



## ITALY

### White:

#### Beando, Provincia di Pavia IGT (Italy) Pinot Grigio 2014 (\$10,



Alma Wines): How to choose among the veritable ocean of Pinot Grigio available today? For me, the best examples are from Northern Italy, they're dry and crisp, they're long on fruit and zesty acidity, and they're reasonably priced. This bottle hits every marker, delivering fresh lemon, lime, stone minerality and a lively, palate cleansing lemon zest finish. Al fresco dining seems a must here, with a cold

pasta al limone as a foil.  
**88 Rich Cook** *Jul 14, 2015*

## ITALY

**Agit Optima, Oltrepo Pavese DOC (Lombardy, Italy) Pinot Nero 2012 (\$25):** Pinot Nero, aka Pinot Noir, is hardly the first wine that comes to mind when contemplating outstanding Italian reds. Over the years there have been more misses than hits, yet there are those who continue to pursue their passion for Pinot despite the disappointing results to date. Agit Optima is the particular passion of winemaker Jean-Francois Coquard, a transplanted Burgundian who's actually had success with Pinot Nero in Italy. The 2012 won't make anyone forget La Tache, but that's not the point. It's a meaty, ripe, well-rounded expression of Pinot Noir from the Lombardy region around Milan. Showing a strong savory note, a hint of cola and aromas of strawberry and black cherry, this is a Pinot Nero that commands respect at a downright modest price.

**88 Robert Whitley** *Jul 7, 2015*



## ITALY

**Arbeta, Gavi DOCG (Piedmont, Italy) 2013 (\$19):** The Arbeta Gavi is on the rich side of the Gavi style spectrum, showing ripe aromas of pear, green apple and yellow citrus. Fresh and clean, this is an appealing wine for seafood dishes in cream sauces or simple grilled fish or steamed crab.

**89 Robert Whitley** *Jul 7, 2015*

## ITALY

**Astorre Noti, Chianti Classico DOCG (Tuscany, Italy) 2010 (\$30):** The 2010 vintage was superb throughout Tuscany, especially in the Chianti Classico region. Astorre Noti has produced a beautifully structured Chianti that has the potential to improve over the next decade or so if cellared properly. With notes of black cherry and red berry on the nose, this Chianti carries that theme onto the palate, where bright acidity lifts the fruit. Firm, chalky tannins confirm the aging potential.

**91 Robert Whitley** *Jul 7, 2015*

## ITALY

**Beando, Pavia IGT (Lombardy, Italy) Pinot Grigio 2014 (\$10):** Just what you would want from a summertime white, this Pinot Grigio from the Lombardy district near Milan shows a fresh lime/citrus note with flinty minerality and crisp, mouth-watering acidity. It's 100 percent pinot grigio and 100 percent stainless steel fermented.

**88 Robert Whitley** *Jul 7, 2015*