The Top 100 Italian Wines of 2016 I tasted more than 3,000 Italian wines this year. No easy task for sure, but it helps that the country continues to produce some of the most evocative wines in the world. This year's list is a reflection of superb Italian wines that not only offer unique and inspiring drinking experiences but also many offer great value relative to their prices. This is more apparent near the end of the list, where you'll find exciting wines from places such as Campania and Friuli that are bargains. There's a number of Amarones on the list as well. All of these wines — whatever they cost — represent a unique character that can't be duplicated anywhere else in the world. For our Italian Wine of the Year, I couldn't help but pick the Aldo Conterno Barolo Granbussia Riserva 2008. It's a wine that pushes the limits of a perfect score, combining incredible pedigree with a kind of

Barolo so terrific. I only wish more bottles were produced, so that all of you could try it. But for Italy, this wine will be a benchmark for years to come. The No. 2 wine of my list is a testament to the modern renaissance in winemaking in Italy, particularly Tuscany. The Renieri Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2010 is a truly great wine from a truly great vintage in Montalcino, made in an ultra-fine and precise style. No. 3, the Gaja Barbaresco Sorì San Lorenzo 2013, is an emotional wine for me, as it represents a perfect nebbiolo and also the return of the Gaja family to using the Barbaresco appellation. No. 4 and No. 5 are two perfect Brunellos from unique single vineyards on the slopes of Montalcino: respectively, San Filippo Brunello di Montalcino Le Lucére Riserva 2010 and Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d'Oro Riserva 2010