

Winter wines to keep you warm

By *Stephanie Miskew* / Published February 21, 2014 / *FoxNews.com*



Snow, sleet, freezing rain. If you're sick and tired of the weather affecting most of the country, you're not alone. When piling on layers of clothing fails to banish the chill from your bones, why not warm up from the inside out?

Weather this cold shouts out for red wine – the bolder the better. And what better region to turn to for a group of diverse yet supremely satisfying red wines than Italy? Italy has been producing wine since the second century B.C., and it has remained a fundamental part of Italian life ever since. Red wine production here is twice that of white wine, and each of Italy's 20 wine regions has a culture all its own.

From Nebbiolo in Piedmont to Cannonau in Sardinia, Italy's treasure trove of indigenous red grape varieties is virtually unrivaled in the world of wine.

For immediate relief from the chill, here is a selection of robust Italian reds at a variety of price points.

4 Cavalli Tenuta Degli Dei, Tuscany, Italy, 2009 (\$40)



This wine represents a collaboration of fashion designer Roberto Cavalli and his son, Tommaso, whose hands-on approach to managing his family's 70-acre Tenuta Degli Dei estate has helped develop an acclaimed portfolio of wines. Winemaker Carlo Ferrini, Wine Enthusiast's 2007 Winemaker of the Year, crafted this blend of Bordeaux grape varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot) grown on Tuscan soil. The result is a wine with enticing aromas of black fruit, violet and spice followed on the palate by black currant, black tea and cassis with a velvety, luxurious mouthfeel ... it's the cashmere pashmina of wines.