécile Tremblay Vosne Romanée V.V. ....59.95

David Schildknecht in *TWA*: "92 rating ... pungent and alluring in its spicy, musky, truffle, distilled-berry nose. It displays a dense palate amalgam of rich meat stock, saline minerality, and bright, juicy cassis and red raspberry, and finishes bracing and lip smacking in its expression of fresh fruit and minerals."

## RHONE VALLEY

# The Power of Ancient Vines

## *Domaine Monpertuis' Stunning 2005s*

*There are few* areas of the world where traditional practices are so deeply entrenched as in Châteauneuf du Pape. True, plenty of Châteauneuf domaines have sought a modern profile in recent years; but the best estates' winemaking has changed little.

Paul Jeune's Domaine Monpertuis is a perfect example. The domaine itself is a vestige of the region's ancient land ownership; it is made up of dozens of parcels scattered over a wide swath of northern Châteauneuf du Pape. While making for difficult vineyard management, Jeune attributes much of his wines' complexity to the varying *terroirs* (as well as to having countless old vines with which to work).

In the cellar, Jeune makes few concessions to modernity. The vinification and aging are traditional, and the wines' style reflects this: they are intense, gamey, powerful and very ripe, with brooding structure.

Prior to 1988, Jeune made just one red wine, the Cuvée Classique. But in response to an emerging trend toward special cuvées, in that year he created the "Cuvée Tradition." Made only in top years from his oldest vines (ranging in age from 60 to 110 years), it rivals the other elite wines of Châteauneuf du Pape.

In the great 2005 vintage, both cuvées are soaring examples of traditional Châteauneuf du Pape. We are pleased to offer limited quantities of each.

**2005 Monpertuis Cuvée Classique**  
**91-94 Josh Raynolds**  
**\$28.95**



Josh Raynolds in Steve Tanzer's *IWC*: "Fresh raspberry and strawberry on the nose, with a bright mineral accent. Zesty redcurrant and wild strawberry flavors show an elegance that reminded me of pinot noir. Finishes with silky tannins and terrific sweetness."

**2005 Monpertuis Cuvée Tradition**  
**93-96 Josh Raynolds**  
**\$49.95**

Josh Raynolds in Steve Tanzer's *IWC*: "Powerful aromas of kirsch, blackberry and lavender, with a suave mineral undercurrent. Deeply concentrated and sweet, showing superb depth to its complex flavors of cherry, cured tobacco and dark chocolate."

## *Alain Voge, Cornas' Other Star*

*In Cornas*, three growers deservedly get most of the press: Allemand, Clape and Verset. But there's one other *vigneron* worthy of attention: Alain Voge. Voge has worked his small domaine for more than three decades and is essentially a traditionalist. He now partially destems and ferments in steel, but he uses little new wood, topping out at 10-15% for his best *cuvées*, the Vieilles Vignes and Vieilles Fontaines.

While the Vieilles Vignes is made from 25- to 80-year old vines, the Vieilles Fontaines represents his best fruit culled during the harvest, and it is usually a blend of two *climats*, Les Côtes and Chaillot. In ripe vintages, Voge is known to age Vieilles Fontaines for more than two years in barrel.



We are pleased to offer three of Voge's greatest wines of the past decade. Each is a beautiful example of Cornas, as expressed by one of the appellation's unsung heroes. *Extremely* limited.

- 1999 Voge Cornas "Vieilles Vignes" ..... 59.95**  
 John Livingstone-Learmonth: "★★★★ Big, warm nose ... juicy, tasty attack, very gras. Very good core matter here. Rich and well balanced."
- 1999 Voge Cornas "Vieilles Fontaines" ..... 75.00**  
 John Livingstone-Learmonth: "★★★★ broad, warm nose—violets, elegant black fruit. Sustained clear black flavour, earthy touches, sinew, warm licorice ...."
- 1998 Voge Cornas "Vieilles Fontaines" ..... 69.95**  
 Parker: "92 rating. Flamboyant, complex and velvety-textured ... **potentially the wine of the vintage** ... a decadent-ly rich, lavishly concentrated Cornas ...."

# The Pharaoh, 2004

## *A Towering Vintage for the Bierzo Crus of Alvaro Palacios*

When Alvaro Palacios and Ricardo Pérez pioneered Bierzo's winemaking renaissance in 1998, they sensed untold potential in the region's old mountainside Mencía vineyards. But what particularly caught their eye were a few south- and west-facing slopes around the town of Corullón with vines planted in the 19th century. They quietly purchased these sites and, with time, unveiled five single-vineyard cuvées that have proven to be among Spain's most coveted new wines.

