

SPECIAL 2021

# TOP OF TUSCANY

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BIG WINE GUIDE: THE TOP 400 TUSCAN WINES  
BRUNELLO, CHIANTI CLASSICO, BOLGHERI AND MORE  
COOL TIPS FOR WHERE TO EAT, DRINK AND STAY

*Vinum*

# CASTELLO COLLE MASSARI

Castello ColleMassari in der Montecucco DOCG-Region – ein absoluter Geheimtipp in der Toskana



Dank ihrem einzigartigen Mikroklima, das vom Monte Amiata und dem Tyrrhenischen Meer beeinflusst wird, ist die Montecucco DOCG-Region eines der Top-Anbaugebiete der Toskana für den Anbau von Sangiovese und Vermentino.

In direkter Nachbarschaft zu Montaleino wird in Montecucco bereits seit der Zeit der Etrusker (600 v. Chr.) Wein produziert. An diese lange Weinbau-Tradition knüpfen Maria Iris Bertarelli und Claudio Tipa heute an. Es war ihr gemeinsamer Traum, in dieser Region das Weingut Castello ColleMassari zu gründen und es zum Herzstück ihrer Domaine zu machen.



Claudio Tipa und Schwester Maria Iris Bertarelli



## ColleMassari

Ausdruck toskanischer Identität und Tradition

Die Domaine ColleMassari umfasst vier Weingüter: Castello ColleMassari in Montecucco, Grattamacco in Bolgheri, Poggio di Sotto und Tenuta San Giorgio in Montaleino. Jedes der Weingüter beherrscht die ursprünglichen, natürlichen und typischen Weinbautechniken seiner Region geradezu meisterlich und schafft es so, in seinen Weinen das jeweilige Terroir in voller Größe zum Ausdruck bringen.



The Website

[www.collemassari.it](http://www.collemassari.it)



The Movie

# Editorial



**N**ow that our lives are centred primarily on our own gardens and our own wine cellars (where time and finances allow), we have much more leisure to do what we wish. COVID-19 has affected many things, including our view of ourselves as wine connoisseurs and quasi-globetrotters.

The majority of our tours of Italy and Tuscany planned for spring and summer 2020 were limited to the works of Fruttero & Lucentini (especially their 'The Palio of Dead Riders', the best Siena book of all) and to exploring the depths of various bottles of mature Brunello, Chianti Classico, Vino Nobile or Bolgheri Superiore. However, things will eventually change, and if you should find the time to flick through this edition of Top of Tuscany as you rekindle your wanderlust with a glass of Tignanello or Masseto, we would be delighted.

The following pages offer a colourful mix of wine stories, and above all a wealth of bottles tasted: we have selected more than 400 from all over Tuscany, with 145 granted the 'Top of Tuscany' accolade.

Enjoy reading!  
**Christian Eder**



Read VINUM Extra 'Top of Tuscany 2021' on your tablet:  
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# Trends & Facts

## Old and new faces

There are changes afoot for Vernaccia and Brunello: long-standing director Stefano Campatelli has left the Consorzio Vernaccia di San Gimignano after six years of working together to devote his time to new activities in Tuscan wine-making. There has also been a change at the Consorzio Brunello di Montalcino: Giacomo Pondini, who was similarly director for six years, left the consortium for Piedmont and has been succeeded in the post by Michele Fontana. Fontana was previously director of the Chianti Classico winery Castello di Meleto.

## Unity is strength

The Consorzio Vino Chianti and the Consorzio di Tutela del Morellino di Scansano have joined forces to create the As.Co.T., l'Associazione Consorzi Toscani (Association of Tuscan Consortiums) and plan to appear jointly at future trade fairs and events. The two consortiums have previously organised joint vintage presentations such as Chianti Lovers and Anteprema Morellino. 2021 plans already include Vinexpo Paris and of course Chianti Lovers on 7 February 2021 in Florence, as Marco Alessandro Bani, director of Consorzio Vino Chianti, explains.



## Artistic label 1

Tomás Saraceno has offered his interpretation of the Bolgheri Superiore DOC Ornellaia 2017 Solare ('sunny'). As part of the winery's traditional Vendemmia d'Artista project, the artist has not only created a personal masterpiece for the estate, but also created an artistic design for a limited series of 111 large-format bottles and developed a special label that can be found on every Ornellaia wine in a case of six 750ml bottles. The work of this contemporary artist, born in Argentina in 1973, is shaped by the conceptual intertwining of art, science and the social sciences.



## Message in a bottle

According to rumour, Riccardo Cotarella - one of Italy's most legendary winemakers - is taking charge of Sting's cellar. Together with his wife Trudie Styler, the popstar owns the Il Palagio winery in Valdarno and has been producing primarily Sangiovese wines there for around 20 years.



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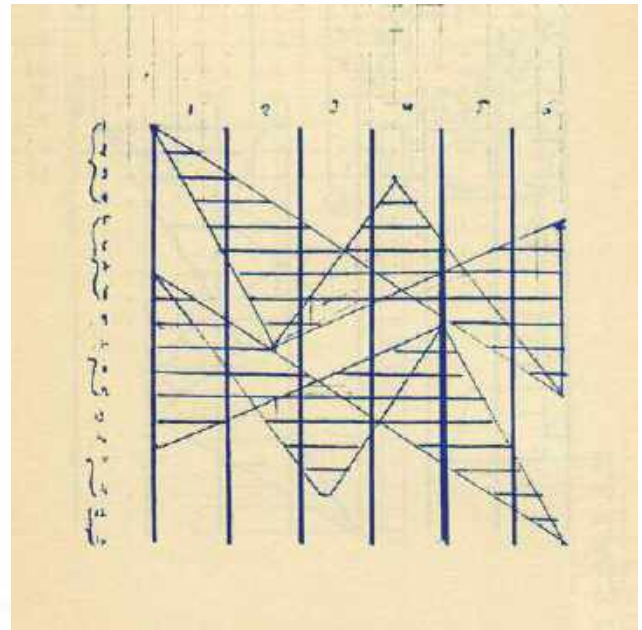
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## Artistic label 2

Artistic labels and tissue paper have been adorning Chianti Classico di Nittardi for 37 years, and have since become a who's who of art. This year, the label and tissue paper wrapping every bottle of Chianti Classico Vigna Doghessa were created by the composer, musician, politician, theorist, philosopher and freedom fighter Mikis Theodorakis. Born on the island of Chios in 1925, this Greek native is a living symbol of Europe. Nittardi's images present his musical cosmos: the label is decorated with a melody, the tissue paper with a star chart of the maestro's creative universe.



## New website for UNESCO World Heritage Site

Wine and Tuscan cuisine are key parts of [www.toscanapatrimoniomondiale.it](http://www.toscanapatrimoniomondiale.it), a platform covering Tuscany's seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These include the city centres of Florence and Siena (the two capitals of Chianti Classico) as well as the Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa, Val d'Orcia and Montalcino with their vineyards, Pienza San Gimignano (the home of Vernaccia), and the twelve Medici villas and two gardens. The 'Photographs of Tuscany: viewpoints for breathtaking shots' itinerary offers specific tips for photograph locations - often with vineyards and olive trees in the background, of course. Children can use the Dante's Journey app to take a virtual trip through the World Heritage Sites.

## Olympic Annata 2019

The five Olympic rings have become Brunello di Montalcino's five stars, the top rating awarded to the 2019 vintage by the expert committee that met in Montalcino in February. Five Olympic stars also adorn the vintage tile on the wall of the Palazzo Comunale (standing alongside tiles for every vintage since 1992), and herald the 2026 Winter Olympics that will be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo. 2019 was also a classic vintage in the Chianti Classico region: spring rains were followed by an averagely warm summer with hardly any rain. A sunny September with significant differences between daytime and night-time temperatures ensured perfectly ripe and healthy grapes. According to the experts of the Chianti Classico consortium, overall the vintage was reminiscent of the great 1980s vintages.



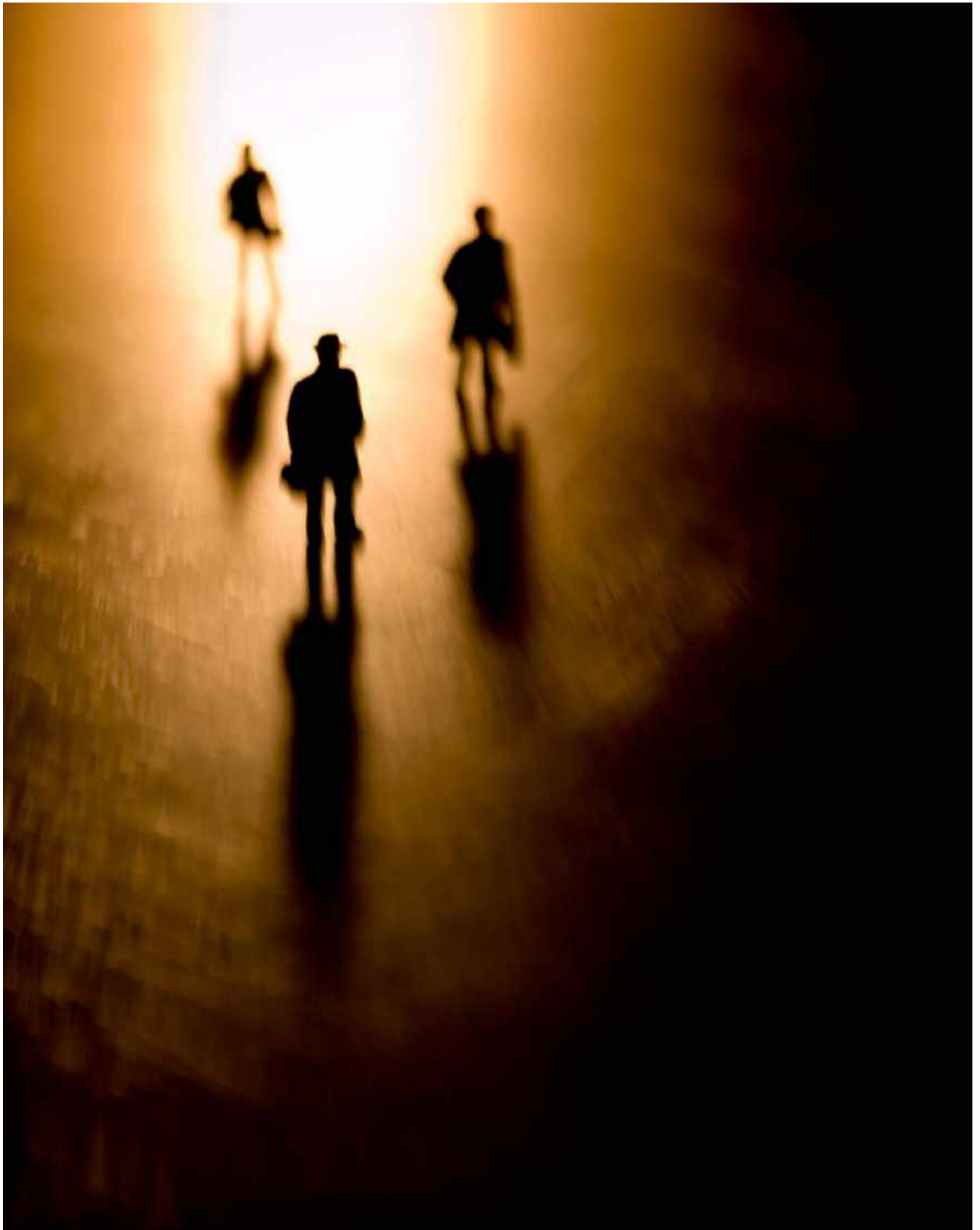
## 'Toscana' featured on the Nobile label

Vino Nobile, Rosso und Vinsanto di Montepulciano are becoming the first DOCG and DOC appellations in the region to feature the name 'Toscana' on their labels. This decision by the consortium is also designed to emphasise the unique selling points of wines from these geographical designations of origin and prevent them from being confused with the Abruzzan grape variety known as Montepulciano or Montepulciano d'Abruzzo when presented on foreign markets: Vino Nobile di Montepulciano is made from Prugnolo Gentile. The name 'Toscana' should make this clearer in the future.

# I tre tenori

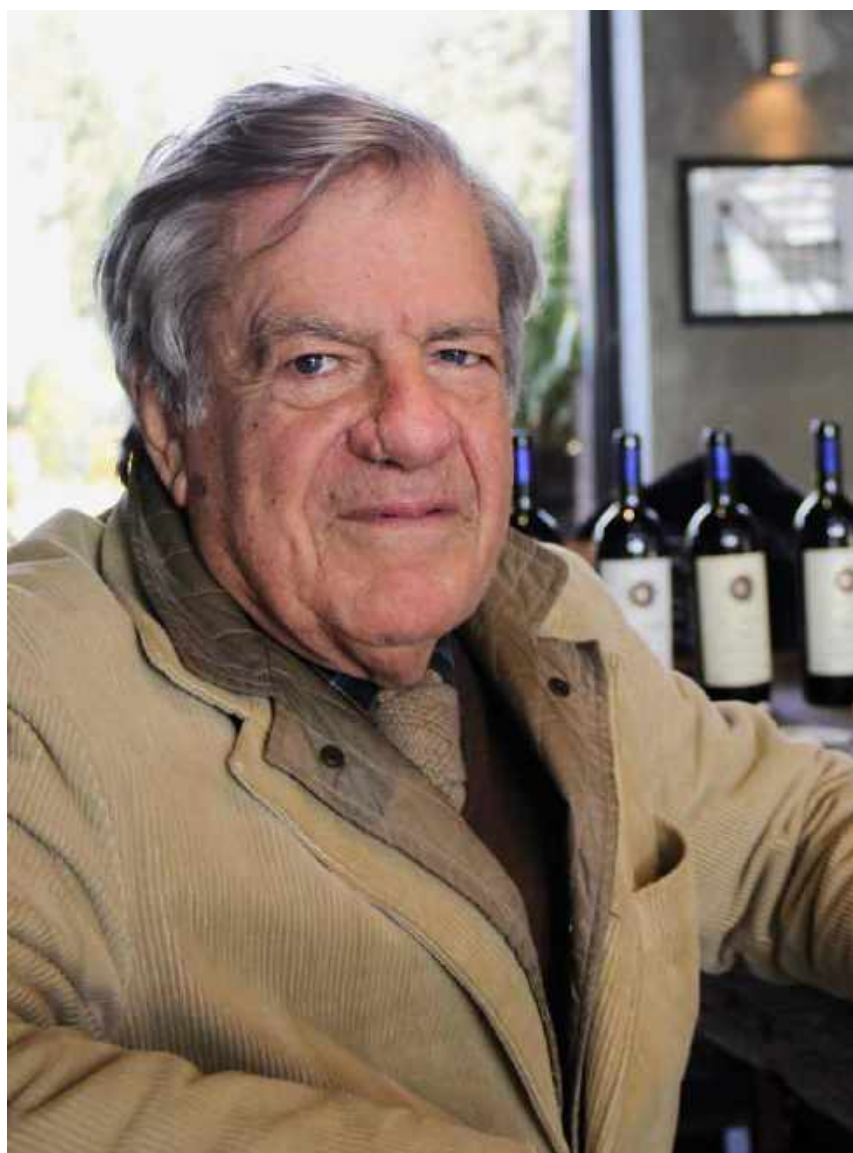
There are three families that have shaped (and are still shaping) the history of Tuscan winemaking: the Marchesi Antinoris, de' Frescobaldis and Incisa della Rocchettas are behind some true Tuscan legends, including Sassicaia, Ornellaia, Tignanello and Luce, to name but a few.





# Incisa della Rocchetta: the monolith

Sassicaia is even highly prized in distant California, as demonstrated by the 2004 film *Sideways*: when wine enthusiast protagonist Miles asks his beloved, a sommelier, what first got her interested in wine, she replies '88 Sassicaia'.



Not a Petrus or Lafite, nor a Brunello or Barolo, but a wine from the Tuscan coast that was bottled as a mere table wine until 1993! This wine from Bolgheri has gained a legendary reputation since it was created in 1968: ultimately, it became one of the first super Tuscans - Italian wines, made from international grape varieties and matured in small oak barrels, that made many Bordeaux examples seem outdated. Sassicaia launched the boom for warming, weighty wines from the Tuscan coast.

The Incisa family is originally from Piedmont, where they still own a wine estate. One of their descendants, Mario Incisa della Rocchetta, studied agriculture and began planting Cabernet in the holdings in Bolgheri owned by his wife Clarice della Gherardesca as early as 1942. He found the perfect place for this in a Tenuta San Guido vineyard right beneath the Castiglioncello fortress. The first Sassicaia was launched in 1968, heralding the birth of super Tuscans and subsequently of Maremma wines. The estate is now run by Mario's son Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta and his daughter Priscilla.

They are continuing the legacy of Mario, who created Sassicaia to be a 'noble' wine, a monolith in the style of fine Bordeaux. He therefore first planted Cabernet Sauvignon at Tenuta San Guido near Bolgheri in 1942 - initially for his own consumption, and then bottled for sale from 1968 onwards. In the 1970s, Baron Philippe de Mouton-Rothschild described Sassicaia as 'good', but rather farouche ('wild'). The wine has retained this wildness to this day.

Marchese Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta views Sassicaia as a timeless but in no way 'mummified' wine: 'Sassicaia's style has changed with time, but we have continued to pick the grapes from the same three or four vineyards without ever adding another, only expanding the existing ones.' The wine's basic make-up has therefore remained the same - lots of Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Cabernet Franc.

Marchese Incisa and the late oenologist Giacomo Tachis agreed that Sassicaia should never be a carefully cultivated artificial wine that dazzles with extract and density: 'Our winery is a very simple setup. We simply process the quality that comes from the vineyards, without changing it. Sassicaia is completely a product of its terroir: an elegant wine that needs to mature.'

Because a Sassicaia needs time: time to find its balance in the cellar, and time to develop in the glass. The wildness that marks its early years is then smoothed out, and its angular tannins polished. A Sassicaia from a great vintage often only reaches its peak after ten, fifteen or even twenty years, when it bewitches with cassis, eucalyptus and black team notes - plus a noble elegance that makes it some of the best that Italy has to offer.

With so much quality in just one wine, there is not necessarily a need to offer second or third wines as other estates do (even if this approach is sometimes criticised). The estate makes a solid Bolgheri Rosso in the shape of Guidalberto, but that is plenty. Sassicaia alone is enough.

# Antinori: Tignanello and more

Marchese Piero Antinori has successfully brought the 600-year-old family empire into a new era. And that is not all: his daughters have now taken the reins and also begun creating fine wines in unexpected parts of Tuscany.



photos: z.Vg., Kevin Cruff

The Antinori family has been devoted to wine for more than six hundred years: since 1385 to be precise, when Giovanni di Piero Antinori joined the Florentine guild of winemakers and wine merchants. The family has consistently directly run the business for 26 generations and often made courageous decisions, without losing sight of tradition and the region as a whole. Today the company is run by Piero's daughters Albiera, Allegra and Alessia, although still assisted by their 82-year-old father. The estate now includes numerous vineyards and winery facilities, with around 1200 hectares of grapes.

Piero Antinori was consistently a pioneer: in the early 1970s he began to implement his own particular interpretation of a great Tuscan wine in selected Tenuta Tignanello vineyards in the Val di Pesa. In an era when white grapes were still being used in Chianti, his aim was to create a wine which could keep up with the best the world had to offer. The native Tuscan variety Sangiovese was souped up with 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, with everything matured in barriques. This would later be known as 'super Tuscan' wine. Tignanello is still produced to this same recipe and is a flagship for its kind.

There is no doubt that year in, year out, Tignanello, Solaia and Guado al Tasso are some of Italy's best wines. However, Piero's investment in lesser-known parts of Tuscany is finally bearing fruit. 'There are no compromises when it comes to quality', as Piero Antinori once said in an interview. So to name but a few, the estates of Pian delle Vigne near Montalcino, La Braccessa near Montepulciano and Le Mortelle in Maremma are now producing wines that represent some of the best from their particular regions.

Marchese Piero Antinori was at the head of the family empire for more than 50 years: at the 50th anniversary in 2016, he allowed himself to retire and handed the reins over to his oldest daughter Albiera. Piero Antinori once commented: 'My father was 68 when he handed operational management over to me in 1966, and said "Do what you think is right, I'm here if you need me." I said the same to my daughters.'

However, Tignanello remains Marchese Piero's favourite wine: 'It was a symbol of Antinori and became a symbol of Tuscany: tradition and innovation rolled into one.'

People sometimes forget that the Antinori family is also behind two other great Tuscan wines, namely Ornellaia and Masseto. Lodovico Antinori - unlike his older brother, businessman and rationalist Piero - was the revolutionary and dreamer of the family, who headed to California and returned with a mission. On the Tuscan coast near to the estate owned by his cousin Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta, he found land to establish his own vineyard: Ornellaia, 'Californian but better', as he put it.

Lodovico began making wines from Cabernet and Merlot in 1985 and became part of the Sassicaia/Ornellaia constellation - until the estate was sold to Frescobaldi/Mondavi (now just Frescobaldi) after twenty years and Lodovico returned to the family chateau. The rest is history.



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**Great Tuscan classics**, wines like Chianti Classico **Riserva Ducale Oro** and **Brunello di Montalcino Greppone Mazzi**

have always been at the heart of Ruffino's production. At the same time, the willingness to take on new challenges has resulted in the creation of striking Supertuscans, including the multi-award-winning **Modus**, the acquisition of two fully organic Veneto estates, where Ruffino produces Prosecco.

Protecting the environment and its biodiversity through the use of sustainable practices in the vineyard

and cellar management have become fundamental factors for Ruffino. The overarching brand **Ruffino Cares** underpins all these **environmental sustainability** projects, in addition to the promotion of **responsible drinking**, a concept centred on Mediterranean civilization and lifestyle through targeted and impactful campaigns.



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# Marchesi de' Frescobaldi: family business

In 50 years, the Marchesi de' Frescobaldi family have managed to gather up some of the best wine estates in Tuscany: from Castello di Nipozzano, Tenuta di Castiglioni and CastelGiocondo to Luce della Vite, Ornellaia and Masseto, as well as the recent acquisition of Tenuta Perano in Chianti Classico.



photo: z.Vg.

**B**rothers Vittorio, Ferdinando and Leonardo de' Frescobaldi, who have jointly run the family estate for decades, have always had their own particular chemistry. The members of the family are still very tightly knit and live together at the family's palazzo in the centre of Florence. However, the next generation has finally taken the helm.

Lamberto Frescobaldi, the son of Vittorio, runs the operations in Tuscany and beyond.

However, for decades his father and uncle headed the company alone, as well as managing the holdings of other family members. Marchese Vittorio was president, Ferdinando was responsible for the Italian market, and Leonardo for the rest of the world. Under the leadership of the farsighted Vittorio, they managed to transform a traditional 1950s farming business that was still governed by the rules of the 'mezzadria' share-cropping system into a modern winemaking enterprise.

Document show that the Frescobaldis moved from Val di Pesa to Florence in around 1000 and settled on the left bank of the Arno. A palazzo, a loggia and a tower - then the tallest in the city - were built on the Piazza de' Frescobaldi. In 1252, an ancestor named Lamberto Frescobaldi built the first wooden bridge over the Arno to link the noble family's holdings up with the historic city centre.

The family now owns nearly 5000 hectares of land with around 1300 hectares of vines: from high sites near Pomino to vineyards on Tuscany's southern coast near to Monte Argentario, from Chianti Rufina to Chianti Classico to Montalcino. These are joined by some top Tuscan wine estates that are majority-owned by the Marchesis but operated as independent brands rather than under the Frescobaldi name: Ornellaia and Masseto near Bolgheri and Luce della Vite near Montalcino.

A few years ago, the Frescobaldi family added their first Chianti Classico jewel to their collection of Tuscan wineries: Tenuta Perano near Gaiole in Chianti, on the border with Radda. The wine estate is 250 hectares in size and has more than 50 hectares of Chianti Classico vineyards. Tenuta Perano joins the five other estates owned by the family: Castello di Nipozzano (Pelago), Castello di Pomino (Rufina), Tenuta di Castiglioni (Montespertoli), Tenuta di Castelgiocondo (Montalcino) and Tenuta dell'Ammiraglia (Magliano in Tuscany). Tenuta Perano's Gran Selezione and the other Sangioveses demonstrate the Frescobaldis' ability to find the 'taste of the terroir' in the wines from all their estates. The 2015 Brunello di Montalcino from Castelgiocondo impresses with its complexity, and the 2016 Chianti Rufina Riserva Nipozzano Vecchie Viti with its traditionally fruity and spice character.

Innovation is as important to the family as tradition, as also demonstrated by Gorgona. This white wine made from Vermentino and Ansonica is produced on Gorgona, Italy's last remaining prison island, in conjunction with the inmates. Lamberto Frescobaldi: 'It also means giving the prisoners an opportunity to learn a profession that they can then later pursue.' The money generated is reinvested in the island and used to plant new vines. Gorgona therefore fits in with a key part of the Marchesi de' Frescobaldi philosophy, namely responsible winemaking.

# I magnifici sette

Famous names, biodynamics devotees and career changers: this year, these seven wineries have not only produced some of the best wines available, but have also paid particular care and attention to sustainability and the taste of terroir.



