

Jovis Wines Recent wine reviews

IL Borghetto Estate Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy

Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*:

*IL Borghetto was one of the most pleasant discoveries in my tastings of the wines of Chianti Classico. The estate is quickly establishing itself as one of Tuscany's hottest new properties. British oenologist Tim Manning worked previously at Dujac in Burgundy and Cristom in Oregon, and not surprisingly his wines reflect a similar aesthetic. Manning makes some of the most exceptionally balanced, harmonious wines in Tuscany in a style that favors a fairly rich expression of fruit. At their finest, the wines recall great Pinot in their weightless and effortless grace. **Simply put, I can't recommend these wines highly enough.***

2005 IL Borghetto Chianti Classico Riserva

\$105/bottle

Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

The 2005 Chianti Classico Riserva (100% Sangiovese) spent a whopping 30 months in French oak. This fresh, vibrant wine offers stunning purity in its dark fruit, leather, spices and toasted oak, showing surprising density and richness in a vintage where those qualities were very hard to come by. Texturally, the oak is exceptionally well-balanced, although the wine needs a few years for the aromatics to fully harmonize. Still, this is a remarkable wine in every way. In 2005, the production was only 2,800 bottles. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2025.
93 points

2006 IL Borghetto Bilaccio

\$70/bottle

Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*:

The 2006 Chianti Classico Riserva Bilaccio blossoms onto the palate with gorgeous perfumed red fruit, tobacco, leather, licorice and herbs. The wine possesses superb richness in an expansive style, with a long, utterly sublime finish. This 100% Sangiovese spent 18 months in French oak. Sadly, there are only 7,000 bottles to go around. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2021.
92 points



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Brezza Estate

Piemonte, Italy

2004 Brezza Barolo Sarmassa

\$140 /bottle

Awarded the **Tre Bicchieri** (3 glasses) from **Gambero Rosso** - Italy's most influential wine guide. This is the highest honour bestowed upon an Italian wine in Italy.

Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

The 2004 Barolo Sarmassa possesses vibrancy, depth and freshness. A powerful, fleshy Barolo, it offers plenty of dark cherries, plums, spices, tar and menthol, with an engaging personality. The tannins remain quite firm, so additional bottle age seems warranted, but this is a very promising effort. The Sarmassa is slightly more feminine than the Bricco Sarmassa, yet quite beautiful all the same. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2022.

91 points

2003 Brezza Barolo DOCG Sarmassa

\$140/bottle

Awarded the **Tre Bicchieri** (3 glasses) from **Gambero Rosso** - Italy's most influential wine guide. This is the highest honour bestowed upon an Italian wine in Italy.

Suzanne Brocklehurst 18/02/09, wine journalist, Singapore (www.thelocalnose.com)

This is benchmark Barolo in a very traditional style from the single vineyard of "Sarmassa"...The nose is quite savoury with some minerality and leather aromas. It is missing the classic Barolo "tar and roses" notes at this stage, but it is still a very young wine. The palate has abundant firm yet chalky, fine tannins and fresh acidity. It is a full-bodied style with some dried fruit and plum characters on the mid palate. At this stage of its development the wine is firm and powerful with an extremely long length of flavour.

2004 Brezza Barolo Cannubi

\$110/bottle

Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*:

The 2004 Barolo Cannubi reveals the telltale aromas of this site, Barolo's most historic vineyard. The fruit is surprisingly dark for Cannubi and there are hints of slight over-ripeness, yet the finely-textured tannins convey an impression of graceful elegance that is the hallmark of this vintage. Already quite approachable, this fine Barolo should continue to drink well for another decade, and perhaps longer. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2019.

89 points



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Brezza Estate

Piemonte, Italy

2005 Brezza Nebbiolo d'Alba DOC Santa Rosalia

\$50/bottle

Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW, 26/10/09 - independent wine review for The Local Nose, Singapore (www.thelocalnose.com):

"Sensational buy"...Pale and garnet brick colour. I love the nose - it's classic Nebbiolo 'roses and tar' with a core of stewed cherries, kirsch and underbrush. Crisp acidity and medium and fine grained tannins. Very elegant and long"

Chee Wee Lee, 26/10/09 - independent wine review (www.thelocalnose.com):

"Excellent buy"...Nice, classic Nebbiolo nose with some balsamic notes. Secondary flavours still a bit shy, but it's clearly evolving. Good acid backbone with elegant, firm tannins. Nice texture and lovely complexity on the finish. Great!!"

Ed Soon, 26/10/09 - independent wine review (www.thelocalnose.com):

"Excellent buy"...Brick red with brown edges. Nose shows red fruits, pepper, toffee, and a hint of farmyard. Medium-bodied, good acid structure with red fruit flavours apparent. Very long finish with just a tiny hint of sweetness.

