

Dolcetto

These early-drinking Piedmont reds place the focus on fruit, with little or no oak used, yet they can be great for food-matching, too. More than a third of the wines tasted here scored 90pts or higher

REPORT SUSAN HULME MW

Dolcetto is the third-most important red grape variety in Piedmont, after Nebbiolo and Barbera. Although most closely associated with Piedmont, it is also grown in Lombardy, Liguria and the island of Sardinia, though often under other names (Ormeasco, Nibiò etc). It's an early-ripening variety – two to three weeks before Nebbiolo – and produces deeply coloured, dry red wines with plenty of gentle tannins and lowish acidity, which emphasise the sweetness of fruit and perhaps explains the meaning of its name: 'little sweet one'.

Dolcetto wines are well suited to modern tastes: typically they are unoaked, medium-bodied, soft, round and fruity, with flavours and aromas of blackberry, black cherry and black pepper or spice notes. This drinkability makes Dolcetto a much-loved variety among the Piemontesi, whereas the Nebbiolo wines of Barolo and Barbaresco are considered more serious and demanding with much higher levels of tannins and acidity.

In Piedmont, the DOCGs where Dolcetto is the sole or principal variety include Dolcetto Diano d'Alba, Dolcetto Diano d'Alba Superiore, Dolcetto di Ovada Superiore, Dogliani and Dogliani Superiore, along with the DOCs Dolcetto d'Alba – which usually produces the most wine – Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore, Dolcetto di Ovada, Dolcetto d'Asti, Dolcetto d'Acqui and Langhe Dolcetto. All of these denominations, with the exception of the small-production Dolcetto d'Asti, were represented in this panel tasting, and all 95 wines were 100% Dolcetto.

Dogliani is one of the most historically significant areas for Dolcetto; indeed, some

people claim that the variety originated from the hills in this area, and it was promoted to a DOCG in 2005. The judges were therefore expecting great things from the Dogliani wines in this panel tasting, but while the Dogliani Superiore wines tasted were disappointing: three of the five entered scored 86 points or below; the wines either already looked too evolved at three or four years old, or there was too much oak for the level of fruit. In fact, the panel typically rewarded wines that were unoaked, or where the oak was very subtle.

Sara Bachiorri commented that she 'loved the young Dolcetto that didn't try to be something else; naked, pure, crunchy and honest'.

Vincenzo Arnese added that Dolcetto 'is the kind of wine that to perform well doesn't need... oak and can express typicity very well'.

Overall, there were few poor wines. 'It was a very consistent tasting with good base quality of wines,' noted Arnese. Almost all the wines tasted – 93 out of 95 – achieved a 'Bronze medal' level (86-89pts, Recommended) or higher, with 35 achieving the equivalent of a 'Silver' (90-94pts, Highly recommended) and one 'Gold'. Indeed, 26 of the 57 Recommended wines scored 89pts, which is on the verge of being a Highly recommended/Silver.

Bachiorri noted after the tasting that 'Dolcetto is certainly an underrated grape variety that can give great pleasure and joy.' Dolcetto is without doubt very well suited to today's taste for lively, fresh wines. Most are best drunk young, either on their own or with food. This tasting confirmed that Dolcetto can offer plenty of enjoyment and value for money, if you choose wisely.

THE JUDGES



Susan Hulme MW

is a wine writer, editor, educator and presenter specialising in Italy. She runs her own wine training and consultancy company Vintuition and travels regularly to wine regions around Italy. Now focusing more on her writing, she is Italian editor for *The Wine Independent*



Vincenzo Arnese

is director of wine at Raffles London at the OWO. Born in Naples, he worked at top hotels in Italy, Switzerland and Australia, and later at Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester. A DWWA judge, in 2022 he won the coveted title of Taittinger UK Sommelier of the Year



Sara Bachiorri

is in the buying team at merchant WoodWinters. A DWWA judge, she was formerly head sommelier at The Glasshouse in Kew then Chez Bruce in London, followed by a stint at Italian specialist merchant FortyFive10°