## Barone Ricasoli **Chianti Classico crus**

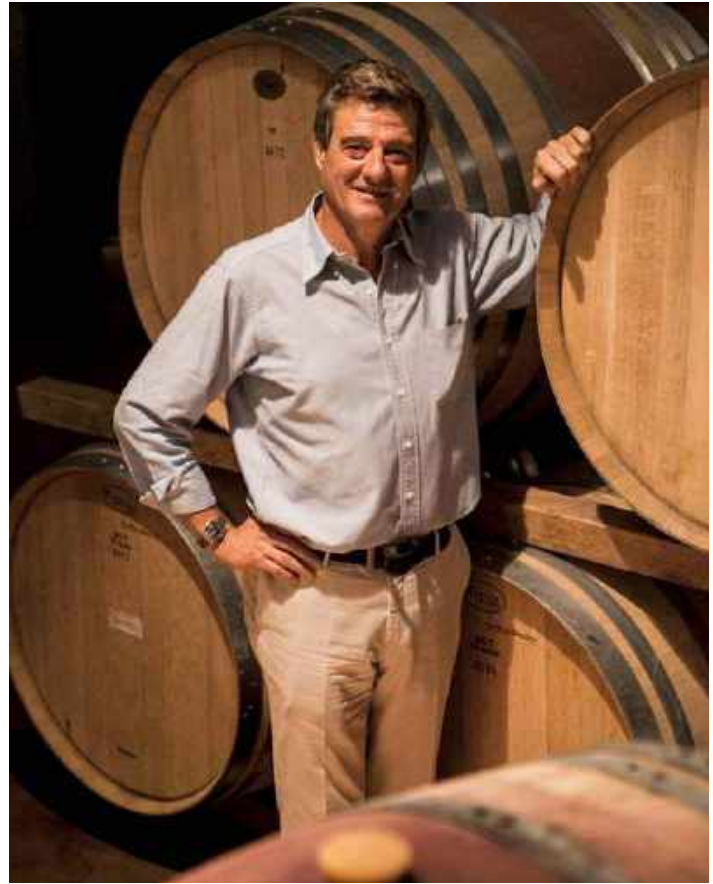
Castello di Brolio (where Barone Bettino Ricasoli invented the Chianti formula in 1872) and its more than 200 hectares of vineyards have become a nucleus of modern Chianti Classico. This is all thanks to Francesco Ricasoli, who has been running the estate since 1993. His work on zoning his extensive vineyard sites has made him a pioneer in terroir exploration. Brolio therefore differentiates between 19 different soil types, including limestone, marine sediment, alluvial soils, 'galestro' and 'arenaria' (sand and rock formations). These soil types can be found in other parts of Chianti, but Brolio serves as the perfect experimentation laboratory. Each site is therefore vinified separately. The most recent result of this is three single-vineyard Sangioveses offering very different interpretations of Chianti Classico: Gran Selezione Cenipri comes from a vineyard 300 metres above sea level and has a very precise texture, Gran Selezione Roncicone is at 320 metres above sea level and offers Burgundian elegance, and finally Gran Selezione Colledilà is grown in a vineyard at 380 metres above sea level. Francesco Ricasoli: 'The wines are the result of more than ten years of work: i therefore consider terroir exploration to be the key first step towards producing Chianti Classicos of substance.'

Mazzei

## Castello di Fonterutoli: triple terroir

Filippo and Francesco Mazzei are two souls in one. Just a few years ago, they created an exceptional wine in memory of one of the noble family's ancestors, Filippo Mazzei. The wine blend symbolises the revolutionary character of Filippo Mazzei: a mixture of the best Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from Castello di Fonterutoli in Chianti and Tenuta Belguardo in Maremma.

This concept of toscanità in wine is deeply rooted in the Mazzei family, which cultivates 120 plots across 73 different wineries in five different production areas. The results include three different Chianti Classico Gran Selezione from different municipalities, thus expressing the character of Chianti's different locations: Gran Selezione Castello di Fonterutoli from vineyards around their base in Castellina in Chianti, Badiolà from higher altitude vineyards in Radda in Chianti, and Vicoregio 36 (previously called Mix 36), a selection of 36 different Sangiovese clones in a single vineyard. Pure terroir.



Fotos: z.Vg.

## Tenuta Argentiera Bolgheri wines for laying down

Tenuta Argentiera is to the south of the Bolgheri wine region on the Tuscan coast. From sandy soils in low areas, to loamy and calcareous sites, to limestone soils brimming with fossils, its more than 70 hectares of vineyards have plenty to offer - reflected in a variety of wines, thanks to precise zoning. These are of course primarily red wines, produced by Austrian owner Stanislaus Turnauer who has had the estate since 2016. Since the 2015 vintage, the existing dreadnoughts of Bolgheri DOC Superiore Argentiera and Bolgheri DOC Villa Donoratico have been joined by a single-vineyard wine: This Toscana IGT Ventaglio demonstrates the potential of the Cabernet Franc grape variety. 'Every time I tasted the barrel sample I was struck by the quality of Cabernet Franc from this individual site, it was quite simply special!', Turnauer explains. After talking to his oenologist, he decided to bottle the Ventaglio site - 1.4 hectares in a panoramic position at 120 metres above sea level - as a separate wine. The first vintage still contains 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, but for the next it will become a varietal Cabernet Franc.

## Tenuta Corte Pavone **Seven dynamic crus**

When South Tyrol native Rainer Loacker bought his first wine estate 40 years ago, he wanted to cultivate his vines to organic and dynamic standards, as he would subsequently also do at Tenuta Corte Pavone in Montalcino. His sons Hayo, Franz Josef and Hannes have followed the same philosophy with their own personally developed method of dynamic vine selection, used at Tenuta Corte Pavone. Digitalisation allows the system to process the vineyards' vines in a dynamic way tailored to the various different micro-sites.

Ten years ago, Hayo began taking a very precise look at the terroir and the vine growth processes at Corte Pavone. Inspired by Burgundy's vineyard site classifications, his dream was to create a variety of different Brunelli. The two fundamentally different soil types in Corte Pavone's vineyards and its particular microclimates provide the perfect conditions for single-vineyard wines.

The results of these efforts are Tenuta Corte Pavone's seven Dynamic Brunello Crus. The crus are dynamic because the ultimate grape selection within each particular vineyard is individually optimised for the vintage at the time of harvesting. However, the process is also dynamic, because each year three infra-red measurements are performed to further improve individual processing in the winery. This is done partly to individually adapt the harvest to the relevant vintage, but also to offer key long-term insights regarding the division and vintage-based development of the various growth zones. Four crus have already hit the market, and the fifth (a Riserva) will arrive in 2021.





## Il Palagione **Organic Vernaccia**

Il Palagione is an old farm dating from 1594, standing on the picturesque Volterrana road that connects San Gimignano with Volterra. Milan native Giorgio Comotti and his wife Monica Rota fell in love with the estate at first sight, invested in the vineyards and cellar, and began producing an utterly idiosyncratic Vernaccia that is now one of the best that San Gimignano has to offer. The 17 hectares of vineyards are organically cultivated and have since become the basis for a handful of different Vernaccias: the youthful and fresh Hydra, the Riserva Ori, and the recent addition of the elegant Lyra. All of these wines with their delicate, saline minerality also demonstrate Vernaccia's ability to mature. The vineyards highlight the diversity of the wine region and fall into two different areas: Palagione at 250 to 350 metres above sea level with a primarily east-northeastern and southern aspect and fossil-rich soils, and Montagnana sites at 150 to 250 metres above sea level with a southern and western aspect. Comotti performed zoning in both areas. The soil and climate properties of each plot were examined to ensure that the grape varieties planted were those that best fit the microterroir: some of the old Vernaccia clones in north-east-facing limestone and clay soils to boost freshness and aromas, Sangiovese or Prugnolo Gentile in south-facing soils with clay and pebbles to improve structure and elegance.



Fotos: Tiberio Sorvillo, Siboni Fotografie, z.Vg.

## Fattoria Lavacchio **Senza Solfiti**

In the Chianti Rufina region west of Florence, on the top of Montefiesole at 450 metres above sea level, Fattoria Lavacchio was one of the first estates in the area to introduce organic cultivation: 'Our goal was to establish harmony between our work on the farm and the natural world surrounding it', explains owner Faye Lottero, ten years after the work was begun.

However, this work was not limited to organic cultivation – the winery also quickly took on the goal of avoiding sulphites in wine. After years of experimentation, their Puro has recently hit the market in both Annata and Riserva versions: a Chianti DOCG made from 100% Sangiovese, vinified in steel with no added sulphites. Sulphur as an antioxidant and antibacterial agent is replaced by physical measures such as low storage temperatures, maximum polyphenol extraction and filtration. The wine is bottled after six months in steel, and thanks to its fresh fruity style it makes an excellent aperitif, as well as being suitable for other occasions. Its big brother is the Chianti DOCG Riserva Senza Solfiti: with this, Faye Lottero has managed to create a wine with no added sulphites that has been matured in oak yet maintains its fruity and fresh character. 'However, this requires thoughtfulness throughout the whole of the harvest and in the cellar', she notes.

Tre Rose

## **Precise Vino Nobile**

Tenuta Tre Rose in Montepulciano is part of the Bertani Domains group, which has wineries in various parts of Italy. The Montepulciano holdings are in hilly locations near to Lake Trasimeno and cover more than 200 hectares, around a half of which are vineyards. I Palazzi, Belvedere, Lodola, Poggetto and Santa Caterina are the names of the five hills planted with Prugnolo Gentile. Estate director Andrea Lonardi is able to select the best grapes from an area of around a hundred hectares. Soil compositions vary from sand to clay to loam, and the nearby lake also has a balancing effect on the microclimate, the vines and the wine. The harvest time for each plot is determined precisely to ensure that only perfect grapes make it to the winery. Each plot is handled separately in the cellar. This produces Vino Nobile with smooth tannins and a diverse aromatic profile.

Alongside the Riserva Simposio, the varietal Prugnolo Gentile wine Santa Caterina is the pride of the Tre Rose family: its grapes come from the eponymous hill with its marine-derived soils. "Thanks to a variety of plots and maturation in oak, we have a wide range of opportunities to create the perfect blend for this wine", Andrea Lonardi explains. As the technical director of the Bertani Domains group, Lonardi is also responsible for San Leonino in Chianti Classico and Val di Suga in the Montalcino region, and their interpretations of the Sangiovese grape.



photo: Svein Lindin

# Top 5 white wines

In Vernaccia, the region has claimed a speciality grape that can be found nowhere else. However, other native white grape varieties have also enjoyed increasing success, as have some crisp rosés.

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## Montenidoli – Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG Riserva Carato 2017 17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

In an old Knights Templar monastery, Elisabetta Fagioli transforms the fruit from 24 hectares of vineyards into meticulously-crafted organic wine. One such example is the oak-aged Riserva Carato, without a doubt one of the most elegant and longest-lasting white wines in the region: tempting peach and white berry nose with balsamic aromas, a harmonious yet youthful texture with fresh acidity, and a light, fresh finish of delicate stone fruit and Mediterranean macchia notes with a pleasant bitter touch. [www.montenidoli.com](http://www.montenidoli.com)

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## Il Palagione – Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG Lyra 2017 17 points | 2022 to 2026

In the hills of San Gimignano, the Comotti family produces a whole range of authentic, finely-chiselled yet long-lasting Vernaccia, from a vintage wine through to the Riserva Ori. In the middle stands Lyra, a Vernaccia that combines the fruitiness of a young wine with the character of a Riserva: an engaging nose of juicy peach with some acacia aromas and mineral touches, harmonious in the attack with precise acidity and a finish of exotic fruit and tea notes. Compellingly elegant. [www.ilpalagione.com](http://www.ilpalagione.com)

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## Capezzana – Toscana IGT Trebbiano 2019 16 points | 2021 to 2022

This wine is devoted to Trebbiano, a hugely underrated grape. Trebbiano is generally turned into relatively neutral easy-drinking wines or used in a blend, but when it is given the care and attention it needs, the results can be good or even great – such as here at the Capezzana winery: a fruity and spicy nose with delicate floral aromas, a harmonious structure with invigorating acidity and a smooth, lingering finish. Good with fish or risotto. [www.capezzana.it](http://www.capezzana.it)

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## Castello Colle Massari – Montecucco DOC Vermentino Irisse 2018 16.5 points | 2021 to 2023

Vermentino is without a doubt the Tuscan coast's leading variety, and has been more widely planted in past years than any other grape. One of the best Tuscan Vermentini comes from Montecucco: the grape variety forms a perfect symbiosis with the volcanic mineral soils and offers up exotic fruit and flower aromas, such as in this Colle Massari wine with a robust, saline texture on the palate, lively acidity and a lingering finish. It will become even more complex as it matures. Give it a try! [www.collemassariwines.it](http://www.collemassariwines.it)

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## Brancaia – Toscana IGT Il Rosé 2019 16.5 points | 2021 to 2022

Rosé wines represent a small yet perfectly formed niche in Tuscany: from the coast to the hills of Chianti, every vintage produces wines that are some of the best that Italy has to offer. One example is this Rosato using Merlot grapes from the renowned Brancaia estate (with holdings in Castellina in Chianti, Radda in Chianti and Grosseto). After three months on the lees, this becomes a mineral rosé with rose blossom and berry aromas, robust acidity on the palate, lots of polish and a lingering finish. [www.brancaia.com](http://www.brancaia.com)



# Top 10 red wines

Tuscany is without a doubt the homeland of the Sangiovese grape, but Merlot and co. have also made a home for themselves here, as our selection shows.

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## Castello Colle Massari – Montecucco Sangiovese DOCG Riserva Poggio Lombrone 2016 | 18 points | 2022 to 2029

With Poggio di Sotto and Grattamacco, Claudio Tipa owns two renowned wineries in other parts of Tuscany, but Castello Colle Massari in the Montecucco region is where his heart truly lies. He makes this single-vineyard wine 300 metres above sea level at the foot of Monte Amiata: reticent nose with cherry, liquorice and violet aromas, smooth texture, robust and precise tannins, subtle minerality, and a finish of plum and Mediterranean macchia notes. Brimming with elegance. [www.collemassariwines.it](http://www.collemassariwines.it)

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## Le Mortelle – Maremma Toscana DOC Rosso Poggio Alle Nane 2017

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Antinori's utterly successful interpretation of a Cabernet Sauvignon from Maremma with a touch of Franc and Carmènère: captivating blueberry and herb aromas, dense texture with fine-grained, well-integrated tannins and an opulent finish of jammy black berry, eucalyptus and sandalwood notes. The fattoria covers 270 hectares, 170 of which are planted. The medium-heavy, sandy and silty soils have a primarily siliceous and clay composition and are rich in fossils in some areas.

[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)

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## Fattoria Lavacchio – Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva Cedro 2016

17.5 points | 2021 to 2026

In Fattoria Lavacchio, Faye Lottero boasts a biodynamic estate in the hills of Chianti Rufini where she creates a pure Sangiovese without any added sulphites. Chianti Rufina Riserva Cedro is a perfect expression of the terroir and the Sangiovese grape: maraschino cherry, violet and mushroom aromas, compact in the attack with well-integrated acidity and fine-grained tannins, juicy and lingering. An elegant wine which could still mature. Enjoy with mature cheese. [www.fattorialavacchio.com](http://www.fattorialavacchio.com)

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## Podere Giodo – Brunello 2015

19 points | 2023 to 2034

As well as being Italy's most active and best known flying winemakers, Carlo Ferrini also owns an innovative winery in the shape of Podere Giodo, where he produces a complex Etna Rosso in the Etna region of Sicily. However, the centrepiece of Podere Giodo is its Montalcino vineyards, from where this elegant Brunello hails: bewitching forest fruit nose with pepper and floral aromas, a pleasantly complex texture, good balance between the tightly knit tannins and the acidity, and a lingering finish of ripe fruit notes and balsamic touches. Hugely complex and refined, but still needs to mature. [www.giodo.it](http://www.giodo.it)



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**Volpaia – Chianti Classico Gran Selezione DOCG Coltassala 2017**  
**18.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

At the heart of Chianti Classico just a few kilometres from Radda, since 1998 the Mascheroni-Stianti family has been making this varietal Sangiovese matured in small French oak barrels for 18 months. The wine impresses with its authentic yet complex nose with undergrowth, pepper and tobacco aromas, corpulent in the attack, very meaty with powdery tannins, ending with fresh fruit notes and balsamic touches. Pure elegance that can only improve with age. [www.volpaia.com](http://www.volpaia.com)

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**Dei – Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG Madonna della Querce 2016**  
**18 points | 2022 to 2027**

Caterina Dei is one of the top Vino Nobile producers. Since 1985, the estate has had four historic top sites spread across 38 hectares: Martiena, Bossona, La Ciarlana and La Piaggia. As well as the excellent Riserva Bossona, for several years Caterina Dei has also been making this finely-chiselled Nobile in honour of her father: inviting stone fruit, tobacco and floral aromas, a light texture with fine-grained, well-integrated tannins, invigorating acidity and a lingering, elegant, fruity finish. Already a flagship for the region. [www.cantinedei.it](http://www.cantinedei.it)

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**Tenuta San Guido – Bolgheri Sassicaia DOC Sassicaia 2017**  
**18.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

More than 50 years ago, this wine launched the success story of international grape varieties in Bolgheri: the Incisa della Rocchetta family recognised the potential of Bordeaux grapes and created this monolith of Italian wine culture. It remains virtually unchanged to this day, and is made primarily from Cabernet Franc: captivating fresh stone fruit, juniper and tobacco aromas, polished in the attack with fine-grained, fresh tannins, invigorating acidity and a complex finish of red fruit and spice notes. Consistently one of the most elegant interpretations of the terroir. [www.tenutasanguido.com](http://www.tenutasanguido.com)

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**Val delle Rose Tenuta della Famiglia Cecchi – Morellino di Scansano DOCG Riserva Poggio Al Leone 2016**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

The Cecchi family has long believed in the potential of the Tuscan coast and invested in the Val delle Rose estate in the Grosseto backlands. These hilly vineyards produce not only smooth Maremma DOC wines, but also this Morellino Riserva that explores the potential of Sangiovese grapes in coastal locations: captivating nose of ripe forest fruit, violet and Mediterranean macchia, powerful and harmonious on the palate with perfect balance between the tannins and acidity, combining polish with opulence. [www.valdellerose.it](http://www.valdellerose.it)

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**Castello di Ama – Toscana IGT L'Apparita 2017**  
**18.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Although Marco Pallanti also makes excellent Sangiovese under the Chianti Classico Gran Selezione DOCG in the form of Bellavista and Cassuccia, this varietal single-vineyard Merlot is and will most likely remain the flagship of the Castello di Ama wine estate: an utterly delicate nose of plum, berry and liquorice aromas with well-integrated oak notes, tightly knit tannins supported by lively acidity, and a complex finish of fruity and balsamic touches. Once again combines elegance and fullness in this vintage. [www.castellodiama.com](http://www.castellodiama.com)

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**Masseto – Toscana IGT Masseto 2017**  
**19 points | 2023 to 2030**

Yet another cult wine from the coast – Masseto, the masterpiece made by winemaker and estate director Axel Heinz for the past 15 years: a textbook complex Merlot, but not a wine designed simply to decorate the mantelpiece, instead an utterly tempting and even easy-drinking wine when its time comes. 2017 is an astonishingly energetic interpretation offering black berry, dried herb and liquorice aromas; it impresses with its tightly knit tannins, and then once swirled gains huge fullness and charisma, without losing the elegant touches of a Masseto. Suitable for laying down. [www.masseto.com](http://www.masseto.com)

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# Top 10 best buy

Whether white or red, Tuscany has great wines to suit all budgets: we have selected ten that are poster children for their particular areas while also offering fantastic value for money.

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## Tenuta L'Impostino – Montecucco Sangiovese Riserva Viandante 2015

17 points / 2022 to 2028

This Sangiovese draws its harmony from the well-balanced climate on the slopes of Monte Amiata and its minerality from the soils of the extinct volcano, whilst 24 months in French oak give it polish and a long life: an exquisite raspberry and leather nose, well balanced on the palate with perfect balance between the tannins and acidity, a long finish. Good with juicy roast beef. [www.tenutaimpostino.it](http://www.tenutaimpostino.it)

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## Fattoria di Magliano – Maremma Toscana DOC Rosso Poggio Bestiale 2016

17 points / 2022 to 2026

This estate has a dominant hillside location near to Magliano at the heart of the Morellino region: as well as authentic Sangiovese and Vermentino, it also produces this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Forest fruit, flowers and undergrowth on the nose, powerful on the palate with skilfully integrated tannins, and an opulent, smooth finish with fruity and spicy touches. Once again enjoyable in this vintage with its delicate finesse. [www.fattoriadimagliano.it](http://www.fattoriadimagliano.it)

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## Tenuta Sette Ponti – Chianti DOCG Vigna del Pallino 2017

17 points / 2021 to 2025

In the hills of Arezzo, Antonio Moretti and his family have done more than just create an exceptional super Tuscan in the form of Crognolo. His Orma winery is one of the most reliable names in the Bolgheri region, and he also produces high-quality Chianti: on the nose, this wine for laying down offers spice and small forest fruit aromas, then is juicy and compact on the palate with good balance between the tannins and acidity, and polish right into the finish. Appealingly elegant style, could still mature. [www.tenutasetteponti.it](http://www.tenutasetteponti.it)

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## Capanna – Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015

18 points / 2024 to 2033

For decades, the Cencioni family has stood for a traditional Brunello style that owes its complexity to a selection of various plots, as well as using large oak barrels to give the wine balance and longevity: once again in this excellent vintage, it offers a pleasingly finely-chiselled nose of violet and tobacco aromas, combining character and polish with the acidity balanced out by the tannins, then smooth with lots of mineral elegance right into the finish. Excellent with food. [www.capannamontalcino.com](http://www.capannamontalcino.com)



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**Fontodi – Chianti Classico Gran Selezione DOCG Vigna del Sorbo 2017**

**18.5 points / 2022 to 2027**

The Fontodi winery is a trailblazer for organic winegrowing in historic Chianti, but has also created one of the great Sangiovese super Tuscans in Flaccianello. Another Sangiovese wine is this successful Gran Selezione, the grapes for which come from a single vineyard in Conca d'Oro di Panzano: nose of small forest fruit, liquorice and lilac aromas, full-bodied in the attack with robust, lively tannins and perceptible, spirited acidity, ending in polished and lingering style. Enjoy with a bistecca alla fiorentina. [www.fontodi.com](http://www.fontodi.com)

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**Sanguineto I e II – Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG Riserva 2015**

**17.5 points / 2023 to 2029**

Charismatic winemaker Dora Forsoni cultivates some 50 hectares of vines on the slopes of Montepulciano in the hamlet of Sanguineto (from which the estate also takes its name). Lots of Prugnolo Gentile and some Canaiolo Nero and Mammolo are matured in large oak barrels in a spotless cellar: an inviting fruit nose with dried flower and herb aromas, tightly knit tannins, well-integrated acidity, polished and lingering. Already enjoyable but could also be left to mature. [www.sanguineto.com](http://www.sanguineto.com)

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**Tenuta di Vaira – Bolgheri DOC Superiore Bolgherese 2017**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

The tenth vintage of this classic Bolgheri wine made from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes. After vinification, the wine is matured in French oak barriques for 16 months and then for a further six months in barrels before being sold: nose of stone fruit, macchia and spice aromas, full-bodied on the palate with robust tannins, ending with an utterly fresh and spicy finish of appealing forest fruit and pepper notes. Successful interpretation of plots on the Via Bolgherese to which it owes its name. [www.tenutadivaira.com](http://www.tenutadivaira.com)

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**Valdifalco – Morellino di Scansano DOCG Poggio Marcone 2018**

**17 points / 2021 to 2025**

The Loacker family's search for special sites is not limited to Montalcino (outside of their native South Tyrol), but also extends to their estate on the Tuscan coast. This Sangiovese varietal comes from the single vineyard of the same name and is matured in oak for a year and a half: bright ruby colour, offering up a tempting nose of raspberry, floral and pepper aromas once swirled, well structured with well-proportioned tannins and acidity and a harmonious spicy and fruity finish, combining power with elegance. [www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)

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**Istine – Toscana IGT Merlot 550 slm 2017**

**18 points / 2022 to 2028**

This varietal Merlot made to organic standards from one of the highest vineyards in Chianti (550 metres above sea level) shows that it is not just Sangiovese that flourishes in the well-ventilated areas around Radda in Chianti. Tempting red berry and floral nose topped off with leather and mushroom aromas, full-bodied texture with lively acidity, lots of polish, minerality and a lingering finish. [www.istine.it](http://www.istine.it)

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**Uggiano – Toscana IGT Petraia 2017**

**17.5 points / 2022 to 2026**

A touch of Cabernet is the icing on the cake in this elegant yet powerful Merlot from the hills of Florence, rounded out by maturation in barriques for 16 months and then 30hl barrels for another 12 months: violet and fresh black cherry on the nose with some mint aromas, juicy on the palate with well-integrated, powdery tannins and a well-balanced finish of forest berries and Mediterranean macchia. Excellent with game and game birds. [www.uggiano.it](http://www.uggiano.it)

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VERNACCIA DI SAN GIMIGNANO DOCG

# Bianco with potential

Significant temperature differences between day and night combined with excellent air movement make the town of San Gimignano a particularly good location for white grapes, which is why the native Vernaccia variety fares so magnificently nowhere but here.

**T**he vineyards around the medieval town are set in a hilly landscape, with a nicely-balanced climate shaped by the influences of inland Tuscany to the east and the Tyrrhenian Sea to the west. The Mediterranean coast is just 25 kilometres away and provides a fresh breeze even in hot years. This means that the ancient grape variety of Vernaccia (the earliest references to it date back to 1276) can continue to ripen perfectly here until the end of September, even in difficult years.

Vernaccia di San Gimignano has been Tuscany's only white DOCG wine since 1993, and was the first Italian wine to be awarded a DOC, in 1966. However, this is not the reason why we love it so much: it combines freshness, structure and longevity, and goes perfectly with salami, cheese and traditional Tuscan dishes such as ribollita. It also makes an ideal accompaniment to vegetable starters or to mains involving white meat, fish, shellfish or Asian flavours.

It has experienced some highs and lows along the way: in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, it was widely popular and traded across Europe, but at the beginning of the modern era it saw a period of decline from which the wine and its native region did not emerge until the mid-20th century. Today, the landscape around the town of San Gimignano is once again partially dominated by vines.