The latest releases are the monumental 2004s. In this historic year, only three of the cuvées were made and in *painfully* small quantities: 180 cases each of **San Martín** and **Monçerbal** and 50 cases of the greatest cuvee of all, **La Faraona** ("the Pharaoh"). No **Las Lamas** or **Fontelas** were made.



*La Faraona.*

While 2004 was a near-perfect vintage throughout Northern Spain, nowhere was it more magical than in Bierzo, which tends to be cooler than places like Ribera del Duero and Priorat. Here, the ancient Mencía vines produced fruit of breathtaking balance, combining Ribera-like richness with Burgundian finesse.

Prices for these wines continue to climb, as their production remains negligible and their fame soars. This is particularly the case for the iconic La Faraona. And so the 2004s' prices will look cheap within a year or so, as the 2005s and 2006s come out at significantly higher prices.

As always, readers of this newsletter will be among the few people on earth who will have access to these rare and extraordinary wines. But you'll need to hurry.

### **2004 San Martín** **\$85.00**

San Martín enjoys a perfect south-west exposure at more than 400 meters above sea level. In 2004, the 60-90-year-old Mencía vines produced a wine of remarkable richness and opulence. While superb now, it will age for a decade with ease.

### **2004 Monçerbal** **\$120.00**

With its Chambolle-like aromatics, and its intense minerality, Monçerbal reminds us of great Pinot Noir. In 2004, the site's century-old vines, grown in slate soil, produced a wine of great density but with a riveting Burgundian finesse.

### **2004 La Faraona** **\$225.00**

Like all truly great wines, La Faraona has a quality that both sets it apart and must be experienced to be understood. With its sensuality and mindblowing length, this is one of the transcendent wines of Spain's historic 2004 vintage. Don't miss it.

*"This smells like a great Chambolle-Musigny"*

*Josh Raynolds on 2006 Pétalos*

La Faraona and its peers are among Spain's great collectibles, but not everyone can afford (or find) such trophies. And so Alvaro and Ricardo created Pétalos, a wine not only affordable to everyday drinkers, but rich and complex enough to satisfy lovers of great wine. Pétalos captures all of Bierzo's magic—and more than a little of Burgundy's too—and it does so at a compellingly low price.

The 2006 Pétalos is from a fabulous Bierzo vintage, offering characteristic Mencía black fruits along with a seductive minerality. **It is a screaming value.**

**2006 Pétalos**  
**del Bierzo**  
**\$19.95 bt. \$235.00 cs.**



Josh Raynolds in Steve Tanzer's *IWC*: "Vibrant red berry and cherry aromas are underscored by pungent minerality and rose; **this smells like a great Chambolle-Musigny**. Sweet raspberry and floral pastille flavors ... very suave, focused and strikingly pure wine with superb complexity and poise."

# Domaine de Pallus

## *A Young Superstar Returns to His Roots in Chinon*

The young French winemaker, Bertrand Sourdais, came to the world's attention with the riveting wines he has made since 2000 at Dominio de Atauta in Ribera del Duero.



*Bertrand Sourdais*

Trained at the University of Bordeaux, Bertrand had been drawn to Atauta by its ancient, ungrafted vines of unique local Tempranillo clones. But he remained passionate for his native Chinon, and for its emblematic variety, Cabernet Franc. And so it was inevitable that he would someday apply his gifts at his family's estate, Domaine de Pallus in the appellation's heart in Cravant-les-Côteaux.

Four years ago, with his father's retirement nearing, Bertrand took up the challenge of creating something *great* at Pallus. At Atauta, he had learned to question orthodoxy, and at Pallus he believed he could chart a new course. His goal, ultimately, was to honor Chinon's soil and its ancient traditions. But he knew that he would need to correct the flaws that persisted in the region's traditional methods, while avoiding the mistakes typically made by modernists.

### **Les Pensées de Pallus**

In the vineyard, Bertrand is employing a meticulous biodynamic regime, while in the cellar an

extended maceration—up to an astonishing thirty days—is used to capture Chinon's essence. *Élevage* is long and gentle—primarily in second passage barrels from Haut Brion. With each succeeding vintage, we expect to see more striking and individualistic wines from this iconoclastic winemaker.