Outstanding 95-97pts



Podere Ruggeri Corsini, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021

Susan Hulme MW 95
Vincenzo Arnese 96
Sara Bachiorri 93
£21.80 Humble Grape
Ruggeri Corsini was founded in 1995 when viticulture and oenology graduates Nicola Argamante and his wife Loredana Addari tired of city life and bought a piece of land in Corsini, a hamlet in Monforte d'Alba. Today the estate is run by the couple and daughters Francesca and Vittoria. Grown at 430m-480m on sandy/loam soil, their Dolcetto vines are 15-44 years old. The wine is unoaked and is aged in stainless

steel tanks for nine months. **Susan Hulme MW** Super-clean aromas, precise and controlled, great harmony and balance on the palate with energy and focus. Exciting. **Vincenzo Arnese** Intense red fruits with some floral aromas. Elegant, fruity and velvety, good acidity, a little candied on the palate but good freshness. Approachable yet complex style. **Sara Bachiorri** Aromas of berries are echoed on the palate. A clean and bright style with high acidity, but moderate in body and alcohol. **Drink** 2023-2028 **Alcohol** 14%



Podere Ruggeri Corsini winery in Monforte d'Alba

Highly recommended 90-94pts



Eraldo Revelli, San Matteo, Dogliani Superiore 2021

SH 93 VA 93 SB 92
£28 Ultravino
Red cherry, mineral, citrus notes, roses and violets on the nose, showing tertiary aromas with darker fruits like plum and blueberry present lifting the wine. Firm tannins that are fine and chalky, good freshness with a long finish. Well made. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 14.5%



Rocca Giovanni, Vigna Sant'Anna, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022

SH 95 VA 92 SB 92
US\$14.50 Arlington Wine & Liquor, Saratoga Wine Exchange
Sweet fruit aromas, cherry-crisp intensity with good definition. A very poised palate, showing pomegranate and raspberry flavours, fleshy and fresh. Long on the finish. **Drink** 2023-2028 **Alc** 14%



Alario Claudio, Sori' Costa Fiore, Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba 2022

SH 90 VA 93 SB 92
POA \$ Vera Wine & Spirits
Dark ripe bramble fruit and black cherry wrapped in light peppery notes. Rich yet elegant palate with good vibrancy and integrated tannins. Good structure and fruit concentration; balanced, youthful with a ripe finish. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 14.5% ▶

THE SCORES 95 wines tasted

Exceptional 0 **Outstanding** 1 **Highly recommended** 35 **Recommended** 57 **Commended** 2 **Fair** 0

Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit their currently available vintages of Piedmont Dolcetto red wines, with no price restrictions, from DOCs Dolcetto d'Alba, Dolcetto d'Asti, Dolcetto d'Acqui, Dolcetto di Ovada, or DOCGs Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba/Diano d'Alba, Dolcetto di Ovada Superiore or Dogliani

'Dolcetto is certainly an underrated grape variety that can give great pleasure and joy'

— Sara Bachiorri



Beni di Batasiolo, Bricco di Vergne, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 92 VA 93 SB 92
 £27.50 (2021) Mondial Wine
 Candied red fruits with good intensity and a hint of balsamic. Subtle style, a little stalky, with green notes but refreshing. Dark fruit flavours linger through the finish. Good texture. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13.5%**



Giorgio Pelissero, Augenta, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 92 VA 93 SB 92
 £20.25 Alivini
 Floral aromas, chalky, with hints of sweet spice and bramble fruit. Shows cherry and red berries, high acidity and alcohol but good concentration. Expressive with good intensity and ripeness and a good finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14%**



Paolo Scavino, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 95 VA 91 SB 91
 £15.20 Justerini & Brooks
 Candied nose of red fruits, restrained and mineral, with fresh precision of aromas. Clean and pure style, with good intensity. **Drink 2023-2029 Alc 13.5%**



Anna Maria Abbona, Sori dij But, Dogliani 2022
 SH 89 VA 90 SB 92
 £14.50-£16.54 (2020) Baglio, Gerrard Seel, The Champagne Co, The Drinks Emporium
 Elegant and poised nose, with a smooth mouthfeel: bright purple fruit, good acidity and lovely balance. Chewy tannins and mouthwatering acidity. Grippy, ripe tannins. Long finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13.5%**



Boasso, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 89 VA 88 SB 92
 £14.95 Stone Vine & Sun
 Delicate and slightly smoky nose, black fruit aromas. Dark and red fruit, with a rustic quality to the tannins. Grippy with a clean, long finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14%**