From an oenological perspective, Vernaccia is often described as a red in the guise of a white: it is well structured but also has considerable minerality, both of which make it suitable for laying down. As a result, there are two different types of Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG called Anna-

ta and Riserva, the latter of which must spend at least 11 months in the cellar. Recent vintages have demonstrated the grape variety's flexibility: its top results are not limited to well-balanced vintages, as it also fares astonishingly well in both dry years (such as 2017) and changeable ones (like 2018). After a few years in the cellar, Riserva wines develop petrol and balsamic notes that are otherwise the preserve of more northern examples. Although the current 2019 vintage saw some extreme bouts of weather as a result of climate change, it is nevertheless very promising and already forming the basis for young, fresh wines that delight with their fruitiness and the aforementioned minerality.

Vernaccia is best discovered in its native region, in the narrow alleyways of San Gimignano and the green hills around the town. The audiovisual Vernaccia di San Gimignano Wine Experience, which has been housed in the Rocca di Montestaffoli at the highest point in the town for several years, is well worth a visit. The attached Enoteca allows visitors to try a wide selection of the wines, alongside other regional specialities.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** around the town of San Gimignano at the heart of Tuscany.

**Vineyard area:** approx. 720 ha

**Producers:** approx. 90

**Key grape varieties:** Vernaccia (must make up at least 85 % of the blend)

**[www.vernaccia.it](http://www.vernaccia.it)**



# Top 10 Best of Vernaccia

Three vintages, each different from the next: 2017 combines structure and ripe fruit, 2018 offers minerality, and 2019 freshness.



## 1 Montenidoli, San Gimignano

Carato 2017

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Peach and white berry nose with balsamic aromas, a harmonious yet youthful texture with fresh acidity, and a light fresh finish of delicate stone fruit and Mediterranean macchia notes with a pleasant bitter touch.

[www.montenidoli.com](http://www.montenidoli.com)



## 2 Teruzzi & Puthod, San Gimignano

Riserva Sant'Elena 2017

17 points | 2022 to 2025

Seductively bewitching nose of apricot and elderflower aromas, juicy in the attack with well-integrated acidity and some delicate saline and mineral touches, combining elegance with a lingering finish.

[www.teruzziwine.com](http://www.teruzziwine.com)



## 3 Casa alle Vacche, San Gimignano

DOCG Riserva Crocus 2017

17 points | 2022 to 2025

Made from vines growing in sandy soils in a breezy location: an utterly magnificent elderflower and citrus nose, harmonious structure with well-integrated acidity, lingering, elegant, and even characterful in the finish.

[www.casaallevacche.it](http://www.casaallevacche.it)



## 4 Cappella Sant'Andrea, San Gimignano

Riserva Prima Luce 2017

17 points | 2021 to 2025

Captivating nose of exotic fruit with elderflower and almond aromas, juicy and powerful texture, perfectly integrated acidity, and a lingering finish of clear fruit notes. Serve with grilled trout.

[www.cappellasantandrea.it](http://www.cappellasantandrea.it)



## 5 Panizzi, San Gimignano

Riserva 2016

17 points | 2022 to 2026

Bewitching fruity and floral nose with acacia blossom touches, polished texture, accentuated acidity and an elegant, subtly mineral finish of fresh stone fruit and bitter almond notes. A successful Riserva from a well-balanced vintage.

[www.panizzi.it](http://www.panizzi.it)



## 6 Cantine Guidi, San Gimignano

Riserva Aurea 2017

17 points | 2022 to 2025

Compact in the attack with an exotic fruit nose and a subtle touch of macchia, rounded on the palate with fine mineral touches, invigorating acidity and a delicately tart almond finish. Best enjoyed with grilled sea bream.

[www.guidi1929.com](http://www.guidi1929.com)



## 7 La Mormoraia, San Gimignano

Riserva Antalis 2017

17 points | 2021 to 2024

Filigree fruit aromas with hints of blossom and tea, well balanced in the attack, well-integrated acidity, and a refined texture that contributes to the wine's complexity.

[www.mormoraia.it](http://www.mormoraia.it)



## 8 Il Palagione, San Gimignano

Lyra 2017

17 points | 2022 to 2025

An engaging nose of juicy peach with some acacia aromas and balsamic touches, harmonious in the attack with precise acidity and a finish of exotic fruit and tea notes. Compelling elegance.

[www.ilpalagione.com](http://www.ilpalagione.com)



## 9 Cesani Vincenzo, San Gimignano

Clamys 2018

17 points | 2021 to 2024

Bewitching fruit blossom with hints of elderflower and some freshly cut grass aromas, polished in the attack with lively acidity, subtle minerality, and above all lots of fresh stone fruit in the finish.

Perfect with asparagus risotto. [cesani.it](http://cesani.it)



## 10 Il Colombaio di Santa Chiara, San Gimignano

Riserva L'Albereta 2017

17 points | 2021 to 2025

Fresh apple and citrus fruit nose with some acacia blossom aromas, mineral and saline on the palate, juicy development, with well-integrated acidity and a hugely lingering finish. Elegant with the potential to develop.

[www.colombaioasantachiara.it](http://www.colombaioasantachiara.it)

# *It is here*



*It is here when clay and sand meet, where cypresses pair up with maritime pines that **Sangiovese** produces a unique, **Noble** incarnation of itself.*



**TREROSE**

tenutatrerose.it

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**Montenidoli, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Fiore 2019**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Finely chiselled floral nose with lime blossom and green apple aromas, harmonious structure with invigorating acidity and good length. Perfect with grilled fish.

[www.montenidoli.com](http://www.montenidoli.com)

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**Panizzi, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Vigna Santa Margherita 2018**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

A nose shaped by exotic fruit notes, then smooth and well-structured on the palate, successful right through to the saline, mineral finish. Excellent with food, such as fritto misto.

[www.panizzi.it](http://www.panizzi.it)

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**Il Palagione, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva Ori 2018**

**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Tempting citrus zest, lychee and meadow flower nose, a polished texture balanced out perfectly by the acidity, pleasantly saline and harmonious right into the lingering finish.

[www.ilpalagione.com](http://www.ilpalagione.com)

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**Cesani Vincenzo, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva Sanice 2017**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Complex nose with exotic fruit, spice and tea aromas, harmonious structure with well-integrated acidity and a lingering, fruity finish with a subtle touch of almond. Successful.

[cesani.it](http://cesani.it)

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**Il Colombaio di Santa Chiara, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Campo della Pieve 2018**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Intriguing stone fruit and elderflower nose, compact structure with well-integrated yet invigorating acidity and a tempting, lingering fruity finish. Good with Mediterranean fish dishes.

[www.colombaiosantachiara.it](http://www.colombaiosantachiara.it)

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**Palagetto, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva 2016**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

A superb nose combining fruity and floral aromas, smooth on the palate, balanced out well by acidity, ending with ripe stone fruit and lychee notes.

[www.palagetto.it](http://www.palagetto.it)

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**Poggio Alloro, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva Le Mandorle 2018**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Tempting citrus fruit aromas with some floral and

Mediterranean macchia touches, compact structure with accentuated acidity and a lingering fruity finish with some delicate bitter almond notes. Could still be left to age.

[fattoriapoggioalloro.com](http://fattoriapoggioalloro.com)

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**Signano, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva La Ginestra 2017**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Fruity and floral nose with some pleasant balsamic touches, compact on the palate. Invigorating acidity but also pleasingly refined elegance.

[www.casolaredibucciano.it](http://www.casolaredibucciano.it)

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**Podere Casale Primo - Falchini, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG Ab Vinea Doni 2018**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

An engaging peach, acacia and lime blossom nose, polished texture with lively acidity, and a fruity, well-balanced finish.

[www.casale-falchini.it](http://www.casale-falchini.it)

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**Fattoria San Donato, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva Benedetta 2017**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

A light nose of exotic fruit and dried flower aromas, well balanced on the palate with well-integrated acidity and a refreshingly fruity finish.

[www.sandonato.it](http://www.sandonato.it)

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**Casa Lucii, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Mareterra Riserva 2015**

**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Intriguing Mediterranean macchia and sun-ripened stone fruit nose, well-integrated acidity, and a lingering, delicately tart finish. Enjoy with seafood.

[www.casalucii.shop](http://www.casalucii.shop)

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**Tenute Guicciardini Strozzi, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva 2017**

**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Peach and lemon aromas on the nose, well-balanced on the palate with good body yet brisk acidity, and a polished, refreshingly crisp finish.

[www.guicciardinistrozzi.it](http://www.guicciardinistrozzi.it)

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**Casa alle Vacche, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG I Macchioni 2019**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

A peach nose with floral aromas, compact structure with well-integrated acidity and an invigorating finish. Best enjoyed with food, but also makes a good aperitif.

[www.casaallevacche.it](http://www.casaallevacche.it)

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**Cappella Sant'Andrea, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Rialto 2018**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Bewitching elderflower and apple notes dominate on the nose, harmonious on the palate with well-integrated acidity, subtle minerality and huge length. Could still be left to age.

[www.cappellasantandrea.it](http://www.cappellasantandrea.it)

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**San Quirico, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva Isabella 2017**

**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

A spicy and floral nose, compact in the attack borne up by acidity, but ripe and fruity in style, reliable and lingering.

[www.aziendasanquirico.it](http://www.aziendasanquirico.it)

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**La Lastra, Siena**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva 2015**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Accentuated on the palate, compact texture, juicy development, and a ripe fruity finish with a pleasantly subtle tartness. A reliable wine best enjoyed with food.

[www.lalastra.it](http://www.lalastra.it)

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**Montenidoli, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Tradizionale 2019**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

A classic interpretation of the grape from probably the most reliable producer in the region: floral and fruity with invigorating acidity, and delicate bitter almond touches in the finish.

[www.montenidoli.com](http://www.montenidoli.com)

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**Poggio Alloro, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG II Nicchiaio 2019**

**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Captivating stone fruit and floral aromas, juicy and well-balanced and a compelling finish.

[fattoriapoggioalloro.com](http://fattoriapoggioalloro.com)

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**Signano, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Poggiarelli 2019**

**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Fresh peach nose with pome fruit and lime blossom aromas, polished on the palate with well-integrated acidity and a beautifully lingering finish.

[www.casolaredibucciano.it](http://www.casolaredibucciano.it)

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**Macinatico, San Gimignano**  
**Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**  
**Riserva Massi 2018**

**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Floral and stone fruit aromas, compact structure, well-integrated acidity, ending with citrus fruit notes and a pleasantly mineral touch. Enjoy with a porcini mushroom risotto!

[www.macinatico.com](http://www.macinatico.com)

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MAREMMA TOSCANA DOC

# Bordelaiser Stil

Maremma stretches across southern Tuscany on the slopes of Monte Amiata, from the Argentario peninsula to Isola del Giglio. Red and white grapes do equally well thanks to a variety of terroirs.

**T**he Maremma Toscana DOC region covers the entire province of Grosseto in south-western Tuscany. Winemakers tackle a variety of climatic, pedological and morphological idiosyncrasies that make their winemaking particularly interesting and complex: volcanic soils east of the Fiora river around the communes of Pitigliano and Sorano, marl soils in the hills between the Fiora and Ombrone rivers, and clay and silt in Alta Maremma, the hilly areas near the coast and the alluvial soils on the plain.

In large parts of Maremma's swamp landscape, which was once infested with malaria, farming only became possible during the 18th century following Grand Duke Leopold II's project to drain the marshland. Winemaking is therefore a relatively recent pursuit and generally does not have a long-standing tradition in the Morellino region. As well as international red grape varieties such as Cabernet, Merlot or Grenache, indigenous grapes are also offering good results: Sangiovese, of course, but also Ciliegliolo and Pugnietello benefit from this well-balanced climate near the sea. Furthermore, the white grape variety Vermentino has enjoyed huge success in recent years, and represents the majority of the newly planted vines. However, Maremma Toscana is also an area that is well suited to sustainable winemaking. Numerous operations already hold organic certification.

The Consorzio Tutela Vini della Maremma Toscana (founded in 2014) now has more than 300 members, around a third of which are vertical operations that produce and bottle their own grapes. A total of around six million bottles are produced each year. In recent years, small-scale winegrow-

ers and local wineries have been joined by a collection of names that already have wine operations in other parts of Tuscany (and Italy).

The majority of the wines produced are red, and Bordeaux varieties found a new home on the Tuscan coast very early on: Cabernet produces some very long-lasting, powerful wines in Maremma and Merlot creates elegant bottles, but it is the blend of the two that forms the basis for both fruity, fresh vintage wines and Riserva examples that are suitable for laying down. Syrah, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc have been some of the rising stars among the red grapes in recent years, and are also used to make varietal wines.

Of the vintages currently available on the market, 2015 and 2016 stand out with their very harmonious, in some cases utterly elegant wines. 2017 (which was partially marked by drought in Maremma), on the other hand, impresses with its power and substance, whilst 2018 offers finesse. Virtually all of the wines presented offer enthusiasts excellent value for money.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** vineyards across the whole of the Grosseto province in southwest Tuscany

**Vineyard area:** 8750 ha in the province of Grosseto

**Producers:** approx. 90

**Key grape varieties:** Cabernet, Sangiovese, Vermentino

**[www.consorziovinimaremma.it](http://www.consorziovinimaremma.it)**

# Top 10 Best of Maremma

Merlot, Cabernet and Petit Verdot, both alone and in a blend, form the basis for fresh and fruity vintage wines and more.



## 1 Belguardo – Mazzei, Grosseto

**Tenuta Belguardo 2016**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027  
Matured for 18 months in small oak barrels: dark ruby colour, elegant blackberry, liquorice and sandalwood aromas, corpulent on the palate with polished tannins balanced out by the acidity, and a tempting plum jam finish. Enjoy with a bistecca alla fiorentina.

[www.mazzei.it](http://www.mazzei.it)



## 2 Le Mortelle, Castiglione della Pescaia

**Poggio Alle Nane 2017**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2026  
Antinori's interpretation of a Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Franc and Carménère: captivating blueberry and herb aromas, dense texture with fine-grained, well-integrated tannins and an opulent finish of jammy black berry, eucalyptus and sandalwood notes.

[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)



## 3 Serpaia di Endrizzi, Grosseto

**Merlot Gran Serpaia 2015**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2026  
Exquisite blackberry jam, rose and herb nose, corpulent on the palate with impeccably made tannins, invigorating acidity and an opulent forest berry and liquorice finish. A compelling interpretation of the Maremma terroir by the Endrici family from Trentino.

[www.serpaiamaremma.it](http://www.serpaiamaremma.it)



## 4 Val delle Rose, Grosseto

**Aurelio 2017**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027  
Charming cassis, dark chocolate and pepper aromas, powerful yet polished in the attack with fine-grained tannins and a complex finish of blackberry, leather and liquorice touches. Suitable for laying down.

[www.valdellerose.it](http://www.valdellerose.it)



## 5 Fattoria di Magliano, Magliano

**Poggio Bestiale 2016**  
17 points | 2022 to 2026  
Forest fruit, flowers and undergrowth on the nose, powerful on the palate with skilfully integrated tannins, and an opulent, smooth finish with fruity and spicy touches. Once again enjoyable in this vintage with its finesse.

[www.fattoriadimagliano.it](http://www.fattoriadimagliano.it)



## 6 Fattoria di Magliano, Magliano

**Altizi 2016**  
17 points | 2022 to 2026  
Black berry fruit and herb nose with some smoky aromas, elegant structure with well-integrated polished tannins, fresh acidity and a balsamic, fruity finish. A successful interpretation of the Cabernet Franc grape.

[www.fattoriadimagliano.it](http://www.fattoriadimagliano.it)



## 7 Podere La Pace, Massa Marittima

**Silvano 2016**  
17 points | 2022 to 2025  
A powerful blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot with no shortage of finesse: cassis, herb and chocolate nose, lively texture, very full yet also polished, with a lingering berry jam and spice finish.

[www.poderelapace.com](http://www.poderelapace.com)



## 8 Poggio L'Apparita, Paganico

**Il No 6 2018**  
17 points | 2022 to 2026  
738 bottles of this Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot blend were produced in this vintage: complex black cherry, coffee and liquorice aromas on the palate, juicy in the attack with fine-grained tannins and an elegant, opulent fruity finish. Seductive.

[www.lapparita.com](http://www.lapparita.com)



## 9 Tenuta Fertuna, Gavorrano

**Messio 2015**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025  
Tempting blackberry, lilac and chocolate nose with some delicate oak aromas, harmonious in the attack with fine-grained tannins, perfectly integrated acidity, and a lingering, elegant finish of fresh berry notes. Compelling finesse.

[www.fertuna.it](http://www.fertuna.it)



## 10 Val delle Rose, Grosseto

**Samma 2017**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025  
Intense black berry, nougat, tobacco and plum nose, full-bodied texture, full and substantial, with an opulent finish combining ripe fruit notes with balsamic touches of pepper, sandalwood and liquorice. Enjoy with a steak.

[www.valdellerose.it](http://www.valdellerose.it)



# Maremma Toscana

— CONSORZIO TUTELA VINI —

From the hills to the sea, an unspoiled land

[consorziovinimaremma.it](http://consorziovinimaremma.it)



Regione Toscana





**Belguardo – Mazzei, Grosseto**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Rosso Tirrenico 2016**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

After swirling this wine develops a fresh stone fruit nose with macchia aromas, compact with soft tannins on the palate, and a delicately tart finish of red berry and dried flower notes.

[www.mazzei.it](http://www.mazzei.it)

**La Chimera d'Albegna, Marsiliana**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Colli di Marsiliana Merlot 2016**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

A spicy and fruity nose with floral and tobacco aromas, full-bodied and robust on the palate with perceptible tannins and a well-balanced finish of blackberry and dark chocolate notes. Robust style.

[lachimeradalbegna.it](http://lachimeradalbegna.it)

**Le Mortelle, Castiglione della Pescaia**

**Maremma Toscana DOC Botrosecco 2018**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

A duet between Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc: tempting black cherry and dark chocolate aromas, a perfect balance between tannins and acidity, virile and clearly structured with a lingering fresh finish.

[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)

**Podere La Pace, Massa Marittima**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Franc Gold Label 2016**

**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Inviting chocolate and berry nose with Mediterranean macchia aromas, full-bodied on the palate with fresh acidity, robust tannins, and a full-bodied berry jam and chocolate finish. Could still be left to age.

[www.poderelapace.com](http://www.poderelapace.com)

**Poggio L'Apparita, Paganico**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Limited Edition 2017**

**16.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

288 bottles of a Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvi-

gnon and Petit Verdot blend matured in small oak barrels: a nose of ripe stone fruit, eucalyptus and liquorice notes, a polished texture with full-bodied tannins, very juicy, lingers. Could still be left to age.

[www.lapparita.com](http://www.lapparita.com)

**Prato al Pozzo, Cinigiano**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Sauvignon Piede Rosso 2015**

**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Charming blueberry, liquorice and nougat nose, polished structure of acidity and tannins, and an elegant, delicately spicy finish. Excellent with food.

[www.pratoalpozzo.it](http://www.pratoalpozzo.it)

**Tenuta Fertuna, Gavorrano**

**Maremma Toscana DOC Iodai 2016**

**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Intense nose of ripe black berries, leather and eucalyptus, corpulent in the attack with robust tannins and well-integrated acidity, combining opulence with polish. Enjoy with roast wild boar and mushrooms.

[www.fertuna.it](http://www.fertuna.it)

**Castello di Volpaia, Radda in Chianti**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Sauvignon Prelius 2019**

**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Warming nose of blueberry and eucalyptus aromas, fresh texture with perfectly integrated tannins and a pleasantly lingering finish. Fruity yet smooth.

[www.volpaia.it](http://www.volpaia.it)

**Castello Vicchiomaggio, Greve in Chianti**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Sauvignon Villa Vallemaggiore**

**Poggio Re 2018**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

18 months in small oak barrels give this wine balance: a smooth blackberry Cabernet with fresh tannins and a solid, lingering finish of forest berry jam and chocolate notes. Good with wild fowl and polenta.

[www.vicchiomaggio.it](http://www.vicchiomaggio.it)

**Mocali, Montalcino**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Sauvignon 2018**

**16 points | 2022 to 2024**

Cassis and black tobacco notes shape the bouquet of this Cabernet Sauvignon; a full-bodied texture with lively and fine-grained tannins, and a compelling berry finish.

[www.mocali.eu](http://www.mocali.eu)

**Paniole, Magliano**

**Maremma Toscana DOC Emineo 2018**

**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Pleasant amarena cherry and liquorice nose, dense on the palate with fine-grained tannins and a lingering finish. Still needs to mature.

[azmocali@tiscali.it](mailto:azmocali@tiscali.it)

**La Chimera d'Albegna, Marsiliana**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Leonardo 2017**

**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Undergrowth and cassis nose, very characterful with powerful tannins, and fruity and herb notes providing balance to the peppery finish.

[lachimeradalbegna.it](http://lachimeradalbegna.it)

**Mocali, Montalcino**

**Maremma Toscana DOC Petit Verdot 2018**

**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Authentic nose of forest fruit, herbs and soft-wood aromas, compact structure, harmonious with a berry and herb finish.

[www.mocali.eu](http://www.mocali.eu)

**Mocali, Montalcino**

**Maremma Toscana DOC**

**Cabernet Franc 2018**

**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Robust berry nose with Mediterranean macchia aromas, polished texture and a delicately tart and fruity finish.

[www.mocali.eu](http://www.mocali.eu)



MORELLINO DI SCANSANO DOCG

# Mediterranean Sangiovese

A Morellino di Scansano DOCG is the fruit of Tuscan winemaking tradition dating back more than a century. Its area of origin also represents the long history of this Maremma Sangiovese.

**T**he dry, well aerated climate on the southern Tuscan coast allows the Sangiovese grape to ripen perfectly and thus demonstrate its finesse. Morellino di Scansano DOCG is made around the town that gives it its name. The production area covers 1500 hectares of vines at between 200 and 500 metres above sea level. The vineyards are nestled between the Ombrone and Albegna valleys, and are protected from the cool northerly winds and open to gentle breezes from the sea, ensuring wide temperature variation between day and night.

The origins of the Morellino di Scansano DOCG date back to the era of the Etruscans. However, until the 18th century, the majority of Maremma - to which the Morellino di Scansano area belongs - was still a virtually uninhabited marshland where malaria was rampant. It was not until the marshland was drained that the current landscape in the province of Grosseto was born. This benefited Morellino production, and recognition with a DOC in 1978 and a DOCG in 2007 gave things a further boost.

The DOCG area covers the entire commune of Scansano and parts of the communes of Campagnatico, Grosseto, Magliano in Toscana, Manciano, Roccalbegna and Semproniano in the province of Grosseto. Morellino must contain at least 85 percent Sangiovese, with complementary grapes including native Canaiolo and Colorino or even Merlot and Cabernet. However, numerous varietal Sangioveses have now also hit the market. A Morellino di Scansano Annata is ruby red in colour with a fruity nose, fresh and juicy on the palate, and accompanied by subtle tannins. It can

be marketed as a young wine, as early as the spring after the harvest.

Morellino di Scansano Riserva must have been matured in cellars for at least two years, one of which must have been in oak. This development shapes the wine's character: dense ruby red with touches of garnet, a ripe fruity nose and a complex style on the palate. Between these two stands another form of Morellino di Scansano, namely selections matured for between four and twelve months: these boast cherry, red fruit, spice and vanilla aromas on the nose and are dry on the palate with a full body, compact tannins and good balance.

However, whether Annata, Selection or Riserva, one thing holds true: a Morellino di Scansano is Mediterranean, and when young is more accessible than inland Sangiovese. Among the Riservas, the harmonious 2016 vintage stands out, and the 2017 vintage has produced some characterful wines. Annatas from 2018 delight with their fresh fruit aromas.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** a gently hilly region covering around 65,000 hectares in the Grosseto hinterland near the coast

**Vineyard area:** 1,500 ha

**Producers:** approx. 100

**Key grape varieties:** Sangiovese (at least 85% of the blend)

**[www.consorzioarellino.it](http://www.consorzioarellino.it)**



# Top 10 Best of Morellino

Coastal Sangiovese impresses in both the Annata and Riserva versions, as well as offering excellent value for money.



## 1 Belguardo - Mazzei, Grosseto

**Riserva Bronzone 2017**  
17.5 points | 2021 to 2025

Sangiovese matured in small oak barrels for 14 months: tempting forest fruit and blossom nose with hints of Mediterranean macchia, well balanced in the attack with good balance between the tannins and acidity, combining finesse and length.

[www.mazzei.it](http://www.mazzei.it)



## 2 Val delle Rose, Grosseto

**Riserva Poggio Al Leone 2016**

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Exquisite nose of ripe forest fruit, violet and Mediterranean macchia, full and harmonious on the palate with perfect balance between the tannins and acidity, combining polish with opulence.

[www.valdellerose.it](http://www.valdellerose.it)



## 3 La Selva, Orbetello

**Riserva Colli dell'Uccellina 2017**

17 points | 2021 to 2025

Elegant Morellino with lots of Sangiovese and some Merlot, matured in oak for a year: tempting dark spice and fruit nose, compact in the attack with fine-grained tannins, well-integrated acidity, and a berry and herb finish. Enjoy with a barbecued steak.

[www.laselva.bio](http://www.laselva.bio)



## 4 Tenute Valdifalco, Magliano in Toscana

**Poggio Marcone 2018**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

Bright ruby colour, offering up a tempting nose of raspberry, floral and pepper aromas once swirled, well structured with well-proportioned tannins and acidity and a harmonious spicy and fruity finish, combining power with elegance.

