

# The New York Times

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## Dining

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### FOOD STUFF

*Florence Fabricant*

## Sip a Little Now, Buy a Bottle Later

Giving a new twist to the notion of “try before you buy,” [tastingroom.com](http://tastingroom.com) offers more than 50 sets of six sampler bottles of wine. Once you try the wines, you can order full bottles of them.

There are more than 300 wines available, and though California dominates the selection, other regions and countries, including Australia, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, are represented.

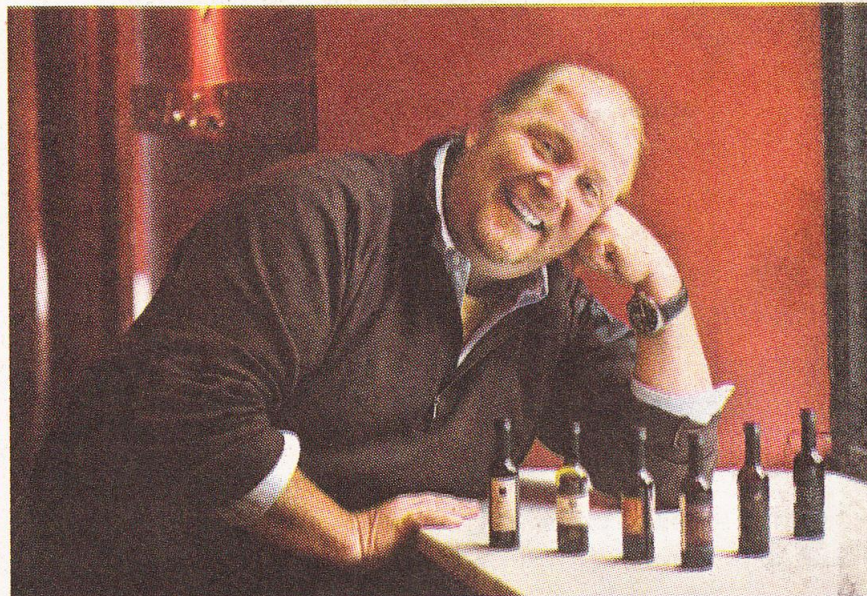
The Web site has just introduced samplers selected by the chefs Mario Batali, below, of New York, and Michael Chiarello of the Napa Valley in California.

“I think it’s groovy,” Mr. Batali

said. “I came up with wines I thought were food-friendly.”

Among his picks are the Patz & Hall Sonoma Coast chardonnay and Dry Creek Vineyard Old Vine zinfandel. Mr. Chiarello selected an assortment of California chardonnays and another of California pinot noirs to show various styles. There is also a wine club with cheaper shipping and some exclusive wines.

*At [tastingroom.com](http://tastingroom.com) samplers are \$24 to \$34.99 for six 50-milliliter bottles; 750-milliliter bottles are \$10.99 to \$109.99. Wine club membership is free; you can receive wines monthly or less frequently. Shipping is available in 32 states.*



FRED R. CONRAD/THE NEW YORK TIMES