



Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s

Closing Date: 8-28-00
Issue 130

The WINE ADVOCATE®

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine
RATING SYSTEM

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

96-100

An extraordinary wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.

90-95

An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.

80-89

A barely above average to very good wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.

70-79

An average wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.

60-69

A below average wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.

50-59

A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

TENUTA DI TRINORO	1998	IGT	TUSCANY (\$100.00)	RED	92
TENUTA DI TRINORO	1998	PALAZZI IGT	TUSCANY (\$100.00)	RED	93

This exciting new operation is run by Andrea Franchetti, who has friendships with winemaking mavens Jean-Luc Thunevin of St-Emillion and Peter Sisseck of Spain's Pingus. No expense has been spared in the replanting of this ancient vineyard (dating from 1892) or on the lavish attention given to the wine. Made from extremely low yields of 20 hectoliters per hectare, aged 14 months in 100% new French oak, and bottled without fining or filtration, these wines benefit from a process known as *micro-bullage*, which aerates the lees without having to rack the wines, thus minimizing damage to the wine's freshness. To date, these have been spectacular efforts with fabulous potential. The Tenuta di Trinoro is a blend of 80% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot. The Palazzi is a blend of 50% Cabernet Franc and 50% Merlot (reminiscent of St-Emillion's famed Cheval Blanc). The 1998 Palazzi (1,000 cases) exhibits an

exotic, sweet nose of blackberries and spices, an opulently-textured, jammy, ripe style with wonderful sweetness on the attack, copious quantities of glycerin, supple tannin, and a blockbuster, rich finish with tremendous complexity. It should age effortlessly for 10-15 years. Also remarkably complex, the 1998 Tenuta di Trinoro reveals notes of coconut, Asian spices, and generous quantities of black cherry, blackberry, and smoke-infused fruit flavors. The wine is jammy, full-bodied, viscous, and voluptuously-textured with extraordinary purity and overall balance. In both wines, the tannin is obscured by the luxurious fruit and high glycerin. The 1998 Tenuta di Trinoro will also drink well for 10-15 years.

By the way, the 1999 Tenuta di Trinoro appears to be the finest wine I have yet tasted from this up and coming superstar. Importer: The Rare Wine Co., Sonoma, CA; tel. (707) 996-4484

IN THIS ISSUE

Italy's Golden Age (624 recommended wines of which 209 are delicious bargains) (2-40)

Recommended New Releases: France, Spain & Portugal (41-54)

(including 114 great values)

A Buying Strategy (55-56)

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

This journal, (ISSN 0669-8463) is published by THE WINE ADVOCATE, INC., with second class postage paid at Monkton, Maryland and additional mailing offices. The street address of the office is 1602 Hillside View, Potters, Maryland 21120. THE WINE ADVOCATE is available only by subscription. The rates for one year are \$45 (Domestic), \$60 (Canada), and \$65 (Overseas). The rates for two years are \$80 (Domestic), \$115 (Canada), and \$155 (Overseas). All requests for subscriptions should be sent to THE WINE ADVOCATE, INC., P.O. Box 311, Monkton, MD 21111. Subscription orders must be accompanied by check, money order, or Visa, MasterCard, or American Express credit card information. For further information, call (410) 229-6477 or fax (410) 337-4564. THE WINE ADVOCATE is published in six bimonthly issues. Reproduction of the material contained herein, including office copying, without written permission is prohibited by law. The news media, wine distributors, and retailers may use brief portions of this material provided it is not distorted and THE WINE ADVOCATE is given credit for the material utilized. The tasting notes and content are solely the responsibility of author, Robert M. Parker, Jr. THE WINE ADVOCATE'S principal taster and writer. The only exception are those articles written by Piero Rovani. All of Mr. Rovani's work in this journal will be clearly indicated so there can be no confusion regarding the origin and person responsible for those tasting notes. Mr. Rovani can be reached at (360) 333-7196, Fax (202) 383-7301. The copy editor of THE WINE ADVOCATE is Patrick E. Parker. In Europe, Harris Agostini assists in gathering and confirming technical information. Neither Robert M. Parker, Jr. nor Piero Rovani has an interest, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise in the importation of wine. The wholesale distribution of wine, or the retail sale of wine except for Mr. Parker's one-third interest in an Oregon vineyard that was commercially bonded in 1992 and began selling wine in 1993. Because of an obvious conflict of interest, the wine produced from this vineyard will never be mentioned or reviewed in anything written by Robert M. Parker, Jr. Copyright © 2000 by Robert M. Parker, Jr. Postmaster: Send address correction to THE WINE ADVOCATE, INC., P.O. Box 311, Monkton, MD 21111. On the world wide web: <http://www.wineadvocate.com/US/index.html> Forward and Return Postage Guaranteed. THE WINE ADVOCATE, first published in August, 1970, relentlessly pursues the goal of providing valuable, unencumbered, totally independent and reliable information on wine and issues affecting wine quality to those consumers in search of the finest wines and best wine values. All Rights Reserved.