Most of Bertrand's production goes into the French market, but he sets aside his oldest and best vines to produce a limited old-vine *cuvée*, Les Pensées de Pallus. After a very good 2004, he has made a ravishing 2005 in what could be an historic vintage for Chinon. Don't miss it.

### **2005 Pensées de Pallus**

**\$19.95** *bt.* **\$225.00** *cs.*



David Schildknecht in *The Wine Advocate*: "A great success ... red raspberry, plum and subtly smoky toasted nuts in the nose lead to an elegant, refined, caressingly silken-textured palate displaying sorbet of red raspberry, roasted red pepper, nut oils and a deep, marrowy sweetness. Elegant and low key, with clear, juicy finishing fruit and subtle smoky, spicy, nutty finishing nuances, this seems too delightful now to want to hold, although—there being no track record—one is tempted to experiment with a few bottles in one's cellar."

## *Ex Voto, Guigal's Amazing New Hermitage Blanc*

First made in 2001, Guigal's Hermitage Blanc Ex-Voto is produced only in top vintages from very old vines in Hermitage's Les Murets and l'Ermite *climats*. Along with the Ex-Voto Rouge, this is Marcel Guigal's first effort to make Hermitage at the same level as his lofty single-vineyard Côte Rôties. And he has succeeded. Extremely limited.

**2001 Guigal Hermitage Ex-Voto ..... 149.95**

Parker: "96 rating ... stunning ... this fabulous white Hermitage ... offers up stupendous aromas of white peaches, truffles, quince, and a liqueur of stones. This amazing white should drink well young, yet last 2-3 decades."

**2003 Guigal Hermitage Ex-Voto ..... 179.95**

Parker: "96 rating ... the quintessential white Hermitage ... with extraordinary honeyed licorice, quince, marmalade, and truffle notes, an unctuous texture, great purity and richness, and a profound mouthfeel and length ... one of the most profound dry whites I ever tasted."

## BURGUNDY & CALIFORNIA

# Small Seductions

## Top White Burgundies in Half Bottles

As time goes on, we find white burgundy in half bottles more and more compelling. In fact, of all the wines we buy for ourselves in halves, white burgundies seem to dominate. We also believe that one shouldn't have to compromise quality; so when we see *great* white burgundies in halves, we grab them. While most of these acquisitions find their way to California's elite restaurants, here are a few prizes.

### Côte d'Or

#### 2004 Henri Boillot Meurasault-Perrières 375ml .....37.50

*Burghound:* "93 rating ... the class of the cellar with more discreet wood framing a reserved but ultra elegant white flower and pungent limestone nose that merges seamlessly into fine, precise and intensely stony flavors."

#### 2000 Jean Boillot Puligny Clos Mouchère 375ml ....45.00

Rovani: "94 rating ... huge concentration and power, loads of focus ...." Tanzer: "92+ rating."

#### 2002 Patrick Javillier Meursault Les Clous

#### "Cuvée Speciale" 375ml .....29.95

*Burghound:* "92 rating ... stunningly complex ... delineated flavors that possess outstanding intensity and simply fabulous length ... the quality here is way above its class."

#### 1999 Domaine Leflaive Puligny Clavoillon 375ml .. 49.95

Tanzer: "Aromas of peach, pear and white flowers ... penetrating ... pure flavors of yellow plum and spices, plus a whiff of truffle ... tightly wound and structured to age."

#### 2004 Guy Roulot Meursault-Luchets 375ml .....45.00

John Gilman: "92 rating ... apple, pear ... pronounced nutty Meursault tones ... a step up from the Tillets in both depth and richness ... a very long, complex and impressive finish ... has the depth and grip of a *premier cru*."

### Chablis

#### 2005 Wm. Fèvre Chablis Les Preuses 375ml.....42.50

*Burghound:* "92-95 rating ... an incredibly complex nose of brioche, spice, green fruit, shellfish, algae and sea breeze notes ... wonderfully elegant ... strikingly classy flavors that are dense, balanced and unbelievably persistent."

#### 2005 W. Fèvre Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 375ml .24.95

Tanzer: "92 rating ... Pure aromas of lemon, lime, ginger and dusty stone ... terrific cut ... pure and long."

#### 2004 William Fèvre Chablis Fourchaume

#### "Vignoble de Vaurorent" 375ml .....24.95

Rovani: "94 rating ... the star among Domaine William Fèvre's *premier crus* ... profound aromatics ... Broad, ample, rich, and suave, this wine also boasts superb precision, freshness and focus."

