

FOOD & WINE

Wine Guide

2012

The only producers
you'll need to know
this year



by the Editors of Food & Wine and Mary G. Burnham

SANDRONE

Gifted winemaker and Piedmont upstart Luciano Sandrone began as a cellarhand but saved enough money to buy a piece of the famed Cannubi vineyard in 1970. Sandrone makes two magnificent Barolos, plus a Dolcetto and a Barbera that are among Piedmont's best. All his wines showcase a rich but refined style.

- **Sandrone / Dolcetto d'Alba / 2009 / \$\$**
Get a taste of Sandrone's polished sensibility with this affordable unoaked wine.
- **Sandrone Cannubi Boschis / Barolo / 2007 / \$\$\$\$**
Often sold out before it even arrives in the U.S., this great Barolo may be purchased online—albeit at a very high price.

VIETTI

Vietti is legendary for its traditionally styled single-vineyard Barolos. Beyond the top-end wines lies a compelling array of Piedmont classics, including a bright Arneis, the local white that owner Alfredo Currado rescued from near extinction in the 1960s. Son Luca Currado—an alumnus of California's Opus One and Bordeaux's Château Mouton Rothschild—helms the winery today.

- **Vietti / 2010 / Roero Arneis / \$\$**
A compulsively delicious, peach- and flower-inflected white.
- **Vietti Tre Vigne / 2008 / Barbera d'Alba / \$\$**
Grapes from three top Alba vineyards yield a round Barbera redolent of plums and violets.
- **Vietti Castiglione / 2006 / Barolo / \$\$\$**
At about half the price of many top Barolos, this beautiful, densely layered bottling is a smart buy.

OTHER NORTHERN ITALIAN REGIONS

No region in Italy churns out more wine than the northeast. The Veneto makes oceans of industrial blends yet also produces a growing number of refined, well-priced wines. Sparkling Prosecco comes from vineyards near the Veneto coast. Farther north, bordering Slovenia, Austria and Switzerland, are the Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige regions. German is widely spoken in the latter (it's the majority language in Alto Adige), and the grapes and wines also reveal German influence. Friuli-Venezia Giulia grows many unusual native grape varieties.