

PLATINUM PACKAGE REVIEWS

CASTELLO DEI RAMPOLLA - VIGNA D'ALCEO - SUPER TUSCAN - 2010 - AG 100

ANTONIO GALLONI - 100

"Rampolla's 2010 d'Alceo is utterly spellbinding today. Even better than it was last year, the 2010 impresses for its exceptional balance and pure finesse. Everything is simply in the right place. Silky, layered and unbelievably expressive, the 2010 d'Alceo is a thrill from the very first taste. Over the decades the Di Napoli family has made so many breathtaking wines, but the 2010 d'Alceo is something more than breathtaking, and that something more is hard to express with words. Readers lucky enough to taste the 2010, however, will know it right away. What a magnificent wine this is. "

WINE SPECTATOR - 95

"A mix of blackberry, black cherry, cedar, tobacco and spice flavors runs up against dense, muscular tannins in this tight, linear red. Juicy and vibrant, with plenty of fruit, this just needs time to harmonize. Terrific length. Best from 2018 through 2028."

JAMES SUCKLING - 95

"Plenty of currant, herb and mineral character. Bright and lifted with so much complexity. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Layered and beautiful. From organically grown grapes. Cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot. Better in 2016. "

ROBERT PARKER - 94

"The 2010 Vigna d'Alceo Vino da Tavola is Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot folded so deep within one another, it's difficult to hear the varietal voice of the wine. Dried cherries and blackberry appear as primary tones, but the wine also offers a good dose of spice, black olive, rosemary twig and dried plum. The wine takes its time to open in the glass and will probably require much patience in terms of cellar aging as well."

DOMINUS - ESTATE - 2012 - AG 100

ANTONIO GALLONI - 98-100

"The 2012 Dominus is a real head-turner. Flashy, voluptuous and intense, but with tons of underlying concentration, the 2012 is simply magnificent. A towering, vertical Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2012 Dominus is one of the most concentrated wines of the vintage, yet it also maintains considerable freshness, the signature of a late-ripening vintage with no heat spikes. Sweet red cherry, raspberry and floral notes add lift on the perfumed, expressive finish. The blend is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc."

ROBERT PARKER - 98+

The Wine Advocate - "The exuberance and drama in the stunning nose of the dense plum-colored 2012 Dominus offers up notes of Asian spice, ripe, black currants, kirsch, tobacco leaf and Christmas fruitcake. It is full-bodied and opulent, with no hard edges, a seamless integration of acidity, wood and tannin and a density and richness that are built to go on for 25-30 years."

JAMES SUCKLING - 98

James Suckling - "Fabulous purity and clarity of fruit. Blackcurrants, blackberries and violets. Full body, big soft tannins and a chocolate, hazelnut and dark fruit character. Some hot stones. Fruit at the finish. Ripe and velvety finish. Better in 2020 but delicious to drink now. Wonderful Dominus."

WINE SPECTATOR - 94

"Deftly balanced, with an enticing mix of gravelly, loamy earth, dried berry, cedar and cigar box, all rich and extracted. Ends with raw, assertive tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2018 through 2030."

WILLIAM SELYEM - WESTSIDE ROAD NEIGHBORS PINOT NOIR - 2013 - WE 98 - CELLAR SELECTION

WINE ENTHUSIAST - 98

"Seductively smooth, it is instantly delicious, sharing a concentration of cherry, strawberry and citrus that perfectly captures the essence of the fruit, accented by a tease of black tea. Enjoy through 2023."

GAJA - SORI SAN LORENZO - 2011 - JS 98

JAMES SUCKLING - 98

"Superb aromas of dark fruit such as plums and berries with hints of white truffles. Fresh roses too. Full body, velvety tannins, yet firm and full of tension. Love the lemon and orange aftertaste. Great finish. Better in 2017." (18-Aug-2014)

ANTONIO GALLONI - 97+

"The 2011 Sorì San Lorenzo boasts massive depth, intensity and power. Black fruit, smoke, tar, licorice, savory herbs and leather are some of the many notes that emerge from the glass. Regardless of the year, the personality of Sorì San Lorenzo always comes through, which is why this is one of the great sites in Barbaresco, Piedmont and Italy. In 2011 the contours are a bit softer, which gives the wine a level of accessibility that is quite rare in Sorì San Lorenzos when the wines are young. Why is Sorì San Lorenzo one of the world's most profound vineyards? Because its personality simply can't be denied.