Carlo Giacosa, Cuchet, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021
 SH 89 VA 91 SB 90
 POA \$ Skurnik Wines
 Bright cherry aromas, fresh and delicate, with a hint of green. Fresh palate with high acidity, giving clean and precise flavours. Unapologetic and intense with a good finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 12.5%**



Prunotto, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 94 VA 90 SB 92
 £17.75-£20 All About Wine, Divine Fine Wines, Fareham Wine Cellar, Hic, Oakham Wines, Vinvm
 Smoke, spice and gentle oak, with fresh and floral aromas. Very young, light and bright. Red fruit, cherries, a spicy hint, integrated with good grip. Persistent and rounded on the finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 12.5%**



Cascina Sòt, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 94 VA 90 SB 90
 £16 Nebbia e Luce
 Cherry, plums and Mediterranean herbs with dried flowers and blue fruit aromas. Shows good structure and body, with character and richness, nice intensity and a beautiful finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13%**



La Fusina, L'Alteno, Langhe Dolcetto 2022
 SH 89 VA 92 SB 92
 POA \$ Vos Vinum Importing
 Fragrant, red berry aromas with plum and cherry. Fruity, good freshness and elegant style. Shows purity of fruit, light with high acidity. Lovely texture with a very smooth finish. **Drink 2023-2026 Alc 13%**



Cascina Gentile, Tre Passi Avanti, Dolcetto di Ovada 2020
 SH 87 VA 93 SB 91
 cascinagentile.com
 Aromas of dried berries and spices. Elegant and well poised, well-balanced ageing and all elements nicely integrated. Very charming. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13.5%**



Casetta, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 89 VA 91 SB 90
 flli-casetta.it
 Very lively, almost electric. Good intensity and structure. Has power and richness, but also fresh, clean and tight flavours. This is long-lasting on the palate, but needs time to relax. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13%**



Chionetti, San Luigi, Dogliani 2022
 SH 91 VA 89 SB 89
 £20 VinumTerra
 Sweet black cherries, charming aromas of dried raspberries with primary fruit notes of blueberry and plum. A linear and silky palate, showing good tannins in a chewy style. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13.5%**



Réva, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 89 VA 92 SB 92
 £123.80 (2020) Friarwood
 Good freshness, ripe, dark aromas, brightness and precision on the nose. Black cherry, smooth, round and enjoyable. Showing youthful typicality and a nice fresh finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13.5%**



Vietti, Tre Vigne, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 90 VA 90 SB 92
 £25-£28.83 (ib) Bibendum Wine, Cru
 Floral aromas with crisp notes of sweet spice. On the palate, plums and dark berries with intensity and freshness, firm tannins. An honest and straightforward wine: lovely. **Drink 2023-2038 Alc 13%**



Vite Colte, Roccabella, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 90 VA 91 SB 92
 £15 Ellis Wines
 Bright cherry aromas with lovely pure plum fruit on the palate. Smooth mouthfeel, good acidity, with intensity and ripeness. Clean finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14%**



Fratelli Alessandria, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 92 VA 87 SB 90
 £14 Raeburn Fine Wines
 Ripe red fruit aromas of black cherry and cream. Smooth, slightly spicy, very approachable and with great drinkability. Delicious with a straightforward and lively approach. **Drink 2023-2026 Alc 13.5%**



Gianfranco Alessandria, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 89 VA 90 SB 90
 £15 Collectivino, The Winery UK
 Delicate and perfumed nose, but then a structured palate with full-bodied fruit, showing spiced cherry and red berries. Nice freshness and intensity with a lingering finish. **Drink 2023-2026 Alc 14%**



Marchesi di Barolo, Madonna del Dono, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 90 VA 91 SB 89
 £19 Tannico*
 Smouldering dark fruit, intense and vibrant – red cherry and violet aromas. Bramble fruits and smoky notes on the palate with integrated, fine-grained tannins. Ambitious. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13%**



Abrigo Fratelli, Diano d'Alba 2021
 SH 92 VA 89 SB 89
 US\$14.50-\$21 Ferry Plaza, Princeton Corkscrew, Solano Cellars, The Wine Connection
 A touch of forest floor and black fruit aromas. Plum and damson flavours, high acidity, medium tannins. Fresh, sappy and energetic. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 12.5%**