Suzanne Brocklehurst 18/02/09, wine journalist, Singapore (www.thelocalnose.com):

This is a single vineyard offering with lifted floral notes and even some hints of creamy vanilla. These enticing aromas also include leather and cinnamon spice. The distinctive very fine, but very drying tannins of Nebbiolo are balanced against a lively, concentrated black fruit palate with refreshing acidity. It is medium to full bodied, elegant rather than powerful, with very good oak integration despite its youth.

2005 Brezza Barbera d'Alba DOC Cannubi Muscatel

\$55/bottle

Suzanne Brocklehurst 18/02/09, wine journalist, Singapore (www.thelocalnose.com):

Established in 1885, Brezza is considered an "arch traditionalist". The Barbera grape is well-regarded for its depth of crimson colour, which this wine beautifully exhibits. The wines of Barbera d'Alba are considered to be denser and have more noticeable minerality than those of Asti. As a single vineyard wine from "Cannubi Muscatel" the dense character is certainly evident with lots of ripe and spicy red and black cherry fruit together with some floral notes. Concentrated black fruit on the mid palate with refreshing acidity resulting in a juicy, fresh wine with lots of vibrancy to match the vibrant colour. Extremely youthful, this wine has the potential to age for 3-5 years.



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Le Fonti Estate

Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy

2005 Le Fonti Chianti Classico

\$46/bottle

Recommended wine – “Good buy” - *The Local Nose* 5 October 2009 (www.thelocalnose.com)

Charry oak and licorice aromas were evident on the nose. Licorice and black fruit could be found on the palate with reasonable tannins and good acid. This is a wine that demands food to accompany it – no self-respecting Tuscan would have it any other way”

Suzanne Brocklehurst 8/09/09, wine journalist, Singapore (www.thelocalnose.com)

This is fresh on the palate with blackcurrant and spice and violet aromas dominating. On entry it is rich, a touch spicy, with lots of black pepper and fresh black fruits.

3 stars (very good)

Timothy Goh, *Cuisine & Wine Asia*, Jan/Feb 2009

2004 Le Fonti “Fontissimo” IGT

\$65/bottle

The wine is dense crimson in colour and displays freshly crushed red fruit with a hint of cinnamon spice on the nose. The wine has spent 18 months in new French barriques resulting in a low level of non-aggressive tannins. Medium bodied with generous acidity, there is reasonable concentration of cherry fruit giving the overall impression of a refreshing wine.

Suzanne Brocklehurst 8/09/09, wine journalist, Singapore (www.thelocalnose.com)

2006 Le Fonti Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG

\$70/bottle

Robert Parker’s *The Wine Advocate*:

*The 2006 Chianti Classico Riserva reveals gorgeous balance in its perfumed, fresh aromatics and core of dark fruit. The wine remains beautiful in its vibrancy and purity, with outstanding length and lovely overall balance. **90 points***



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Castello di Gabbiano Estate

Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy

James Halliday, *The Australian*:

There aren't too many wineries in Europe able to print "Established 1124" on their bottle labels. Castello di Gabbiano, in the heart of Italy's Chianti Classico territory, does so, having been part of the Tuscan countryside for most of the second millennium. Fully restored, there is every reason to suppose that Castello will sail through the third millennium. ...The making of wine and olive oil was first recorded here in 1464 and in all probability began somewhat earlier, although the 1124 establishment date has an element of poetic licence, Italian style.

Read full review by James Halliday in [The Australian 31 May 2008](#)

2005 Castello di Gabbiano Alleanza IGT

\$85/bottle

International Wine and Spirits Challenge (London) 2009

Gold : Best wine of its class

Judges comments:

Mature complex nose with lush ripe plummy fruit, a whiff of eucalyptus and smoke echoing New World style. Big and expressive and proof of how successfully Old and New World can blend. Big, almost huge flavours, fresh, very supple and broad with a classic structure and firmness lending complexity and refinement.

James Suckling, *Wine Spectator*:

91 Points

Displays a subtle nose, featuring blueberry and violet that follow through to a full body, with sweet and bright fruit and a vanilla, cream and jam character on the finish. Focused and beautiful. Merlot and Sangiovese. Best after 2011. 1,450 cases made.

2005 Castello di Gabbiano Bellezza IGT

\$80/bottle

International Wine and Spirits Challenge (London) 2009

Silver : Best wine of its class

Judges comments:

From the brilliant garnet colour right through to the classy finish this is textbook Sangiovese in the modern mould. Ripe vegetal notes and smokey vanilla oak on the nose. Sweet and almost overripe blue and black berry fruit at the centre of a multi layered, sexy palate, with some roasted cocoa on the finish and firm but not drying tannins.



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Joh. Bapt. SCHAFFER
Germany

Schafer Classic Riesling 2006

\$42/bottle

“Best value wine” in a blind tasting of 12 German Rieslings.
“[D]elicate yet concentrated citrus and floral notes” with a “very dry palate” and “good length”.
3 stars (very good)
Cuisine & Wine Asia, March/April 2009



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