[www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)



## 5 Fattoria Le Pupille, Elisabetta Gepetti, Istia d'Ombrone

**Riserva 2017**

17 points | 2021 to 2025

Complex violet, sandalwood and cherry aromas, a compact, smooth structure, well-integrated tannins, and forest fruit, spice and stone fruit notes in the finish. Good with red meat and game.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)



## 6 Fattoria Mantellassi, Magliano in Toscana

**Riserva Le Sentinelle Forever 2016**

17 points | 2021 to 2025

85% Sangiovese and 15% Alicante, matured in barrels for 20 months: a successful Riserva with lots of fruit, well-balanced oak, youthful tannins and a lingering finish. Excellent with food.

[www.fattoriamentellassi.it](http://www.fattoriamentellassi.it)



## 7 Morisfarms, Massa Marittima

**Riserva 2016**

17 points | 2021 to 2026

Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon: a very captivating berry nose delicately intertwined with leather and herb aromas, a complex texture with fine-grained tannins balanced out by the acidity, and a ripe stone fruit finish. Successful.

[www.morisfarms.com](http://www.morisfarms.com)



## 8 Tenuta Ammiraglia - Frescobaldi, Magliano

**Riserva 2015**

17 points | 2021 to 2025

Beginning with cherry, mushroom and floral aromas, then polished tannins, fresh yet well-integrated acidity, and a lingering finish. An elegant Morellino with compelling fresh fruit and finesse. Good with a Viennese Tafelspitz.

[www.frescobaldi.com](http://www.frescobaldi.com)



## 9 Villa Acquaviva, Manciano

**Nero 2016**

16.5 points | 2021 to 2022

Captivating blend of Sangiovese, Malvasia Nera and Alicante: an inviting nose of stone fruit and Mediterranean macchia notes, compact in the attack with robust tannins, well made right into the finish.

[www.villacquaviva.com](http://www.villacquaviva.com)



## 10 Azienda Agricola Bruni, Fonteblanda

**Laire 2017**

16.5 points | 2021 to 2024

Complex raspberry, leather and liquorice nose, harmonious structure with well-integrated acidity, compact tannins and a smooth fruit finish. Good with braised lamb.

[www.aziendabruni.it](http://www.aziendabruni.it)

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**Fattoria di Magliano, Magliano**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG Heba 2018**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Perfectly attuned nose of berry and floral aromas, polished on the palate with good balance between the acidity and the fine-grained tannins, and a lingering fruity finish.

[www.fattoriadimagliano.it](http://www.fattoriadimagliano.it)

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**Poggio al Lupo, Magliano**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Captivating berry and herb nose with subtle cocoa notes, harmonious on the palate with a fruity, spicy finish. Very successful.

[www.tenutasetteponti.it](http://www.tenutasetteponti.it)

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**Poggio Argentiera, Grosseto**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG**  
**Bellamarsilia 2019**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Red fruit and violet notes on the nose, compact structure with robust tannins, refreshing acidity and good length. Versatile.

[www.poggioargentiera.com](http://www.poggioargentiera.com)

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**Poggio Brigante, Magliano**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG Arsura 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Varietal Sangiovese with forest fruit and violet aromas, well balanced on the palate with well-integrated tannins and a black cherry finish. Compelling character.

[www.poggiobrigante.it](http://www.poggiobrigante.it)

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**La Selva, Orbetello**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2020 to 2023**

A wine matured in steel, beginning with clear raspberry aromas, then a powerful structure, well-integrated tannins and a fresh, fruity finish.

[www.laselva.bio](http://www.laselva.bio)

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**Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Fruity Sangiovese nose with delicate spice, polished and harmonious on the palate, and fleet-footed in the finish. Reliable.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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**Tenute Valdifalco, Magliano in Toscana**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Engaging raspberry and violet bouquet, juicy in the attack, with a delicately spicy berry finish. Authentic style.

[www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)

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**Fattoria Mantellassi, Magliano in Toscana**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG**  
**il Mago di O3 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2022**

Pure Sangiovese with no added sulphites: stone fruit and spice aromas, fresh on the palate with lively acidity and a delicately spicy finish.

[www.fattoriamentellassi.it](http://www.fattoriamentellassi.it)

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**Fattoria Mantellassi, Magliano in Toscana**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG**  
**Mentore 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Made of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon: blackcurrant aromas, characterful on the palate, juicy and full with a spicy berry finish.

[www.fattoriamentellassi.it](http://www.fattoriamentellassi.it)

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**Poggio Brigante, Magliano**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Red fruit aromas, compact structure with well-integrated acidity and a lingering berry finish.

[poggiobrigante.it](http://poggiobrigante.it)

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**Fattoria San Felo, Magliano**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG Lampo 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

A light ripe cherry and violet nose, juicy on the palate with invigorating acidity and a solid fruity finish.

[www.fattoriasanfelo.com](http://www.fattoriasanfelo.com)

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**Poggio Maestrino, Magliano**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG**  
**Spiaggiole 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Sangiovese from a vineyard 200 metres above sea level: ripe forest fruit nose with delicate spice, smooth with lively acidity on the palate, good with pasta and wild boar sugo.

[www.roccadicastagnoli.com](http://www.roccadicastagnoli.com)

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**Poggio Argentiera, Grosseto**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Charming nose of red berry and lilac aromas, compact on the palate and freshly fruity in the finish.

[www.poggioargentiera.com](http://www.poggioargentiera.com)

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**Azienda Agricola Bruni, Fonteblanda**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG Marteto 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Has spent a few months in oak: raspberry nose with floral aromas, juicy on the palate with good balance between tannins and acidity, smooth and long.

[www.aziendabruni.it](http://www.aziendabruni.it)

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**Val delle Rose, Grosseto**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Charismatic nose of violet and stone fruit aromas, compact in the attack with well-integrated tannins, juicy yet very lingering.

[www.valdellerose.it](http://www.valdellerose.it)

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**Villa Patrizia, Roccalbegna**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG Lorneta 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

A nose of fresh cherry and violets, juicy on the palate with pulsating acidity and a solid fruit finish.

[www.villa-patrizia.com](http://www.villa-patrizia.com)

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**Rocca delle Macie, Castellina in Chianti**  
**Morellino di Scansano DOCG 2019**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2022**

Warming cherry nose, crisp and fresh on the palate. For any occasion.

[www.roccadellemacie.com](http://www.roccadellemacie.com)

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MONTECUCCO DOC / MONTECUCCO SANGIOVESE DOCG

# The Rosso of the volcano

Montecucco is still 'terra bianca' for many wine enthusiasts: this region in the hinterland of the Tuscan coast, near Montalcino with its volcanic soils, is predestined for winemaking.

**T**he wines from this region - Montecucco DOC and Montecucco Sangiovese DOCG - are an oenological jewel in southern Tuscany that has been one of Italy's top designations of origin since 2011, whilst remaining typically Tuscan. In Montecucco DOC and Montecucco Sangiovese DOCG, Tuscany's most important grape variety plays a key role: it must make up at least 90 percent of the blend for Montecucco Sangiovese and at least 60 percent for Rosso. Montecucco Sangiovese DOCG offers one of the lowest yields at 70 quintals of grapes per hectare.

The Consorzio Montecucco represents 66 (of around 80) wineries, more than 500 hectares of vineyards (out of nearly 800 hectares in total) and more than 1.2 million bottles of the annual overall production of 1.8 million. The cultivation area covers seven communes: Arcidosso, Campagnatico, Castel del Piano, Cinigiano, Civitella Paganico, Roccalbegna and Seggiano. The majority of the vineyards are on the slopes of Monte Amiata, an extinct volcano that is snow-capped in winter and even offers skiing. Its soils give the wines a mineral, saline note. Further north, limestone dominates. The climate is fresh and breezy and also enjoys both dry airflows from inland Italy and Mediterranean breezes from the Tyrrhenian coast and the Argentario peninsula. The altitude of between 150 and 500 metres above sea level ensures a wide range of terroirs, where white varieties such as Vermentino also produce good results. More than two thirds of the region are organically or biodynamically cultivated, thanks to the soils and good movement of air.

Sangiovese is of course the dominant grape variety in around 800 hectares of the region, but takes a rather different form of expression in Montecucco wines compared with Tuscany's other Sangiovese areas. Even Montalcino, whose hillsides are just a few kilometres as the crow flies from the opposite northern side of the valley, offer an entirely different type of Sangiovese. Sangiovese from Montecucco combines power with elegance and the aforementioned minerality.

Out of recent vintages, the well-balanced 2016 vintage stands out; 2017 was marked by drought (with the first rainfall not arriving until the autumn) but nevertheless produced rock-solid wines; and despite periods of extreme heat and rainfall, 2018 saw 40 percent higher harvest yields than 2017 and was considered an excellent vintage by winemakers. This will most likely be confirmed by the vintage's first Riservas, which are being released next year.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** zone for Sangiovese, Rosso, Vermentino, Bianco, Rosato and Vin Santo in southwest Tuscany

**Vineyard area:** 800 ha

**Producers:** approx. 80

**Key grape varieties:** Sangiovese, Vermentino

**[www.consorziomontecucco.it](http://www.consorziomontecucco.it)**

# Top 10 Best of Montecucco

Power, elegance and minerality are the features of Sangiovese from the slopes of Monte Amiata, combined with a touch of Mediterranean flair.



## 1 Castello Collemassari, Cinigiano Riserva Poggio Lombrone 2016

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**  
Single-vineyard wine from 300 metres above sea level: delicate nose with cherry, liquorice and violet aromas, smooth texture, robust and precise tannins, subtle minerality, and a finish of plum and Mediterranean macchia notes. Elegant.

[www.collemassari.it](http://www.collemassari.it)



## 2 Villa Patrizia, Roccalbegna Istrico 2016

**17 points | 2021 to 2025**  
Interesting forest fruit, macchia and floral nose, fresh on the palate with lively acidity yet perceptible tannins, and an intense fruit finish with balsamic touches. Still needs to mature.

[www.villa-patrizia.com](http://www.villa-patrizia.com)



## 3 Calle de Catocci, Cinigiano Poggio d'Oro Riserva 2016

**17 points | 2022 to 2027**  
30 months in Slavonic oak: an organic wine with a cherry and violet nose, compact in the attack, well-integrated acidity, and a finish with touches of opulence but above all plenty of fruit. Reliable, could mature.

[www.lecalce.it](http://www.lecalce.it)



## 4 Ottoettari, Montenero-Castel del Piano Riserva 8ettari 2016

**17 points | 2021 to 2025**  
A selection of the estate's best Sangiovese grapes: exquisite forest berry and lilac nose, robust and skilfully positioned tannins, and a spicy, fruity finish. Enjoy with a flavoursome steak.

[www.ottoettari.com](http://www.ottoettari.com)



## 5 Poggio Stenti, Montenero d'Orcia Riserva Pian di Staffa 2016

**17 points | 2022 to 2025**  
Ruby red with touches of garnet, a pleasant nose of ripe forest berries, vanilla and violet, a precise texture with fine-grained tannins and a lingering finish. Suitable for any occasion.

[www.poggiostenti.com](http://www.poggiostenti.com)



## 6 Le Pianore, Montespertoli Rosso Tiniatus 2017

**17 points | 2021 to 2025**  
Sangiovese from a biodynamically cultivated vineyard 500 metres above sea level: fruity with spice and herb aromas, elegant structure, well-integrated tannins and acidity, mineral and saline with a finish of Mediterranean macchia and blackcurrant notes.

[www.lepianore.com](http://www.lepianore.com)



## 7 Basile, Cinigiano Riserva Ad Agio 2015

**17 points | 2022 to 2027**  
Gained its harmony from two years in 500l barrels and a further two in bottle: wonderful forest fruit, liquorice and blossom aromas, juicy on the palate with a perfect symbiosis between the acidity and tannins, and a precise finish. Suitable for laying down.

[basilessa.it](http://basilessa.it)



## 8 Parmoleto, Montenero d'Orcia Riserva 2016

**17 points | 2021 to 2025**  
This Sangiovese has been aged in oak for 24 months: engaging cherry nose with violet and Mediterranean macchia notes, silky in the attack, very polished and smooth, with a lingering fruity finish. Reliable style.

[www.parmoleto.it](http://www.parmoleto.it)



## 9 Pierini e Brugi, Campagnatico Ginepraio 2016

**17 points | 2022 to 2026**  
Successful blend of lots of Sangiovese with a little Syrah: an opulent nose of red berry and dried flower aromas, compact texture, acidity in harmony with the tannins, and a spicy, fruity finish. Enjoy with mature cheese.

[www.pieriniebrugi.it](http://www.pieriniebrugi.it)



## 10 Tenuta L'Impos-tino, Civitella Paganico Riserva Viandante 2015

**17 points | 2022 to 2028**  
This wine has spent 24 months in French oak: exquisite raspberry nose with leather touches, harmonious on the palate with perfect balance between the tannins and acidity, a long finish. Good with juicy roast beef.

[www.tenutaimpostino.it](http://www.tenutaimpostino.it)

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**Castello Colle Massari, Cinigiano**  
**Rosso Riserva ColleMassari 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

A rosso dominated by Sangiovese with some Cilieggiolo and Cabernet Sauvignon: spicy cherry nose with lilac and rosehip tea aromas, juicy on the palate, fresh, with beautiful development into ripe fruit notes. Appealing.

[www.collemassari.it](http://www.collemassari.it)

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**Ottoettari, Montenero-Castel del Piano**  
**8ettari 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Blend of lots of Sangiovese with a little Canaiolo: complex raspberry, violet and liquorice nose, compact structure with accentuated tannins and acidity, and fresh berry and pepper notes in the finish.

[www.ottoettari.com](http://www.ottoettari.com)

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**Colle Petruccio, Campagnatico**  
**Rosso Riserva Stregato 2015**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Charismatic nose of violet, tobacco, forest berry, black pepper and herb aromas, robust structure with perceptible acidity and compact tannins, and an elegant finish.

[www.collepetruccio.it](http://www.collepetruccio.it)

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**Fattoria La Vialla, Castiglion Filocchi**  
**Riserva L'Abbandonato 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

Inviting small forest fruit and Mediterranean macchia aromas, elegant development with well-integrated tannins and acidity, and a spicy, fruity finish of delicate mineral notes.

[lavialla.it](http://lavialla.it)

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**Basile, Cinigiano**  
**Cartacanta 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Organic wine from a vineyard 350 metres above sea level: raspberry and violet aromas, precise on the palate with lively acidity and good extract, combining complexity with a fruity finish.

Appealingly elegant style, could still mature.

[basilessa.it](http://basilessa.it)

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**Tenuta Pianirossi, Grosseto**  
**La Fonte 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

A classic Sangiovese nose of red forest fruit, violets and mushrooms, densely structured with fine-grained tannins and shrewd acidity, and a long, promising finish. Needs to mature.

[www.pianirossi.it](http://www.pianirossi.it)

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**Tenuta L'Impostino, Civitella Paganico**  
**Rosso Riserva Impostino 2015**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Blend of Sangiovese with Merlot, Syrah and Petit Verdot: forest fruit and Mediterranean macchia aromas, compact texture, invigorating acidity balanced out by the tannins, and a ripe fruity finish.

[www.tenutaimpostino.it](http://www.tenutaimpostino.it)

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**Castello Colle Massari, Cinigiano**  
**Rigoletto 2018**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Tempting forest fruit nose flanked by herb aromas, full-bodied on the palate with corpulent tannins, and beautiful development into stone fruit and pepper notes.

[www.collemassari.it](http://www.collemassari.it)

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**Le Maciarine, Seggiano**  
**Montecucco DOC Rosso 2018**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Matured in steel and precise in style: appealing raspberry and floral nose, fresh in the attack, a solid structure of acidity and tannins, and a pleasantly fruity finish with mineral touches.

[www.maciarine.it](http://www.maciarine.it)

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**Palmoletino, St' Angelo**  
**Rosso Scarafone 2016**  
**16 points | 2022 to 2025**

Promising nose of ripe cherry, sandalwood and spice, polished structure yet also juicy and fresh with good length.

[rooms-wine.it](http://rooms-wine.it)

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**Palmoletino, St' Angelo**  
**Riserva Fondo di Pio 2015**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Varietal Sangiovese matured in tonneaus for a few months: warm raspberry and flower aromas, juicy on the palate with perceptible acidity, well balanced right into the finish. Elegant yet full.

[rooms-wine.it](http://rooms-wine.it)

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**Calle de Catocci, CINIGIANO**  
**Sangiovese Poggio d'Oro 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

18 months in oak give this wine its balance: classic Sangiovese nose, fresh with perfectly integrated acidity and a fruity finish. Already enjoyable now but could also be left to mature.

[www.lecalle.it](http://www.lecalle.it)

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**Colle Petruccio, Campagnatico**  
**Rosso Ardente 2016**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Spicy fruity nose with cherry aromas and tobacco notes, full-bodied on the palate with well-integrated tannins, lively acidity and a solid, spicy length. Enjoy with pasta and wild boar ragu.

[www.collepetruccio.it](http://www.collepetruccio.it)

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**Le Vigne, Montenero d'Orcia**  
**Rosso Cupilaio 2018**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Refreshing blackberry aromas, well balanced yet also well structured with robust tannins on the palate, well-integrated acidity, and a compact fruity finish.

[www.aziendalevigne.com](http://www.aziendalevigne.com)

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**Campi Nuovi, Castellina in Chianti**  
**Sangiovese 2016**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

12 months in barrels provide a fresh forest fruit nose, sturdy tannins are balanced out by the acidity, and the precise finish impresses with its delicate mineral touches.

[www.campinuovi.com](http://www.campinuovi.com)

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**Tenuta Ribusieri, Cinigiano**  
**Rosso Le Maciole 2018**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

A fruit-driven nose, dense on the palate, smooth and rounded out with fine-grained tannins and a solid style.

[www.agricolaribusieri.it](http://www.agricolaribusieri.it)

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**Tenuta Pianirossi, Grosseto**  
**Rosso Sidus 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Forest berry, herb and lilac nose, full-bodied texture with robust tannins supported well by the acidity, ending with an intriguing stone fruit finish.

[www.pianirossi.it](http://www.pianirossi.it)

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**Tenuta L'Impostino, Civitella Paganico**  
**Rosso Ciarlone 2016**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

A blend of Sangiovese, Alicante, Merlot and Petit Verdot matured in oak for 12 months: tempting nose of stone fruit and blossom aromas, good balance, balsamic touches in the finish.

[www.tenutaimpostino.it](http://www.tenutaimpostino.it)

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**Villa Patrizia, Roccalbegna**  
**Rosso Leremo 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Small forest fruit and violet nose, full-bodied on the palate with well-integrated acidity and a floral, fruity finish. Robust.

[www.villa-patrizia.com](http://www.villa-patrizia.com)

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**Calle de Catocci, CINIGIANO**  
**Rosso Campo Rombolo 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

A crisp and fresh vintage wine offering fruit and fullness, in an appealing compact style.

[www.lecalle.it](http://www.lecalle.it)

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**Fattoria La Vialla, Castiglion Filocchi**  
**Rosso Leccio Moro 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Tempting nose of fresh forest berries, herbs and oak, smooth on the palate with polished tannins and a pleasant berry finish.

[lavialla.it](http://lavialla.it)

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**Parmoleto, Montenero d'Orcia**  
**Rosso 2017**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Blend of Sangiovese, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo and Cabernet Sauvignon matured in oak for 10 months: shaped by ripe berry fruit with touches of Mediterranean macchia, compact in the attack.

[www.parmoleto.it](http://www.parmoleto.it)

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BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO DOCG 2015

# Cinque Stelle Superiore

The 2015 vintage in Tuscany offered all that a winegrower could possibly hope for: high quality levels and large quantities of grapes. We were interested to see what this would mean for Montalcino. The results speak for themselves!

**T**he Montalcino hills in southern Tuscany are home to one of the finest wines in Italy and the entire world, namely Brunello di Montalcino DOCG. One of the things that makes it so special is its unique, varied terroir: 2100 hectares of vines (out of a total of 3500 hectares) of a single grape variety are used to create a wide range of Brunello interpretations. The vineyards range from 150 metres above sea level on the slopes of the Val d'Orcia to around 500 metres on the top of the Montalcino hills. The wide variety of soils - including alluvial land, limestone sedimentation from the primordial ocean, and clayey 'galestro' and 'alberese' - contributes to this diversity.

Producers are also increasingly aware of this, and the current 2015 vintage has seen more selections and wines for laying down than ever before. Individual wineries such as the Loacker family's Corte Pavone even have up to seven different sites, which they produce as crus depending on their quality.

Brunello di Montalcino was awarded a DOC in 1966, and just one year later in 1967, producers decided to join forces to create the Brunello di Montalcino winegrowers' consortium. Later, on 1 July 1980, Brunello became the first Italian wine to be awarded a DOCG. Now, more than nine million bottles of Brunello are produced.

Brunello di Montalcino must be 100% Sangiovese. 2100 hectares are planted in the Montalcino region, and cultivated by around 250 operations. The wines must be matured in oak barrels

for at least two years and in bottles for at least four months (six for Riservas). A Brunello di Montalcino is marketed no fewer than five years after the harvest, whilst for a Riserva this period is six years.

The current 2015 vintage of Brunello comes from a warm, balanced year that saw rainfall at the right time, enabling perfect vineyard management.

Some critics have described it as the 'vintage of the century', others as one 'that will be remembered', and 2015 received plenty of advance praise before it even hit the market. However, the results also speak for themselves: this vintage offers quality, ripeness, depth, and remarkable precision and purity of fruit. And this time, the committee of experts that awards the vintage a star rating out of a few months after the vintage agreed - 2015 was named Cinque Stelle, with an extra S for Superiore.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** vineyards around Montalcino in southern Tuscany.

**Vineyard area:** 2100 ha (of a total of 3500 ha of vines)

**Producers:** More than 200

**Key grape varieties:** Sangiovese (varietal).

**[www.consorzio Brunello di Montalcino.it](http://www.consorzio Brunello di Montalcino.it)**

# Top 10 Best of Brunello

Brunello has never been so good: an increasing number of producers are making single-vineyard wines and selections with 2015 as the first vintage.



## 1 Casanova di Neri, Montalcino

Tenuta Nuova 2015

19 points | 2024 to 2032

Promising nose of blackcurrant and Mediterranean macchia aromas, full-bodied structure, robust tannins yet also lots of elegance and finesse, and a powerful finish. A characterful wine that impresses with its spice, freshness and length. Still needs to mature.

[www.casanovadineri.com](http://www.casanovadineri.com)



## 2 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona, Montalcino

Vigna di Pianrosso 2015

19 points | 2024 to 2034

Seductively complex red berry and floral nose with subtle liquorice aromas, powdery tannins, invigorating acidity, perfect harmony, and an opulent finish of plum, eucalyptus and chocolate. Enjoy with autumnal game dishes.

[www.ciaccipiccolomini.com](http://www.ciaccipiccolomini.com)



## 3 Siro Pacenti, Montalcino

PS Vecchie Vigne 2015

19 points | 2024 to 2034

Intense Sangiovese nose of ripe forest fruit, wild flower and spice aromas with macchia and tobacco notes, polished on the palate with perfect balance between the tightly meshed tannins and the acidity, and an elegant, endlessly lingering finish. Exceptionally made, has lots of potential.

[www.siropacenti.it](http://www.siropacenti.it)



## 4 Podere Giudo, Montalcino

2015

19 points | 2023 to 2034

A bewitching forest fruit nose with pepper and floral aromas, a complex texture, good balance between the tightly knit tannins and the acidity, and a lingering finish of ripe fruit notes and balsamic touches. Hugely complex and refined, but still needs to mature.

[www.giudo.it](http://www.giudo.it)



## 5 Caparzo Tenuta, Montalcino

Vigna La Casa 2015

18.5 points | 2024 to 2031

Intense, delicately spiced blossom nose with fresh berry aromas and some floral touches, very solid texture with good balance between the tannins and the acidity, and a polished finish of stone fruit, tobacco and eucalyptus notes.

[www.caparzo.com](http://www.caparzo.com)



## 6 Baricci, Montalcino

Montosoli 2015

18.5 points | 2024 to 2032

Tempting raspberry, dried flower and leather nose, precisely dimensioned and spirited right the way through to the pleasantly mineral finish. An impressively polished wine. Recommended with stuffed roast veal.

[www.baricci.it](http://www.baricci.it)



## 7 Talenti, S. Angelo in Colle-Montalcino

Piero 2015

18.5 points | 2023 to 2034

Linear nose of black cherry aromas and balsamic components, smooth on the palate with lively acidity and robust tannins, and a finish of berry and lilac notes. Smooth yet powerful.

[www.talentimontalcino.it](http://www.talentimontalcino.it)



## 8 Tenuta Corte Pavone, Montalcino

Campo Marzio 2015

18.5 points | 2023 to 2035

This year's most successful representative of the Loacker family's production project: fresh berry, sandalwood and pepper aromas, powerful yet refined in the attack with good balance between the tannins and acidity, with delicately fruity, balsamic touches.

[www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)



## 9 Mocali, Montalcino

Riserva Vigna delle

Raunate 2015

18 points | 2023 to 2029

Spicy nose with fresh forest fruit, liquorice and blossom aromas, characterful yet also very smooth with the acidity balanced out by the tannins, and a stone fruit, undergrowth finish. Enjoy with roast wild boar and mushrooms.

[mocali.eu](http://mocali.eu)



## 10 Val di Suga, Montalcino

Poggio al Granchio 2015

18 points | 2024 to 2031

Initially a rather reticent nose followed by forest fruit, blossom and sandalwood aromas, polished in the attack with very precise acidity, full-bodied tannins and an intense fruit finish. Still needs to round out.

[www.valdisuga.it](http://www.valdisuga.it)

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**Poggio di Sotto Fattoria, Castelnuovo Abate**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**18 points | 2025 to 2035**

As always a stronghold of tradition with its raspberry, violet and leather nose, still a very youthful structure with fine-grained tannins, invigorating acidity, and a tempting finish of plum, leather and tobacco notes. Offering appealing elegance.