ROBERT PARKER - 96

"The exciting 2011 Sori San Lorenzo is a wine of enormous beauty and grace. Gaia Gaja classifies her three single vineyard Langhe Nebbiolo wines as follows: Costa Russi is "flowers;" Sori Tildin is "fruit;" and San Lorenzo is "plant" (with more structure and a more compact feel). San Lorenzo does indeed boast a strong mineral component of pencil shavings and crushed granite, followed by red cherry and soft spice. The wine's tannins start off harder than the other wines, but soften with time. Drink: 2018-2040. "

STEPHEN TANZER - 95

"Good dark red. Red berries, spices, smoke and earth on the nose, plus a suggestion of blacker fruits. Rich but youthfully backward and serious, with dark fruit flavors complicated by graphite, pepper and minerals. This combines the best characteristics of the Costa Russi and Sori Tildin. Finishes long and vibrant, with substantial dusty tannins and excellent grip."

GAJA - SPERSS - 2010 - WS 97

WINE SPECTATOR - 97

"Fragrant, with incense and sandalwood notes framing the core of cherry, accented by hints of leather, tobacco and tea. Exhibits purity and density despite the formidable tannins. The finish is long and complex, revealing fruit and spice elements. Best from 2018 through 2035"

STEPHEN TANZER - 97

"Very good deep red. Multidimensional aromas of raspberry, flowers, mocha, menthol, orange peel, licorice and underbrush, plus a whiff of petrol that reminded me of riesling. Densely packed and powerful but without any undue weight, showing terrific finesse and mouthfilling breadth to its flavors of red fruits, menthol and minerals. Superb inner-mouth tension here. Has the strength of fruit to support the powerful tannins on the unflagging finish. This should gain in complexity in bottle for two or three decades."

ROBERT PARKER - 96

"The 2010 Sperss delivers a broad approach to the bouquet with bold flavors of red fruit, spice and milk chocolate that caress the palate. The wine sports a broad frame with beautiful fruit filling at its core. The tannins in Sperss are very firm and structured and this wine won't be ready for five to ten more years."

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GAJA - SUGARILLE BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO - 2010 - JS 97

JAMES SUCKLING - 97

"Fabulous aromas of plums, prunes, Christmas pudding and berries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a long and intense finish. Polished and refined. Give this wine two or three years to soften. "

ROBERT PARKER - 96

The Wine Advocate - "The Gaja family's 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Sugarille opens to striking intensity and beauty that is apparent even as you pour the wine from the bottle. The wine's appearance is dark and so perfectly saturated with dark garnet and ruby highlights. On the nose, it shows infinite aromas of dark fruit, plum, dried figs, licorice, grilled herbs, cola and so much more. The complexity is outstanding. The Sugarille single vineyard delivers power and structure that gives this wine such a firm presence on the palate. But you also get a great sense of the quality of fruit that was harvested in 2010. Angelo Gaja skipped the 2009 vintage. But this vintage makes up for the loss with its long aging potential. This is an amazing wine to put way at the back of your cellar for ten years or more. What a delight. "

WINE SPECTATOR - 96

"The core of black cherry and plum is shaded by vanilla, coconut and sweet spice notes in this intensely flavored yet fluid red. Long and beautifully integrated at this young stage, with tobacco, leather and mineral details emerging on the aftertaste. Needs time. Best from 2019 through 2036."

ANTONIO GALLONI - 94

"The 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Sugarille is darker, richer and more voluptuous than the Rennina. There the flavors are dark and assertive, with notable mid-palate richness and overall volume that flows through to the finish. Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, licorice and cloves all fill out the wine's broad-shouldered frame nicely. Hints of mocha, chocolate, spices and black-fleshed fruit add the final layers of nuance. Here, too, readers will have to be patient, although my sense is that the Sugarille will open up before the Rennina, which is quite unusual, but reflective of where both wines are today."

