

89 Tommasi Brunello di Montalcino Casisano 2011 \$60 Rich and savory, with cherry and plum flavors offset by leather, tobacco and wild herb notes. Stays firm and fresh on the finish. Drink now through 2024. 1,200 cases imported.—B.S.

88 Ambra Carmignano Elzana Riserva 2012 \$27 A meaty version, this shows cherry, plum and licorice notes, with a hint of chocolate. Firm, dusty tannins line the finish. Sangiovese and Uva Francesca. Drink now through 2019. 4,000 cases made.—B.S.

88 Ambra Carmignano Montefortini Podere Lombarda 2013 \$19 Licorice, sage, cherry and leather flavors converge in this dense yet light-footed red, which leans toward the burly side, with moderate length. Drink now through 2019. 11,000 cases made.—B.S.

88 Ambra Carmignano Santa Cristina in Pili 2013 \$19 This bright red, exhibiting cherry, licorice, wild herb and tobacco flavors, is balanced toward the firm, dry side now, but lingers, finding an equilibrium in the end. Drink now through 2018. 22,000 cases made.—B.S.

88 Antinori Bolgheri Rosato Tenuta Guado al Tasso Scalabrone 2015 \$25 A tangy mix of strawberry, currant and citrus peel flavors are kept focused by vibrant acidity in this balanced and round rosé, with fine length. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Drink now. 2,600 cases imported.—B.S.

88 Le Corti Costa Toscana Birillo 2013 \$19 A solid red, dense but set on a slim frame, with black cherry, blackberry and spice flavors. Paired with grilled meat this balanced version is approachable now; otherwise give this a year in the cellar. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2020. 4,580 cases made.—B.S.

88 Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Cabernet Maremma Toscana Terre More dell'Ammiraglia 2014 \$18 The core of violet and black currant fruit is accented by green, herbaceous notes in this smooth red. On the elegant side, balanced and persistent on the finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,400 cases imported.—B.S.

87 Ambra Barco Reale di Carmignano 2015 \$14 A light-bodied, elegant style, offering cherry, strawberry and spice flavors, this is balanced, if moderately long. Drink now. 30,000 cases made.—B.S.

87 Bindi Sergardi Chianti Colli Senesi Al Canapo 2014 \$15 Though light in weight, this red evokes strawberry and cherry fruit. Vibrant, with a light dusting of tannins on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 5,400 cases made.—B.S.

85 Castello del Trebbio Chianti Superiore 2014 \$15 Starts out with cherry and almond flavors, firming up on the lightly herbaceous finish. Drink now. 4,500 cases made.—B.S.

ITALY Wine Spectator - October 31st, 2016

Veneto / Amarone della Valpolicella

95 Romano Dal Forno Amarone della Valpolicella 2010 \$450 See Collectibles, page 111.

94 Giuseppe Quintarelli Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2006 \$350 Beautifully balanced, this elegant red features a skein of aromatic spice unraveling through the cherry compote, smoky espresso, fig cake and loamy earth flavors, layered with silky tannins in a harmonious frame. The mouthwatering finish echoes notes of brambly berry and forest floor. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.

94 Zymè Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2009 \$170 Shows a fine marriage between Amarone's more traditional and modern styles. A fresh, medium- to full-bodied red, framed by chalky tannins, this offers a mix of wild herb and underbrush notes, pure, crushed black

of citrus peel, mocha and spice that linger on the well-defined finish. Best from 2018 through 2030. 500 cases made.—A.N.

94 Zymè Amarone della Valpolicella Classico La Mattonara Riserva 2006 \$360 Christmas spice, orange compote, date and plumped cherry flavors lead the way in this bright and lively red, wrapping around and fleshing out the grippy, tannic frame. Tightly meshed and mouthwatering, with savory accents of espresso, iron and grilled herb playing off the fruit and spice notes on the lasting finish. Drink now through 2029. 250 cases made.—A.N.

93 Michele Castellani Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Cinque Stelle 2012 \$90 A dense, well-knit red, offering finely sculpted tannins and rich cherry compote, forest floor, baking spice, date and singed orange peel flavors, set on a silky palate. Long and aromatic, with hints of mocha, citrus zest, spice and smoke echoing on the chewy finish. Drink now through 2027. 1,200 cases made.—A.N.

93 Zenato Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Sergio Zenato Riserva 2010 \$125 Tarry smoke and grilled herb notes herald this dense, full-bodied red, along with details of ground coffee, blackberry pâte de fruit, dark chocolate shavings and ground pink peppercorn. Long and supple, with a lasting, rich and creamy finish. Drink now through 2026. 1,500 cases made.—A.N.

92 Allegrini Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2012 \$85 The vibrancy and harmony keeps this elegant and well-trimmed throughout, with a concentrated core of tarry mineral and flavors of crushed black cherry, dried thyme, mocha and spice. The fine-grained tannins impart density and a lightly chalky texture. Drink now through 2027. 1,300 cases imported.—A.N.

92 Michele Castellani Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Colle Cristi 2012 \$63 This medium- to full-bodied red is ripe with spiced cherry and date fruit notes, layered with grippy tannins and expressive accents of Earl Grey tea, tar-tinged mineral and dark chocolate shavings. Offers a rich, lasting finish. Drink now through 2026. 1,600 cases made.—A.N.

92 Monte del Frà Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Lena di Mezzo Scarnocchio 2011 \$99 Tarry smoke, cured tobacco and espresso notes underscore sun-dried black cherry, date, mandarin orange peel, fragrant ground anise and clove spice accents in this mouthwatering red. Finely knit and harmonious, with plush tannins on the creamy finish. Drink now through 2026. 1,000 cases made.—A.N.

92 Villa Girardi Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Opere di San Pietro 2009 \$100 Notes of star anise, ground clove and graphite are an aromatic entry for this elegant red, offering a spicy thread that unravels through flavors of dried cherry, raspberry coulis, coffee liqueur and smoky mineral. Lightly mouthwatering throughout, with supple tannins firming the fragrant finish. Drink now through 2026. 100 cases imported.—A.N.

91 Latium Amarone della Valpolicella Due Mori Riserva 2008 \$140 A silky, savory red, with hints of hoisin sauce, bresaola and coffee accenting the prune, fig cake and dried mint notes. Grippy. Features dense tannins and a juicy, aromatic finish. Drink now through 2023. 200 cases made.—A.N.

91 Monte del Frà Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Lena di Mezzo 2012 \$60 A pure note of ripe crushed cherry heralds this medium- to full-bodied red, layered with an aromatic array of coffee liqueur, bergamot and exotic spice, showing a smoke-tinged, mineral underpinning. Sleek and well-knit, with a grippy finish. Drink now through 2025. 6,500 cases made.—A.N.

91 Montecariano di Gini Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2011 \$95 A finely balanced red, featuring chewy tannins and an accessible mix of raspberry