[www.poggiodisotto.com](http://www.poggiodisotto.com)

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**Siro Pacenti, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Pelagrelli 2015**

**18 points | 2023 to 2033**

Promising nose of raspberry, violet, Mediterranean macchia and spice aromas, polished texture with accentuated, lingering acidity and an elegantly fruity finish of floral notes. Combines a style true to its terroir with modernity and verve.

[www.siropacenti.it](http://www.siropacenti.it)

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**Lisini, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**18 points | 2023 to 2033**

Raspberry nose with discreet herb aromas, utterly polished texture with robust tannins, juicy and smooth right into the lingering finish. Elegant and lingering yet also characterful. Excellent with food.

[www.lisini.com](http://www.lisini.com)

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**Podere Le Ripi, Castelnuovo Abate**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Amore e Magia 2015**

**18 points | 2023 to 2031**

Harmonious in the attack with small forest fruit and white pepper aromas with floral touches, an excellent long-lasting structure with well-integrated, tightly meshed tannins borne up by lively acidity, and a lingering fruity finish with saline mineral components.

[www.podereleripi.com](http://www.podereleripi.com)

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**Argiano, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna del Suolo 2015**

**18 points | 2023 to 2029**

Complex nose with red berry and dried fruit aromas, compact with beautiful polish, invigorating acidity, and a red berry finish, overall an utterly harmonious structure with elegant contours and character.

[www.argiano.net](http://www.argiano.net)

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**Castello Romitorio, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Filo di Seta 2015**

**18 points | 2023 to 2030**

A precise raspberry nose, harmonious in the attack, very polished with excellent powdery tannins, very full and spirited yet still elegant, ending with ripe plum and leather notes. Perceptible but perfectly integrated oak.

[www.castelloromitorio.it](http://www.castelloromitorio.it)

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**Canalicchio di Sopra, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG La Casaccia 2015**

**18 points | 2023 to 2031**

After swirling, this wine develops red berry, rose petal and leather aromas, juicy and compact on the palate with lively acidity, characterful and refined right into the finish. Its corpulent, meaty style would go fantastically well with red meat.

[www.canalicchiodisopra.com](http://www.canalicchiodisopra.com)

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**Capanna, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**18 points | 2024 to 2033**

Finely chiselled fruity nose with violet and tobacco aromas, combining character and polish with the acidity balanced out by the delicate tannins, then smooth with lots of mineral elegance right into the finish. Once again successful in this vintage.

[www.capannamontalcino.com](http://www.capannamontalcino.com)

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**Sesti - Castello di Argiano, San Angelo in Colle**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**18 points | 2024 to 2033**

Multifaceted nose of fresh forest fruit, topped off by floral aromas; precise and well-integrated tannins, fresh acidity, smooth yet full, with a spicy berry finish. Could be left untouched in the cellar for a few years.

[sestiwine.com](http://sestiwine.com)

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**Tenute Silvio**

**Nardi, Casale del Bosco - Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigneto Poggio Doria 2015**

**18 points | 2023 to 2034**

Reticent nose that develops Maraschino cherry and lilac aromas once swirled, juicy in the attack with perfectly integrated tannins, succinct acidity and a lingering finish of cherry, leather and tea notes. Complex.

[www.tenutenardi.com](http://www.tenutenardi.com)

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**Cupano, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Tempting fruity nose with violet and leather aromas; full-bodied structure, lots of acidity, very full with still youthful but tightly meshed tannins, and a ripe berry finish. Refined.

[www.cupano.it](http://www.cupano.it)

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**La Gerla, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Intriguing nose with cherry and herb aromas; excellent structure with a perfect balance between the acidity and the long-lasting tannins, very smooth and refined, fresh and generous all in one.

[www.lagerlamontalcino.com](http://www.lagerlamontalcino.com)

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**Fattoria Uccelliera, Crespina/Lorenzana (Pi)**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Impressively appealing berry nose, compact texture, powerful tannins, well-integrated acidity, and a long, smooth finish. Powerful yet vibrant.

[www.uccelliera.com](http://www.uccelliera.com)

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**Tenuta La Fuga, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Classic nose with fresh berry and balsamic notes, full-bodied on the palate with robust tannins and a delicately tart finish. Timeless.

[www.tenutefolonari.com](http://www.tenutefolonari.com)

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**Fuligni, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Still a rather closed nose that develops plum and herb aromas once swirled, with fresh, perfectly integrated acidity, exceptionally made tannins, and a fruity, spicy finish. Suitable for laying down.

[www.fuligni.it](http://www.fuligni.it)

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**Casanova di Neri, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

A spirited start with forest fruit, oak and spice aromas, robust and beautifully smooth in the attack with lively acidity and a refreshing, harmonious finish.

[www.casanovadineri.com](http://www.casanovadineri.com)

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**Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona, Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2033**

A perfect Brunello nose of ripe berry, leather and spice aromas, crisp on the palate with well-integrated tannins and lively acidity, ending with stone fruit and tobacco notes. Compelling texture.

[www.ciaccipiccolomini.com](http://www.ciaccipiccolomini.com)

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**Antinori, Firenze**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Pian delle Vigne 2015**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Engaging nose of ripe forest fruit, sandalwood and tobacco aromas, harmonious texture, fine-grained tannins, invigorating acidity and a lingering fruity finish. Overall an utterly successful selection from this noble wine dynasty.

[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)

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**Mastrojanni, Castelnuovo dell'Abate Montalcino**

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Loreto 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2033**

Attractive nose of red forest fruit, leather and flowers; elegant, homogenous structure with perfect balance between fine-grained tannins and acidity, and a multifaceted finish. Single-vineyard



Brunello from the eponymous vigna, compelling once again in this vintage.

[www.mastrojanni.com](http://www.mastrojanni.com)

**Tenuta Corte Pavone, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Fiore del Vento 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2034**

Amarena cherry and herb nose, full-bodied in the attack with perceptible acidity and tightly meshed tannins, overall a linear, polished texture with plum, spice and chocolate notes in the finish. Enjoy with a bistecca alla fiorentina.

[www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)

**Tenuta Corte Pavone, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2033**

Complex nose with raspberry, dried flower and tobacco aromas, fresh and juicy in the attack with polished tannins, lively acidity, a precise attack and a forest berry finish. Compelling polish and length.

[www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)

**Celestino Pecci, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Poggio al Carro 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

A reticent nose with cherry, liquorice and floral aromas, full-bodied in the attack with robust tannins and succinct acidity, and a lingering finish. Pairing character with elegance.

[www.aziendapeccicelestino.com](http://www.aziendapeccicelestino.com)

**Donatella Cinelli Colombini, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Prime Donne 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Warming red cherry and floral aromas, juicy and compact in the attack with good balance between acidity and tannins, smooth and spirited. Needs to mature.

[www.cinellicolombini.it](http://www.cinellicolombini.it)

**Fanti, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vallocchio 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

Multifaceted rosehip, spice and lilac aromas, juicy on the palate with accentuated, crisp acidity and a smooth, lingering finish. Substantial and refined.

[www.fantisanfilippo.com](http://www.fantisanfilippo.com)

**Canalicchio - Franco Pacenti, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Rosildo 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

Complex nose with raspberry and wild rosehip, black pepper and herb aromas, powerful on the palate with a lingering finish of forest fruit notes and balsamic touches. Exceptionally made.

[www.canalicchiofrancopacenti.it](http://www.canalicchiofrancopacenti.it)

**Il Marroneto, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Madonna delle Grazie 2015**

**17.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

Red berry and floral aromas, polished in the attack with good balance between powdery tannins and the acidity, polished yet with very accommodating fruitiness enhanced with delicate spice. Consistently reliable.

[www.ilmarroneto.com](http://www.ilmarroneto.com)

**La Fortuna, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Giobi 2015**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2031**

Multifaceted nose of cherry, lilac and striking tobacco aromas, juicy on the palate with perceptible acidity, well-integrated tannins, spirited and powerful, not forgetting its finesse. Enjoy with flavoursome saddle of venison.

[www.tenutafortuna.it](http://www.tenutafortuna.it)

**La Magia, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Il Ciliegio 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Authentic raspberry, violet and dark chocolate nose, smooth in the attack with polished tannins which are as perfectly integrated as the acidity, elegant, spirited and lingering.

[www.fattorialamagia.it](http://www.fattorialamagia.it)

**Le Ragnaie, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG V.V. 2015**

**17.5 points | 2024 to 2033**

Red forest fruit, herb and lilac nose, straightforward development with perfect balance between tannins and acidity, ending with currant and tea notes. A characterful wine with elegant polish.

[www.leragnaie.com](http://www.leragnaie.com)

**Le Ragnaie, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Fornace 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2033**

An interesting stone fruit, herb and flower nose, multifaceted on the palate with brilliantly integrated tannins and lively acidity, and a lingering polished finish. An elegant, perfectly balanced Brunello.

[www.leragnaie.com](http://www.leragnaie.com)

**Poggio Antico, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Altero 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

Engaging nose of raspberry and violet aromas, accentuated acidity, juicy and full, in short a fine, elegant Sangiovese offering polish, fruitiness and length. Suitable for laying down.

[www.poggioantico.com](http://www.poggioantico.com)

**Poggio San Polo, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Podernovi 2015**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2031**

Intriguing forest fruit and blossom nose, elegant development with very elegant, well-integrated

tannins, smooth and wonderfully lingering.

Polished.

[www.poggiosanpolo.com](http://www.poggiosanpolo.com)

**Tenute Silvio Nardi, Casale del Bosco - Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigneto Manachiara 2015**

**17.5 points | 2024 to 2033**

Inviting nose of cassis and liquorice, polished tannins that match the ingenious acidity, beautifully proportioned structure, juicy, elegant and well balanced, with a delicately tart spoiler in the finish. Consistently reliable.

[www.tenutenardi.com](http://www.tenutenardi.com)

**Val di Suga, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna del Lago 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

Still a rather reticent fruit nose with subtle balsamic and spicy touches, utterly complex in the attack with well-integrated acidity and finely meshed tannins. Compellingly elegant style.

[www.valdisuga.it](http://www.valdisuga.it)

**Villa I Cipressi, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Zebras 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Spicy and fruity nose with black pepper aromas, beautifully smooth with well-balanced acidity and tannins, pleasantly full. Successful.

[www.villacipressi.it](http://www.villacipressi.it)

**Altesino, Torrenieri di Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Montosoli 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2033**

Violet and raspberry aromas with some elegant balsamic touches, elegant structure with fine-grained tannins and beautiful development into ripe fruit, leather and dried flower notes. Good with food.

[www.altesino.it](http://www.altesino.it)

**Fattoria Dei Barbi, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna del Fiore 2015**

**17.5 points | 2024 to 2033**

Reticent yet appealing nose of fresh stone fruit, violet and tea leaf aromas, soft, rounded, dense, beautifully smooth yet also with pleasant acidity. Compelling finesse.

[www.fattoriadeibarbi.it](http://www.fattoriadeibarbi.it)

**Camigliano, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Paesaggio Inatteso 2015**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2032**

Crisp forest fruit and violet aromas underscored by balsamic touches, precise texture, polished and lingering. A classically elegant Sangiovese.

[www.camigliano.it](http://www.camigliano.it)

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**La Poderina, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

An exciting, complex wine with a nose reminiscent of forest berries, elegant texture, tannins and acidity in good balance, and a striking combination of polish and spirit.  
[www.saiagricola.it](http://www.saiagricola.it)

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**Salvioni - Cerbaiola, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2024 to 2035**

Delicate nose of floral and berry aromas, juicy on the palate with perceptible tannins and elegant development, exceptionally elegant and smooth. Consistently impressive.  
[www.aziendasalvioni.com](http://www.aziendasalvioni.com)

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**Talenti, S. Angelo in Colle - Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

Engaging nose with delicate raspberry aromas and floral touches, finely chiselled in the attack yet with lively acidity and polished tannins, a fruity and spicy finish, and well-integrated oak. Pleasingly elegant and classic style.  
[www.talentimontalcino.it](http://www.talentimontalcino.it)

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**Vasco Sassetti, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2024 to 2035**

A reticent berry nose with appetising spice notes, traditional in the attack with accentuated acidity, perfectly integrated tannins and a ripe stone fruit, leather and mushroom finish. Remaining a stronghold of tradition.  
[www.agriturismofraschetta.it](http://www.agriturismofraschetta.it)

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**Il Poggiolo, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Terra Rossa 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Raspberry nose cleverly topped off with herb and caramel aromas, compact in the attack with robust tannins smoothed out by the acidity, characterful yet also refined.  
[www.ilpoggiolomontalcino.com](http://www.ilpoggiolomontalcino.com)

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**Tenuta Il Poggione, S. Angelo in Colle - Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Complex flower, berry and leather nose, juicy and fresh on the palate with elegant structure, very smooth, developing well into fresh fruit notes. Appealingly refined.  
[tenutailpoggione.it](http://tenutailpoggione.it)

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**Casiano - Colombaio, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Nose with a touch of herb, compact in the attack with robust tannins and a powerful finish. Perfect with food.  
[www.brunello.org](http://www.brunello.org)

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**Campogiovanni - San Felice, S. Giusmè**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2030**

Charismatic nose of stone fruit, blossom and herbs, juicy on the palate with fine-grained yet perceptible tannins and a very well-balanced finish. Compelling with its power and solid fruit.  
[www.agricolasanfelice.it](http://www.agricolasanfelice.it)

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**SanCarlo, Montorio**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Charming Sangiovese nose, lively structure with powdery tannins balanced out by the acidity and cushioned by smoothness, and a lingering finish. Reliable.  
[www.villasancarolo.wine](http://www.villasancarolo.wine)

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**Castelgiocondo - Frescobaldi, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Castelgiocondo 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Complex fruity and balsamic nose, lots of body and fullness, with fine-grained tannins and succinct acidity, ending with ripe plum and tobacco notes. Enjoy with fillet of beef.  
[www.frescobaldi.it](http://www.frescobaldi.it)

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**Roberto Cipresso, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2031**

Bewitching raspberry nose with violet and juniper aromas, perfectly balanced on the palate with fine-grained tannins, very smooth, juicy and lingering.  
[www.robertocipresso.it](http://www.robertocipresso.it)

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**Le Potazzine - Gorelli, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2030**

Tempting raspberry and floral nose with precisely integrated oak, fresh and juicy in the attack with invigorating acidity and well-integrated, fine-grained tannins. Elegant.  
[www.lepotazzine.it](http://www.lepotazzine.it)

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**Tenuta San Giorgio, Cassina d'Agno**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Ugolforte 2015**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Fragile floral aromas shape the nose, full-bodied on the palate with good balance between tannins and acidity, ending with fresh currant notes and balsamic touches.  
[www.collemassariwines.it](http://www.collemassariwines.it)

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**Agostina Pieri, Castelnuovo Abate**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Cosy forest fruit nose with tobacco notes, compact on the palate with lively acidity and tightly meshed tannins, beautiful balance with a peppery berry finish.  
[www.pieriagostina.it](http://www.pieriagostina.it)

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**Canalicchio di Sopra, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015**  
**17 points | 2023 to 2031**

Small red fruit, violet and tea notes on the nose, then compact on the palate with good balance between lively acidity and compact tannins, and decidedly fruity aromas in the finish.  
[www.canalicchiodisopra.com](http://www.canalicchiodisopra.com)

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**Tenuta Corte Pavone, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Fior di Meliloto 2015**  
**17 points | 2023 to 2034**

Fresh berry and violet aromas, very classic; juicy on the palate with a perfectly balanced structure of tannins and acidity, finely chiselled in the finish with clear fruit notes.  
[www.loacker.bio](http://www.loacker.bio)

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**Castiglion del Bosco, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Campo del Drago 2015**  
**17 points | 2023 to 2030**

A complex berry, liquorice and oak nose, powerful and substantial on the palate with perceptible acidity and a lingering finish of cherry jam and leather notes. Try with wild duck and red cabbage.  
[www.castigliondelbosco.it](http://www.castigliondelbosco.it)

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**Cava d'Onice, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Colombaio 2015**  
**17 points | 2023 to 2029**

Appetising red berry and violet nose, juicy on the palate, robust texture, juicy fruit and a lingering finish. Compelling.  
[www.cavadonice.it](http://www.cavadonice.it)

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**La Rasina, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Persante 2015**  
**17 points | 2023 to 2030**

Promising cherry and Mediterranean macchia nose, compact on the palate with perfect harmony between tannins and acidity, and a precise finish. A good companion to food.  
[www.larasina.it](http://www.larasina.it)

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**Le Gode, Montalcino**  
**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Montosoli 2015**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Still a rather closed nose of berry, dried flower and leather aromas, compact structure, accentuated acidity, polished tannins and a classically elegant finish. Reliable, has potential.  
[www.legodemontalcino.com](http://www.legodemontalcino.com)

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**Le Ragnaie, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Casanovina Montosoli 2015****17 points | 2023 to 2032**

Fresh forest fruit and herb nose, balance between tightly meshed tannins and brittle acidity, pairing a compact texture with longevity. Again very successful.

**[www.leragnaie.com](http://www.leragnaie.com)**

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**Sasso di Sole, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Bruno 2015****17 points | 2023 to 2030**

Raspberry and floral aromas on the nose, dense and juicy on the palate, crisp acidity, tightly meshed tannins, discreet oak notes, and an opulent, ripe fruity finish. Has potential.

**[www.sassodisole.it](http://www.sassodisole.it)**

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**Tiezzi Enzo, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Cerrino 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2030**

The nose is shaped by elegant fruity and spicy aromas, then comes a juicy texture and exceptional balance between tannins and acidity; a characterful wine.

**[www.tiezzivini.it](http://www.tiezzivini.it)**

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**Tiezzi Enzo, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Soccorso 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2029**

A captivating raspberry nose with leather notes and mineral touches; a precise texture with polished tannins and a long and multifaceted finish. Polished and characterful.

**[www.tiezzivini.it](http://www.tiezzivini.it)**

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**Val di Suga, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Spuntali 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2030**

Raspberry, leather and spice aromas on the nose, full-bodied on the palate with tightly knit, well-integrated tannins and lively acidity, ending with stone fruit and tobacco notes.

**[www.valdisuga.it](http://www.valdisuga.it)**

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**Bellaria, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Assunto 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Impressive forest berry and herb nose, compact on the palate, very smooth with beautiful development into juicy stone fruit notes. Harmonious.

**[www.aziendabellaria.com](http://www.aziendabellaria.com)**

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**Fattoi, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015****17 points | 2023 to 2031**

Raspberry, rose and leather notes on the nose, well-integrated tannins, and a finish of fresh berry notes and oak spice.

**[www.fattoi.it](http://www.fattoi.it)**

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**Ferrero, Sant Angelo in Colle****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015****17 points | 2024 to 2032**

Classic Sangiovese nose, polished texture with powdery tannins, perceptible acidity, refined and lingering. Elegant and long-lived.

**[www.brunelloferrero.it](http://www.brunelloferrero.it)**

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**Gianni Brunelli, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Cosy cranberry and violet nose with leather and mushroom aromas, a youthful and fresh texture, well-integrated acidity, fine-grained tannins, ending with a complex finish. Reliable.

**[www.giannibrunelli.it](http://www.giannibrunelli.it)**

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**Ruffino - Tenuta Greppone Mazzi, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Fresh berry nose with leather and plum notes, juicy on the palate with perfectly integrated acidity and tannins, very juicy and full right into the finish.

**[www.ruffino.com](http://www.ruffino.com)**

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**La Fiorita, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG No 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Red berry and floral aromas with perfectly integrated oak, juicy and corpulent on the palate with lively acidity, polished and fine-grained tannins, and beautiful development into youthful fruity notes.

**[lafiorita.com](http://lafiorita.com)**

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**Le Macioche, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Smooth raspberry, tobacco and flower aromas, tempting and very juicy on the palate with well-integrated acidity, smooth and polished right into the finish.

**[www.lemacioche.it](http://www.lemacioche.it)**

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**Villa al Cortile, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Riserva 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Inviting Sangiovese nose, well balanced on the palate with a harmonious finish of crisp red forest fruit notes. Successful.

**[www.tenutepiccini.it](http://www.tenutepiccini.it)**

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**Aisna, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Camponovo 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2029**

Raspberry nose, full in the attack with perfectly integrated tannins and acidity, then plum jam and undergrowth notes in the finish.

**[www.aisna.wine](http://www.aisna.wine)**

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**La Togata, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG La Togata dei Togati 2015****16.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Forest berry and lilac aromas, juicy, dense, rounded and perfectly balanced on the palate. Straightforwardly elegant wine with precise contours.

**[brunellolatogata.wixsite.com/latogata/homeing](http://brunellolatogata.wixsite.com/latogata/homeing)**

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**Scopone Fattoria, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG L'Olivare 2015****16.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Smooth berry nose with violet and pepper notes, compact on the palate with robust tannins and invigorating acidity, characterful and long.

**[www.winescopone.com](http://www.winescopone.com)**

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**Castello Banfi, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Poggio alle Mura 2015****16.5 points | 2022 to 2030**

Complex, fruity wine with raspberry, mushroom and leather aromas, polished tannins and a fresh plum finish. Robust.

**[www.castellobanfi.com](http://www.castellobanfi.com)**

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**Cortonesi, Montalcino****Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Poggiarelli 2015****16.5 points | 2023 to 2029**

Fruity and herbal nose, full-bodied on the palate with robust tannins and a beautiful structure, offering lots of character and a pleasantly virile berry finish.

**[www.cortonesimontalcino.it](http://www.cortonesimontalcino.it)**

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VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO DOCG

# Easy-drinking nobility

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano comes from the Renaissance town of the same name in south-eastern Tuscany. It has not lost any of its nobility since the Middle Ages, but becomes even more enjoyable to drink with every vintage that passes.

**T**he small but perfectly formed area of Montepulciano is the home of the Prugnolo Gentile grape, as Sangiovese is known here. The grape has been native to the region since the early Middle Ages and has formed the basis of Vino Nobile di Montepulciano for centuries. In 1685, the poet Francesco Redi wrote 'Montepulciano di ogni vino è il re' ('Montepulciano is the king of all wines'). Legend has it that Vino Nobile earned its name because it was reserved for Pope Paul III at his own request, as he was from Montepulciano. Another alternative explanation for the wine's name is the fact that only noble families were permitted to produce the wine. Vino Nobile di Montepulciano has been a DOC since 1966 and a DOCG since 1999.

It can only be grown in around 1400 hectares of vineyards at 250 to 600 metres above sea level in the Montepulciano region. Very elegant wines are produced both on the slopes of Montepulciano and in sites at the foot of the hills, where the clayey soils turn into sand.

A Vino Nobile must be matured for at least 24 months, made up of either 24 months in oak, 18 months in oak and the remainder in other containers, or 12 months in oak, a further six months in oak and another six months in a different container. A Riserva must be matured for at least three years, including at least six months in bottle. Vino Nobile must be at least 70 percent Sangiovese. Some of the most interesting Vino Nobiles are varietal Sangioveses, but vineyards also feature other complementary grapes such as Merlot, Cabernet, and increasingly Canaiolo. Vino Nobile di Mon-

tepulciano DOCG has come through the last few years well: climate change has to a certain extent had a positive impact on the grapes, which now create warmer and more velvety wines than those from a decade or two ago. The vintages tasted for this issue bear this out: even Vino Nobile from the (dry) 2017 vintage can be described as utterly successful, but we were particularly impressed by the Riservas from the very beautiful, harmonious 2016 vintage (and a few stragglers from 2015) with their polished, very easy-drinking style. As always, Vino Nobiles - and not just Riservas - can be put away in the cellar for a few years, with maturity doing nothing to damage their easy-drinking characteristics.

Vino Nobile remains a blend of various sites that work together as a whole, and single-vineyard wines are still a small minority, with the exception of a few classics. In recent years, the core group of long-established wineries has been joined by a few interesting young operations that have impressed with their Vino Nobile.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** the slopes around the town of Montepulciano in south-eastern Tuscany.

**Vineyard area:** 1400 ha

**Producers:** approx. 80

**Key grape varieties:** Sangiovese (at least 70% of the blend).

**[www.consorziovinonobile.it](http://www.consorziovinonobile.it)**

# Top 10 Best of Vino Nobile

This focuses primarily on the excellent Riservas and selections from 2016 and 2015, but the 2017 Vino Nobiles were also very enjoyable.



## 1 Boscarelli Poderi, Cervognano di Montepulciano

Costa Grande 2016

18 points | 2022 to 2028

Tempting raspberry nose with hints of violet and undergrowth, harmonious texture with polished tannins balanced out by the lively acidity, and a complex finish of forest berry, spice and cocoa notes. Great with game and game birds.

[www.poderiboscarelli.com](http://www.poderiboscarelli.com)



## 2 Cantine Dei, Montepulciano

Madonna della Querce 2016

18 points | 2022 to 2027

Inviting cherry, tobacco and floral aromas, a light texture with fine-grained, perfectly integrated tannins, invigorating acidity and an utterly elegant, fruity finish. An excellent interpretation of this unique winery.

[www.cantinedei.com](http://www.cantinedei.com)



## 3 Palazzo Vecchio, Valiano di Montepulciano

Riserva 2016

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

An exciting, complex wine with red berry and herb aromas, pleasingly elegant polish and good length ending with fresh currant notes with balsamic touches. Seductive.

[www.fattoriadipalazzevecchio.it](http://www.fattoriadipalazzevecchio.it)



## 4 Salcheto, S. Albino di Montepulciano

Vecchie Viti del Salco 2017

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Elegant nose with stone fruit, dried flower and tobacco aromas, very powerful in the palate with good balance between tannins and acidity, and an endlessly lingering finish. An opulent selection, good with game dishes and flavoursome roasts.

[www.salcheto.it](http://www.salcheto.it)



## 5 Poderi Sanguineto I e II, Acquaviva di Montepulciano

Riserva 2015

17.5 points | 2021 to 2025

Prugnolo Gentile, Canaiolo Nero and Mammolo matured in large oak barrels for three years: inviting berry nose with dried flower and herb aromas, tightly knit tannins, well-integrated acidity, polished and lingering. Delicious.

