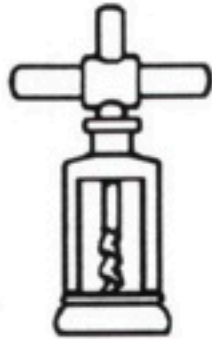


Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s



The WINE ADVOCATE®

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine RATING SYSTEM

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

96-100

An **extraordinary** wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.

90-95

An **outstanding** wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.

80-89

A **barely above average to very good** wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.

70-79

An **average** wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.

60-69

A **below average** wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.

50-59

A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

TENUTA DI TRINORO	2000	CUPOLE DI TRINORO IGT	TUSCANY	(\$55.00)	RED	92
TENUTA DI TRINORO	2001	TENUTA DI TRINORO IGT	TUSCANY	(not yet released)	RED	(91-94)
TENUTA DI TRINORO	2000	TENUTA DI TRINORO IGT	TUSCANY	(\$125.00)	RED	95+

One of the new superstar estates in Tuscany, the first vintage of proprietor Andrea Franchetti was 1997. He is obviously a perfectionist, and is doing some things that have never been done with the likes of Cabernet Franc outside Bordeaux and a handful of California wineries. All of Franchetti's wines are made from low yields, given indigenous yeast fermentations, micro-oxygenations, and no racking, fining, or filtration prior to bottling. I have been a fan since the first releases. The wines go from strength to strength, although Franchetti keeps changing some of the names as well as blends. The newest offerings include the **2000 Cupole di Trinoro**, a blend of 78% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot, 6% Cesanese, and 5% Troia. Get this ... yields were 15 hectoliters per hectare, and the wine spent 14 months in 100% new French oak. There are 2,300 cases of this gorgeous opaque ruby/purple-colored effort. It offers up a sweet perfume of menthol, red as well as black currants, licorice, smoke, graphite, and vanilla. Rich, intense, and medium to full-bodied, but remarkably light and delicate on its feet, this stunning Italian red should drink well young, yet last for 12-15+ years. The prodigious **2000 Tenuta di**

Trinoro is a blend of 55% Cabernet Franc, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Petit Verdot, also from yields of 15 hectoliters per hectare. Sadly, there are only 800 cases of this profound offering that wants to be the Cheval Blanc of Tuscany. Its opaque purple color is accompanied by an extraordinary nose of freshly ground truffles, damp earth, licorice, black currants, blackberries, and white flowers. There is extraordinary intensity, great richness, a profound, multilayered texture, and a finish that lasts for nearly a minute. This is compelling wine from a brilliant proprietor. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2018.

A barrel sample of the **2001 Tenuta di Trinoro** revealed a similarly-styled effort, with perhaps not quite the power and muscle of its older sibling, but potentially greater elegance and perfume. While it's a bit too early to know for sure, it will certainly be at least a low to mid-ninety point effort when released next year. These are not easy wines to find in the marketplace, but this is a remarkable estate. Bravo! Importer: Rare Wine Co., Sonoma, CA; tel. (707) 996-4484