CARDINALE - CABERNET SAUVIGNON - 2008 – WE 97

ROBERT PARKER - 96

"Over 1,000 cases of the 2008 Cardinale were made from a blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 8% Merlot. Interestingly, the To-Kalon portion is the only fruit source located on the valley floor, which is not surprising given Jess Jackson's propensity to buy, plant and source fruit from high elevation hillside and mountain sites. The 2008 exhibits a dense purple color along with sweet kirsch, unsmoked cigar tobacco, toasty oak and black currant characteristics. The wine hits the palate with a resounding opulence, full-bodied richness, moderate, sweet, well-integrated tannins and a long, heady finish. There is a floral component in the 2008 that was not noticeable in the 2007. This beautiful, full-bodied wine was aged 21 months in 100% new French oak. Slightly more evolved than the 2007, the 2008 should last for 20-25+ years."

WINE ENTHUSIAST - 97

"Another fabulous Cardinale, better than the 2007 but short of the perfect 2006. This is so complete; it tastes like Cabernet on a cloud, light but ethereal, with ripe, polished blackberry and cherry flavors and touches of mocha, spice and cedar. The tannins are a wonder—soft and pliant—yet gorgeously complex. Drink now-2016, at least." (8/2012)

WINE SPECTATOR - 95

"Strikingly graceful, refined, dense and polished, this presents a tight-knit core of dark berry, black licorice, crushed rock and floral-violet scents, keeping its focus and ending with an amazing finish. Best from 2013 through 2028." (11/2012)

STEPHEN TANZER - 93

"Bright ruby-red. Restrained but complex aromas of black cherry, cassis, minerals, espresso, Cuban tobacco and sexy oak. Penetrating black- and blueberry fruit flavors are given precision and lift by a strong floral element. Lovely juicy, firmly structured wine that really requires at least five years in bottle to express itself. Not fat but boasts terrific definition and energy, not to mention superb persistence. In the style of the 2007 Cardinale kbut with even more grip. A distinctly adult style. Winemaker Chris Carpenter describes 2008 as a "lighter year," and thus the selection for this wine was 95% from mountain fruit and the other 5% from To Kalon Vineyard in Oakville." (5/2011)

TWO HANDS - ARES SHIRAZ - 2010 - WS 97

WINE SPECTATOR - 97

The 2010 Ares Shiraz s a dense black color. Aromas of dark fruits, bitter chocolate, subtle char, graphite and spice, grilled meats. On the palate, the wine is extremely complex and flavorsome but quite restrained. Full of dark fruits and chocolate, spice and char that roll on and on, all wound up with fine long subtle tannins.

STEPHEN TANZER - 95

"Inky purple. Intense aromas of dark berries, cherry skin, pipe tobacco and graphite, with a jolt of Indian spices adding lift. Completely stains the palate with deep black and blue fruit flavors and shows impressive energy to go along with its power. Bitter chocolate and vanilla notes carry through a satisfyingly long, sweet, subtly tannic finish that shows excellent breadth and focus. This doesn't want to let up, which is fine with me."

ROBERT PARKER - 92

"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2010 Ares offers lovely dried fruits, plum pudding, mincemeat and Chinese five spice notes with an earthy/savory/yeast extract undercurrent. Very full bodied and chock-full of fruit and spice flavour layers, it has a medium to firm level of grainy tannins and crisp acid propping up the weighty fruit, finishing with commendable persistence. Drink this one 2014 to 2024+."

JOSEPH PHELPS - INSIGNIA - 2012 - JS 97

JAMES SUCKLING - 97 Points & Top 100 Wines In 2015

Top 100 Wines In 2015 List: Amazing aromas of blueberry, blackberry, mineral and bark. Complex nose. Full body plus super integrated tannins with superb balance and depth. Coffee and chocolate too. Very long and mind-bending. A tribute to the vintage. Drink or hold. A long life ahead of it.

