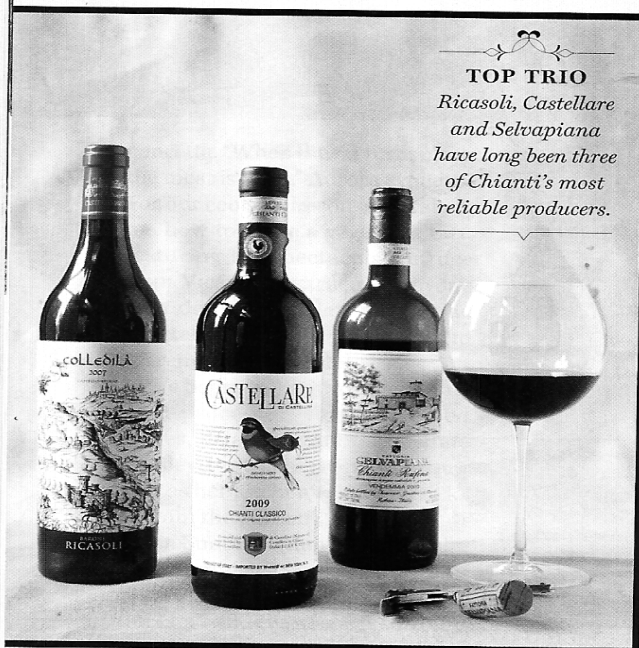


Best New Chiantis

The Chianti of our collective memory—a harsh red wine in a rustic wicker basket—belongs in the '70s. Today's best Chiantis, which derive their character from the Sangiovese grape, are crisp, herb-inflected and fabulous with hearty winter dishes. *FeW's* Ray Isle picks his favorite bottles.



Recent Chianti vintages, notably 2007 and 2009, have been extraordinary.



TOP TRIO
Ricasoli, Castellare and Selvapiana have long been three of Chianti's most reliable producers.

10 BOTTLES TO BUY

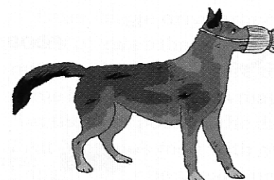
- 2010 Toscolo Chianti (\$10)**
A great basic Chianti, with an abundance of crisp red fruit.
- 2007 Tenimenti Angelini San Leonino Chianti Classico (\$16)**
Angelini is known for its Brunellos, but its fragrant, medium-bodied Chianti is impressive, too.
- 2009 Selvapiana Chianti Rufina (\$17)**
Selvapiana is one of the Chianti Rufina region's best producers, as this bold wine shows.
- 2009 Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico (\$18)**
A spot-on Chianti Classico from a historic property, full of wild berry flavor.
- 2007 Marchesi dé Frescobaldi Nipozzano Riserva Chianti Rufina (\$19)**
The 2007 vintage produced ripe, powerful Chiantis full of juicy black-cherry fruit.
- 2009 Fèlsina Berardenga Chianti Classico (\$21)**
Pretentious floral violet notes are the hallmark of this streamlined, luscious wine.
- 2008 Castello di Monsanto Chianti Classico Riserva (\$22)**
Elegant and classically styled, this is an iconic Chianti bottling.
- 2007 Ruffino Riserva Ducale Chianti Classico (\$22)**
Crisp raspberry notes characterize this easy-to-find bottling from Rufina.
- 2009 Castellare Chianti Classico (\$23)**
Vineyards at high altitudes and very low yields help explain Castellare's dark interior.
- 2008 Barone Ricasoli Chianti Classico Colledilà (\$65)**
A vintage single-vineyard red from a grand estate, its herb-edged, wild cherry flavor is remarkably complex.

BASKET CASES

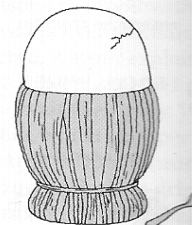
What do you call a straw-covered Chianti bottle turned into a candleholder? Boring. Illustrator Peter Arkle has more creative ideas for reusing the baskets.



VERY CLASSY PAPERWEIGHT



DOG MUZZLE



OSTRICH EGG-CUP