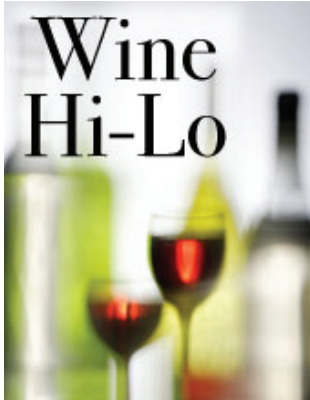


Wine Hi-Lo

## Italy's Alpine Whites

By Richard Nally



Alto Adige is Italian for "lively white wine"

Alto Adige is tucked up under the Dolomite Alps in the far northeastern corner of Italy. Though it actually produces more red wines than white, it is the bright, aromatic whites—grown mostly at altitude on steep, alpine slopes—that have pinned the place on wine lovers' map of the world. The best of the region's native Gewürztraminers, its Pinot Grigios, Pinot Biancos and Sauvignon Blancs, are game-changers for people who don't realize how luscious and elegant Italy's white wines can be.

### HI: Alois Lageder 2007 "Haberle" Pinot Bianco (\$24)

A single vineyard Pinot Blanc from one of the region's best-known producers, this provides the satisfaction many people hope for in a Chardonnay—juiciness and vibrant, ripe fruit—without being over-rich or cloying, as Chardonnay can sometimes be. The winery claims it would be great with salad or asparagus—two tough summer wine matches—and maybe it would, but I loved its mildly spicy, appley flavor combined with a smoky grilled sausage.

