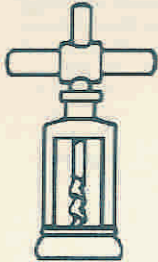


# The WINE ADVOCATE

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Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s

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## The WINE ADVOCATE®

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

### RATING SYSTEM

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

96-100

An **extraordinary** wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.

90-95

An **outstanding** wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.

80-89

A **barely above average to very good** wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.

70-79

An **average** wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.

60-69

A **below average** wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.

50-59

A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

COPPO	2000	BARBERA D'ASTI CAMP DU ROUSS	PIEDMONT	(\$16.00)	RED	89
COPPO	1999	BARBERA D'ASTI POMOROSSO	PIEDMONT	(\$58.00)	RED	91
COPPO	1998	BARBERA D'ASTI RISERVA DELLA FAMILIA	PIEDMONT	(\$95.00)	RED	91

Renowned Umbrian oenologist Riccardo Cotarella has moved north to Piedmont to consult at this estate. Coppo's big, spicy, deep ruby-colored **2000 Barbera d'Asti Camp du Rouss** reveals excellent ripeness in addition to copious quantities of red and black fruit aromas intermixed with hints of spice, licorice, dried herbs, and fruitcake. This expressive, medium-bodied Barbera should be consumed over the next 2-3 years. The spectacular **1999 Barbera d'Asti Pomorosso** is a 2000-case, single vineyard cuvée aged 16 months in French barriques prior to bottling. Expressive and sumptuous, it boasts an opaque ruby/purple color in addition to a gorgeous perfume of strawberry and cherry liqueur intermixed with aromas of spice, vanilla, and smoke. Intense and

flamboyant, with a long, lusty finish, it will drink well for 5-6 years. Lastly, the **1998 Barbera d'Asti Riserva della Familia** is a 100% new oak-aged cuvée that had the "full monty" garage wine treatment of malolactic in barrel, 18 months in new wood, and 32 months in the bottle prior to release. No shy wine at 13.7% alcohol, it comes from a vineyard planted on pure limestone. More Bordeaux-like than Piedmontese, it offers up notes of white pepper, cedar, spice box, graphite, black fruits, and toasty vanilla. Dense, full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, with a 40-second finish, this superb Barbera d'Asti is totally different from anything else I have tasted from Piedmont. Drink it over the next 5-6 years. A Leonardo Locascio Selection, Winebow, Hohokus, NJ; tel. (201) 445-0620