



# Editors' picks

Each month our editorial team tastes a lot of wine – but not all of it manages to make it to the page. So here's our in-house pick of other great wines we've tried

(...)



## Extraordinary Etna

JAMES BUTTON

A package arrived recently containing some Passopisciaro 2019 contrada (single-vineyard) wines. I've tasted these wines, made by Tuscan maestro Andrea Franchetti, on several occasions before and am always impressed.

Taken as a whole – a whistlestop tour of Etna's lofty vineyards – they demonstrate how altitude can imbue wines with elegance and a certain *je ne sais quoi*, in this case counteracting the sunshine for which Sicily is celebrated. Made from the odd hectare here and there of ancient Nerello Mascalese vines embedded in the lava-strewn northern slopes of Mount Etna, these 2019s combine muscular red fruits with ethereal structure. The ascent piles on more and more mineral acidity, making the wines from the highest sites at above 1,000m delightfully nervy. Extraordinary wines.