

tannins. It has great potential: Drink after 2010. Imported by The Stacole Company, Inc. —M.L.

**88 Agricola Querciabella 2005 Mon-grana (Maremma); \$18.** Red berry aromas and cherry and candied fruit are backed by spice, horsehide and tobacco. The mouthfeel is thinner, streamlined and still a bit raw. Imported by Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —M.L.

**88 Burchino 2004 Il Burchino (Toscana); \$17.** This blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet and Merlot is genuine and direct, with deep aromas of berry fruit, spice, herbs and cherries. Imported by Biagio Cru & Estate Wines, LLC. —M.L.

**88 Campo al Mare 2005 Bolgheri; \$50.** Tenute Folanari has produced a Bordeaux blend that is definitely on the ripe side. The wine is a touch jammy, with mature cherry, strawberry, plum, blackberry tart, tobacco and chocolate fudge. The mouthfeel has a dense, gritty texture. Imported by Kobrand. —M.L.

**88 Castellani 2004 Vigneti di Campomaggio (Toscana); \$30.** Mineral tones, vibrant fruit, root beer and oak shadings are principal components of the wine's well-balanced nose. The mouthfeel is lean with medium intensity and bright fruit flavors on the close. Imported by Biagio Cru & Estate Wines, LLC. —M.L.

**88 Castello di Monastero 2001 Infinito (Toscana); \$50.** A sophisticated wine with lingering tones of red berry fruit and soft spice. Thanks to its age, many of those beautiful aromas of cola and licorice are just beginning to appear. Imported by WJ. Deutsch & Sons. —M.L.

**88 Cima 2004 Toscana; \$45.** Made from Vermentino Nero, this unique red recalls a structured white wine thanks to its fragrant aromas of blue flowers and fresh fruit. Imported by North Berkeley Imports. —M.L.

**88 Erik Banti 2004 Poggio Maestro Le Spiaggiole (Toscana); \$20.** A very ripe and sweet-smelling wine with thick concentration and deep tones of blackberry, black currant and clove. Imported by Summa Vitis, Inc. —M.L.

**88 Erik Banti 2004 Poggio Maestro Annoseto (Toscana); \$25.** This dark, concentrated wine offers flavors of blackberry preserves, peanuts, hickory and smoked barbecue sauce. The wine is succulent and slightly sweet. Imported by Summa Vitis, Inc. —M.L.

**88 Fattoria Nittardi 2005 Nectar Dei (Maremma); \$55.** Although this wine is rather oak-driven, it makes a lasting impression on

the palate thanks to its concentration and velvety presence in the mouth. Aromas are on the oaky side of oak with toasted nut, charcoal, vanilla and spice-box. Imported by Louis Glunz Wines. —M.L.

**88 Grattamacco 2004 Bolgheri; \$38.** The aromas of this plump, round wine include cherry, vanilla, spice and coffee, but there are also some slightly greenish tones. The wine has smooth tannins with good freshness and length. Imported by Bedford International. —M.L.

**88 Il Borro 2005 Pian di Nova (Toscana); \$20.** The mouthfeel is linear and delicate with lingering tones of sweet cola, almonds, vanilla and spice over solid red fruit. Silky tannins and ample freshness bring up the rear. Imported by USA Wine West. —M.L.

**88 Il Poggione 2004 San Leopoldo (Toscana); \$45.** Succulent Sangiovese makes up half the blend and austere Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc are the other half, giving the wine a fine balance between power and elegance. You'll notice cherry, sage, coffee and candle incense over firm tannins. Imported by Terlato Wines International. —M.L.

**88 La Fortuna 2004 La Fortuna (Sant'Antimo); \$37.** Robust Cabernet Sauvignon and aromatic Sangiovese are blended to produce a crisp wine with fresh and cheerful notes of berry fruit, polished mineral and hazelnut. Imported by Star Industries Inc. —M.L.

**88 Machiavelli 2004 Il Principe (Toscana); \$30.** Machiavelli's "The Prince" is an innovative super Tuscan blend with Sangiovese, Pinot Nero and Cabernet that is fruity and fresh but with excellent power and intensity. The nose is redolent of small berries and exotic spice and the dry finish is long and satisfying. Imported by Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.L.

**88 Marchesi de' Frescobaldi 2003 Castello di Pomino (Pomino); \$25.** Pomino Rosso is unique within the vast world of Tuscan wines with its own special blend of mostly Sangiovese with smaller percentages of Pinot Nero and Merlot. The result is a complex wine with aromas of violets, cinnamon, vanilla and raspberry. Imported by Mayro Murdick Wines LLC. —M.L.

**88 Mazzei 2004 Serrata di Belguardo (Maremma); \$21.** Serrata is a hearty Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon blend that sees 12 months in oak and delivers dense, espresso-like concentration and broad, mature aromas of ripe forest berry, black currant and chocolate. Imported by Palm Bay International. —M.L.

**88 Pagani de Marchi 2004 Olmo (Toscana); \$40.** This wine is characterized by thick concentration and mature notes of plum, prune, blackberry tart, coffee, chocolate and black licorice. The wine delivers thick aromatics and dense tannins and is almost too much of a good thing. A blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Imported by Livorno Imports. —M.L.

**88 Rocca delle Macie 2005 Sasyr (Toscana); \$17.** Sasyr is a new product from Rocca della Macie. It's a blend of Sangiovese and Syrah with great fruit intensity and spiciness carried forward by the wine's natural succulence and intensity. Its top selling point, however, is its drinkability and broad food-pairing potential. Imported by Palm Bay International. —M.L.

**88 Tenuta di Colosorbo 2005 Sant'Antimo; \$24.** This wine takes a modern approach, recognized by the ripe blueberry, currant, vanilla and toasted nut aromas that characterize it. The wine is soft and silky in the mouth with a pleasing quality and bright spice notes on the finish. Imported by Michael Skumik Wines. —M.L.

**88 Villa Pillo 2005 Borgoforte (Toscana); \$12.** The wine opens with aromas of cherry fruit, cola, coffee and leather. It boasts good intensity, chewy tannins and ripe succulence on the finish. A Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon blend. Imported by Pebble Ridge Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.L.

**87 Argentiera 2005 Poggio ai Ginepro (Bolgheri); \$28.** This blend of Cabernet, Merlot and Syrah has a lot of heat and power to within, recognized by jammy cooked or jammy notes. But you'll also get very pleasant, warm notes of soft leather and sweet pipe tobacco. Imported by Banville & Jones Wine Merchants. —M.L.

**87 Casale del Mare 2006 Fortino (Toscana); \$NA.** A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, the wine has mineral elements that are backed by dried herb spice, meaty black fruit and coffee bean. The Cabernet Sauvignon component is obvious, but a bit too green, but not out of balance. —M.L.

**87 Erik Banti 2004 Carato (Toscana); \$25.** A 60-30-10 blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet and Syrah, Carato is a vibrant, cheerful wine with fragrant aromas that recall the small berry fruit and blue flowers usually associated with Sangiovese. The wine has a clean and balanced delivery and ends with crisp acidity. Imported by Summa Vitis, Inc. —M.L.

**87 Fattoria Corzano e Paterno 2004 Corzano (Toscana); \$40.** This blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon is light in