Abrigo Fratelli, Diano d'Alba Superiore 2019
 SH 88 VA 91 SB 92
 US\$27.50-\$29 Princeton Corkscrew, The Wine Connection
 Very fruit-driven nose, sweet and dark, a touch of liquorice, rich and intense. Smooth mouthfeel with fine-grained tannins. A nice, powerful style. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 15%**



Alario Claudio, Sori Pradurent, Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba Superiore 2021
 SH 92 VA 90 SB 88
 POA \$ Vera wine & Spirits
 Very intense aromas, smouldering black and dark berry fruit. Concentrated, rich and powerful; the tannins are very persistent and crisp. Nicely balanced with a long finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14.5%**



Matteo Ascheri, Nirane, Langhe Dolcetto 2022
 SH 89 VA 89 SB 91
 £18.85 The Great Wine Co
 Bright, cheerful black cherry and plum aromas and flavours. Smooth, generous and expressive, clean and long with fruit concentration, lovely acidity and ripe tannins. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14%**



Mossio Fratelli, Bricco Caramelli, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021
 SH 89 VA 90 SB 90
 POA \$ Vinity Wine Co
 Dark and brooding, plum and dark cherry, blueberry with a spicy touch. Sinewy structure on the palate, good mouthfeel with high acidity. Robust and hearty character, long and lingering on the finish. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14.5%**



Pecchenino, San Luigi, Dogliani 2022
 SH 90 VA 90 SB 91
 £15 Winetraders UK
 Smoky black fruit and cherry aromas. Full of primary fruit with bright acidity, very well balanced, good texture with mouthfilling bitter plum flavours. Excellent drinkability. **Drink 2023-2028 Alc 13.5%** ▶



Pecchenino, Siri d'Jermu, Dogliani Superiore D.O.C.G. 2021
 SH 89 VA 90 SB 90
 £25 Winetraders UK
 Dark fruit, plums and cherries, spicy intensity with integrated tannins. High acidity with a juicy kick. Well structured with a good finish. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 14%



Piazzo Comm. Armando, Buràn, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 88 VA 91 SB 90
 piazzo.it
 Dark berries and dried flowers with subtle smoke aromas. Fresh and fruity with good intensity and concentration. Powerful mineral frame. **Drink** 2023-2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Pietro Rinaldi, Madonna di Como, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021
 SH 89 VA 91 SB 90
 POA \$ Wine Twist Florida
 Youthful, spicy plum aromas with ripe concentration. Fresh and light with a delicate tannin structure. Lingering fruit on the finish. **Drink** 2023-2028 **Alc** 13.5%



Sordo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 92 VA 89 SB 90
 £15.50 WoodWinters
 Dark fruit, some dried cherries with lifted plum aromas. Full, giving a little leather, sweet spice and rich tannins. Very pleasant. **Drink** 2023-2028 **Alc** 12.5%

'Its drinkability makes Dolcetto a much-loved variety among the Piemontesi'
 — Susan Hulme MW



Tenuta Carretta, Il Palazzo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021
 SH 92 VA 88 SB 89
 £18 Grapo Wine Importers
 Blueberry and pomegranate with black cherry and cola aromas. Well balanced, smooth and round with a harmonious palate. **Drink** 2023-2027 **Alc** 13.5%



Terrenostre, Donna in Pietra, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 89 VA 90 SB 90
 terrenostre.it
 Pronounced aromas of dark fruit, red cherry and plum. Pure blackberry on the palate with chewy, rustic tannins. A well-structured wine with bright acidity and an uplifting finish. **Drink** 2023-2028 **Alc** 13.5%



Vigna Rionda, Massolino, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 90 VA 90 SB 90
 £22.50-£23.99 Liberty Wines, NY Wines
 Black cherry fruit, smooth and round with refined tannins. Textured mouthfeel with a crunchy finish. **Drink** 2023-2036 **Alc** 14%



Viticoltori Rodello di Anna Anselmo, Des'ert, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022
 SH 93 VA 89 SB 89
 viticoltoriodello.it
 Dark, intense and brooding but not heavy, with herbaceous notes. Baked and dried fruits on the palate with good intensity. A wine with plenty of charm and enjoyment. **Drink** 2023-2026 **Alc** 14%

