



RASSEGNA STAMPA

2009

W. Blake Gray
Blog

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W. BLAKE GRAY

THE "W" DOESN'T REALLY STAND FOR WINE. BUT IT SHOULD.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

Tre Bicchieri tasting notes

I did my best to taste everything at the Tre Bicchieri event last week in San Francisco, but some wines ran out before I got there. Pity, because there were some great wines, as there should be for the best of Italia.

A few themes:

- * Reds and whites were equally good. A decade ago Italy's reds were the stars, and the whites were cheerful dinner wines at best. Not anymore.
- * The great acidity of almost every wine was really noticeable here in California. These are wines for dinner, not for navel-gazing.
- * Italian bubbly is still not on the level of French, but if you're willing to spend too much money on them, there are some very good ones.
- * Verdicchio -- a very foresty white wine, with pine needle notes -- is an underappreciated grape.
- * Don't give up on Nero d'Avola if the aroma is dull. I tasted a number of them that really came alive on the palate.
- * More Sagrantino, please! Very complex, with good fruit.

I have posted my ratings for each wine below. A couple notes on the ratings: I'm not a huge fan of the 85-to-100 point scale as practiced by Wine Spectator and Robert Parker, but it is the industry standard so I'm adopting it. I'm a little more Spectator than Parker because I still like wine rated at 87 or 88 points, and I don't think big, opulent and overpowering automatically equals 98.

I included my unedited tasting notes for the wines that I gave 90 or above. Wines in the 84 to 89 range were perfectly good, and I would enjoy a bottle of them, but this was tough competition.

Excellent (90 points or more)

2004 Elvio Cogno Ravera Barolo 92

Cherry, cherry tobacco, leather. Very nice light body but firm tannins

POSTED BY W. BLAKE GRAY AT [2:19 PM](#)

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