



buying guide bestofyear 2011

italian sparklers
franciacorta

88 Ricci Curbastro NV Rosè Brut (Franciacorta).

This pretty Brut Rosé sparkler opens with a pretty pink color and aromas of stone fruit, white almond and chestnut honey. Thanks to the wine's foamy perlage, the bubbly tastes thick and smooth on the close. Domenico Valentino. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Ricci Curbastro NV Brut (Franciacorta).

Neutral on the nose, this Italian sparkler offers a sharp and tonic mouthfeel followed by light flavors of citrus and peach. It is dry and cleansing with small, tonic effervescence. Domenico Valentino. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Ricci Curbastro NV Extra Brut (Franciacorta).

Here's an easy sparkling wine from the Franciacorta region near Milan in northern Italy that delivers tones of pressed rose, stone fruit and candied lemon rind. It finishes with tight, crisp acidity and steely effervescence. Domenico Valentino. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Ricci Curbastro 2006 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).

Here's an easy and fresh sparkling wine from northern Italy that opens with aromas of toasted nut, apricot and candied lemon rind. It shows soft, foamy mousse on the finish. Domenico Valentino. —M.L.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA