

IL-QATRA

January 2026 Session Report

Session Theme: Aglianico/Taurasi

Date: 27.01.2026


Location: Palazzo Capua

Menu:

- Duo of home smoked Duck Breast and Leg Bon-bon, Asian marinated vegetables, mango chilli, coriander and ginger dressing
- Slow roast beef fillet mignons, set on bean & root vegetables, pulled beef cheeks wrapped in cabbage & port wine jus
- Baked dark chocolate & salted caramel tart-spiced berry compote & vanilla ice cream

Food Scoring: 7.9/ 10

		Wine	Region	Vintage	Varietal	Voting Out of 20	Retail Price	Importer	Consumption
Aprt	White	Pailliser Pencarrow Sauvignon Blanc	Martinborough	2024	Sauvignon Blanc	16.36	€15.99	Kontrada Merchants	5
A	Red	Fonte del Gelso Taurasi Reserva	Campania	2012	Aglianico	16.11	€39.35	Marco Vella Wines	5
B	Red	Bocca del Lupo Castel del Monte	Puglia	2020	Aglianico	15.11	€66.22	S. Rausi Trading	6
C	Red	Macchia dei Goti Taurasi	Campania	2019	Aglianico	15.33	€40.37	Farsons Direct	5
D	Red	Donnachiara Taurasi Reserva	Campania	2019	Aglianico	16.00	€47.59	Charles Grech	6
						Average	15.78	Average per member	1.3

Wine: Pailliser Pencarrow Sauvignon Blanc	Region: Martinborough	
Vintage: 2024	Varietal: 100% Sauvignon blanc	
Alcohol Content: 12.5%	Price: €15.99	
<p>Tasting Notes Aromatic, ripe and pure fruited with a core of apple and tropical fruits, grapefruit and white spice then a touch of minerality with a wet stone quality. Nicely balanced with crisp acidity and dry on the palate with spice then white fleshed fruits leading the texture and core flavours. Finish is refreshing with a touch of salinity.</p> <p>Description Palliser is one of New Zealand’s premier wine brands and one of the first wineries in New Zealand to adopt sustainable vineyard and winemaking practices in the early 1990’s. Currently three of their six vineyards are BioGro Certified organic, and planned to have 100% of their vineyards under full organic management by 2025. The flagship Palliser Estate range includes still wines from Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling. The Pencarrow label denotes more affordable wines, designed to be softer and more approachable and feature varietal wines from four of the five grapes mentioned above, omitting Riesling. The fruit for this wine is mainly sourced from the East Base vineyard, which has slightly heavier soils than the rest of the holdings.</p> <p>Av Critics 93/100</p>		

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Wine: Fonte del Gelso Taurasi Reserva	Region: Campania
Vintage: 2012	Varietal: 100% Aglianico
Alcohol Content: 14%	Price: €39.35

Tasting Notes

Red intense ruby colour. On the nose, dark wild berries with notes of liquorice, tobacco and vanilla. On the palate, spicy flavours of pepper, nutmeg and balsamic notes. Balanced with relatively low acidity and intense velvety tannins

Description

Molettieri Giovanni's winery started its production history in 1999 and established its working location in Montemarano. Situated in the heart of Irpinia, Montemarano is a small village surrounded by windy hills and a soil with a long history devoted to viticulture included in a DOCG recognized area. Today Molettieri's company continues an ancient family tradition, handed down from a generation to another, giving importance to a high quality control obtained through laboratory analyses and specialized professionals with the aim of creating high quality, balanced wines respecting the terroir of Irpinia. They produce a full range of still and sparkling wines as well as olive oil and spirits.

This Taurasi is made from Aglianico 100% When fully ripen, the grapes are destemmed and pressed, then fermented with an intense maceration. The next steps are malolactic fermentation and ageing in French oak barriques for a period of 18-22 months, following which there is an extra period of maturation of 3 years in stainless steel barrels and a refinement of about a year and half in bottle reaching a total ageing of 6 years.

Av critics score 91/100



Wine: Bocca del Lupo Castel del Monte	Region: Puglia
Vintage: 2020	Varietal: 100% Aglianico
Alcohol Content: 14.5%	Price: €66.22

Tasting Notes

An intense and complex nose with successive notes of red fruit such as morello cherries and dried fruit (raisins) with spice, herbs, and balsamic aromas of thyme and eucalyptus. On the palate, an elegant wine with firm yet silky tannins, well-structured and balanced, again with concentrated red fruits and a lengthy and persistent finish with hints of white pepper and liquorice

Description

The estate is located in the countryside of Minervino Murge in Puglia, DOC region of Castel del Monte. The vines grow at about 300 meters above sea level in the Murgia, an area with difficult climatic conditions with rigid winters, temperatures that oscillate dramatically, deep ravines and thick fog that often covers the vineyards. The native vines such as the Aglianico, the Nero di Troia and the Fiano Apulian represent the heart of Castel del Monte production. All of the estate's vineyards are certified organic and are located on calcareous and low-nutrient soils that are excellent for producing quality red wines and white wines. The main grape varieties grown are Chardonnay, Fiano, Aglianico, Nero di Troia, Cabernet Sauvignon and Moscato di Trani. For this Aglianico wine, fully mature vines allow the production of concentrated grapes perfect for producing wines with great aging potential.

Av critics score 93/100



IL-QATRA

Wine: Macchia dei Goti Taurasi	Region: Campania
Vintage: 2019	Varietal: 100% Aglianico
Alcohol Content: 14.5%	Price: €40.37

Tasting Notes

On the nose, notes of ripe plum, dark cherry, and wild berries, enriched by hints of liquorice, vanilla, and sweet spices. Plenty of sweet, oak-tinged black fruit on the palate, full bodied with well-integrated tannins and lots of enduring flavour. The finish is persistent. Excellent aging potential

Description

This wine, considered by many critics as an icon of Irpinian viticulture, by Antonio Caggiano represents the pinnacle of the Aglianico grape and is one of his most awarded and critically acclaimed wines.

Made from 100% Aglianico grapes, this wine originates from the historic Macchia dei Goti district in Taurasi, a unique terroir distinguished by its altitude and soil composition. The vineyards, located at 350 metres above sea level, thrive in clay-limestone soils, producing grapes of exceptional aromatic concentration.

Vinification follows traditional methods, with a long maceration on the skins to extract maximum structure and elegance. The wine is aged for 18 months in French oak barriques, followed by a further 12 months in the bottle. It promises a tasting experience both now and after 10–15 years of ageing.

Av critics score 93/100



Wine: Donnachiara Taurasi Reserva	Region: Campania
Vintage: 2019	Varietal: 100% Aglianico
Alcohol Content: 14.5%	Price: €47.59

Tasting Notes

On the nose, fruit aromas of black cherry, plums and figs with notes of pepper, violets and lavender. On the palate, it is full-bodied with firm but polished tannins. Lots of black fruit and vanilla. Still a bit tight needing at least three to five years of bottle age. Long, smooth finish.

Description

The winery is located in Montefalcione in the Irpinia area near Avellino. The winery building overlooks the vineyards and was completed in 2005 although the vineyards have been in the family for over 150 years. Donnachiara is a family business and is named after Ilaria's the current CEO, great grandmother, whom everyone called "Donna" Chiara as a sign of respect.

The consulting oenologist is the legendary Riccardo Cotarella. It is the philosophy of the winery to preserve the traditional grape varieties of the local territory and to keep the character of the wines from being lost to the standardization of the wines on the market today.

The harvest is still done by hand. Each bunch is carefully selected and this is followed by a soft pressing of the grapes. The must is on the skins for 20 days. Malolactic fermentation takes place and this is followed by maturation in oak barrels. The cellar is equipped with modern systems for controlling temperature, humidity, and oxygenation. 2019 was an outstanding vintage with wonderful climatic conditions. There was a large crop and the wines had very good acidity. The wine has won many awards

Av critics score 92/100

