

2017  
WORLD'S TOP  
50

# 2017 World's Top 50 Wines

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Here we are with my top 50 wine from the world 2017 by Luca Gardini. The objective of these rankings, as always, is to express the concept of quality found in the DNA of Luca Gardini's style, which esteems drinkability and availability, without necessarily taking into consideration exclusivity or the economic value of certain labels. In addition to reducing his list to 50 labels in 2017, Luca also includes wines from all over the world, made from diverse production philosophies.

The selection provides a simple listing of each wine, with the winery that produced it, followed by its name and vintage. Eventually, the vintage will be updated, since the rankings are based exclusively upon preview tastings or available vintages on the market, at the time of the sampling.

# The Top 50

## GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.

 SHORT (5-8 years)

 MEDIUM (10-15 years)

 LONG (more than 15 years)

# 99

 **Riesling Auslese Graacher Domprobst 2015**  
WILLI SCHAEFER

*The family's ancestors have owed vines in the Mosel since 1100. The vineyard is small today, but has a great aptitude for the Riesling, the only vine cultivated here. The wines come from vines that are not grafted, in some cases, and of very steep southern exposures, composed mostly of blue slate. This means that Willi Schaefer's Rieslings are tasty and fruity with an evident tropical tonality. In the mouth, this Auslese starts sweet and then becomes balanced by the citrusy and at times, flavorful tension. Frighteningly good post-sip persistence.*

GERMANY



# 99

 **Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Tenuta Nuova 2012**  
CASANOVA DI NERI

*First arrived on the scene in 1993 and it has not stopped yet, as demonstrated in this 2012. No hidden secrets and only great qualities! First, it balances the Sangiovese of Tenuta Nuova with its ability to marry, even in a strong vintage such as this, the extraction and the elegance typical of this southern area of Montalcino. In addition, since its infancy this Brunello has always demonstrated expressivity and drinkability. The descriptors are many, but the lines to write them are too few.*

ITALY



# 99

 **Pauillac Grand Cru Classé 2015**  
CHÂTEAU PICHON BARON

*The second cru according to an 1855 classification, which to this day, has not been modified. Pauillac, located on the left bank, is inclined to Cabernet Sauvignon - more than 70% - in this Bordeaux blend. Today, the "castle" is still owned by Axa Millésimes, and is expressed by a dense taste, but never too hard, thanks to fruity notes of blueberry and cassis, as well as drier and slightly balsamic impressions of graphite and cedar. Powdery tannins. Marathon persistence.*

FRANCE



## WINE RANKING

98

**Bolgheri Sassicaia DOC Sassicaia 2014**

TENUTA SAN GUIDO

*Typical Bordeaux grapes, but in this wine and thanks to this producer, they have become Bolgheri, in effect almost native. Dark berries complemented by a rich portmanteau of aromatic, officinal roots and herbs*

ITALY



98

**Crozes-Hermitage Red Cuvée Autrement 2015**

DOMAINE DES REMIZIÈRES

*Only Syrah from plants more than 80-years-old and only of certain vintages. Dark fruit, brined olives, juniper, and officinal herbs for a sip that has substance without putting the drink aside.*

FRANCE



98

**Champagne Clos Lanson 2006**

LANSON

*From a vineyard of one hectare surrounded by a small wall in the center of Reims. Only Chardonnay. Low dosage. Complex (apple, ginger, and citrus), taut and at the same time, creamy.*

FRANCE



98

**Margaux Grand Cru Classé 2015**

CHÂTEAU PALMER

*A strong vintage renders this Bordeaux muscular, but never over dimensional. An athlete more than a cultural aficionado, this is Margaux. Dark berries, graphite, mint, and medicinal herbs.*

FRANCE



98

**Toscana Igt Oreno 2015**

TENUTA SETTE PONTI

*A super Tuscan revelation that is today, reference point. Strong but juicy from cassis and blueberry, complex from graphite and orange zest, without being necessarily too cerebral.*

ITALY



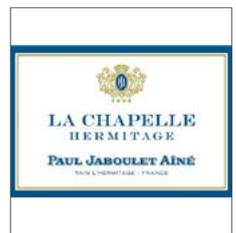
98

**Hermitage Red la Chapelle 2014**

PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ

*A vintage, perhaps a bit subtle, however it takes nothing from the complexity of this Syrah. Fruity - red fruit and orange, spicy - cacao, flavorful, and much more.*

FRANCE



WINE RANKING

98



**Rare Muscat**

CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS

*Vines belonging to the vast Moscato family. Dense in the smell and in the sip. Dried fruit at the start, such as peach and pineapple, then cacao, resin, and many spices – cinnamon and Tonka bean.*

