

Check, Please! Bay Area reviews: Smelly's Creole, Maison Danel, Roxx on Main

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My name is Leslie Sbrocco, and I'm the host of *Check, Please! Bay Area*. Each week, I'll share my tasting notes about the wine, beer and spirits the guests and I drank on set during the taping of the show.



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2016 Bertinga Chianti Toscana IGT

Italy, \$75

Class in a glass is the best way to describe the Italian wines of Bertinga. High atop the Tuscan hillsides in Gaiole in Chianti, this historic place produces red wines of impeccable beauty. This sumptuous sipper marries the classic grape of the region, Sangiovese, with equal parts of the international variety Merlot blending the varieties perfectly. Aged in Austrian and French oak for 18 months with another 18 months of aging in bottle, the wine exhibits exotic aromas of red berry, cracked pepper and tea leaves. On the palate it's smooth and silky but with a slight tannic grip and mineral finish that tells of its singular birthplace. Decant to drink now but age a few more years to gain even more complexity and character.

