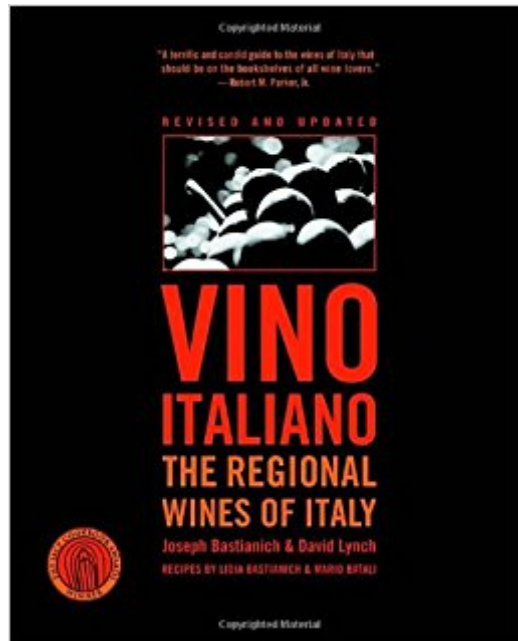


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# Vino Italiano: The Regional Wines Of Italy



## Synopsis

At one time, Italian wines conjured images of cheap Chianti in straw-wrapped bottles. More recently, expensive "Super Tuscans" have been the rage. But between these extremes lay a bounty of delicious, moderately priced wines that belong in every wine drinker's repertoire. *Vino Italiano* is the only comprehensive and authoritative American guide to the wines of Italy. It surveys the country's wine-producing regions; identifies key wine styles, producers, and vintages; and offers delicious regional recipes. Extensive reference materials--on Italy's 300 growing zones, 361 authorized grape varieties, and 200 of the top producers--provide essential information for restaurateurs and wine merchants, as well as for wine enthusiasts. Beautifully illustrated as well as informative, *Vino Italiano* is the perfect invitation to the Italian wine experience.

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## Customer Reviews

At one time, Italian wines conjured images of cheap Chianti in straw-wrapped bottles. More recently, expensive "Super Tuscans" have been the rage. But between these extremes lay a bounty of delicious, moderately priced wines that belong in every wine drinker's repertoire. *Vino Italiano* is the only comprehensive and authoritative American guide to the wines of Italy. It surveys the country's wine-producing regions; identifies key wine styles, producers, and vintages; and offers delicious regional recipes. Extensive reference materials--on Italy's 300 growing zones, 361 authorized grape varieties, and 200 of the top producers--provide essential information for restaurateurs and wine

merchants, as well as for wine enthusiasts. Beautifully illustrated as well as informative, *Vino Italiano* is the perfect invitation to the Italian wine experience. "From the Hardcover edition.

JOSEPH BASTIANICH is co-owner (with Mario Batali) of Babbo, Esca, Lupa, and Italian Wine Merchants, as well as (with Lidia Bastianich) Becco and Felidia, and has published extensively on the subject of Italian wine. He lives in Greenwich, Connecticut. DAVID LYNCH is the wine director at Babbo and has been a senior editor at *Wine & Spirits*. He lives in New York City.

Loved this book. I'm a fairly experienced wine geek with good knowledge of California wines and reasonable knowledge of French and Spanish wines, but Italian wines really confused me -- with good reason: 1,500 varietals and all kinds of unfamiliar designations, bureaucratic ratings systems, and appellations. This book really cut through all of that. I got the book and read it before a trip to Italian wine country (well, actually, all of Italy is wine country ...) and it really helped me to understand the country and the wine. It's perhaps slightly dated at this point and there have been some industry changes since initial publication (time for an updated edition?), but still the best resource for Italian wines. While I started with some knowledge of wine generally, this book would be great for an absolute beginner as well. Also, the book is not only for someone taking a trip to Italy. Each chapter concerns a particular region of Italy, and concludes with suggestions for specific wineries to visit, for specific wines to try that are available in the USA, and recipes for regional Italian cuisine that pairs well with those wines. Well-written, easy to understand and digest, and really informative. Great book.

*Vino Italiano: The Regional Wines of Italy* Paperback by Joseph Bastianich and David Lynch is a marvelous guide to Italian wines. It combines concise descriptions of wines, grape types, regions, distinctions within regions, histories and processes along with interesting asides about individual wine makers and the evolution of regional viticulture, all woven together into a wonderfully readable and informative whole. The book is not a ratings guide, nor a tasting report per se. It's a guide to approaching the wine experience in Italy, about understanding that wine and food and place are inseparable, about knowing what you are looking at, and tasting, so as to begin your own journey of experience and understanding. *Vino Italiano* aspires more to be a friendly teacher and guide forward than a tome of opinion and authority. There's a wealth of information in there, cleanly written and humbly presented. It does help, a bit, for the reader to have been to Italy, and hopefully to have spent some extended time there, to have some sense of the geography and where a multitude of

places are. But it's not absolutely essential. You can just work through the chapters, while giving all your wine sellers a solid up-tick in business from you as you seek out and try various wines. The recipes by Lidia Bastianich, the author's mother, and Mario Batali, the author's business partner, are mostly filler. But how could one not have asked Mom and Mario to kick in with them both right at hand? The summaries at the end of each chapter, that reduce the prior pages to concise tables of wine and grape types, primary wineries and so forth, are a wonderful addition and enhance the real world usability of the book. RECOMMENDED.

This book is excellent for getting to know Italian wines by each region. Chapters begin w/ a map of each region showing the DOC zones on the map and giving their names. The author went overboard (and I mean that in a good way) finding all kinds of grape varieties to talk about in detail. I loved reading about grape varieties I have never heard of and won't find outside of Italy (great excuse to go there someday and sample them). Each chapter also denotes some wines you could look for to purchase, a recap of the region's wine stats and grape varieties found/grown there, and a food pairing section that gives you some suggestions (and recipes) for trying w/ specific wines. This book was even better than I imagined - so detailed! The only "down side" if you would call it that is that the book is ~ 10 years old, so you aren't getting the information on new DOCs in each region and you only get the recommended vintages up to ~ 2004. An updated version of this book would rock - still giving it 5 stars though. This is definitely a go to book on Italian wine!

With all the variety of wines now possible to obtain on line it seemed logical to me to get a better understanding of what makes certain wines unique and not just rely upon someone else's subjective opinion. It goes without saying that Italy is now producing some outstanding varietals native to that country and processes steeped in tradition that only can only be found there. This book doesn't go into a lot of detail in regards to regions, but gives a great overview that one can easily research for greater study. Several pages are devoted to fairly recent Italian grading production laws that can be helpful in the purchase of a good quality wine. There seems to be a lot of narrative on people, food and the general regional environments, some may be put off by all this meandering, but it still gives you a lot of information, especially for the novice.

This is a large in-depth book that goes deeply into details about the wines and wine regions of Italy. I highly recommend it for those that are seriously interested in learning more about Italian vino.

I have been in the wine industry for over 10 years and one thing I have noticed is that the wines of Italy are perhaps the hardest to master for its incredible variation, but also for how extensive and complicated the list of names can be (over 800 types of grapes planted, 500 types vinified!) *Vino Italiano* explains it all, in a rather friendly manner, explaining also the virtues of each area, customs and food scene. A detail to keep in mind is that the book is quite extensive, mostly filled with stories that makes it a bit larger. While a long book is not a bad thing, it is if you are looking to get only the info about wine. You can skip parts and address the info in each chapter. Overall, a magnificent book that properly explains Italian wine and its background!

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