

Italy, Campania: 2023 New Releases

By [MONICA LARNER](#) Nov 30, 2023

This report contains 203 notes from Campania, the powerhouse wine region in Southern Italy that consistently offers collectible gems and **exciting value wines** with each new vintage. I tasted a wide collection of reds, rosés, whites and sparkling wines, but I paid special attention to the **white wines** of the region. With a superb array of native grapes like Fiano, Greco, Falanghina, Biancolella, Pallagrello Bianco, Coda di Volpe and more, I would rank Campania among **Italy's top white wine** regions, along with Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Etna.

Most of Campania's whites are breezy, easy to drink and immediate. However, a group of producers is working hard to demonstrate the cellar-aging potential of their whites. Some of the producers working in this direction include Quintodecimo, Tenute Capaldo, Mastroberardino, Ciro Picariello, Casa d'Ambra, Pietracupa and Marisa Cuomo out on the Amalfi Coast. Those names are not new, but their work continues to push the boundaries and set new bars.

In terms of vintages, I can't say that Campania has had an easy time of late. The 2023 vintage saw destructive bouts of fungal disease (specifically downy mildew), and 2022 was scorching hot, as was most of 2021 and 2020. We are now four years out from 2019, the last vintage that delivered even results across reds and whites thanks to classic growing conditions and good weather. Most of the whites in this report are from 2022, and I found that vintage to be uneven overall. Acidity, aromatic nuance and textural firmness are delivered at a lower intensity threshold. A few outliers felt flat and flabby. The cornerstones of Campania's viticulture—volcanic soils, old vines, indigenous grapes, diurnal shifts and high inland elevations—give vintners the important tools needed to react in a challenging vintage like 2022. Some vintners knew how to use those tools, and some did not.



In terms of reds, we have quite a few beauties from 2019, especially from inland areas like Irpinia and Taurasi. Some Aglianico-based reds feel a little jammy in 2020 and to a lesser extent in 2021.

I cut down my Campania report considerably compared to last year, when I reviewed close to 600 wines from the region. My plan going further is to further curate my sample selection in order to bring you the very best that Campania has to offer.