

## Pick of the Pignolettos: top 12 to try

Wines were tasted independently by both Carla Capalbo and Sally Easton MW

### ① Orsi Vigneto San Vito, Sui Lieviti Pignoletto Frizzante Brut, Colli Bolognesi 2014 95

E22 (2017) Noble Fine Liquor, Tutto Wines  
Reverting to the rifermentato technique used by his grandfather, Federico Orsi produces this wine with a second fermentation in bottle. Without disgorgement, the indigenous-yeast lees provide protection from oxidation. At the time of tasting, the wine had spent four years on the lees, giving it sweet-pastry aromas and a dry, creamy palate with plush peachy fruits and yeasty spiciness. Organic. Tasted by Sally Easton MW  
Drink 2020-2024 Alcohol 12.5%

### ② Tenuta Santacroce, Metodo Familiare Sur Lie Pignoletto Frizzante Brut, Colli Bolognesi NV 92

N/A UK [www.tenutasantacroce.it](http://www.tenutasantacroce.it)  
This is an estate owned by the Chiarli family and it has 30ha of vines, about half of which are Grechetto Gentile. Made with a second fermentation in bottle and no disgorgement, this wine has aromas of cinnamon and savoury pastry, melding with orange skin and marmalade piquancy for complexity on the palate. Shows good concentration. SE Drink 2020-2023 Alc 12%

Photograph: Carla Capalbo

### ③ Cevico, Romandiola Pignoletto Frizzante Brut, Colli d'Imola 2018 91

£9.95-£11.95 Exel, Hallgarten Wines, The Drink Shop, Vin Cognito  
Romandiola is the ancient name for Romagna. From Terre Cevico, a large, well-established cooperative, the grapes are grown on the hillsides above Imola and picked by hand. Herbal notes and hawthorn blossom on the nose, expressive and elegant palate with yellow-citrus flavours, a hint of lychee and a rounded finish. Tasted by Carla Capalbo  
Drink 2020-2022 Alc 11.5%

### ④ Balli Vini, L'Ancestrale Pignoletto Spumante Brut Nature, Colli Bolognesi 2017 89

N/A UK [www.ballivini.com](http://www.ballivini.com)  
This 10-month lees-aged cuvée from Alessio Balestri shows appealing yeastiness and development. A steely-savoury nose with complex hints of nuttiness leads to a rich palate with honeyed breadth. Baked apples and raisins are well balanced against its steely-dry frame, supple mousse and long finish. SE Drink 2020-2022 Alc 13%

### ⑤ Castelvetro, Pignoletto Extra Dry NV 89

£11.95-£17.99 Bonafide Wines, Enotria&Coe,

Exel, Great Western Wine, Great Wines Direct, Simply Wines Direct, The Wine Centre  
The vineyards for this extra-dry wine have long been owned by the Chiarli family. They are located in the hills near the village of Castelvetro in Modena, and the wine is made in the Cleto Chiarli cellars there. It has a toasty, flinty note to the nose and is well balanced on the palate, with persistent bubbles and refreshing flavours of grapefruit and pear. CC  
Drink 2020-2022 Alc 12% ➤



# Pick of the Pignolettos: top 12 to try (cont...)

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## Il Monticino, Frizzante del Monticino Pignoletto Brut, Colli Bolognesi NV 89

N/A UK [www.ilmonticino.it](http://www.ilmonticino.it)

From a 2.5ha Morandi family vineyard at 200m-250m in the hills close to Bologna. Made in the Charmat-Martinotti method, with about 40 days on lees. The nose has green apple, pear, peach, even a hint of tropical melon, reflected on the palate with spiky-fresh yet soft lemon-sorbet frothiness. *SE Drink* 2020-2021 *Alc* 12%

## Villa Ciaidini, Pignoletto Millesimato Brut 2018 89

£14.99-£16.30 Alexander Hadleigh, Exel, Hangingditch, Harrogate Fine Wine Co, Liberty Wines, The Wine Reserve

Another from Chiarli vineyards, made by Franco De Blasio. Lively apple and citrus aromas are followed by a full palate with light almond notes, then a refreshing citrusy finish of grapefruit and hints of herbs. *CC Drink* 2020-2022 *Alc* 12%

## Riunite, Tesco Finest Pignoletto Spumante Brut 2018 88

£8.50 Tesco

Made in partnership with one of Emilia Romagna's largest cooperatives, which boasts 1,700 growers and specialises in both red and white sparkling wines. It has an attractive white-floral nose, followed by refreshing apple and pear notes on the palate. The soft bubbles leave a bright and clean finish. *CC Drink* 2020-2022 *Alc* 11.5%

## Sainsbury's, Taste the Difference Pignoletto Spumante Brut NV 88

£9 Sainsbury's

Grapes undergo cold maceration for 10 hours, then soft pressing. The must ferments at low temperatures and the Charmat-Martinotti method is used, with about 30 days on the lees. A light, floral nose leads to red-apple flavours on the palate, a pleasant hint of bitterness and a lively finale. *CC Drink* 2020-2022 *Alc* 11%

## Vallona, Ammestesso Pignoletto, Colli Bolognesi Classico Superiore 2014 95

N/A UK [www.tattorievallona.it](http://www.tattorievallona.it)

Grechetto Gentile grown at about 300m,

matured in cement tanks for three years on lees with stirring. A complex wine that shows aromas of honey, cinnamon and steeliness. Creamy in texture, fresh, rich, concentrated and silky smooth, with flavours of honeyed quince and sweet spices. Well balanced and poised. *SE Drink* 2020-2023 *Alc* 14%

## Gaggioli, Pignoletto, Colli Bolognesi Superiore 2018 90

N/A UK [www.gaggiolivini.it](http://www.gaggiolivini.it)

Grechetto Gentile is hand-harvested then fermented in stainless steel to preserve the grape's natural aromatics. Shows white-floral aromas, fresh quince and apple, along with more concentrated notes of baked apples and pears. The palate is smooth, fresh and wholesome, with good flavour density and a long finish. *SE Drink* 2020-2022 *Alc* 12.5%

## Aldrovandi, Alto Vanto Bianco, Colli Bolognesi Classico Superiore 2017 89

N/A UK [www.altovanto.it](http://www.altovanto.it)

Some of the fruit for this wine comes from Pignoletto vines dating back to 1938, on sommelier Federico Aldrovandi's single hectare in Monteveglio. Fermented in French oak, one-third of which is new. Aromas of honeyed buttercream and lemon toast also show on the round palate. Honeycomb richness, smooth texture and creamy concentration. *SE Drink* 2020-2022 *Alc* 13.5%

