



Wine Spectator, October

... blend of Aglianico, Cabernet and

SICILY AND SARDINIA

Sun-drenched and hot, Sicily is one of Italy's wine-producing regions. Yet its total output significantly increased in the mid- to late 1990s as wineries led by the Planeta family, shifted from blending to bottling quality wines. Today, Nero d'Avola grape has become a well-regarded, country-style reds, mixing ripe dark cherries on a robust frame.

Dozens of wineries make good to very good versions. Madafora, Cantine Barbera, Altadonna, Baglio Pupillo are just a few. Cusumano's Nero d'Avola (\$7, \$12) stands out for its combination of substance and wide availability.

89**Cantine Barbera Nero d'Avola Sicilia 2011**

\$16 On the earthy side, with solid density to the dark plum and black cherry notes that are woven with hints of bitter almond, *garrigue* and olive paste on the savory finish. Drink now. 3,700 cases made.—N.W.