

*the* **ECCO**

**GUIDE** *to the*

**BEST**

**WINES**

*of* **ITALY**

*The*  
**ULTIMATE RESOURCE**  
FOR **FINDING, BUYING,**  
DRINKING, AND ENJOYING  
**ITALY'S BEST WINES**

**IAN D'AGATA**

## 12. "TENUTA DI TRINORO" TENUTA DI TRINORO

(TUSCANY)

Andrea Franchetti is an amazingly talented man, a former wine broker who founded his estate in the town of Sarteano in the 1990s, planting cabernet sauvignon, merlot, and cabernet franc (plus other varieties) on clay-gravel soils not unlike those of his beloved Bordeaux. His wines have more than a passing resemblance to those of Jean-Luc Thunevin, the maverick winemaker who has risen to the top of the heap in the Saint Emilion area with his own wines as well as helping fashion those of many now wildly popular estates. However, a sip of Franchetti's wines reveals that they have a great deal more personality than those made by Thunevin, which all too often tend to resemble each other. In fact, a sip of the Tenuta di Trinoro will convince you that there's a genius at work. A wine of remarkable creaminess (you really do have to taste it to see just what I mean), and with especially silky ripeness in its fruit. The '01 is the best ever (99/100), but the '98 is not far behind (98/100). For something completely different, try the '04, which is top-heavy in merlot, unusually for this wine (94/100). Don't forget to try this estate's Cincinato bottling—a 100% cesanese that Franchetti has almost given up on because the grape never seems to ripen fully except in very hot years, but the '03 and the '99 are very memorable wines (both 98/100).