

## 8 Values from Northwest Italy

New reviews of Dolcetto and more from Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta



Look for lesser-known value bottlings from big names—like Barolo's Luigi Einaudi.

*Bruce Sanderson*

Posted: April 20, 2017

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*Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.*

If you are willing to explore beyond the famous names and appellations, there are plenty of excellent wines from Piedmont to please both your palate and your wallet. When combined with a terrific vintage such as 2015—which delivered ideal conditions for grape varieties like Dolcetto—and top-quality producers, it's hard to go wrong.

Though less familiar, the wines from the tiny region of Valle d'Aosta, tucked under the Alps on the Swiss border, deliver distinctive character from a handful of native grapes. Torrette, a subzone, must be made from a minimum of 70 percent Petit Rouge. Anselmet blends it with Fumin and Cornalin.

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These wines all scored 90 points or higher and retail for \$20 or less, representing the outstanding value that wines from northwest Italy can offer.

**CA'VIOLA Dolcetto d'Alba Vilot 2015 Score: 92 / \$20**

A smooth, seamless version, this red evokes blackberry, plum and pomegranate fruit, backed by vibrant acidity. Elegant, lingering nicely on the saturated finish, where a touch of graphite emerges. Drink now through 2023. 1,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**LUIGI EINAUDI Dogliani 2015 Score: 92 / \$16**

A beam of bracing acidity at the core of this intense, saturated red helps delineate the blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry and graphite flavors. Has grip and complexity, just needs a little time. Best from 2018 through 2024. 9,000 cases made.—*B.S.*

**CAVALLOTTO Dolcetto d'Alba Vigna Scot 2015 Score: 91 / \$18**

This is full of rich black cherry and blackberry flavors, tinged by violet. Racy and elegant, with a minerally accent on the long, chalky finish. Drink now through 2022. 1,111 cases made.—*B.S.*

**CERETTO Dolcetto d'Alba Rossana 2015 Score: 91 / \$20**

This is pure and harmonious, featuring blackberry, blueberry, violet and mineral flavors. The dense structure has plenty of grip and the finish rolls on. Drink now through 2021. 4,170 cases made.—*B.S.*

**GIGI ROSSO Diano d'Alba Sorì del Moncolombetto 2015 Score: 91 / \$19**

A whiff of animal gives way to saturated flavors of blackberry, plum and pomegranate in this intense red. Well-structured, sporting dense, muscular tannins and a fresh, lingering aftertaste. Decant now or wait six months. Best from 2018 through 2023. 1,250 cases made.—*B.S.*

**ANSELMET Muscat Chambave Valle d'Aosta 2015 Score: 90 / \$14**

A rich yet dry style, offering floral, spice, grapefruit and honey flavors. Full-bodied, this expands on the finish, with rose water and lychee notes. Drink now through 2020. 500 cases made.—*B.S.*

**ANSELMET Valle d'Aosta Torrette Superieur 2015 Score: 90 / \$17**

Plump and juicy, evoking plum, black cherry, earth and violet flavors, with a lip-smacking finish. Overtly fruity yet balanced, with stuffing. Petit Rouge, Fumin and Cornalin. Drink now through 2020. 2,100 cases made.—*B.S.*

**LUIGI PIRA Dolcetto d'Alba 2015 Score: 90 / \$17**

Though rich and concentrated, this red is sleek, courtesy of the vivid acidity. Black cherry, blackberry and cocoa flavors prevail. Firm tannins provide grip. This should pair well with salumi and antipasti. Drink now through 2022. 1,500 cases made.—*B.S.*

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