

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Masseria Setteporte 2023 Etna Rosso

Back to my beloved Italy this week with the Masseria Setteporte 2023 Etna Rosso. If you've enjoyed the Sicilian red blend on the wine list this summer, this is a step up from that. From the high volcanic slopes around Mt. Etna in Sicily, this organic red is 95% Nerello Mascalese and 5% Nerello Cappuccio, both native to the island. The vines are 30 years old and reach deep into that mineral-rich volcanic soil. It's aged in neutral oak to preserve the clarity and liveliness of the grapes, so it's focused rather than heavy. You could put a slight chill on this and it would be fantastic. "Expect a fresh, fragrant profile of tart red cherry, wild strawberry, rose petal, and a pronounced mineral streak that is signature to the island," plus that classic Mediterranean herbal garrigue. It's somehow rustic and elevated at the same time, \$27.99 a bottle.

WINE PICK

Wagner Stempel 2023 Dry Riesling

It's been a while since we've talked about a Riesling and it is almost Oktoberfest after all, so how about the Wagner Stempel 2023 Dry Riesling. This Riesling is Trocken, a German dry, and it's been somewhat tough to get our hands on any of those lately with all of the semi-sweet options on the market. I've even seen this described as "bone dry." It's easy to forget that Riesling is one of the six Noble Grapes, and when you get a good one, it's incredibly worthwhile. From the western edge Rheinhessen in Germany where the soils are also of volcanic origin, this organically farmed Riesling has notes of Asian pear, green apple, white peach, and wet stone with a salty, mineral finish and "laser-focused acidity and striking precision." A classic cool-climate expression for \$20.99, and it will remind you why Riesling is still one of the best.