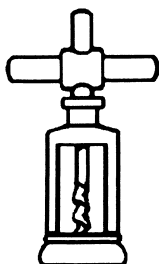


The WINE Advocate

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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	2003	BARBERA D'ASTI L'AVVOCATA	(\$15.00)	87
COPPO	2001	MONDACCIONE	(\$55.00)	90

Coppo, like most of the better producers of Barbera in Piedmont, was unable to make any sort of selection of grapes in 2002, and **Barbera d'Asti L'Avvocata**, with good fruit and ripeness, an attractive roundness, and refreshing acidity to balance the alcohol. It is a wine meant for early consumption, but the 2004 version, built with more serious purposes in mind, is notably different and much worth waiting for, as it is always an excellent value. The **2001 Mondaccione**, the premier Freisa of Piedmont along with Aldo Vaira's, will hopefully

accordingly the two top wines, Pomorosso and Camp du Rouss, are absent this year. Instead there is the regular bottling, the **2003** stimulate more interest in a grape with a significant untapped potential. Dark in color, the wine's raspberry fruit, notes of herbs, underbrush, bark, and truffles, and very firm texture add up to something original. In an era of standardized wines, it should appeal to those looking for something new and different and will continue to drink well for a decade. Importer: Winebow, Hohokus, NJ; tel. (201) 445-0620