

## 16 FRESH WHITES FROM ITALY AND BEYOND

New reviews of diverse white wines for summertime sipping

As temperatures begin to creep up, it's about time to switch out winter's go-to red wine for a more summer-appropriate selection. Italy is arguably better known for its red wines, but there is also a large variety of quality white wines to choose from, made with both international and indigenous varieties. These wines tend to feature bright fruit and juicy acidity—just perfect for a leisurely afternoon in the sun. This crisp style thrives in the northeast of Italy. Wineries in Trentino-Alto Adige produce their own takes on Pinot Grigio, Pinot Bianco, Chardonnay, Riesling and many others. These best versions are refreshing and layered with appealing spicy and savory notes.

The northern region of Friuli has become popular recently, and its hilly terrain and maritime influence can deliver serious white wines: balanced and minerally, with great acidity. Try out the native Friulano variety; Torre Rosazza makes a floral, aromatic version for just under \$30.

Farther down the boot, Abruzzo also makes distinctive whites worth seeking out, particularly from the two flagship local varieties, Trebbiano and Pecorino. Farther-and-daughter team Alfredo and Antonella Di Tonno offer great value with these two grapes at Cantine Talamonti.

For something a little more off the beaten path, look just across the border to Slovenia, where cooperative Vinska Klet bottles a crisp Sauvignon Blanc under the Giocato label, made by Aleks Simcic of the famed Edi Simcic winery.

**ARNALDO CAPRAI Grechetto Colli Martani Grecante 2015**  
**Score: 90 | \$20**

Thai basil and spice notes lace the creamy mix of Asian pear, white peach, stone and lemon zest in this well-knit white. Light- to medium-bodied and fresh, with a lingering, savory finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,600 cases imported.—A.N.

**GINI Soave Classico Contrada Salvarenza Vecchie Vigne 2012**  
**Score: 90 | \$35**

A spiced version, well-balanced and lacy in texture, with flavors of steeped apricot, orange peel, floral and herb. Offers a long, mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2018. 833 cases made.—A.N.

**TIEFENBRUNNER Pinot Bianco Alto Adige 2015 Score: 90 | \$16**

A mouthwatering, finely meshed white, with a saline tang underscoring the flavors of ripe apricot, yellow plum, pink grapefruit granita and orchard blossom. Drink now through 2020. 780 cases imported.—A.N.

**TORRE ROSAZZA Friulano Friuli Colli Orientali 2015 Score: 90 | \$28**

Aromatic, with orchard blossom and ripe fruit notes, this creamy white is light- to medium-bodied, offering juicy white peach, glazed apple, fresh thyme and almond skin flavors, backed by fresh acidity. Drink now through 2019. 300 cases imported.—A.N.

**TORRE ROSAZZA Pinot Grigio Friuli Colli Orientali 2015**  
**Score: 90 | \$28**

Aromatic, with floral and spice notes, this mouthwatering white offers flavors of ripe Asian pear, grated ginger and clementine, revealing a stony underpinning. Lithe and lively, with a lingering, creamy finish. Drink now through 2019. 650 cases imported.—A.N.

**PETER ZEMMER Riesling Alto Adige 2015 Score: 90 | \$18**

Beautifully balanced, with racy acidity married to layered flavors of nectarine, mandarin orange zest, Thai basil and fleur de sel. Creamy and lasting on the vibrant finish. Drink now through 2021. 300 cases imported.—A.N.

**KUPELWIESER Pinot Bianco Alto Adige 2015 Score: 89 | \$19**

Clean-cut and vibrant, this floral white offers flavors of Honeycrisp apple, pickled ginger, lemon cream and star anise. Drink now through 2019. 400 cases imported.—A.N.

**KUPELWIESER Riesling Alto Adige 2015 Score: 88 | \$17**

Meyer lemon, pink grapefruit granita, Thai basil and pickled ginger notes emerge in this zippy Riesling. Offers a snappy, stone-tinged finish. Drink now. NA cases made.—A.N.

**TIEFENBRUNNER Chardonnay Alto Adige 2015 Score: 88 | \$16**

Ripe pear, apple blossom, Meyer lemon zest and mineral notes are well-meshed with bright acidity in this expressive, light- to medium-bodied Chardonnay. Clean-cut, with a mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2019. 1,100 cases imported.—A.N.

**PETER ZEMMER Pinot Grigio Alto Adige 2015 Score: 88 | \$16**

Well-knit and minerally, with a subtle mix of crunchy green pear, lemon pith, honey and apricot flavors. Offers a zesty finish of ground spice. Drink now through 2019. 2,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**FERNANDO PIGHIN & FIGLI Pinot Grigio Friuli Grave 2015**  
**Score: 87 | \$18**

A crisp, stony white, offering hints of ripe yellow peach, kumquat and ground ginger, with a light, snappy finish. Drink now. 30,000 cases imported. - A.N.

**CANTINE TALAMONTI Pecorino Colline Pescaresi Trabocchetto 2015**  
**Score: 87 | \$17**

White peach and tarragon notes are layered with a hint of spicy mineral in this light-bodied white. Creamy and balanced, this refreshing sipper delivers a modest finish. Drink now through 2018. 1,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**CANTINE TALAMONTI Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Trebì 2015**  
**Score: 86 | \$13**

Light and bright, this balanced white offers hints of juicy green pear, verbena and zesty grated ginger. Drink now. 1,500 cases imported.—A.N.

**BARONE FINI Pinot Grigio Valdadige 2015 Score: 85 | \$12**

Mandarin orange, spring forest, yellow peach and candied ginger notes mix in this bright, zippy white. Drink now. 94,838 cases imported.—A.N.

**MASI Pinot Grigio-Verduzzo Delle Venezie Masianco 2015**  
**Score: 85 | \$15**

A bright and mouthwatering white, with spice and stone notes underscoring the kiwifruit, melon and ginger flavors. Drink now. 70,000 cases made.—A.N.

**VINSKA KLET Sauvignon Blanc Primorska Giocato 2014**  
**Score: 85 | \$12**

Fresh and juicy, this light-bodied white offers hints of kiwifruit, fresh tarragon and white peach. Drink now. 5,000 cases imported.—A.N.