Recommended 86-89pts

Wine	Score	SH	VA	SB	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Amalia Cascina in Langa, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	89	89	89	89	Smoky nose, intensity and ripeness. Pepper mingled with blue fruit and creamy spice. Fresh and rounded.	14.5%	2023-2028	£16	Jeroboams
Broccardo, Le Campanelle, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	89	89	90	Fresh floral and red fruit aromas. Plums and forest fruit flavours with good acidity. Bright, cheerful and lively.	13.5%	2023-2028	POA \$	Caput Mundi Wine Import
Ca' Bianca, Dolcetto d'Acqui 2021	89	89	88	89	Dusty plum nose with good intensity, cherry and fresh violets. Linear structure, good intensity. Cheerful.	13%	2023-2026	£10	Stewart Wines
Cascina Vano, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	90	88	89	Smoky, dark, brooding nose, blackberries and oak spice. Smooth, balanced and crispy. Extracted, ambitious style.	13%	2023-2027	US\$25	Dylan's Wine Cellar, Princeton Corkscrew
Ciabot 1896, Cavalier Bertino, Dogliani 2022	89	88	89	90	Flowers and red berries, fresh and intense. Crunchy fruit, very pretty. Slightly chilled, it's a very charming wine.	12.5%	2023-2028	POA \$	Antares Inc

