

10 Exceptional Tuscan Values

New reviews of reds from Chianti Classico, Morellino di Scansano and more



Photo by: © Andrea Scaramuzza 2012

Ampeleia makes reds from the Costa Toscana appellation, a subregion distinctive for its coastal climate.

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Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

The good news for fans of Tuscan reds is that the newest vintages on the market are from **two excellent back-to-back harvests**: 2015 and 2016. The former was hot and dry, with well-timed rain at the end of July and mid-August, resulting in ripe, lush wines from Sangiovese. The 2016 season was less uniform, with rain in September benefiting the late-ripening Sangiovese. The wines are more aromatic and less structured, perhaps most successful in Chianti Classico. The styles from the two vintages differ, but offer plenty for consumers to like.

The 2013s are elegant and taut for the most part but beginning to open up now, like the Chiantis from **Lamole di Lamole** and **Lornano**.

From Tuscany's coast, **Ampeleia** works with both Mediterranean and international varieties. Its Costa Toscana blends 20 percent Sangiovese with Cabernet Franc, while the Unlitro consists of Alicante Nero (80 percent) and Carignan (20 percent). These are two fine examples from the Ampeleia range, which has a solid record of outstanding wines.

LAMOLE DI LAMOLE Chianti Classico Riserva 2013 Score: 91 | \$32

This leans more to the earthy, savory side, offering sanguine, earth, leather and iron flavors and finishing with lightly astringent tannins, remaining vibrant and long. Drink now through 2028. 1,800 cases imported.
—B.S.

<http://www.winespectator.com/webfeature/show/id/10-Exceptional-Tuscany-Red-Value-Wines-55912>