

## 22 Italian Wines for Under \$20

Charles Scicolone (July 29, 2010)



One Does Not Have To Pay A Lot Of Money To Drink Well!

Best Buys – 22 wines under \$20

At one of the seminars at [Vino 2010](#) [2], the person next to me said, “It is impossible to get a good Italian wine for under \$20.00.” This got me thinking. Often, maybe too often, I write about very expensive and very old wines, but I do not drink these wines every day. I like expensive older wines, but the price of a wine does not impress me. I would rather drink a \$12 traditionally made wine than one that costs 20 times as much and tastes like every other wine. It is the style of the wine that is important to me -- not the price.



Here is a list of 22 wines all under \$20 that I would drink instead of a number of more expensive wines. Remember you do not have to pay a lot of money for wine to drink well.

**[Nino Franco](#)** [3] Prosecco Valdobbiadene “Rustico” NV D.O.C. 100% Prosecco (After April 2010 the area is Prosecco and the grape is Glera) Fresh citrus aromas and flavors with good bubbles. In the Veneto, Prosecco is always served in a white wine glass. Veneto \$19.

**[Cantina di Soave- Rocca Sveva](#)** [4] Soave Classico DOC Made from 100% Garganega . This is a wine has citrus notes a hint of lemon and good acidity. Veneto \$15

**di Lenardo Vineyards** Grave Del Friuli

1. TOH! Da Uva Friulano- Friulano Friuli D.O.C. Grave, 100% Friuliano (Tocai). It is a soft well balanced wine. Friuli, under \$15
2. Sauvignon I.G.T. Venezia Giulia, a vine blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sancerre clones, aromatic with aromas and flavors of sage and melon. Well balanced with good acidity. Friuli ,under \$15
3. Pass the Cookies I.G.T. (Great name for a dessert wine) Venezia Giulia 100% Verduzzo. Harvested late and dried three months on the racks. Dried fruit aromas and flavors with undertones of caramel. It is a 500ml but still a great deal for under. Friuli, under \$15

**[Feudi San San Gregorio](#)** [5] Falanghiana DOC Made from 100% Falanghiana The wine has aromas of apple and a hint of pineapple with citrus and minerals in the aftertaste. Campania \$19

**[Albino Armani](#)** [6] Foja Tonda-Casetta DOC Terradeiforti 100% Foja Tonda(aka Casetta) It has aromas of cherries, spices, dry plums and an undertone of leather. Well balanced with good acidity, along finish and pleasing aftertaste. ( Veneto) \$19.99

**[Renato Ratti](#)** [7] Barbera d’Alba “Torriglione” DOC Made 100% Barbera, Good fruit with aromas of plum with a nice spiciness in the mouth and good acidity. This is a wine that will age for at least 10 years. Piedmont \$19

**[Cantina Lungarotti](#)** [8] Rubesco Rosso di Torgiano D.O.C. Made from 70% Savgiovese and 30% Canaiolo. Red fruit aromas and flavors with a hint of violets, long finish and a red fruit aftertaste. I had the 2005 a few nights ago and it was showing no signs of age. Umbria \$14

**[Azienda Agricola Travignoli](#)** [9] Villa Travignoli Chianti Rufina D.O.C.G. 100% Sangiovese. It has aromas and flavors of red fruit, and real sangiovese character. Tuscany \$15

**[Ruffino](#)** [10] Chianti DOCG made from 75% Sangiovese and the rest from traditional grapes such as Canaiolo and Colorino. The wine has fresh red berry aromas and flavors, good acidity and a touch of tannin. Tuscany \$10

**[San Fabiano](#)** [11] Chianti DOCG Made from 85% Sangiovese and 15% of other grapes. It had aromas and flavors of cherries, some tannin and good acidity. Tuscany \$15

**[Masciarelli](#)** [12]

1. Trebbiano d’ Abruzzo D.O.C. Citrus aromas and flavors with undertones of apple. Abruzzo, \$13
2. Montepulciano d’Abruzzo D.O.C. Red berry aromas and flavors, a hint of cherry and a touch of tobacco,.Abruzzo \$13

**[Cusumano Benuara](#)** [13] 70% Nero d’Avola and 30% Syrah, Sicily I.G.T. Aromatic with red and black fruit . Usually I do not like Nero d’Avola blended with Syrah, but the wine is in stainless steel



and 20hl barrels and it works very well. Sicily \$15-18

**[Sella and Mosca](#)** [14] Cannonau Riserva di Sardegna D.O.C. 100% Cannonau. Good red fruit with hints of spices and herbs and very earthy. Sardinia \$15

**[Agricole Vallone](#)** [15] Vigna Flaminio Riserva Brindisi Rosso D.O.C. Mostly Negroamaro with Malvasia Nera and Moltipulicano. Red fruit aromas and flavors with a under tones of prune. Puglia \$15

**Cantina Sociale Cooperativa Copertino** Copertino Riserva D.O.C. 95% Negroamaro and 5% Malvasia Nera Black and red fruit aromas and flavors with hint a of tobacco. Puglia \$15

**[Conti Zecca](#)** [16] Nergroamaro Salento D.O.C. 100% Negroamaro, aromas and flavors of red fruit with a hint of prune, Puglia \$15

**[Cantina Vincenzo Ippolito](#)** [17] Cirò Rosso Classico Superiore Colli del Mancuso DOC Made from 100% Gaglioppo. Very traditional, Southern Italian wine, with hints of dry fruit and a very nice finish and aftertaste. Calabria \$17.

**Lini** Lambrusco “LaBrusca” IGT Made from Lambrusco Salamino and Ancellotta grapes. Vinified in the Charmat Method and aged in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks for at least 3 months. It is low in alcohol with good acidity. Fresh red berry fruit aromas and flavors and one of the best Lambrusco's to have with food

**[Vietti Cascinetta](#)** [18] Moscato d' Asti 100% Moscato Bianco.DOC It is fresh and light slightly sparkling(fizzante) with aromas and flavors of peaches and apricots. This wine is low in alcohol which makes it perfect wine to end a meal. Try it over fruit salad or Italian style ices. \$16 Piedmont

There are many more I could list, but these were the first 22 that came to mind and I will add to the list in the future.

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