Wine	Score	SH	VA	SB	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Collina Serragrilli, Alessandro II, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	90	89	89	Aromas of flowers and spice, black cherry and leather. Ripe, fresh, with firm tannins. Powerful and impressive.	13.5%	2023-2035	£15	Via UK Importer Delitalia
Fr Serio & Battista Borgogno, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	88	90	90	Floral, cherry and black fruit aromas. Smooth tannins and delicate spice. Vibrant and straightforward.	13%	2023-2028	£17	Howard Ripley, Tanners
Giacomo Fenocchio, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	88	88	90	Iron and flint. Expressive, with violets and dark fruit. The finish is rustic and mineral, but the fruit lingers.	13%	2023-2028	£18-£19.99	Armit, The Wine Reserve
Giacomo Grimaldi, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	88	89	90	Restrained but with pure and bright aromas of black cherry and spice. Grippy, with good acidity. Robust.	14%	2023-2026	POA \$	Classified Wines, Vigneti del Sole
Giacosa Fratelli, Madonna Como, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	89	88	89	90	Brambly dark fruits, rich with ripe and present tannins. Structure and body with a fresh and lively finish.	13.5%	2023-2026	£25	The Wine Prophet
Lano Gianluigi, Ronchela, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	88	90	88	Lifted aromas of exotic spice, plum and blueberry. Grip and personality with a bright, crushed cherry aftertaste.	13%	2023-2026	US\$25	Artisan Wines, Transparent Wine Co, VF Wines
Luciano Sandrone, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	89	89	89	Bright and youthful with dark cherry and spice. Intense and rich with good tannin structure and a juicy finish.	13%	2023-2026	£10.83 (ib)	Mann Fine Wine
Marchesi di Grésy, Monte Aribaldo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	89	88	90	90	Violet and dark fruit nose. Ripe and concentrated body with notes of plum, dark cherry, forest floor and spice.	14%	2023-2026	£14-£17 (ib, 2019)	Cru, Lady Wine, Starling Wines
Massimo Rattalino, Seven, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	89	90	89	Lavender and coriander seed with black and blueberry fruits. Very ripe and baked. Intense, bright, attractive.	14.5%	2023-2028	N/A UK	massimorattalino.it
Michele Flori, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	90	89	88	Crunchy red fruits and blackberries with lifting acidity and poised tannins. Structured, with an enjoyable finish.	13%	2023-2026	N/A UK	cantinaflori.it
Moscone, dd'a, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	89	89	88	Pronounced aromas of flowers. Cherry intensity with earthy notes, well-balanced acidity and a smooth finish.	13%	2023-2026	£15	1485 Wines
Musso, Dolcetto d'Alba 2020	89	87	90	90	Mineral aromas with spicy red fruit. Fresh and lean with an elegant finish.	13%	2023-2028	£18.50	Wanderlust Wine
Palladino, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	89	89	89	Expressive aromas of fresh and dried flowers. Smoky, with dark fruit and mineral notes. Full, soft and juicy.	13%	2023-2026	POA \$	Enotec Imports
Pasquale Pelissero, Cascina Crosa, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	88	89	89	Smoky and herbal, sweet spice. Ripe tannins with black cherry fruit intensity. A robust and firm style.	14%	2023-2028	US\$15-\$19	Best Wine Values, Saratoga Wine Exchange, Solana Cellars, The Wine Connection
Pier Paolo Grasso, Maicarin, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	89	89	89	89	Smoky, toasted notes with hints of tar. Plum, cherry and herbaceous, stalky tannins with a bitter cherry finish.	13%	2023-2026	N/A UK	pierpaolograsso.wine
Poderi Colla, Pian Balbo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	90	88	90	Bright, cherry aromas with clean red and purple fruit. Smooth with a slight grip. Juicy with good drinkability.	12.5%	2023-2028	£15	Boutinot, Cellar Door Wines, Kwoff, ND John, Vinomondo
Punset, Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore 2021	89	89	89	90	Plum and spice with a gentle fragrance of faded flowers. Smooth, but with slightly gravelly tannins. Textured.	13.5%	2023-2036	£20	Armit
Rizieri, Sori del Ricchino, Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba 2022	89	89	89	90	Smoky, bright cherry aromas. Pure primary flavours with damson, cherry and plum. Warm but fresh. Enjoyable.	13.5%	2023-2028	US\$18	Julio's Liquors
Salvano, Fosco, Diano d'Alba 2020	89	89	89	88	Plums, dark cherry and damson aromas. Intense and rich with notes of cherry, leather and spice.	14%	2023-2027	POA \$	Wine 2 Wine Imports
Schiavenza, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	89	89	88	89	Sweet berries with heavy extraction. Intense ripeness with grippy, fine-grained tannins. Charming.	14.5%	2023-2028	US\$15	Saratoga Wine Exchange, Sparrow Wine
Teresa Soria, Langhe Dolcetto 2021	89	89	88	89	Dark cherry, damson and bitter plum aromas. Creamy spice, with roundness and a smooth finish.	14%	2023-2028	N/A UK	teresasoria.com
Aurelio Settimo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2020	88	87	88	88	Bright and elegant with ripe red fruit notes. Dark fruit with a balanced, rich body and good finish.	12.5%	2023-2026	£16.50	Lant Street Wine
Brezza Giacomo e Figli, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	88	89	88	88	Good intensity with sweet dark fruit. Firm tannins with notes of candied fruit and sweet spice.	13%	2023-2026	£19.99	Aitken's, Askew Wine, Hampstead Butcher & Providore, Oakdene Fine Wine Importers, R Campbell & Sons
Cantina del Nebbiolo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	88	88	88	89	Dusty cherry aromas with crunchy green fruit. Smoky with lovely freshness and ripe structure.	13.5%	2023-2026	POA £	Triia Wines
Castello di Neive, Vigna Basarin, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	88	87	88	89	Vibrant nose with notes of plum and cherry. Ripe dark fruit, damson and good structure on the robust palate.	14%	2023-2026	£25	Vinexus
Ceretto, Rossana, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	88	89	88	88	Ripe plum and spice aromas. Crunchy green and black fruit, good intensity, full body and freshness on the finish.	13.5%	2023-2028	POA £	Mentzendorff