#### 2002 Jean Dauvissat Chablis Les Preuses 375ml... 29.95

*Burghound:* "Extremely big and powerful ... rich and generous." Tanzer: "Captivating ... powerful young *grand cru*."

#### 2002 Jean Dauvissat Chablis Montmains 375ml.....19.95

*Burghound:* "Impressively elegant, pure and refined aromas of citrus, stone and a hint of peach that give way to plump, generous, very round flavors of first rate intensity and persistence ... an extra underlying dimension here."

## Rare California Blue Chips

### Pride Mountain

In the 15 years since winemaker Bob Foley arrived, Pride Mountain has become a benchmark for great Cabernet, thanks largely to the two rare "Reserve" cuvées.

1995 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 98 .....295.00

1996 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 99 .....325.00

1997 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 97 .....299.00

1998 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 95 .....195.00

1999 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 94 .....189.95

2001 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 99 .....335.00

2002 Pride Mountain Reserve Cabernet Parker 96 .....239.95

1995 Pride Mountain Reserve Claret Parker 96 .....279.00

1997 Pride Mountain Reserve Claret Parker 96 .....265.00

1999 Pride Mountain Reserve Claret Parker 96 .....245.00

### Shafer Hillside Select

John Shafer's Hillside Select is one of California's towering Cabernets. Here are some of its greatest vintages.

#### 2002 Shafer Hillside Select Cabernet

100 Parker

\$395.00 bottle \$875.00 magnum

Parker: "Utterly perfect ... a gorgeously powerful nose of pure crème de cassis, pain grillé, flowers, licorice, and spice box ... superb purity ... an amazing offering."

1997 Shafer Hillside Select Parker 99 .....425.00

1999 Shafer Hillside Select Magnum Parker 97 .....695.00

2001 Shafer Hillside Select Magnum Parker 99 .....695.00

# Cavallotto's Jewel

## The Transcendent 2001 "San Giuseppe" Barolo Riserva

For more than fifty years, the Cavallotto family made superb traditionally styled Barolo that were all but unknown to American wine lovers. Longtime visitors to Piedmont may recall seeing old bottles of Cavallotto Barolo on Alba store shelves, but the wines were virtually unobtainable in the U.S.



The original 1948 Cavallotto Barolo Label

Over the past two or three years, however, Cavallotto has started to get the attention it has long deserved. With new U.S. distribution, their wines are at last appearing on American retail shelves. And, of course, they've gotten exposure in this newsletter, having been featured last July for their excellent 1997 and 1999 Riserva Barolos.

But perhaps Cavallotto's biggest boost is coming from the press, particularly Antonio Galloni who, just last month, posted a rapturous report on a vertical tasting of the family's Riserva Barolos. Antonio recently spent a few hours in New York tasting with Alfio Cavallotto, surveying Riservas from 1978 to 2001 and the stand-out to Antonio was not the oldest wine, but the youngest: the 2001 Bricco Boschis Vigna San Giuseppe Riserva.

### The Crown Jewel

The family produces a number of different Barolos of varying designations, but the wine to buy is the San Giuseppe Riserva, made only in great vintages from old vines in the heart of the Boschis vineyard. In fact, of all the Cavallotto Barolos now available in the U.S., the San Giuseppe Riserva is the

one you will seldom find on retail shelves.

So, we were delighted a few weeks ago to pick up a parcel of this rare legend-in-the-making at a compelling price. Be sure not to miss it.

**2001 Cavallotto Barolo  
Bricco Boschis Riserva  
"Vigna San Giuseppe"  
95 Antonio Galloni**



**\$89.95 bt. \$189.95 mag.**

Antonio Galloni: "... simply captivating. Made in a dark, brooding style, it reveals a deeply layered personality that marries richness to depth, with generous tar, smoke, menthol, spices and sweet black cherries ... Still an infant, the 2001 Vigna San Giuseppe is a wine to buy and forget about for several years if not considerably longer. **It may very well be the finest Barolo Cavallotto has ever made, and it is not to be missed.**"

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*We also have a few bottles of ....*

**1999 Cavallotto Barolo Bricco Boschis Riserva  
"Vigna San Giuseppe" .....89.95**

Antonio Galloni: "92 rating. Absolutely gorgeous —combines the richness of the vintage with classic structure, and good freshness on the finish. Very complete for the vintage and hard to resist now."

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