

6 Italian Island Wines to Beat the Winter Blues

Mentally escape the winter with these new reviews of reds and whites from Sicily and Sardinia



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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.

Italy's islands are part of the charm of this peninsular country. You can enjoy stunning views and swanky shopping on the island of Capri, or dive into history with a tour of a home in which Napoleon lived during his nine-month exile on the isle of Elba. But when it comes to wine, Italy's two island powerhouses are Sardinia and Sicily. Sardinia is best-known for its production of French grapes with Italian aliases, while on Sicily the primary focus these days is on indigenous varieties. Together, they yield an exciting range of wines that showcase Italian island living.

Wine Spectator



CANTINA MESA Carignano del Sulcis Buio 2017 Score: 88 | \$22

WS Review: Ripe and tangy crushed raspberry fruit is bright and well-spiced in this lively, medium-bodied red, layered with supple tannins and fragrant accents of dried marjoram, Mandarin orange peel and smoky mineral. Drink now through 2022. 380 cases imported.—A.N.

Why It's of Note: Founded by Gavino Sanna, **Cantina Mesa** was purchased by Italian powerhouse Santa Margherita in 2017, a reflection of the growing interest in the wines of Sardinia and the potential that many see in the island overall. Made from 100 percent Carignano (Carignan), the Buio is fermented and aged in stainless steel for roughly six months, providing a pure expression of this lively variety.

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Santa Margherita
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