

## From **"Italian Gems" Series – Arrowine Weekly News**

Arrowine is the largest Virginia wine store  
4508 Lee Highway – Arlington, VA 22207  
Tel. 703-525-0990  
e-mail: [drosen@arrowine.com](mailto:drosen@arrowine.com)  
web-site: [www.arrowine.com](http://www.arrowine.com)

Subject: *Italian Gem: Ceci's "Secret" from Puglia*

### Arrowine E-Mail Special

October 30, 2007

- Italian Gem:  
2005 Castel del Monte Rosso  
DOC, Giancarlo Ceci, Puglia

Greetings,

#### The "Italian Gems" Series

*I haven't been this excited about a group of wines in a long time. Ever since an eye-opening dinner and series of tastings in Italy this spring, I've been looking forward to sharing them with you.*

*The wines are the selections of Paolo Boselli, who represents a few dozen carefully selected high-quality Italian wine producers. Paolo's producers are generally small-scale, quality-focused wine growers whose wines are not (yet) well known outside of Italy. The wines in this series represent the best wines we can find. **Because we had them imported especially for us, the prices are great.** The wines of this series have never, before now, been available in Virginia. **They will surpass your expectations.***

*If you, too, enjoy discovering new wines, please try the wines from this series. I know you will be excited, too!*

**Jim Cutts**

*Italian Gem:  
2005 Castel del Monte Rosso DOC, Giancarlo Ceci, Puglia*



**Italian Gem: 2005 Castel del Monte Rosso DOC, Giancarlo Ceci, Puglia**  
Reg. \$13.99

6 bottle price: \$11.99 per bottle

12 or more bottles: \$10.99 per bottle (save over 21%)

Only 75 cases available

**Arrives at Arrowine on Friday**

Giancarlo Ceci (the producer) and Castel del Monte (an area in northern Puglia--the "heel" of the boot of Italy) are not household names outside of Italy. That may change. **The amount of flavor and enjoyment he crams into a bottle that sells for under \$15 is simply stunning.** I was

impressed by the wine, and couldn't believe the price. When I asked Giancarlo his secret, he smiled and said **the "secret" is his beloved grape uva di troia. Uva di troia is a thick-skinned, super- flavorful grape.** It is also a late ripening grape that is difficult to grow well because, without smart farming and hard work, the large tight bunches can ripen unevenly and almost every bunch can have some unripe grapes (which cause harshness in wine). By selecting the best vines, planting them only in appropriate locations, and farming them carefully, Ceci (who has been organic since 1988) is able to achieve excellent ripeness and fabulous quality. For the Castel del Monte Rosso, Giancarlo blends his uva di troia with montepulciano and aglianico. As you might expect from this blend of intense and flavorful varieties, **this wine is big with lots of concentration and deep dark flavor.** What you might not expect is how fresh and velvety this big red is. What will absolutely boggle your mind is that all this flavor can be had for such a low price. This low-priced red will age well for at least 3-5 years. It is a "must try" that I'm buying by the case. Here are my tasting notes:

In the glass this has a nice deep garnet purple color. It has aromas of black and red berries with hints of violets. **The palate is full of flavor, showing wild blackberries and red plums with just a little white pepper spice.** The finish is bright and textured with rounded tannins. Even with the big flavor, there is nothing harsh or drying. This is full of flavor and will be a go-to wine with robust pastas and stews. Interestingly, it showed no oxidation and was at least as good after being open for 24 hours as when the cork was first pulled.

**To order, call us at 703-525-0990. Don't wait though. Only 75 cases are available, and they will go fast. Wine arrives Friday, November 2nd.**

***Jim Cutts***

*Not responsible for typographical errors.*

**Arrowine Store Hours**

**Monday - Saturday 10 - 8**

**Sunday 10 - 4**

email: [drosen@arrowine.com](mailto:drosen@arrowine.com)

phone: 703.525.0990

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