AUSTRALIA



98



**Grüner Veltliner Loibner Vinothekfüllung  
Smaragd 2015**

EMMERICH KNOLL

*Usually, the wines from this producer need time to express all their potential. Not this vintage where the wine has length, persistence, and magnitude but no roundness.*

AUSTRIA



98



**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG  
Madonna delle Grazie 2012**

IL MARRONETO

*A great vintage and a great producer equal a great Brunello. The wine is mathematic, the sip confirms that it is also literature, but above all, poetry.*

ITALY



98

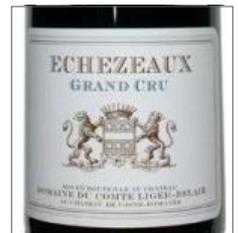


**Echézeaux Grand Cru 2014**

DOMAINE DU COMTE LIGER-BELAIR

*Pinot Nero from one of the vastest Grand Crus of Borgogna. Little power and a lot of elegance, with juiciness from cassis and strawberry, balsamic from aromatic herbs such as mint and anise, and flavor.*

FRANCE



98



**Champagne Dom Ruinart Rosé 2004**

RUINART

*An undervalued vintage in the hands of a great maison. Sweet citrus and raspberries on the nose. Long but never thin mouth, ample red berries and a delicate spice kit. Flavorful foundation.*

FRANCE



97



**Barolo DOCG Ravera 2013**

ELVIO COGNO

*From a typical Novello cru, a citrusy Barolo that then turns toward red fruit of strawberry and cherry, finished by rich flavor and evident, though pleasing balsamic notes.*

ITALY



## WINE RANKING

97

 **Barolo DOCG Monvigliero 2012**

G.B. BURLOTTO

ITALY

*Unmistakable, thanks to its ability to be spicy and floral at the same time. Taut, but never thin mouth, always elegant and with a lot of drinkability. What else is necessary to understand that this is a great wine?*



97

 **Thorevilos Cabernet Sauvignon 2012**

ABREU VINEYARD

USA

*A natural wine in the sense that it is a direct expression of the production area. Rich and never too concentrated, with fresh blueberry, Virginia tobacco, as well as balsamic from cedar, mint, and eucalyptus.*



97

 **Saint-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Classé 2015**

CHÂTEAU FIGEAC

FRANCE

*Superb because it is very good, but also austere and a bit arrogant as the wines from St. Emilion sometimes are. The sip takes off with dark fruit and proceeds with structure and exotic spices. Strong and powdery tannins.*



97

 **Barolo DOCG Ester Canale Rosso Poderi dell'Antica Vigna Rionda 2012**

GIOVANNI ROSSO

ITALY

*It takes longer to read this wine's label than to understand its value, despite a complexity of small red fruit, bitter orange, fresh aromatic herbs, and cinnamon on the finish.*



97

 **Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru 2014**

BRUNO CLAIR

FRANCE

*From this cru, Bruno Clair produces wines that are never excessive, because they are elegant and mineral-rich. A major reason that a vintage like this - which highlights notes of violet, rose, and fruit - is juicier rather than sweet.*



97

 **Toscana IGT Masseto 2013**

MASSETO

ITALY

*Only Merlot in this quite good vintage. Orange peel and immediate, abundant blueberry sensations around which swirl impressions of cacao, earth, and even balsamic notes.*



## WINE RANKING

97

**Côte-Rôtie Côte Rozier 2015**

PATRICK &amp; CHRISTOPHE BONNEFOND

Fruity part of citrus and fresh cherry both on the nose and in the mouth. The rest of the sip is more austere with tamarind, red peppercorn, and coffee. Rich finish of a cacao tonality. Flavorful tannins.

FRANCE



97

**Riesling Auslese Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2015**

J.J. PRÜM

From the Wehlen vineyard with the sundial (Sonnenuhr) in its midst, a wine with residual sugars, balanced by a fruity acidity and a nice mineral aspect. Very long persistence.

GERMANY



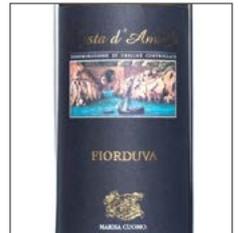
97

**Furore Bianco DOC Fiorduva 2015**

MARISA CUOMO

Three native vines (Ripoli, Fenile, and Ginestra) grown on the coast. The wine has all the heat and ripeness of the vintage, but also a varietal complexity and stylistic purity. Citrus, yellow fruit, and iodine.