Wine	Score	SH	VA	SB	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Diego Pressenda, Dosso, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	88	88	88	89	Forest floor, floral and toasty nose. Uplifting dark fruit, spice and leathery tannins on the fine finish.	13.5%	2023-2028	N/A UK	diegopressenda.it
Dogliani Il Generale, Dogliani 2022	88	87	88	89	Youthful with notes of olives, red fruit and dark bramble. Smooth mouthfeel, chewy with ripeness and intensity.	13%	2023-2026	£14	Tacco UK
Eraldo Revelli, Autin Lungh, Dogliani 2022	88	87	89	89	Violet and lavender aromas with notes of black cherry, plum and raspberry. Vibrant with fine-grained tannins.	13.5%	2023-2027	POA \$	Giannoni Selections
Gian Piero Marrone, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	88	88	88	89	Ripe aromas of spice and cherry. Refreshing acidity and full body showing sweet dark fruit and vibrant cherry.	13.5%	2023-2026	POA £	Vindependents
Gian Piero Marrone, Carlot, Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore 2021	88	85	91	89	Floral, with hints of cherry and spice aromas. Bright and crunchy with sweet spice, dusty cherry and red fruit.	13.5%	2023-2028	POA £	Vindependents
Le Strette, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	88	89	88	87	Attractive aromas of dark cherry, cranberry and plum. Bright and fresh with lively acidity and a long finish.	13%	2023-2026	£17	Wanderlust Wine
Lodali, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	88	88	88	89	Pronounced floral aromas of roses and violets. Ripe tannins, fresh with notes of dark fruit, plum and cherry.	12.5%	2023-2028	POA \$	Vinoveritas Wine Import
Mauro Molino, Langhe Dolcetto 2022	88	89	86	89	Bright blackberry and black cherry aromas. Round and rich tannins with vibrant ripe dark fruit, cherry and plum.	13.5%	2023-2027	US\$13-\$16	Little West, Saratoga Wine Exchange, The Cellar d'Or
Mossio Fratelli, Gamvs, Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore 2018	88	83	92	88	Toasty hazelnut and sweet spice aromas. Vanilla and rich baked plums, cherry, hints of coffee and nuts.	14.5%	2023-2025	POA \$	Vinity Wine Co
Negro Giuseppe, Pian Cavallo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	88	89	86	88	Ripe, appealing aromas of macerated cherries. Smooth and rounded with notes of ripe cherries and prunes.	14.5%	2023-2026	POA \$	Fass Selections, Franciacorta Imports
Salvano, Sori' della Sorda, Diano d'Alba 2021	88	89	87	88	Smoky and intense blackberry aromas with ripe cherry, dark fruit, blackberries and hints of spice on the finish.	13.5%	2023-2028	POA \$	Wine 2 Wine Imports
Abbona, Papà Celso, Dogliani 2022	87	83	89	90	Balanced nose of violets and fresh herbs. Intense and ripe, with mulberries, cherries, redcurrant and herbs.	14%	2023-2028	£22.95 (2021)	Lea & Sandeman
Arnaldo Rivera, Sori del Cascinotto, Diano d'Alba 2021	87	85	88	88	Dark blackberries and subtle earthy aromas. Bramble fruit, cherry, plum and spice with good concentration.	13%	2023-2028	£21.50	Astrum Wine Cellars
Castello di Perno, Dolcetto d'Alba 2021	87	86	88	88	Subtle floral nose with ripe raspberry, cherry, smoke, leather and dark fruit. Grippy tannins and good length.	12.5%	2023-2026	£25	Raeburn Fine Wines
Elvio Cogno, Mandorlo, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	87	85	88	87	Lifted balsamic and dark fruit aromas. Intense with fresh acidity and notes of leather and game on the long finish.	14%	2023-2026	£20-£22	Lay & Wheeler, Shelved Wine, Stannary Wine
Fortemasso, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	87	88	85	88	Bright aromas of dark fruit with notes of charcoal, sweet dark fruit and smoky flavours on the finish.	13.5%	2023-2025	£15	Milton Sandford
La Fusina, Santa Lucia, Dogliani 2021	87	84	88	89	Gentle aromas of grass and wildflowers. Intense and rich, with fresh black fruit, spice and dark berries.	13.5%	2023-2026	POA \$	Vos Vinum Importing
Piero Benevelli, La Costa, Dolcetto d'Alba 2022	87	85	88	88	Ripe with good intensity and structure. Dark fruit, gamey and leathery with fresh acidity and a smooth finish.	13.5%	2023-2028	£16	Passione Vino
Scarpa, Dolcetto d'Acqui 2019	87	85	89	88	Vibrant nose of ripe red fruit. Good structure with notes of dark cherry, plum, game and fine-grained tannins.	13%	2023-2026	£22	Bibere
Tacchino, Du Riva, Dolcetto di Ovada Superiore 2016	87	83	90	88	Evolved nose of red fruit and sweet spice. Medium body with freshness and smooth tannins.	14%	2023-2028	£25.99	Askew Wines, Orbit Wines
Vit Rodello Anselmo, Miraggio, Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore 2021	87	89	86	87	Floral, blueberry and red cherry aromas. Sweet spice and crunchy, vibrant tart fruit and a crisp finish.	14%	2023-2027	N/A UK	vitcoltorirodello.it
Anna Maria Abbona, S Bernardo, Dogliani Superiore 2019	86	86	86	86	Baked cherries and sweet spice. Rich black fruit with dominating oak spice and smooth tannins.	14.5%	2023-2029	N/A UK	annamariabbona.it
Bricco Rosso, Dogliani 2021	86	87	86	86	Light fresh red fruit aromas with notes of cherries. Bright, juicy acidity and fruit-driven intensity.	13.5%	2023-2027	£13.49 (2019)	All About Wine, Ashby Wines, Five O'Clock Somewhere, Kwoff
Ciabot 1896, Vergaia, Dogliani 2020	86	85	85	87	Dark, opaque colour with intense dried fruit aromas. Good texture and touches of herbs and cherry.	14%	2023-2028	POA \$	Antares Inc
Gillardi, Cursalet, Dogliani 2021	86	85	86	88	Sweet dark plum and bright cherry aromas. Grippy tannins, bright purple fruit and a touch of smokiness.	14.5%	2023-2026	£24	Ester Wines
La Fusina, San Luigi Cavagnè, Dogliani Superiore 2020	86	86	85	86	Lovely intense candied red fruit aromas. Lifted and grippy tannins with hints of leather and waxy notes.	13.5%	2023-2026	POA \$	Vos Vinum Importing

