

Italian wines taste good with so many foods

We love Italian wines. They harmonize well with food.

Cook what you want. It doesn't have to be Italian cuisine. Prepare meat and potatoes, meat loaf or hamburgers. Italian wines will make anything you prepare taste better.

You probably don't believe that French wines require coq au vin or veal cordon bleu, so you needn't insist on veal parmesan or fettuccini with porcini mushrooms as matches with Italian wines.

The following are wine recommendations based on a recent tasting of two dozen Italian wines from a broad spectrum of Italian wine regions.

THE WINE firm of Mastroberardino is south of Rome in the region known as Campania.

Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio, grown in the volcanic ash at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, is a generous white wine. The 1989 version (\$13) boasts fresh, juicy apple and pear aromas and flavors.

Lungarotti is a winery in Umbria, near the hill city of Perugia, the only land-locked province in Italy.

Here, Theresa Lungarotti has taken over the winemaking reins from her father, Giorgio, and is producing world-class wines.

Among Lungarotti's superb red wines are the 1988 Rubesco (\$13) and

the 1989 Rubesco Riserva (\$29).

Made from the same grapes as chianti, Rubesco is a versatile red that features good berry aromas and flavors — a wine to open and enjoy.

Lungarotti's Rubesco Riserva is a serious wine (with a serious price), released after eight years of aging in Lungarotti's cellar.

The red berry character is still there with added dimensions of leather, mushroom and spice. It's a big well-structured wine for the person who wants a real mouthful.

FROM PERSONAL visits with the Ceretto brothers in the Piedmont, we have learned first-hand their dedication to producing quality, value-priced wines.

One of the outstanding white wines from this region is the 1989 Ceretto Arneis "Biange" (\$20). It boasts fresh pear aromas and flavors with a freshness that is unbeatable either as a refreshing sipper or as an accompaniment to food.

The 1988 Ceretto Barolo "Zonchera" (\$21) is undoubtedly the best value among Barolos on the market. Barolos are big red wines that frequently cost \$30 and more.

This wine has lots of flavor and is drinkable now. It has good structure in case you should want to age it for another year or two.

IN CHIANTI are seven sub-re-



focus on wine

Eleanor and Ray Heald

gions or zones. Most people think that Chianti Classico makes the best wine, but the word classico simply means the heart of the region. Capazzana, for instance, makes chianti in the Montalbano zone, northwest of Florence.

The 1988 Capazzana Chianti Montalbano (\$8) is blended with 10 percent cabernet sauvignon. It exudes

fresh, supple fruit and is very easy to like.

Montasento is a producer of chianti in the classico zone that stretches south of Florence to Siena.

If you prefer a big, chewy red wine with the added advantage of some age, try the 1982 Montasento Chianti Classico Riserva "Il Poggio" (\$28). It boasts a dried berry and

WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

Soave is a white wine made in the northern wine region known as Trentino Alto Adige. Much Soave is light and undistinguished but not the 1989 Anselmi Soave Classico (\$8). The aromas are reminiscent of apples, pears, spice and flowers. Clean, refreshing tastes invite another sip. This wine is a great aperitif all by itself, with appetizers, or grilled fish with a delicate sauce. Bravo!

WINE BULLETIN BOARD

A great way to relax with wine and food on a Friday. Fran Kypela, national sales director for Kermitt Lynch Wines, will host a tasting of eight wines and a dinner buffet centered around the theme "French Country Wines" at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Rattlemate Club in Detroit. Cost is \$47.50 all-inclusive. Phone 567-4843 for reservations.

spice character with big tannins and a rich mouthfeel.

The wines recommended in this story can be found at better wine

shops in the metropolitan area. If you can't find the wine you're looking for, ask the retailer to order it for you.

new products

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The brew Caffee Strada, which contains 100 percent Arabica beans, has been added to the gourmet shelves of Hudson's Marketplace in metropolitan Detroit.

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