[www.sanguineto.com](http://www.sanguineto.com)



## 6 Canneto, Montepulciano

Casina Di Doro 2016

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

An utterly inviting nose with stone fruit, tobacco and dried flower aromas, polished in the attack with accentuated acidity and well-rounded powdery tannins, precise right into the spicy finish. Refined.

[www.canneto.com](http://www.canneto.com)



## 7 Valdipiatta, Gracciano di Montepulciano

Vigna d'Alfiero 2017

17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Intense nose of ripe berries, dried flowers and lilac, crisp in the attack with fine-grained tannins ensuring linear development, and a balsamic, fruity finish. Very pleasing linear style.

[www.valdipiatta.it](http://www.valdipiatta.it)



## 8 Tenuta di Gracciano della Seta, Montepulciano

Riserva 2016

17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Sangiovese with some Canaiolo and Merlot matured in tonneaux for 24 months: fresh berry and violet nose, smooth in the attack with well-proportioned tannins and acidity, and a lingering spicy and fruity finish. Elegant.

[www.graccianodellaseta.com](http://www.graccianodellaseta.com)



## 9 Tenuta Vallocaia - Bindella, Acquaviva di Montepulciano

Riserva Vallocaia 2016

17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Intense berry, dried flower and pepper aromas, good balance between the acidity and the fine-grained tannins, and a lingering complex finish. A successful interpretation of the grape variety that could improve further with age.

[www.bindella.it](http://www.bindella.it)



## 10 La Braccesa, Montepulciano

Maggiarino 2015

17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Varietal Sangiovese with an absorbing stone fruit, blossom and liquorice nose, polished in the attack with tightly knit tannins balanced out by the acidity, combining elegance and opulence in the finish.

[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)

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**Palazzo Vecchio, Valiano di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Maestro 2017****17 points | 2021 to 2025**

Inviting berry and lilac aromas shape the nose, perceptible yet tightly knit tannins, vibrant acidity, promising all the way into the finish. Suitable for laying down.

**www.fattoriadipalazzevecchio.it**

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**Villa Sant' Anna Azienda Agricola, Abbadia di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Poldo 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2027**

A barrel-aged classic from Montepulciano: reticent nose with forest fruit and subtle vanilla notes, juicy on the palate with perceptible acidity, then smooth and lingering in the delicately tart finish. Appealingly elegant style.

**www.villasantanna.it**

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**Contucci, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Classic raspberry, violet and tobacco nose, polished on the palate with finely chiselled acidity and an utterly fruity and mineral finish. A classic from the centuries-old cellars of the Palazzo Contucci.

**www.contucci.it**

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**Poggio alla Sala, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

From a vineyard 280 metres above sea level: small forest fruit and flower nose, polished on the palate with good balance between the fresh acidity and tannins, and a finish of red berry and sandalwood notes.

**www.poggioallasala.it**

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**Montemercurio, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Messaggero 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

From vineyards near the San Biagio church: red berry nose with spice notes, robust yet elegant texture invigorated by acidity, elegant right into the finish. Combining power and elegance.

**www.montemercurio.com**

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**Salcheto, S. Albino di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Produced using the Governo Toscano technique, matured in oak for two years: forest berry nose with pepper and leather notes, harmonious on the palate with tightly knit tannins and lively acidity which are both well integrated, and a velvety finish. Compellingly opulent style.

**www.salcheto.it**

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**Salcheto, S. Albino di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Salco 2016****17 points | 2021 to 2026**

Exquisite nose of fully ripe, sun-warmed red berries and wild flowers, precise in the attack with polished tannins, substantial and punchy on the palate with a clear fruit finish. Enjoy with a barbecued steak.

**www.salcheto.it**

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**Canneto, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Complex aroma of red forest fruit, liquorice and herb notes, smooth on the palate with polished tannins and well-integrated acidity. A compact fruit finish with balsamic touches.

**www.canneto.com**

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**Vecchia Cantina di Montepulciano, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Light nose of red berries, dried flowers and mushrooms, elegant in the attack with good balance between acidity and tannins, and an endlessly lingering finish. Noble style.

**www.vecchiacantina.com**

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**Le Bertille, Montepulciano (SI)****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Red berry nose with violet and leather aromas, powerful stature with lively acidity, very full yet still elegant with a smooth, balsamic finish. Precisely polished style.

**www.lebertille.com**

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**Tenuta Santavenere - Triacca, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Poderuccio 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2025**

Matured in small oak barrels for 18 months: complex nose with fruit, vanilla and herb spice aromas, compact on the palate with perfect balance between tannins and acidity, and an elegantly fruity finish.

**www.triaccia.ch**

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**Boscarelli Poderi, Cervognano di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva Sotto Casa 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2027**

Charismatic fruity and spicy nose, rich and streamlined structure, elegant down to the last detail, with skilfully positioned, fine-grained tannins, flattering acidity and a lingering fruity finish. A skilful interpretation of the vintage.

**www.poderiboscarelli.com**

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**Le Bèrne Podere, Cervognano di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Accentuated stone fruit and leather notes, polished on the palate with well-integrated tannins, lively acidity and a lingering finish. For fans of elegant Nobile.

**www.leberne.it**

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**Tenuta Vallocaia - Bindella, Acquaviva di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG I****Quadri 2017****17 points | 2022 to 2025**

Reticent nose that gains bewitching fruity aromas and subtle touches of sandalwood after swirling, elegant in the attack, polished tannins balanced out very well by the crisp acidity, and full bodied in the finish. Perfect with food.

**www.bindella.it**

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**Il Macchione, Montepulciano (Siena)****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Tempting violet and raspberry nose, then crisp, polished and elegant on the palate with good development into opulent fruit and spice notes. Consistently reliable.

**www.podereilmacchione.it**

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**La Braccasca, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva Vigneto Santa Pia 2015****17 points | 2021 to 2026**

Pure Sangiovese with a compellingly complex nose of ripe cherry, juniper and tobacco aromas, full-bodied texture, precise development and a fruity and spicy finish. Successful.

**www.antinori.it**

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**Cantine Dei, Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva Bossona 2015****17 points | 2022 to 2027**

Fresh raspberry and floral nose with balsamic touches, powerful texture, crisp acidity balanced out by powdery tannins, combining density with finesse right into the finish. Good with a Viennese Tafelspitz.

**www.cantinedei.com**

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**Tenuta Tre Rose, Valiano di Montepulciano****Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG****Riserva Simposio 2016****17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Tempting nose of small forest fruit, violets and eucalyptus, harmonious in the attack with crisp, well-integrated acidity, powdery tannins, and a lingering stone fruit and tobacco finish.

**www.tenutatrerose.it**

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# VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO TOSCANA

*A glass of beauty*

[www.consorziovinonobile.it](http://www.consorziovinonobile.it)



Regione Toscana



INTERVENTO REALIZZATO CON IL COFINANZIAMENTO FEASR DEL PIANO DI SVILUPPO RURALE 2014-2020 DELLA REGIONE TOSCANA SOTTOMISURA 3.2



CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG GRAN SELEZIONE

# The success story continues

Although initially eyed with suspicion, it has since become a success story: Gran Selezione single-vineyard wines and selections of grapes from the producer's own vineyards, this year focusing on the 2017 vintage.

**H**istoric Chianti is the Tuscan home of Sangiovese, one of the world's greatest grape varieties and an integral part of Chianti Classico. The Etruscans and the Romans were some of the first to produce wines, and medieval abbeys and aristocrats continued cultivating vines. Today, numerous winemakers are exploring this complex terroir at the heart of Tuscany and producing top wines.

The Chianti Classico DOCG area of origin stretches from Florence to Siena, with vineyards at between 200 and 700 metres above sea level. In the north-west around San Casciano Val di Pesa, vineyards at altitudes of 200 to 300 metres predominantly have 'galestro' soils - a very meagre, dry soil type made up of loose blue-grey lime marl. The central and southern parts of the Chianti region are primarily 'alberese' soils, a meagre subsoil of weathered sandstone. Sandy areas can be found in some of the south. These are combined with a variety of climatic influences, from a continental climate in the north near Florence to breezy elevated sites in Radda in Chianti to the warm, sun-drenched vineyards near Castelnuovo Berardenga.

A Chianti Classico must be at least 80% Sangiovese, combined with complementary varieties such as Canaiolo or Colorino. A Chianti Classico can be marketed as an Annata (a fresh, young vintage wine), a Riserva (if matured for 24 months) or a Gran Selezione, representing the top of the Chianti Classico quality pyramid. It must be aged for 30 months and the grapes used must come from the producer's own vineyards. Almost all Chian-

ti Classico estates have now added a Gran Selezione to their repertoire, including both selections and single-vineyard wines. However, only some of them market the wine after three years, the minimum under production requirements. Many winemakers leave them to mature for a further year or two or even more, which does them good.

The spectrum ranges from traditional classics matured in oak, to powerful, well-structured wines, to elegant, finely chiselled creations reminiscent of a Burgundy. Almost every single municipality (or small part of one) offers a variety of interpretations according to the relevant terroir: as a result, the members of the Chianti Classico consortium are currently discussing whether in the future, individual municipalities or even parts of municipalities should be stated on wine labels as a sub-zone, and whether this should be available to just Gran Selezione wines or to Riserva and Annata examples as well.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** the historic Chianti region between Siena and Florence

**Vineyard area:** 7,000 ha

**Producers:** approx. 350

**Key grape varieties:** Sangiovese

**www.chianticlassico.com**

# Top 10 Best of Gran Selezione

We are focusing on the recently marketed 2017 vintage, but have also presented some of the best Gran Seleziones from earlier years.



## 2 Rocca di Montegrossi, Gaiole in Chianti

Vigneto San Marcellino 2016

18.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Red fruit and undergrowth nose, juicy on the palate, polished and full with lively acidity and a complex forest fruit, tobacco and pepper finish. An almost Burgundian Gran Selezione that still needs to mature.

[www.roccadimontegrossi.it](http://www.roccadimontegrossi.it)



## 3 Castello di Monsanto, Barberino Val d'Elsa

Il Poggio 2015

18.5 points | 2023 to 2032

Engaging raspberry nose with hints of blossom and balsamic touches, good balance between the invigorating acidity and fine-grained tannins, and a fruity finish framed by delicate tobacco notes. A classic.

[www.castellodimonsanto.it](http://www.castellodimonsanto.it)



## 1 Castello di Volpaia, Radda in Chianti

Coltassala 2017

18.5 points | 2022 to 2029

A varietal Sangiovese since 1998: authentic nose with undergrowth, pepper and tobacco aromas, corpulent in the attack with powdery tannins, very meaty with fresh fruit notes and some balsamic touches. Elegance that can only improve with age.

[www.volpaia.it](http://www.volpaia.it)



## 4 Mazzei - Castello di Fonterutoli, Castellina in Chianti

Badiola 2017

18 points | 2023 to 2030

Engaging, very authentic raspberry nose, delicately polished on the palate with well-integrated, firm tannins and acidity accentuated by the altitude, ending with a pleasantly peppery finish. A wine that should be left to mature.

[www.fonterutoli.it](http://www.fonterutoli.it)



## 5 Barone Ricasoli - Castello di Brolio, Gaiole in Chianti

Ceniprimo 2017

18 points | 2023 to 2029

An elegant and refined Sangiovese nose with raspberry and violet aromas plus some balsamic notes, harmonious on the palate with delicate touches of acidity and polished tannins, elegant, almost Burgundian in the finish. Needs to mature.

[ricasoli.com](http://ricasoli.com)



## 6 Fattoria Felsina, Castelnuovo Berardenga

Colonia 2017

18 points | 2022 to 2027

Tempting, captivating berry and pepper nose, complex on the palate with perceptible acidity, firm yet refined tannins, and a spicy raspberry finish. An utterly successful Gran Selezione for special occasions!

[www.felsina.it](http://www.felsina.it)



## 7 Fontodi, Panzano in Chianti

Vigna del Sorbo 2017

18 points | 2022 to 2028

A fantastic Gran Selezione made from pure Sangiovese: nose of small forest fruit, liquorice and lilac aromas, full-bodied in the attack with robust, lively tannins and perceptible, spirited acidity, ending in polished and lingering style. Ideal with a bistecca fiorentina.

[www.fontodi.com](http://www.fontodi.com)



## 8 Villa Calcinai, Fattoria, Greve in Chianti

Vigna Bastignano 2017

18 points | 2022 to 2028

Intense raspberry, Mediterranean macchia and hot stone nose, powerful in the attack with powdery tannins and invigorating acidity, providing beautiful development into the extremely complex finish. A multifaceted wine that could still mature.

[www.villacalcinaia.it](http://www.villacalcinaia.it)



## 9 Colle Bereto, Radda in Chianti

2015

18 points | 2022 to 2027

From the elevated vineyards of Radda: a nose of sun-ripened cherries, tobacco and violets, smooth in the attack with perfect balance between the tannins and the acidity, and an endlessly lingering spicy and fruity finish. Timeless style.

[www.collebereto.com](http://www.collebereto.com)



## 10 Cacchiano, Castello di, Gaiole in Chianti

Millennio 2013

18 points | 2023 to 2029

Smooth raspberry, pepper and dried flower aromas, well-balanced texture, lively acidity balanced out by the tightly knit tannins, and a lingering polished finish with delicate fruit and spice notes. Compellingly timeless style.

[www.chianticlassico.com](http://www.chianticlassico.com)

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**Mazzei - Castello di Fonterutoli, Castellina in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione  
Vicoregio 36 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

The former Mix 36 (the number represents the 36 different clones from which the wine is made) is now called Vicoregio, and comes from a vineyard in Castelnuovo Berardenga 350 metres above sea level: bewitching stone fruit, violet and dried rose aromas, polished yet also characterful, and a hugely lingering finish of ripe berry, eucalyptus and leather notes.

[www.fonterutoli.it](http://www.fonterutoli.it)

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**Castello di Ama, Gaiole in Chianti  
Chianti Classico DOCG**

**Gran Selezione San Lorenzo 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Complex nose of forest fruit, blossom and hot stone aromas, harmonious structure with fresh acidity, polished and hugely lingering, ending with black berry, spice and pepper notes. Combining character with elegance.

[www.castellodiama.com](http://www.castellodiama.com)

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**Cecchi, Castellina in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione Villa Rosa 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Nose of fresh berry aromas casually accompanied by some balsamic touches, juicy on the palate with robust tannins, and a lingering finish of Maraschino cherry and nougat notes. Appealingly linear.

[www.cecchi.net](http://www.cecchi.net)

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**Savignola Paolina, Greve in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione 360° 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

A spirited start of classic forest fruit aromas supported by floral and herb touches, polished tannins borne up well by the acidity, combining balance and length. Has potential.

[www.savignolapaolina.it](http://www.savignolapaolina.it)

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**Mazzei - Castello di Fonterutoli, Castellina in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione  
Castello Fonterutoli 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

From vineyards around Castello at 470 metres above sea level: this wine offers a cherry nose with a hint of pepper and herb, robust on the palate with well-integrated tannins and lively acidity, and a harmonious, well-balanced finish. Enjoy with roast beef and chanterelles.

[www.fonterutoli.it](http://www.fonterutoli.it)

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**Barone Ricasoli - Castello di Brolio, Gaiole in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione Roncicone 2017  
17.5 points | 2023 to 2028**

A pure Sangiovese from a single vineyard 320 metres above sea level, macerated for around two weeks and matured in tonneaux for 18 months before bottling: inviting forest fruit, rose and vanilla nose, fresh and juicy in the attack with invigorating acidity harmonising perfectly with the fine-grained tannins, full-bodied right into the finish.

[ricasoli.com](http://ricasoli.com)

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**Barone Ricasoli - Castello di Brolio, Gaiole in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione Colledilà 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

A varietal Sangiovese from a site 380 metres above sea level that expresses the character of Chianti Classico extremely well: intense forest berry and blossom nose with touches of spice, juicy on the palate with the acidity balanced out perfectly by the tannins, and a punchy finish. A precise Sangiovese that promises some ageing potential.

[ricasoli.com](http://ricasoli.com)

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**Querceto di Castellina, Castellina in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione Sei 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

6.6 hectares planted with 6666 vines per hectare, hence the name 'Sei': a still rather reticent yet very promising nose of stone fruit, undergrowth and dried flower aromas, dense on the palate with perceptible acidity and lively tannins ensuring a precise finish.

[www.querceto.com](http://www.querceto.com)

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**Castello di Querceto, Lucolena, Greve in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione La Corte 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Tempting stone fruit nose with hints of tobacco and herbs, elegant structure with perfectly integrated tannins, full and refined with a lingering finish. Appealingly spicy and complex.

[www.castellodiquerceto.it](http://www.castellodiquerceto.it)

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**Tenuta Perano, Gaiole in Chianti  
Chianti Classico DOCG**

**Gran Selezione Rialzi 2016  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

A varietal Sangiovese matured in small oak barrels for 24 months: temptingly spicy and fruity nose of forest berry, tobacco and blossom aromas, polished texture, perfect balance between the tightly knit tannins and acidity, and a complex, lingering finish. Pleasantly modern style that nevertheless respects the character of the site.

[www.sandonatoimperano.it](http://www.sandonatoimperano.it)

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**Lornano Fattoria, Monteriggioni**

**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione 2015  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Tempting nose of cherry jam, herbs, spices and tobacco, polished on the palate with the acidity and the tannins in balance, linear development and a lingering fresh fruit finish. Classically elegant.

[www.fattorialornano.it](http://www.fattorialornano.it)

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**Fattoria di Lamole, Greve in Chianti FI,  
Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna  
Grosoli 2013**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Ripe berry, dried flower and spice nose, polished with invigorating acidity, and a lingering, fresh yet complex finish. Appealing in its finely chiselled yet characterful style.

[www.fattoriadilamole.it](http://www.fattoriadilamole.it)

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**Ruffino, Pontassieve**

**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione  
Riserva Ducale Oro 2015  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Floral and fruity nose with balsamic touches, complex structure, beautifully polished, good balance between tannins and acidity, characterful and refined, with a dark fruit and spice finish. Successful.

[www.ruffino.com](http://www.ruffino.com)

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**Castello Vicchiomaggio, Greve in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione Le Bolle 2017  
17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Compelling stone fruit and lilac nose, a compact, delicately smooth texture, grainy tannins, ending with ripe forest fruit and Mediterranean macchia notes. Successful.

[www.vicchiomaggio.it](http://www.vicchiomaggio.it)

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**Castello di Querceto, Lucolena, Greve in Chianti**

**Chianti Classico DOCG  
Gran Selezione Il Picchio 2017  
17 points | 2023 to 2028**

Bewitching nose of forest fruit, eucalyptus and leather aromas, robust tannins, lively acidity, characterful and lingering with a complex finish. Enjoy with a T-bone steak.

[www.castellodiquerceto.it](http://www.castellodiquerceto.it)

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**Poggio al Sole, Sambuca Val di Pesa**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione**  
**Casasilia 2017**

**17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Organic wine with a red fruit and lilac nose, polished and full, shaped by lively acidity, and a complex finish with tobacco, sandalwood and cherry notes.

**[www.poggioalsole.com](http://www.poggioalsole.com)**

**Vignamaggio, Greve in Chianti – Firenze**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione**  
**Monna Lisa 2017**

**17 points | 2022 to 2027**

Raspberry aromas with liquorice and sandalwood notes, powerful yet refined with robust tannins and crisp acidity, and a well-balanced lingering finish. A straightforward wine best enjoyed with food.

**[www.vignamaggio.com](http://www.vignamaggio.com)**

**Fattoria La Ripa, Tavarnelle Val di Pesa**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione**  
**2017**

**17 points | 2023 to 2027**

Berry, eucalyptus and rosehip aromas on the nose, an even texture, acidity balanced out by the

fine-grained tannins, full and polished. Suitable for laying down.

**[www.laripa.it](http://www.laripa.it)**

**Rocca di Montegrossi, Gaiole in Chianti**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione**  
**Vigneto San Marcellino 2015**

**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Playful nose of fruit, sandalwood and liquorice aromas, juicy on the palate with perfectly rounded, well-integrated tannins, supporting acidity and a ripe finish that goes on and on. Powerful yet refined.

**[www.roccadimontegrossi.it](http://www.roccadimontegrossi.it)**

**Antinori, Firenze**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione**  
**Badia A Passignano 2017**

**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Stone fruit, liquorice and herb aromas, compact in the attack with polished, well-integrated tannins, ingenious acidity, ending with spicy and fruity notes. Enjoy with pasta and wild boar ragu.

**[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)**

**Triacca - La Madonnina, Greve in Chianti**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione**  
**2017**

**16.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Captivating fruity and floral nose with saline mineral elements, well-balanced on the palate with powdery tannins, compact acidity and a ripe fruit finish of leather and tobacco notes.

**[www.triacca.com](http://www.triacca.com)**

**Torraccia di Presura, Greve in Chianti**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Inviting forest fruit nose with delicate spice and pepper aromas, compact texture, invigorating acidity, rounded tannins, and a lingering, delicately spicy cherry finish.

**[www.torracciadipresura.com](http://www.torracciadipresura.com)**

**Borgo la Stella, Radda in Chianti**  
**Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

From Radda vineyards: an utterly typical cherry and violet nose, polished in the attack, compact tannins and a spicy berry finish. Pleasingly compact style.

**[www.borgolastella.com](http://www.borgolastella.com)**

# Top 10 Merlot from Chianti

Although Sangiovese reigns supreme in Chianti Classico, ever since the emergence of the super Tuscans this jack of all trades has been demonstrating its potential in selected locations.



## 1 Castello di Ama, Gaiole in Chianti

Vigna l'Apparita 2017  
18.5 points | 2023 to 2030

An utterly delicate nose of plum, berry and liquorice aromas with well-integrated oak notes, tightly knit tannins, lively acidity, and a complex finish of fruity and balsamic touches. Once again combines elegance and fullness in this vintage.

[www.castellodiama.com](http://www.castellodiama.com)



## 2 Istine, Radda in Chianti

Merlot 550 s.l.m. 2017  
18 points | 2022 to 2027

From one of the highest vineyards in Chianti at 550 metres above sea level: tempting red berry and floral nose topped off with leather and mushroom aromas, full-bodied texture with lively acidity, lots of polish, minerality and a lingering finish. Perfect.

[www.istine.it](http://www.istine.it)



## 3 Mazzei - Castello di Fonterutoli, Castellina in Chianti

Siepi 2017  
18 points | 2022 to 2029

The pioneer of a Sangiovese and Merlot blend: tempting nose with chocolate and Mediterranean woodland aromas, full-bodied on the palate with robust, powerful tannins and lively acidity, juicy, intense and full but still needs to mature.

[www.fonterutoli.it](http://www.fonterutoli.it)



## 4 Querciabella, Greve in Chianti

Palfreno 2016  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Bright cassis, undergrowth and herb nose, full-bodied texture, robust tannins, lively acidity, and forest fruit notes in the delicately tart finish, along with touches of red berry. Powerful and youthful.

[www.querciabella.com](http://www.querciabella.com)



## 5 Riecine, Gaiole in Chianti

Merlot Tre Sette 2016  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

From a vineyard 450 metres above sea level and just 0.7 hectares in size, matured in 7 hectolitre barrels for 20 months: tempting blackberry nose supported by liquorice aromas, juicy with good balance between tannins and acidity, elegant finish. Compelling.

[www.riecine.com](http://www.riecine.com)



## 6 Brancaia, Radda in Chianti

Brancaia Il Blu 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Tempting black cherry, liquorice and chocolate aromas, juicy on the palate with smooth, well-integrated tannins and perfect support from the acidity, smooth and refined right into the lingering finish. Appealingly elegant style.

[www.brancaia.com](http://www.brancaia.com)



## 7 Castello di Radda, Radda in Chianti

Guss 2015  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

A spicy berry nose flanked by cocoa and vanilla aromas, powerful on the palate with robust tannins and lively acidity, very full right into the peppery berry finish. Opulent style.

[www.castellodiradda.com](http://www.castellodiradda.com)



## 8 Vallepicciola, Castelnuovo Berardenga

Merlot Quercogrosso 2017  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Warming nose of amarena cherry and chocolate aromas supported by herbs and rosehip, juicy on the palate with perfect balance between the powdery tannins and lively acidity, and an elegant, fruity and floral finish.

Fantastic with brasato.  
[www.vallepicciola.com](http://www.vallepicciola.com)



## 9 Tenuta di Castiglione-Frescobaldi, Castiglione

Giramonte 2016  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Intense blackberry and cherry nose with some filigree vanilla and pepper aromas, corpulent on the palate with perfect harmony between tannins and acidity, powerful, full and lingering without forgoing elegance.

[en.frescobaldi.com/vini-tenute/tenuta-castiglioni/](http://en.frescobaldi.com/vini-tenute/tenuta-castiglioni/)



## 10 Rocca di Montegrossi, Gaiole in Chianti

Geremia 2015  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

A Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon blend matured in French oak: spicy and fruity cassis nose with pepper and chocolate aromas, polished and velvety tannins, invigorating acidity, and a powerful, lingering finish.

Suitable for laying down.  
[www.roccadimontegrossi.it](http://www.roccadimontegrossi.it)

EIN SANGIOVESE,  
WIE DU IHN NICHT  
ERWARTEN  
WÜRDEST




D.O.C. ◆ D.O.C.G.



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Regione Toscana



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**Savignola Paolina, Greve in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Granaio 2015  
17 points | 2022 to 2027

Intriguing black cherry, smoke and herb nose, full-bodied texture with robust, well-supported tannins and a lingering plum and leather finish. Successful.

[www.savignolapaolina.it](http://www.savignolapaolina.it)

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**Cennatoio, Greve in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Merlot Mammolo 2017  
17 points | 2022 to 2027

Dark ruby colour, atmospheric nose of blackberry jam, vanilla and mint aromas, polished structure with juicy tannins, very opulent and pleasantly lingering, topped off by balsamic and spicy touches.