Commended 83-85pts ■ **Ciabot 1896, Storia Cento, Dogliani Superiore 2020** 85, 14.5%, 2023-2027, POA \$ Antares Inc ■ **Agnelli Viassone, Bricco Paris, Dolcetto d'Alba** 2022 83, 13%, 2023-2025, US\$29 DI Lisi Imports, Roger Wilco



Our buying guide provides you with trusted, independent, expert recommendations on what to buy, drink and cellar.

Each panel tasting is judged by three experienced tasters chosen for their authority in the category of wine being rated. All wines are tasted blind and are pre-poured for judges in flights of 8-10 wines. Our experts taste and score wines individually but then discuss their scores together at the end of each flight.

Any wines on which scores are markedly different are retasted; however, judges are under no obligation to amend their scores.

Judges are encouraged to look for typicity in wines, rewarding those that are true to their region. When judging, experts are aware of wine price bands – under £15, £15-£30 and over £30 – with the aim of recognising and rewarding quality and value.

The tastings are held in the controlled environment of Decanter's tasting suite: a quiet, purposely designed room, with natural light. We limit the number of wines tasted to a manageable level – a maximum of 85 per day – allowing judges to taste more thoroughly and avoid palate fatigue.

Drink-by dates indicated are based on how long it is prudent to keep the wine in question. However, some wines will have a longer ageing capacity if stored in pristine conditions throughout their lifespan.

† **Ex-UK stockists:** for UK consumers purchasing from outside the UK, please note that bottle prices shown include stockists' shipping fees, duty and taxes where known at time of writing. Goods could still be subject to additional charges or shippers' fees on delivery – check with the retailer concerned before purchasing.

SCORING SYSTEM

Tasters rate the wines using the 100-point scoring system. The overall Decanter rating is the average of all three judges' scores. The ratings are as follows:

- 98-100 **Exceptional** A great, exceptional and profound wine
- 95-97 **Outstanding** An excellent wine of great complexity and character
- 90-94 **Highly recommended** A very accomplished wine, with impressive complexity
- 86-89 **Recommended** A well-made, straightforward and enjoyable wine
- 83-85 **Commended** An acceptable, simple wine with limited personality
- 76-82 **Fair** Correctly made, if unexciting
- 70-75 **Poor** Unbalanced and/or bland with no character

For the Exceptional and Outstanding Decanter ratings, judges' individual scores and tasting notes are listed in addition to the average score.

For the Highly Recommended and Recommended wines, individual and average scores are also listed but tasting notes are a combination of the three judges' notes.