ANTONIO GALLONI - 96

"The 2012 Insignia is one of the most intense, powerful wines of year. Dark red and black fruit, smoke, mocha, French oak, spices and leather burst from the glass in an explosive red built on texture and structure. Readers will find very little of the early appeal of 2012 here."

ROBERT PARKER - 96

The flagship wine of the estate in reds is their Insignia, which has been one of the great Bordeaux blends made in California since the debut vintage in 1974. It usually has 30+ years aging potential, even in lighter vintages, of which the 2012, 2013 and 2014 are decidedly not. The 2012 Proprietary Red Insignia, a final blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot and the rest Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc all from estate vineyards, was aged 24 months in 100% new French oak... and it's a fabulous, classic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon. Inky purple to the rim, with notes of lead pencil shavings, incense, camphor, blackberry and creme de cassis, the wine is full-bodied, offering a multi-layered, textural, skyscraper-like mouthfeel, terrific purity, density and richness. All of this is achieved without a sense of heaviness or anything aggressive. This is a beauty to drink now and over the next 30 years.

RUBICON ESTATE - RUBICON RED - 2005 - WE 96

WINE ENTHUSIAST - 96

****Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2009**** Made from 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, with no Merlot or Cabernet Franc for the first time, the '05 Rubicon tastes bigger and more impenetrable than any previous vintage. It's thick and heavy at this time, with furry tannins and undeniably ripe flavors of blackberries, black currants, cherries, violets, chocolate and cedar, and a tang of melted minerals. Desperately needs time in the cellar. Nowhere near ready for at least four years, and that may be conservative. Tasted three times, and better each time, a seriously good sign, and potentially a perfect wine. (6/2009)

ROBERT PARKER - 95

"Unquestionably the finest wine I have ever tasted from this estate owned by well-known movie director Francis Ford-Coppola, the dense ruby/purple-colored 2005 Rubicon possesses wonderfully sweet cassis and black cherry fruit interwoven with dusty, loamy soil, licorice, and spice box notes. Opulent and full-bodied with abundant but sweet, velvety tannins, this 2005 is just beginning to develop its secondary nuances, and should evolve for 2-3 decades. Kudos, this is a superb achievement!" (12/2009)

WINE SPECTATOR - 93

"Supple-textured, ripe, rich and fleshy, with spice, currant, black cherry and wild berry fruit that's well-proportioned, drinking easily already. Firms up nicely on the finish, where the tannins have just the right touch of grip." (10/2008)

CONTINUUM - PROPRIETARY RED BORDEAUX BLEND - 2012 - AG 96

ANTONIO GALLONI - 96

"Ripe, silky tannins wrap around the palate in the 2012 Continuum. Bright red cherry, plum, spice, menthol and hard candy meld together effortlessly in the glass. The 2012 captures the polished, refined side of the vintage. This is perhaps the most refined wine I have ever tasted from Continuum. The flavors are bright and focused, while the new oak has been decidedly toned down, both of which allow the personality of these breathtaking hillsides sites to shine. The 2012 is the first Continuum to be made entirely with estate grown fruit." (12/2014)

JAMES SUCKLING - 96

"There's clarity and vivacity to this wine with dark fruits, dark chocolate and a mineral undertone. Full body, firm tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Powerful and long yet balanced and bright. Drink or hold."

WINE SPECTATOR - 94

"A Pauillac-like expression of fresh-cut flowers, gravelly tannins and rich, graphite-laced currant and dark berry flavors. The tannins flex their sinewy strength, leading to a gutsy melted black licorice accent on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030."

JARVIS - CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE - 2006 - WE 96

WINE ENTHUSIAST - 96

This reserve tastes oakier and stronger than Jarvis's regular 2006 Cabernet. With near-perfect balance, this is awesome. Flavors of blackberries and black currants are complexed with minerals and herbs and indefinable things from the soil. It's hard in tannins and rich in spicy, smoky new oak. Hold until at least 2014, and it should continue to age well beyond that. S.H. (7/1/2012)