[www.cennatoio.it](http://www.cennatoio.it)

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**Podere Poggio Scalette, Greve in Chianti**  
Alta Valle della Greve IGT Piantonaia 2017  
17 points | 2021 to 2026

A single-vineyard wine matured in small oak barrels for 18 months: finely chiselled nose of cherry, mint and pepper aromas, polished in the attack with fine-grained tannins and good acidity, and a precise finish of red berry and floral notes.

[www.poggioscalette.it](http://www.poggioscalette.it)

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**Carobbio, Panzano in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Magaldo 2015  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

Cosy nose of maraschino cherry and chocolate aromas, corpulent on the palate with velvety tannins and lively acidity, with fresh red berry notes awaiting in the finish. Good with roast veal.

[www.tenutacarobbio.com](http://www.tenutacarobbio.com)

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**Castellare di Castellina, Castellina in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Poggio ai Merli 2018  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

The label of this varietal Merlot depicts a 'merlo', or blackbird: spicy berry nose with tobacco and chocolate aromas, powerful texture with sharp acidity and spirited tannins, and a spicy finish of stewed plum notes. Opulent.

[www.castellare.it](http://www.castellare.it)

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**Villa Buonasera, Greve in Chianti**  
Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT Maddalena 2015  
17 points | 2022 to 2025

Merlot with sleek red berry, tobacco and blossom aromas plus perceptible oak, well balanced on the palate with harmony between the acidity and tannins, and an elegant fruity and balsamic finish. Successful.

[www.villabuonasera.it](http://www.villabuonasera.it)

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**Cennatoio, Greve in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Lauchum 2017  
17 points | 2022 to 2026

Impressive start to the spicy blackberry nose, ornamented by juniper and pepper notes, then a full-bodied texture, spirited and lingering, spicy and intense, with a herb and dark berry finish.

[www.cennatoio.it](http://www.cennatoio.it)

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**Basilica Cafaggio, Greve in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Merlot Basilica del Pruneto 2016  
17 points | 2022 to 2027

A single-vineyard Merlot from Coca d'Oro, matured in large oak barrels for 18 months: exquisite nose of black cherry and floral aromas, elegant structure with well-rounded tannins, fresh acidity and a pleasantly fruity and lingering finish.

[www.cafaggio.wine](http://www.cafaggio.wine)

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**Gagliole, Castellina in Chianti**  
Colli della Toscana Centrale Valletta 2017  
17 points | 2022 to 2027

A blend of Sangiovese from Castellina and Merlot from Panzano: finely chiselled raspberry and cherry nose, polished texture with powdery tannins and perfectly integrated acidity, combining elegance with length.

[www.gagliole.com](http://www.gagliole.com)

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**Castello Vicchiomaggio, Greve in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT FSM 2016  
17 points | 2021 to 2026

Bewitching nose of black cherry, liquorice and leather aromas, velvety sweet tannins supported by the acidity, and a pleasant ripe plum and oak finish. Complex style.

[www.vicchiomaggio.it](http://www.vicchiomaggio.it)

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**Vignamaggio, Greve in Chianti - Firenze**  
Toscana IGT Merlot di Santa Maria 2017  
17 points | 2022 to 2028

Pleasant berry nose with floral and mint aromas, fresh texture with good balance between the acidity and tannins, ending with red berry notes, elegantly polished but still needs to mature.

[www.vignamaggio.com](http://www.vignamaggio.com)

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**Il Poggiolino, Tavarnelle Val di Pesa**  
Toscana IGT Roncaia 2015  
17 points | 2021 to 2026

Matured in small oak barrels for 36 months: bewitching nose of stone fruit and floral aromas with some vanilla and delicate spice notes, smooth on the palate with good balance between acidity and the tightly knit tannins, lingering with a potpourri of fruity and balsamic touches.

[www.ilpoggiolino.com](http://www.ilpoggiolino.com)

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**Castello di Ama, Gaiole in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT haiku 2017  
17 points | 2022 to 2026

An idiosyncratic interpretation of the San Lorenzo terroir in Ama: playful forest fruit, tobacco and dried flower aromas, acidity balanced out well by the tannins, and a precise finish. Goes well with Tuscan cuisine.

[www.castellodiama.com](http://www.castellodiama.com)

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**Castelgiocondo - Frescobaldi, Montalcino**  
Toscana IGT Lamaione 2015  
17 points | 2023 to 2027

Frescobaldi's interpretation of Merlot from Montalcino: captivating plum, leather and tobacco nose, velvety on the palate with robust tannins, invigorating acidity and a finish of delicate oak spice notes with lots of fruit. Still needs to mature.

[www.frescobaldi.it](http://www.frescobaldi.it)

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**Rietine Fattoria di, Gaiole in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Primero 2015  
16.5 points | 2021 to 2025

Ancellotta and Merlot: a bewitching black berry nose with chocolate and herb aromas, fine-grained tannins balanced out well by the supporting acidity, and a plum jam and liquorice finish. Opulent.

[www.rietine.com](http://www.rietine.com)

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**Rocca di Castagnoli, Gaiole in Chianti**  
Toscana IGT Merlot Le Pratola 2015  
16.5 points | 2021 to 2026

From the eponymous vineyard 380 metres above sea level: herb, chocolate and berry jam nose, polished on the palate with powdery tannins, fresh acidity, and a lingering red berry and pepper finish.

[www.roccadicastagnoli.com](http://www.roccadicastagnoli.com)

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**Castello di Gabbiano, Mercatale Val di Pesa**  
Toscana IGT Cavaliere d'Oro Dark Knight 2016  
16.5 points | 2021 to 2026

Complex nose of ripe forest fruit and oak, with some touches of undergrowth and juniper, then smooth on the palate with polished tannins, and a velvety, almost creamy finish. Opulent.

[www.gabbiano.com](http://www.gabbiano.com)

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**Fattoria della Aiola, Castelnuove Berardenga**  
Toscana IGT Rosso del Senatore 2015  
16.5 points | 2021 to 2025

Subtle blackberry, leather and spice aromas, polished in the attack with good balance between tannins and acidity, and a soft, easy-drinking finish. Noble style.

[www.aiolawines.com](http://www.aiolawines.com)

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**Carpineto, Chianciano Terme****Toscana IGT Farnito Valcolomba 2015****16.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Merlot plus: a plump nose of blackberry, juniper and pepper aromas, smooth in the attack with powdery tannins and a velvety finish of cherry, flowers and tobacco. Classic.

**[www.carpineto.com](http://www.carpineto.com)**

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**Villa Buonasera, Greve in Chianti****Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT Casa Eri 2015****16.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Varietal Merlot with a black cherry, mint and dark chocolate nose, a spirited texture with fresh acidity, fine-grained tannins and a beautifully smooth style. Appealingly harmonious.

**[www.villabuonasera.it](http://www.villabuonasera.it)**

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**Rietine Fattoria di, Gaiole in Chianti****Toscana IGT Rietine 2015****16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Merlot and Ancellotta: impressive cassis and herb aromas, full-bodied on the palate with robust tannins, fresh acidity and a red berry and leather finish.

**[www.rietine.com](http://www.rietine.com)**

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**Le Filigare, San Donato in Poggio****Toscana IGT Pietro 2017****16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Merlot, Sangiovese and Syrah provide a black cherry nose supported by vanilla and herb aromas, powerful on the palate, beautifully smooth with well-integrated tannins, very lingering and polished.

**[www.lefiligare.it](http://www.lefiligare.it)**

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**Tenuta Casenuove, Panzano****Toscana IGT Tenuta Casenuove 2017****16.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Promising nose of black cherry, liquorice and juniper aromas, full-bodied in the attack with robust tannins, substantial and lingering with still rather present oak. Still needs to round out.

**[www.casenuove.com](http://www.casenuove.com)**

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**Tenuta degli Dei, Panzano, Greve in Chianti****Toscana IGT Le Redini 2018****16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Berry and herb aromas with some spice notes, sweet and well-rounded on the palate with smooth tannins, perceptible acidity and a compact, ripe plum finish. Reliable style.

**[www.deglidei.it](http://www.deglidei.it)**

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**Querceto di Castellina, Castellina in Chianti****Toscana IGT Podalirio 2017****16 points | 2022 to 2025**

Single-vineyard Merlot with blackberry and macchia aromas, compact structure, perceptible acidity, and a red berry and pepper finish.

**[www.querceto.com](http://www.querceto.com)**

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**Fattoria Varramista, Montopoli in Val d'Arno****Toscana Toscana IGT Frasca Frasca 2015****16 points | 2022 to 2026**

Blend of Sangiovese, Syrah and Merlot: small, red forest fruit aromas, full on the palate with good balance between acidity and tannins, and a balsamic menthol finish.

**[www.varramista.it](http://www.varramista.it)**

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**Podere La Capella, San Donato in Poggio****Toscana IGT Merlot Cantico 2013****16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Warming cherry and herb nose, compact on the palate with pleasant tannins and a delicately tart finish. An all-rounder.

**[www.poderelacapella.it](http://www.poderelacapella.it)**

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**La Castellina – Fondazione Fojanini, Castellina in Chianti****Toscana IGT Reale 2016****16 points | 2022 to 2026**

Varietal Merlot with an opulent blackberry, blossom and pepper nose, compact in the attack with vibrant acidity, robust tannins and a fresh red berry finish. Could still be left to age.

**[www.fondazionefojanini.it](http://www.fondazionefojanini.it)**

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**Buondonno, Castellina in Chianti****Toscana IGT Merlot 2017****16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Spicy and fruity nose with leather notes, polished on the palate, juicy and well balanced in the finish. Robust.

**[www.chianticlassico.combuondonno](http://www.chianticlassico.combuondonno)**

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**La Casa di Bricciano, Gaiole in Chianti****Toscana IGT Il Ritrovo 2009****16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Half and half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon: spicy plum jam nose with herb notes, full-bodied on the palate with robust tannins but a well-integrated, oak-dominated finish. Enjoy with a bistecca.

**[www.lacasadibricciano.it](http://www.lacasadibricciano.it)**

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**La Sala, San Casciano Val di Pesa****Toscana IGT Campo all'Albero 2017****16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Dark ruby with touches of garnet, red berry and leather aromas, full-bodied tannins borne up by acidity, and a solid fruit finish.

**[www.lasala.it](http://www.lasala.it)**

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**Casaloste, Greve in Chianti****Toscana IGT Inversus 2016****16 points | 2021 to 2026**

Spicy berry jam nose with sandalwood and herb aromas, velvety structure with precisely integrated acidity and tannins, and a pleasantly fruity finish. Robust.

**[www.casaloste.it](http://www.casaloste.it)**

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**Fattoria Montecchio, Barberino Tavarnelle****Toscana IGT La Papessa 2015****15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Forest fruit and chocolate nose with some spice aromas, compact in the attack with a robust texture, ending with a solid berry finish.

**[www.fattoriamentecchio.com](http://www.fattoriamentecchio.com)**

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**Castello di Radda, Radda in Chianti****Toscana IGT Granbruno 2018****15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Berry and lilac aromas, compact structure with invigorating acidity, elegant and finely chiselled. A wonderful companion to food.

**[www.castellodiradda.com](http://www.castellodiradda.com)**

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**Fattoria Cigliano di Sopra, San Casciano in Val di Pesa****Toscana IGT M 2018****15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Fresh black cherry nose with lilac aromas, pronounced acidity on the palate, and a fresh red berry finish.

**[www.ciglianodisopra.it](http://www.ciglianodisopra.it)**

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**Poggio Regini, Castellina in Chianti****Toscana IGT Merl8 2018****15.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Forest berry and Mediterranean macchia nose, compact structure, solid fruity finish.

**[www.poggioregini.it](http://www.poggioregini.it)**

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**Agricoltori del Geografico, Gaiole in Chianti****Toscana IGT Contessa di Radda 2018****15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Black cherry and lilac aromas, compact structure, robust tannins, and a delicately tart finish.

**[www.chiantigeografico.it](http://www.chiantigeografico.it)**

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CHIANTI DOCG RISERVA

# The scent of Tuscany

One area encompassing large portions of Tuscany is the home of Chianti DOCG. In Riserva form, it demonstrates that it is also able to interpret a wide variety of terroirs when a little more mature.

**T**hree historical events have defined the long history of Chianti: 1398 marked the first written reference to the name Chianti in connection with wine. In 1716, the Grand Duke of Tuscany Cosimo III set out the first official wine-growing regions in Europe in the form of Chianti, Carmignano and Pomino. And finally, in the 19th century at Castello di Brolio, Baron Bettino Ricasoli - the 'Iron Baron' - developed a formula for Chianti wine that endured until the end of the 20th century.

For a long-lived wine he recommended a blend of Sangiovese and Canaiolo (to reduce Sangiovese's very present tannins), and for fresh wines for drinking young he instead suggested adding the white grape Malvasia. This formula remains virtually unchanged to this day - with the exception that new varieties such as Merlot or Cabernet have been added and white varieties are now only very rarely used.

The Chianti DOCG area now covers large portions of Tuscany, beginning in mountainous Mugello and running along the Monti di Chianti to Cetona. Seven sub-areas have also been defined, the last being Montespertoli, which was recognised in 1997. From its original core area, the winegrowing region spread north across the Florentine mountains, east to Arezzo, south beyond Siena and west past Pisa to the Tyrrhenian Sea.

The Consorzio Vino Chianti winemakers' association was founded by a group of winegrowers from the Tuscan provinces of Florence, Siena, Arezzo and Pistoia in 1927. Its activities later spread to cover the entire production area, which

was recognised by regulations set out in 1967 and subsequently incorporated into the controlled and guaranteed DOCG designation of origin in 1984.

The association is now responsible for more than 3600 producers, cultivating over 15,500 hectares of vineyards and producing over 800,000 hectolitres of Chianti DOCG.

The rules for producing Chianti DOCG are clearly defined across the entire region: Sangiovese must make up at least 70 percent of the blend. However, even in Riservas Sangiovese dominates or is the sole grape variety - ensuring long-lived wines thanks to its acidity and tannins. The exceptional 2015 and 2016 vintages produced well-balanced, elegant wines primarily emphasising the character of Sangiovese, but 2017 also impresses with some very powerful bottles. The elegance of the 2016 vintage is striking in the Chianti Rufina and Chianti Colli Fiorentini sub-areas. Single-vineyard wines from Chianti Rufina draw out the diversity of this small yet perfectly formed wine region east of Florence.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** large parts of inland Tuscany

**Vineyard area:** 15,500 hectares

**Producers:** 3600

**Key grape varieties:** Sangiovese (at least 70%), the remainder red and white grapes (up to max. 10%)

**[www.consorziovinochianti.it](http://www.consorziovinochianti.it)**

# Top 10 Best of Chianti DOCG

The terroirs of Chianti DOCG are as diverse as the region is huge, and the 2015 and 2016 Riservas demonstrate its potential.



## 1 Castello di Nipozzano, Pelago

**Riserva Vecchie Viti 2016**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Tempting Sangiovese nose with subtle balsamic touches, lively in the attack borne up by vibrant acidity and fine-grained tannins as well as some spicy elements, and an elegant yet powerful finish. Once again excellent in this vintage.

[www.frescobaldi.com/tenute/castello-nipozzano/](http://www.frescobaldi.com/tenute/castello-nipozzano/)



## 2 Tenuta Bossi, Marchesi Gondi, Pontassieve

**Riserva Villa Bossi 2016**  
17.5 points | 2021 to 2026

Harmonious on the nose with maraschino cherry and violet aromas, harmonious in the attack, combining robust tannins with beautiful juiciness, and a lingering finish of forest fruit notes and balsamic touches. Enjoy with autumnal game dishes.

[www.gondi.com/tenute/tenuta-bossi](http://www.gondi.com/tenute/tenuta-bossi)



## 3 Fattoria Lavacchio, Pontassieve

**Riserva Cedro 2016**  
17.5 points | 2021 to 2026

Oak-aged Sangiovese with maraschino cherry, violet and mushroom aromas, compact in the attack with well-integrated acidity and fine-grained tannins, juicy and lingering. An elegant wine that could still mature. Enjoy with mature cheese.

[www.fattorialavacchio.com](http://www.fattorialavacchio.com)



## 4 Tenuta Sette Ponti, Castiglion Fibocchi

**Riserva Vigna di Pallino 2016**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

Promising spice and small forest fruit nose, then juicy and compact on the palate with good balance between the tannins and acidity, and polish right into the finish. Pleasingly elegant style.

[www.tenutasetteponti.it](http://www.tenutasetteponti.it)



## 5 Fattorie Parri, Montespertoli

**Riserva Corfecciano Urbana 2015**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

Complex nose of dark stone fruit, lilac and dried herb aromas, precise on the palate with perfectly integrated acidity and powdery tannins, and a finish that begins with soft floral notes then becomes increasingly fruity and opulent. Successful.

[www.fattorieparri.it](http://www.fattorieparri.it)



## 6 Malenchini, Grassina

**Riserva del Chianti Colli Fiorentini 2017**  
17 points | 2022 to 2025

Matured in Slavonic oak: intense raspberry nose with delicate spice and violet aromas, precise texture, polished tannins, lively acidity and a lingering forest fruit and spice finish. Enjoy with a hearty steak.

[www.malenchini.it](http://www.malenchini.it)



## 7 Uggiano, San Vincenzo a Torri

**Riserva Fagiano 2017**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

Sangiovese and some Canaiolo in harmony: intense nose of raspberry, violet and tobacco aromas, precise structure of tannins and acidity, delicate mineral and saline touches, and a finish balancing fruit with spice.

[www.uggiano.it](http://www.uggiano.it)



## 8 La Querce di Massimo Marchi, Impruneta

**Riserva La Torretta 2017**  
17 points | 2022 to 2026

Captivating berry nose with dried flower and leather aromas, very linear on the palate with lively, perfectly integrated tannins and vibrant acidity, very polished and elegant. Still needs to mature.

[www.laquerce.com](http://www.laquerce.com)



## 9 Castello del Trebbio, Santa Brigida Toscana

**Riserva Lastricato 2016**  
17 points | 2022 to 2026

Tempting blackberry and liquorice nose with dried flower aromas, compact in the attack with robust, well-integrated tannins and ripe cherry notes in the finish. Pleasingly well-balanced style.

[www.castellodeltrebbio.eu](http://www.castellodeltrebbio.eu)



## 10 Fattoria I Veroni, Pontassieve

**Riserva Vigneto Quona 2017**  
17 points | 2021 to 2025

Pure Sangiovese from a Quona vineyard: sensual raspberry, tobacco and violet aromas, robust texture with perfectly integrated acidity, tightly knit tannins and a compellingly complex finish. Successful.

[www.iveroni.it](http://www.iveroni.it)



**Fattoria Uccelliera, Crespina / Lorenzana**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Inviting forest fruit nose with liquorice and herb aromas, compact texture with well-integrated tannins and a fruity, spicy finish.  
[www.uccelliera.com](http://www.uccelliera.com)

**Fattoria Dianella, Vinci**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Classic style with a crisp fruit nose, harmonious, with accentuated acidity balanced out well by the tannins, and linear development defined by its delicate elegance. Good with autumnal game dishes.  
[www.villadianella.it](http://www.villadianella.it)

**Fattoria Le Sorgenti, Bagno a Ripoli**  
**Chianti Colli Fiorentini DOCG Riserva Villa Le Sorgenti 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

Nose dominated by fresh berries, eucalyptus and violet, a dense structure, well-integrated tannins and acidity, and a velvety smooth finish. A linear Riserva that could still mature somewhat.  
[www.fattoria-lesorgenti.com](http://www.fattoria-lesorgenti.com)

**Fattoria di Gratena, Pieve a Maiano**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Gratena 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Refined combination of wild cherry and chocolate aromas with a touch of violet, juicy on the palate with lively acidity, powdery tannins and a refreshingly youthful texture. Elegant.  
[www.fattoriadigratena.com](http://www.fattoriadigratena.com)

**Buccia Nera, AREZZO**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Tenuta di Campriano 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Inviting forest berry, leather and herb nose, compact structure with sturdy tannins and accentuated acidity, ending with a lingering finish of delicate spice aromas.  
[www.buccianera.it](http://www.buccianera.it)

**Fattoria Torre a Cona, Rignano sull'Arno**  
**Chianti Colli Fiorentini DOCG Riserva Badia a Corte 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Classic Sangiovese with an interesting raspberry, liquorice and lilac nose, harmonious structure with precise tannins, and an elegant yet complex finish. Enjoy with a flavoursome roast.  
[www.torreacona.com](http://www.torreacona.com)

**Cantine Castelvechio, Farigliano**  
**Chianti Colli Fiorentini DOCG Riserva Vigna La Quercia 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Charismatic nose of undergrowth, juniper and crisp berry aromas, well-integrated tannins, powerful yet with refreshing touches, and a finish of stone fruit, forest berry and pepper notes. Successful.  
[castelvechio.com](http://castelvechio.com)

**Villa Bellini, Negarine**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Ripe stone fruit, liquorice and spice nose, harmonious on the palate with perceptible acidity, robust tannins and a lingering finish. Characterful.  
[www.tenutavillabellini.com](http://www.tenutavillabellini.com)

**Fattoria di Grignano, Pontassieve**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva Poggio Gualtieri 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Intense berry nose with eucalyptus and tobacco aromas, finely chiselled texture with acidity balancing well against the tannins, and an endlessly lingering finish. Excellent with regional cuisine.  
[grignanowinery.com](http://grignanowinery.com)

**Colognole, Pontassieve**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva del Don 2015**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Appealing nose of ripe stone fruit and berry aromas, compact texture with well-integrated acidity and tannins, and a harmonious, fruity finish.  
[www.colognole.it](http://www.colognole.it)

**Frascole, Dicomano**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Intense raspberry nose with delicate touches of spice, well balanced on the palate, combining good tannins with lively acidity, and a lingering finish of forest fruit and blossom notes. Impresses with its traditional polish.  
[www.frascole.it](http://www.frascole.it)

**Tenuta Bossi Marchesi Gondi, Pontassieve**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva Pian Dei Sorbi 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Cherry and fresh floral aromas with some pepper touches on the finely chiselled nose, linear on the palate with lively acidity balanced out perfectly by the powdery tannins, and a lingering finish. Suitable for laying down.  
[www.gondi.comtenute/tenuta-bossi](http://www.gondi.comtenute/tenuta-bossi)

**Terre del Bruno, Certaldo**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Poggio ai Falchi 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Rounded out by 18 months in French oak: refreshing fruit nose, polished texture with well-integrated acidity and compact tannins, and a harmonious finish.  
[www.terredelbruno.it](http://www.terredelbruno.it)

# TOSKANISCHE BESTIMMUNG.

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## Tenuta di Trecciano, Sovicille

Chianti Colli Senesi DOCG Riserva Terra  
Rossa 2017

16 points | 2021 to 2025

Intriguing nose of forest fruit and herb aromas, harmonious texture with well-integrated tannins, lively acidity and a lingering finish of fresh cherry, leather and herb notes. Enjoy with roast veal and mushrooms.

[www.trecciàno.it](http://www.trecciàno.it)

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## Piccini, Castellina in Chianti

Chianti DOCG Riserva Collezione Oro 2017  
16 points | 2021 to 2024

Classic nose of small forest berries, herb and undergrowth, firm texture with lively, well-integrated tannins and a lingering finish. Successful.

[www.piccini-vini.it](http://www.piccini-vini.it)

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## Cantine Leonardo da Vinci, Vinci

Chianti DOCG Riserva Vergine delle Rocce  
2016

16 points | 2022 to 2025

From the I Capolavori collection with pictures of Leonardo on the label: raspberry blossom, tobacco and floral aromas, compact on the palate with invigorating acidity and a harmonious fruity finish. Appealingly characterful.

[www.cantineleonardo.it](http://www.cantineleonardo.it)

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## Vino Sorelli, Figline Valdarno

Chianti DOCG Riserva 2015

16 points | 2021 to 2024

Spicy nose combining fruity, violet and terroir touches, energising body with invigorating acidity and powdery tannins. Promising.

[www.vinosorelli.com](http://www.vinosorelli.com)

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## Fattorie Giannozzi, Marcialla Barberino Val d'Elsa

Chianti DOCG Colli Fiorentini Riserva Villa  
Marcialla 2017

16 points | 2021 to 2024

Raspberry nose with balsamic touches, fresh tannins in the attack, accentuated acidity and a compact fruit finish. Appealingly elegant style.

[www.fattoriegiannozzi.com](http://www.fattoriegiannozzi.com)

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## Pietralta, Gambassi Terme

Chianti DOCG Riserva 2015

16 points | 2021 to 2024

Fruity blend of Sangiovese, Canaiolo and Merlot: warming red berry and violet aromas with balsamic touches, compact texture, delicately polished with a fruity finish. Enjoy with ossobuco.

[www.pietralta.it](http://www.pietralta.it)

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## Tenuta il Palazzo, Arezzo

Chianti DOCG Riserva 2016

16 points | 2021 to 2024

Inviting cherry nose flanked by tobacco aromas, compact on the palate with robust tannins and accentuated acidity, full with a solidly lingering finish.

[www.cantinailpalazzo.it](http://www.cantinailpalazzo.it)

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CHIANTI DOCG RISERVA

valentinacorsole.it - Ph. emiliano Mini - jobystudio

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[www.tenutefolonari.com](http://www.tenutefolonari.com)



**Mannucci Droandi, Montevarchi (AR)**  
**Chianti Colli Aretini Riserva 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Tempting nose of ripe forest fruit and blossom aromas, compact texture with well-integrated, vibrant acidity and fine-grained tannins, polished and characterful.

[www.mannuccidroandi.it](http://www.mannuccidroandi.it)

**Tenuta San Jacopo, Caviglia**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Poggio ai Grilli 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Berry aromas on the nose, full-bodied in the attack with well-integrated sharp acidity and perceptible, fresh tannins. Could still be left to age.