ITALY



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Pianrosso 2012**

CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGONA

Very good vintage for this Brunello that today is centered on red fruit. Acidic departure, then joined by a sweeter aspect that recalls strawberry. Spicy finish of anise. Powdery tannins.

ITALY



96

**Hunting Hill Chardonnay 2015**

KUMEU RIVER

Oak, used in every phase of production, helps to retain a rather strong substance. In the mouth, a lot of lime and tropical fruit, as well as almond and anise. Very convincing persistence.

NEW ZEALAND



96

**Bianco Kaplija 2012**

DAMIJAN PODVERSIC

A rigorous, flavorful, and dry wine composed of a blend of Chardonnay, Malvasia, and Friulano. In the mouth taut, long, with few concessions to its smoothness.

ITALY



## WINE RANKING

96


**Riesling Clos St. Hune 2011**  
 TRIMBACH

FRANCE

*No hydrocarbon impressions. A cold wine in the sense of stoniness, flavor, and because of this, rich in rigor and elegance. The fruit, in particular, citrus, is there, but does not take center stage.*



96


**Terlaner I Grande Cuvée 2013**  
 TERLANO

ITALY

*Blend of pale grapes on a foundation of Pinot Bianco. In the mouth, the white fruit and citrus compete for the top gustative spot. Notes of sweet spices and much dried fruit. Nice length on the finish.*

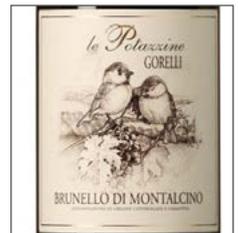


96


**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2012**  
 LE POTAZZINE

ITALY

*A generous vintage, mitigated and in some ways rendered more subtle by the altitude, among the highest in the area. Fruity, spontaneous, and satisfying sip.*



96


**Marchiori Vineyards Malbec 2014**  
 VIÑA COBOS

ARGENTINA

*Vineyard situated at about 1000 meters above sea level of 80-year-old plants. In the mouth, dark sensations characterized by dark fruit, black tea, and sweet-hot spices. Earthy finish. Powdery tannins.*



95


**Gewürztraminer Altenbourg Sélection de Grains Nobles 2010**  
 DOMAINE WEINBACH

FRANCE

*Smoothness and exoticness from fruit, along with spices such as coriander and cinnamon, and from a notable persistence of candied violet. Long, gluttonous finish that is never too much.*

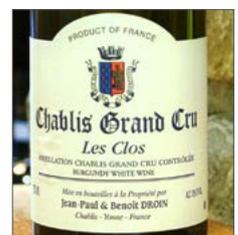


95


**Chablis Grand Cru les Clos 2015**  
 JEAN-PAUL & BENOIT DROIN

FRANCE

*The cru demonstrates width at a slow pace. A nice vintage that is reduced to reveal a citrusy and stony sip without the alcoholic smudge. The time spent in the bottle confers great complexity.*



WINE RANKING

95



**Pessac-Leognan Grand Cru Classé White 2015**  
CHÂTEAU MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE

FRANCE

Sauvignon base for one of the Bordeaux's most solid whites. Lemon and then ample white, tropical fruit in particular, pineapple. A long, very flavorful finish and at times, a bit smoky.



95



**Las Beatas 2013**  
COMPAÑIA DE VINOS TELMO RODRÍGUEZ

SPAIN

Mix of red grapes from the Rioja. Dark fruit is the protagonist, around which swirl balsamic notes along with moist earthy sensations and rhubarb. Strong tannins.



95



**Hermitage white Les Rocoules 2014**  
MARC SORREL

FRANCE

Citrus, white-fleshed fruit, and salt. One cannot forget to mention the honey that makes itself known in the sip, without every becoming overtly sweet, as demonstrated by its dry finish.



95



**Trento DOC Giulio Ferrari Riserva del Fondatore Collezione 1997**  
FERRARI

ITALY

Exclusively Chardonnay. Perhaps it was forgotten in the basement, given the year on the label. One expects maturity from a 20-year-old spumante, which is there along with freshness and complexity.



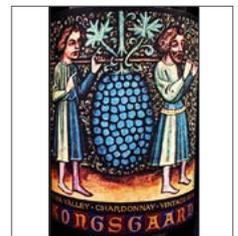
94



**Chardonnay Napa Valley 2014**  
KONGSGAARD

USA

Elegant and substantial, flavorful and buttery. At the nose, sensations of yellow fruit and cocoa butter. In the mouth, the same nuances along with a clean foundation of a seaside tonality.



