

Wine Favorites of the Year: Elin McCoy

Nov. 2 (Bloomberg) -- My annual list of the most memorable wines and spirits I've tasted ranges far and wide this year, covering classic and trend-setting bottles from a half-dozen countries...

...Grappa has never really been my thing. It's made by distilling the grape seeds, stems and stalks discarded during winemaking, and most bottlings are throat-searing firewater. But at a recent tasting of Italy's longest-aged grappas, six Riserva Cantina Privata bottlings from the century-old Bocchino distillery in the Piedmont region, I was wowed by heady, complex aromas and pure, elegant flavors. These blends of grappas from the Nebbiolo and Moscato grapes are aged in French oak barrels to a pale amber color and a warm mellow smoothness. My favorites were the intense, nutty 29-year-old (375 milliliters, \$360) and the stunning 30-year-old (375 ml, \$399), which has a bouquet of spice and sun-dried fruit and a light taste of honey.

Who knew grappa could aspire to cognac-like elegance?

By Elin McCoy



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