



# Wine Editor Ray Isle's Wines of the Moment

Fresh bottle picks from the recent Food & Wine Classic in Aspen

"What we're going to do today is deadly serious," says Ray Isle, on stage at the Food & Wine Classic in Aspen. "Potato chips and wine; it's very, very serious," he says, launching into the Wine & Potato Chip Pairing seminar, a tasting that's become a sold-out favorite **year after year**.

That introduction – and the seminar itself – exemplify the brand of clever playfulness Isle has cultivated during the past 16 years as Executive Wine Editor at **Food & Wine**, and Wine and Spirits Editor for **Travel + Leisure**.

## Standouts from the 2022 Food & Wine Classic in Aspen:



### Le Macchiole Toscana IGT Paleo Rosso (~\$143)

One of Isle's favorite seminars to lead this year was the "Judgement of Aspen – Great Cabernets From Around the World," a tasting based on the famed 1976 Judgement of Paris. Most of the bottles were benchmark Cabernet Sauvignons from Napa, Bordeaux, and other key regions. But Isle snuck in one outlier to get people thinking. "This one was a bit of a cheat, but we didn't specify that the Cabernets were all Cabernet Sauvignons," he says. So he included this highly rated Cabernet Franc from Bolgheri in Tuscany. "It's a wine I absolutely love. I think it's one of the great expressions of Cabernet Franc in the world." Most attendees thought it was a Cabernet Sauvignon, spurring a discussion about the relationship between the two grapes and their expressions.

*The vintage tasted at the seminar was 2016.*