

Discover

the new ratings and tasting notes

by Monica Larner

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95 PTS, VIA DEL CAMPO 2021 - Irpinia Falanghina DOC

Luigi Moio takes the Falanghina grape to soaring new heights. The Quintodecimo 2021 Irpinia Falanghina Via del Campo is the result of 20 years of research and experimentation, I am told. Professor Moio's dream of a vintage that balances both alcohol and acidity was realized in 2021. With fruit from a site located from 300 to 440 meters in elevation on calcareous clay soils, this wine offers fresh and exotic tones of tropical fruit, kiwi and green papaya. However, there is a unique textural richness to the wine (care is taken during decantation with methods inspired by Chardonnay in Burgundy) that feels glossy and silky but never too waxy or heavy.

94+ PTS, EXULTET 2021 - Fiano di Avellino DOCG

This gorgeous wine draws its fruit from a seven-hectare vineyard near the village of Lapio. The Quintodecimo 2021 Fiano di Avellino Exultet is layered with minty apple, poached pear and wild fennel, or finocchietto in Italian. The aromas are delivered with elegant and discreet intensity, and you can count on a lasting end note of salinity or crushed mineral that gives framing and contouring to the pretty primary fruit. Thanks to careful aging on the lees, the wine offers a naked and faithful portrait of the Fiano grape. Distant powdering of crushed white pepper or licorice root appear on the extremely silky, medium-textured finish.

95+ PTS, GIALLO D'ARLES 2021 - Greco di Tufo DOCG

The Greco grape is naturally rich in pigments, and when it reaches full maturity, the grape takes on a golden color with amber highlights. That is the inspiration behind the wine's name, which evokes the yellow color so adored by painter Vincent van Gogh in Arles, France. The 2021 Greco di Tufo Giallo d'Arles is smooth, elegant and representative of the enormous white-wine potential found in Campania. The bouquet offers orchard fruit, white rainier cherries and a terpenic note that Luigi Moio goes to great lengths to preserve. There is also a pronounced floral tone of jasmine or tuberose that he says is specific to this vintage. This is an exhilarating wine.



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This is the wine Moio fans have been anxiously awaiting. The Quintodecimo 2020 Irpinia Grande Cuvée Luigi Moio is a carefully contemplated blend of 40% Fiano, 40% Greco and 20% Falanghina (with percentages that will change according to vintage). Only 4,600 bottles were produced in this inaugural vintage, and this wine is hitting the market now, following 14 months of bottle age. The idea was to create a "super" blended white that could represent the best of southern Italy, and these results are simply terrific. Some 60% of the wine is fermented in oak, and the blend is submitted to regular stirring of the lees. The wine is velvety rich in texture with silky fruit weight and lasting sensations of summer peach, quince, acacia honey and fragrant tuberose. All that beauty is tightly framed by etched notes of salinity or crushed seashell. This is an outstanding effort.

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94 PTS, VIGNA QUINTODECIMO 2017- Taurasi Riserva DOCG

On the market now, the Quintodecimo 2017 Taurasi Riserva Vigna Quintodecimo represents a selection of fruit from inside the estate. The vines were planted in 2001 on clay soils with limestone at a dense 5,000 plants per hectare. After years of research, trial and error, Luigi Moio confides that he is finally happy with his red wine program, and he concedes that a warming climate is in line with better winemaking, especially where the late-harvest Aglianico grape is concerned. Indeed, the tannins are softly integrated in this hot-vintage expression. Showing medium-rich extraction, the wine reveals linear and tight aromas of dark fruit, crème de cassis and kirsch.

93 PTS, VIGNA GRANDE CERZITO 2017 - Taurasi Riserva DOCG

This wine draws its fruit from a south-facing site in Mirabella Eclano. The soils were created by falling volcanic ash and pumice, and they are very well-draining as a result. The Quintodecimo 2017 Taurasi Riserva Vigna Grande Cerzito shows dark and plump fruit over a full-bodied delivery. This hot vintage reveals flavors that are bigger and richer than what we've seen in previous years. However, careful fruit selection and winemaking ensure an elegant final result with balanced power and freshness. Hints of wild mountain mint appear as an afterthought.

94 PTS, TERRA D'ECLANO 2019 - Aglianico Irpinia DOC

The 2019 Irpinia Aglianico Terra d'Eclano is a selection of fruit from two parcels on the estate. Decisions regarding the final blend are taken on a vintage-by-vintage basis. What is achieved in this growing season is balanced acidity and very well integrated tannins that support the wine—and its abundant flavors of dark plum, blackberry and spice—without feeling astringent. It's also worth noting the brilliant dark ruby hue of this wine. There were two other vintages I tasted during this sitting (from 2018 and 2017), and all three wines are lively and bright.



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