94



**Barbaresco DOCG Fausoni 2013**  
SOTTIMANO

ITALY

A marked floral nose of rose and geranium. In the mouth, it "blossoms" thanks to red fruit and impressions of yellow peach. Flavorful finish for a Barbaresco of complete finesse.



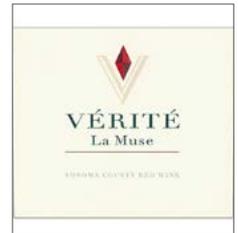
## WINE RANKING

94

 **La Muse 2013**  
VÉRITÉ

USA

Sonoma County wine with a strong Merlot base, at times opulent, but never becomes a caricature. Aroma of dark fruit and lavender. In the mouth, a lot of blueberry, plum, and bitter cocoa.

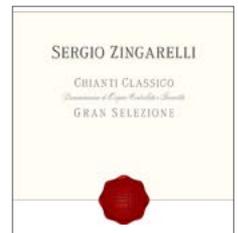


94

 **Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione Sergio Zingarelli 2013**  
ROCCA DELLE MACIE

ITALY

Over the top. Top as in the Gran Selezione of the Chianti Classico, but even more than that, representing a typical wine that respects the territory and the vintage. A rich drink.

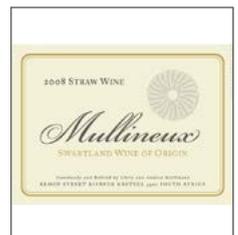


94

 **Mullineaux Strow Wine 2015**  
MULLINEAUX

SOUTH AFRICA

From South Africa, a Chenin Blanc harvested at the perfect moment, resulting in a great acidity on the vine. Citron, honey, straw, and nuts. Top persistence.

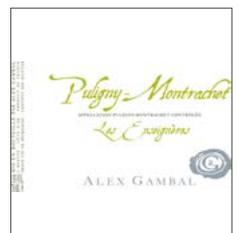


94

 **Puligny-Montrachet Les Enseignères 2014**  
ALEX GAMBAL

FRANCE

Chardonnay cru that is just below the Grand Cru Bâtard-Montrachet. Liveliness from apple and lime, but also creamy and only minimally spicy in part. Very well regulated oak.



94

 **Costa Toscana IGP Duemani 2013**  
DUEMANI

ITALY

By now a point of reference for the Cabernet Franc, in Italy and beyond. No excess of green notes for a juicy wine. Balsamic and earthy, especially on the finish. Flavorful tannins.



92

 **El Ixsir 2011**  
IXSIR

LEBANON

Lebanese wine. In Arabic, the name means elixir. A blend of international vines dominated by Syrah that makes itself felt in the mouth with notes of dark fruit, red peppercorn and cinchona.



## WINE RANKING

91

**Chardonnay 2013**

DANIEL &amp; MARTA GANTENBEIN

*From the eastern part of Switzerland, a wine that reveals a fruity and buttery profile of good generosity, which is associated with an acidic, citrusy persistence, as well as a diffused flavorfulness.*

SWISS



91

**Purple Angel Carmenère 2013**

MONTES

*Almost all Camenere in a not very concentrated vintage. Black fruit, both fresh and macerated, hot spices, rather evident nutmeg and cocoa bean. Acidic tannins.*

CHILE



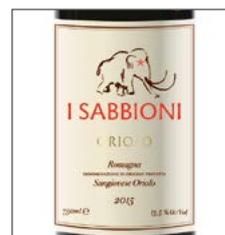
91

**Sangiovese Oriolo 2015**

I SABBIONI

*Sangiovese grown for the most part on sandy terrains. This is demonstrated during the tasting by its flavor, occasional lightness, and finesse. Flavorful tannins.*

ITALY



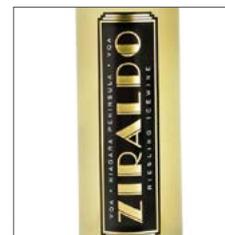
91

**Riesling Icewine 2014**

ZIRALDO

*The cold of the Niagara freezes the grapes, concentrating the flavor with the sweetness of tropical fruit and apricot, but also the soft acidity of some candied citrus. Never filling.*

CANADA



90

**The Summit 2013**

SILVER HEIGHTS

*Wine composed of two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon grown at more than 1000 meters above sea level. It is intensely fruity with evident jammy variations. A more balanced finish thanks to hot spices and mint.*

CHINA



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APRIL 2017

WORLD'S TOP 50 WINES  
**LUCA GARDINI**

TASTING PERIOD  
**MARCH 2017**