[www.tenutasanjacopo.it](http://www.tenutasanjacopo.it)

**Fattoria di Polvereto Cecconi, Montespertoli**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Fattoria Campigiana Federico II 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Blend of Sangiovese, Canaiolo and Colorino: cherry and blossom aromas, compact in the attack with a good balance between the acidity and the tannins, and a pleasantly fruity finish.

[www.cantinececoni.it](http://www.cantinececoni.it)

**Podere il Pozzo, Pontassieve (FI)**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16 points | 2022 to 2026**

Matured in large oak barrels: ripe cherry and blossom aromas on the nose, fresh and juicy texture, pronounced acidity with perfectly integrated tannins and a sour cherry and herb finish.

[www.podereilpozzo.it](http://www.podereilpozzo.it)

**Travignoli, Pelago**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva Tegolaia 2017**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Inviting raspberry nose with floral aromas, juicy on the palate with robust tannins, very luscious and characterful with well-integrated tannins, combining fruitiness with fullness.

[www.travignoli.com](http://www.travignoli.com)

**Aziende Agricola Balbi Fattoria Il Capitano, Pontassieve**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

Complex cherry, herb and undergrowth aromas, compact structure with well-integrated tannins, ending with lingering notes of ripe forest fruit and leather. Successful.

[www.fattoriailcapitano.com](http://www.fattoriailcapitano.com)

**Podere Il Balzo, Rufina**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva 2015**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2025**

An engaging raspberry nose with violet aromas, compact on the palate with robust tannins, and a lingering finish of fresh red fruit. Compelling style.

**Fattoria Lavacchio, Pontassieve**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Puro O**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2023**

Cherry-scented wine with no added sulphates and a floral nose; juicy on the palate, silky tannins, and a delicately fruity finish.

[www.fattorialavacchio.com](http://www.fattorialavacchio.com)

**Fattoria Il Lago, Dicomano**  
**Chianti Rufina DOCG Riserva 2015**  
**16 points | 2021 to 2024**

Temptingly spicy and fruity nose, harmonious in the attack with lively acidity, ending with forest fruit and leather notes. Robust style.

[www.fattoriaillago.com](http://www.fattoriaillago.com)

**Cantagallo Pierazuoli, Capraia e Limite**  
**Chianti Montalbano DOCG Riserva 2016**  
**16 points | 2022 to 2025**

Classic raspberry and violet nose, compact in the attack with robust tannins, characterful with a lingering fresh finish.

[www.tenutacantagallo.it](http://www.tenutacantagallo.it)

**Fattorie Melini, Poggibonsi**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva 2017**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Stone fruit and pepper nose, compact on the palate with velvety tannins, beautifully lingering, pleasantly spirited.

[www.melinichianti.com](http://www.melinichianti.com)

**Agricoltori del Geografico, Gaiole in Chianti**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Borgo alla Terra 2017**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Stone fruit and violet aromas, fresh and vibrant with lively acidity, ending with a delicately tart note. Successful.

[www.chiantigeografico.it](http://www.chiantigeografico.it)

**Cantine Leonardo da Vinci, Vinci**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Leonardo 2016**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Accentuated fruit nose with spice notes, juicy and compact on the palate with skilfully integrated tannins and lively acidity. Reliable style.

[www.cantineleonardo.it](http://www.cantineleonardo.it)

**Tenuta Il Sosso, Lucignano**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Ricordo 2015**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

Cassis and herb nose, full-bodied, with a compact finish of stone fruit and leather notes.

[www.ilsosso.it](http://www.ilsosso.it)

**Fattoria di Polvereto Cecconi, Montespertoli**  
**Chianti DOCG Riserva Masso Rosso 2017**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Raspberry and violet notes with a touch of spice, compact tannins, a well-balanced finish. In short: a robust wine.

[www.cantinececoni.it](http://www.cantinececoni.it)

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BOLGHERI DOC SUPERIORE

# The other side of Tuscany

Bolgheri is flying the flag of international grape varieties: whilst the rest of Italy favours native grapes, this small region on the Tuscan coast is firmly in the grip of Cabernet, Merlot and co. – and quite rightly so.

**F**ew other wine regions have created as much of a stir as Bolgheri in recent decades: Marchese Incisa della Rocchetta planted international grapes in this small village on the Tuscan coast as early as 1944, but it was not until the 1970s and 1980s that Bolgheri and the surrounding area began to emerge as the spearhead of a modern style of Tuscan wine. Incisa della Rocchetta named his wine Sassicaia, and when he marketed his Cabernet-based wine following the Bordeaux model in 1968, he set off an avalanche. Names such as Ornellaia, Sassicaia and Le Macchiole all played their part. Since then, dozens of other estates have joined their ranks, such as Gaja with Camarcanda, or the Antioni family who are also pioneers of this wine region with their Guado al Tasso – and last but not least, Marchesi de Frescobaldi (with Ornellaia and Masseto).

The Bolgheri DOC wine region stands between the sea and the hilly hinterland south of Livorno. The vineyards range between 50 and 400 metres above sea level. There are fluvial silt soils with rounded pebbles (which give Sassicaia its name). There are marine-derived soils with sand, limestone and clay elements. These are joined by volcanic stone from the Colline Metallifere to the east. As a result, you find clay, clayey sand or sandy clay, clayey loam or entirely sand soils, allowing moisture to fortify the ground very well. The hills boast old alluvial soils with a high iron content. The geographic proximity to the Mediterranean, which offers cool breezes even in dry years, is a key contributor to the elegance of Bolgheri wines. These are primarily red, as the soils are particularly well suit-

ed to red grape varieties. Among the whites, Vermentino in particular has been gaining ground in recent years. Bolgheri wines are primarily blends of Cabernet and Merlot, but Syrah, Petit Verdot and Sangiovese are also widely used. Alongside Bolgheri Sassicaia DOC, a designation of origin reserved solely for the progenitor of Bolgheri wines that is Sassicaia, the region also produces Bolgheri DOC Superiore and Bolgheri DOC wines – and not forgetting Toscana IGT examples, which are some of the best that the region and even Italy as a whole have to offer. We tasted the Bolgheri DOC Superiore vintages currently available on the market plus a handful of Bolgheri DOCs that can keep pace with the top wines. Even 2017, which was a difficult vintage due to severe drought, produced astonishingly elegant wines with good structure near the coast.

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## Facts and figures

**Cultivation area:** vineyards near to the coast around Castagneto Carducci in the province of Livorno

**Vineyard area:** 1370 hectares (DOC and IGT)

**Producers:** 55

**Key grape varieties:** Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot

**www.bolgheridoc.com**



# Top 10 Best of Bolgheri

Hot years in Bolgheri often produce astonishingly elegant wines, whilst cold vintages form the foundation of well-balanced, harmonious bottles. Everything is different in Bolgheri.



## 1 Poggio al Tesoro, Bolgheri

**Dedicato a Walter 2016**  
18.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Pure Cabernet Franc: a bewitching potpourri of blueberry, spice and pepper aromas, an elegant yet characterful structure with precise tannins, and an utterly complex, endlessly lingering finish. If laid down for a while, this will be an even more enjoyable wine.

[www.poggioaltesoro.it](http://www.poggioaltesoro.it)



## 2 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, Bolgheri

**Ornellaia 2017**  
18.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Utterly tempting nose of red forest fruit, juniper and blossom aromas, structured in the attack, very elegantly polished with precise tannins balanced out very well by the fruit, and an endlessly lingering fruit and truffle finish. A great wine.

[www.ornellaia.it](http://www.ornellaia.it)



## 3 Tenuta San Guido, Bolgheri

**Sassicaia 2017**  
18.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Charming nose of fresh stone fruit, juniper and tobacco aromas, polished in the attack with fine-grained, fresh tannins, invigorating acidity and a very complex finish of red fruit and spice notes. One of the most elegant interpretations of the Bolgheri terroir.

[www.sassicaia.com](http://www.sassicaia.com)



## 4 Casa di Terra, Bolgheri

**Maronea 2016**  
18 points | 2023 to 2028

Bewitching woodruff, liquorice and ripe berry nose, full-bodied in the attack with powdery tannins working in harmony with the precise acidity, and a lingering finish of ripe berry, tobacco and mint notes. Excellent with a Viennese Tafelspitz.

[www.fattoriacasaditerra.com](http://www.fattoriacasaditerra.com)



## 5 Michele Satta, Castagneto Carducci

**Marianova 2017**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Successful blend of Sangiovese and Syrah with red forest fruit, nutmeg and violet aromas, precise in the attack with polished tannins and vibrant acidity. Very successful, combining elegance, character and fruit.

[www.michelesatta.com](http://www.michelesatta.com)



## 6 Tenuta di Vaira, Bolgheri

**Bolgherese 2016**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

The tenth vintage of this exciting wine: cosy nose of stone fruit, macchia and spice aromas, powerful on the palate with fine-grained tannins, accentuated acidity and a spicy, fruity finish of lingering forest fruit and pepper notes. Successful.

[www.tenutadivaira.com](http://www.tenutadivaira.com)



## 7 Guado al Tasso, Bolgheri

**Guado al Tasso 2017**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Complex blackcurrant, tobacco, liquorice and mince aromas, initially juicy with fine-grained, precisely integrated tannins, then well balanced with an opulent finish of blueberry jam and spice notes. Enjoy with a barbecued steak.

[www.antinori.it/de/vino/guado-al-tasso-de/](http://www.antinori.it/de/vino/guado-al-tasso-de/)



## 8 Castello di Bolgheri, Bolgheri

**Castello di Bolgheri 2017**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2029

A successful blend of lots of Cabernet Sauvignon with some Franc: blueberry jam, liquorice and mint aromas, smooth yet characterful on the palate with precise tannins and a lingering balsamic and dark berry finish. Compelling complexity.

[www.castellodibolgheri.eu](http://www.castellodibolgheri.eu)



## 9 Castello di Bolgheri, Bolgheri

**Castello di Bolgheri 2017**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2029

A successful blend of lots of Cabernet Sauvignon with some Franc: blueberry jam, liquorice and mint aromas, smooth yet characterful on the palate with precise tannins and a lingering balsamic and dark berry finish. Compelling complexity.

[www.castellodibolgheri.eu](http://www.castellodibolgheri.eu)

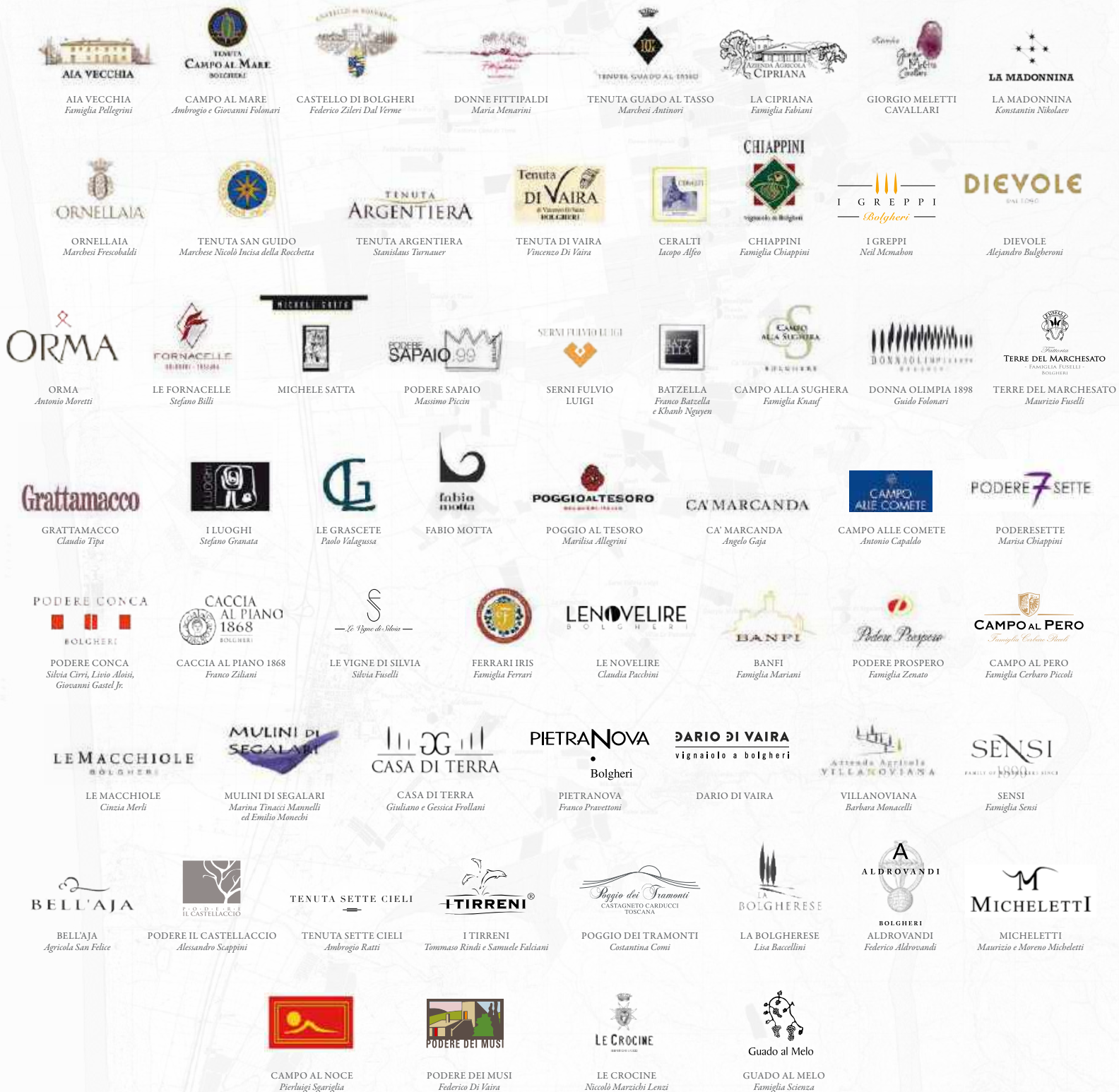


## 10 Campo al Mare, Bolgheri

**Baia al Vento 2016**  
17.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Flattering yet very complex nose of cassis, eucalyptus and chocolate aromas, velvety texture on the palate with accentuated acidity balanced out by the powdery tannins, and an opulent, lingering finish.

[www.tenutefolonari.com](http://www.tenutefolonari.com)



# Ein Mosaik einzigartiger Weine

Consorzio per la Tutela dei Vini DOC Bolgheri e DOC Bolgheri Sassicaia  
 Località San Guido, 45 – 57022 Bolgheri (LI) | Tel / Fax: 0039 0565 1827234 | [www.bolgheridoc.com](http://www.bolgheridoc.com)  
 Instagram: @bolgheri\_bolgherisassicaia\_doc | Twitter: @bolgheri | Facebook: @bolgheriebolgherisassicaiaidoc

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**Michele Satta, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Piastraia 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2027**

Very harmonious wine made from Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah and Sangiovese: complex nose of forest fruit, liquorice and dried flower aromas, grippy in the attack with fine-grained tannins balanced out perfectly by the acidity, and a lingering, linear finish. Once again very successful in this warm vintage.

[www.michelesatta.com](http://www.michelesatta.com)

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**Fabio Motta, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore le Gonnare 2017**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2026**

Single-vineyard wine made of Merlot and Syrah: intense nose of cherry, pepper and herbs, powerful on the palate with tannins that coat the palate, and a lingering fruity and nougat finish. Once again successful in this vintage.

[www.mottafabio.it](http://www.mottafabio.it)

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**Poggio al Tesoro, Bolgheri**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Sondraia 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

A complex blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc: a fruity and spicy nose of blueberry, dark chocolate and tea aromas, powdery tannins, combining opulence, juiciness and density, ending with plump notes of forest fruit and sandalwood.

[www.poggioaltesoro.it](http://www.poggioaltesoro.it)

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**Donne Fittipaldi, Bolgheri**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

18 months in oak provide a complex nose of blueberry, sandalwood and juniper aromas, brawny on the palate with good balance between the tannins and the acidity, opulent and lingering. A wine best enjoyed with food.

[www.donnefittipaldi.it](http://www.donnefittipaldi.it)

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**Ceralti, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Sonoro 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Precise nose of flowers and red berries with subtle lilac and undergrowth aromas, juicy and fresh on the palate with beautiful development into ripe cherry notes. A Merlot that impresses with its elegant style.

[www.ceralti.com](http://www.ceralti.com)

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**Campo alla Sughera, Bolgheri**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Arnione 2016**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2026**

Initially rather reticent on the nose, but becoming more complex once swirled; polished texture, lively acidity mingling in appetising style with the tannins, and an utterly fruity finish with mint and pepper notes. Enjoy with game birds and mushrooms.

[www.campoallasughera.com](http://www.campoallasughera.com)

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**Tenuta Argentiera, Donoratico**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Argentiera 2017**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2026**

A full-bodied blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc matured in small oak barrels for 14 months: spicy nose of liquorice and blackcurrant aromas, appealingly fine-grained tannins on the palate with a lingering finish – and offering remarkable freshness and minerality despite its opulence.

[www.argentiera.eu](http://www.argentiera.eu)

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**La Cipriana, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore San Martino 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

A spirited nose with fruit, sandalwood, liquorice and menthol aromas, full-bodied in the attack with a beautiful texture – and the smooth tannins particularly impressing – followed by a lingering finish. Enjoy with autumnal roast venison, dumplings and red cabbage.

[www.lacipriana.com](http://www.lacipriana.com)

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**Campo alle Comete, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Impressively rich blueberry jam, blossom and undergrowth aromas, dense yet fresh on the palate with lots of fruit in the spicy finish. A reliable wine best enjoyed with food.

[www.campoallectomete.it](http://www.campoallectomete.it)

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**Guado al Melo, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Atis 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Compelling nose of blueberry and vanilla aromas, smooth in the attack with fine-grained, perfectly harmonious tannins, dense yet fresh, with a lingering plum and juniper finish. Enjoy with a barbecued steak.

[www.guadoalmelo.it](http://www.guadoalmelo.it)

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**I Greppi, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Greppicaia 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Made from Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc: oak and macchia aromas with a touch of spice, compact structure, very dense with polished tannins, ending with stone fruit and balsamic notes.

[www.igreppi.com](http://www.igreppi.com)

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**Terre del Marchesato, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Marchesale 2017**  
**17 points | 2023 to 2028**

Since the 2017 vintage this has been a blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot: captivating blackberry and mint nose casually strewn with liquorice aromas, full on the palate with the tannins in perfect balance, and a lingering finish. Promising.

[www.terredelmarchesato.com](http://www.terredelmarchesato.com)

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**La Madonnina, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore**  
**Opera Omnia 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2026**

A classically elegant Superiore: cassis and cherry aromas on the nose accompanied by fragile liquorice notes, then utterly harmonious in the attack with precise tannins and a complex, fruity finish. Reliable once again in this vintage.

[www.lamadonninabolgheri.it](http://www.lamadonninabolgheri.it)

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**Dievole, Castelnuovo Berardenga**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore**  
**Tenuta Meraviglia Maestro di Cava 2017**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2025**

Tempting cassis nose flanked by oak and juniper aromas, concise on the palate with velvety tannins, and last but not least, captivatingly bold notes of ripe forest fruit and pepper. Successful.

[www.dievole.it](http://www.dievole.it)

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**PietraNova, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri Superiore DOC**  
**Merlot Liborio 2016**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2028**

Ethereal nose of cherry, tobacco and undergrowth aromas, powdery tannins, polished, juicy and dense, with a cherry and sandalwood finish. Pleasingly timeless style.

[pietra-nova.com](http://pietra-nova.com)

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**PietraNova, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Renzo 2016**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2027**

A compelling blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot: complex nose with black cherry, smoke and vanilla aromas, powerful in the attack with youthful tannins that still need to round out somewhat, and a strong, lingering finish.

[pietra-nova.com](http://pietra-nova.com)

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**Tenuta Sette Cieli, Monteverdi Marittimo**  
**Bolgheri DOC noi4 2017**  
**17 points | 2022 to 2026**

Very harmonious wine with an inviting nose of blueberry and vanilla aromas, compact on the palate, very juicy and full with good length. Enjoy with juicy roast beef.

[www.settecieli.com](http://www.settecieli.com)

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**Ceralti, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Bolgheri DOC Superiore Alfeo 2017**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2026**

Blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc: blueberry, sandalwood and blossom nose, harmonious yet also characterful on the palate, and a fruit and dark berry finish. Needs to mature somewhat.

[www.ceralti.com](http://www.ceralti.com)

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# Best of Carmignano

In one of Tuscany's oldest classified wine regions (since 1716), a dozen or so producers make Carmignano DOCG.



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## Tenuta Capezzana, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Riserva Trefiano 2016 17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Complex nose with red fruit and cassis aromas, robust in the attack with perceptible acidity balanced out by the tightly knit tannins, and a hugely lingering finish. A very complex yet captivatingly fruity wine.

[www.capezzana.it](http://www.capezzana.it)

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## Piaggia, Poggio a Caiano Carmignano DOC Riserva 2017 17.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Appealing nose of blueberry and violet aromas, linear development with well-integrated tannins and perfectly integrated acidity, and a lingering fruity finish with delicate touches of spice. Once again convincing in this vintage.

[www.piaggia.com](http://www.piaggia.com)

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## Fattoria Ambra, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Riserva Elzana 2017 17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Flattering raspberry, spice and lilac aromas, well balanced on the palate, combined with perfectly integrated tannins, lingering. Noble style.

[www.fattoriaambra.it](http://www.fattoriaambra.it)

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## Tenuta Capezzana, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Villa di Capezzana 2010 17 points | 2021 to 2024

This version of Villa di Capezzana was first marketed ten years ago: inviting stone fruit, liquorice

and leather nose, elegant structure with tightly knit, well-integrated tannins and invigorating acidity. Elegant.

[www.capezzana.it](http://www.capezzana.it)

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## Le Farnete, Capraia E Limite Carmignano DOCG

### Riserva Le Farnete 2016 17 points | 2022 to 2028

Fresh forest fruit aromas and herbal notes; juicy and full-bodied on the palate, robust tannins, ending with blackcurrant notes. A powerful yet elegant wine that would go well with roast beef.

[www.lefarnete.com](http://www.lefarnete.com)

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## Colline San Biagio, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Sancti Blasii 2016 17 points | 2022 to 2026

Delicately aromatic nose of small forest fruit and blossom aromas with some herb touches, polished in the attack, well integrated tannins and acidity, with a lingering, seductively elegant finish.

[www.collinesanbiagio.it](http://www.collinesanbiagio.it)

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## Fattoria Ambra, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Santa Cristina in Pilli 2017 17 points | 2021 to 2025

Sangiovese with some Canaiolo Nero and Uva Francesca, matured in tonneaux and large oak barrels for a year: harmonious in the attack with fresh raspberry and lilac aromas plus touches of tobacco, polished, combining powdery acidity with verve, and a lingering finish.

[www.fattoriaambra.it](http://www.fattoriaambra.it)

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## Fattoria Ambra, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG

### Riserva Montalbiolo 2017 17 points | 2022 to 2026

Tempting spicy and berry nose, juicy texture, fine-grained tannins, fresh acidity, very polished and elegant right into the finish.

[www.fattoriaambra.it](http://www.fattoriaambra.it)

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## Fattoria Ambra, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Montefortini Podere Lombarda 2017 16.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Complex forest fruit, dark chocolate and eucalyptus aromas, compact texture with tightly knit tannins, and a lingering finish of cassis and black pepper notes. Pleasingly fruity and spicy style.

[www.fattoriaambra.it](http://www.fattoriaambra.it)

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## Piaggia, Poggio a Caiano Carmignano DOCG Il Sasso 2018 16.5 points | 2021 to 2025

Spicy fruit nose with aromas of undergrowth and herbs; compact on the palate with good balance between the tannins and the acidity, and a delicately tart finish. Enjoy with wild boar ragu.

[www.piaggia.com](http://www.piaggia.com)

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## Artimino, Artimino Carmignano Carmignano DOCG Poggilarca 2017 16.5 points | 2022 to 2027

Delicately aromatic nose of black cherry and herbs, polished in the attack with perfectly integrated tannins, and elegant development ending with fresh forest fruit, leather and herb notes.

[www.artimino.com](http://www.artimino.com)

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## Podere Il Sassolo, Carmignano Carmignano DOCG 2017 16 points | 2021 to 2024

Inviting cherry nose with herb and sandalwood aromas, compact on the palate with robust tannins, an invigorating interplay of acidity, impressively fresh and lingering.

[www.ilsassolo.it](http://www.ilsassolo.it)

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## Fabrizio Pratesi Viticoltore, Seano Carmignano DOCG Carmione 2018 16 points | 2022 to 2025

Forest berry nose with delicate spice and herb aromas; juicy and compact on the palate, offering smoothness and wonderful length with forest fruit and blossom notes.

[www.fabriziopratesi.it](http://www.fabriziopratesi.it)

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## Le Farnete, Capraia E Limite Carmignano DOCG 2017 16 points | 2021 to 2025

Blueberry and violet aromas on the nose, fresh and crisp with lively acidity, a compact structure and a delicately tart finish. A nice success.

[www.lefarnete.com](http://www.lefarnete.com)

# Terre di Pisa

# Best of Merlot II

Great Merlot can not only be found in Chianti – here is a selection of the best.



**Tenuta di Ghizzano, Ghizzano di Peccoli**  
**Terre di Pisa DOC**  
**Rosso Veneroso 2016**  
**18 points | 2022 to 2028**

Exquisite nose of sun-warmed berries and wild flowers, precise in the attack with polished tannins, substantial and punchy on the palate yet also very refined with an endlessly lingering fruit finish. Enjoy with a barbecued steak.

[www.tenutadighizzano.com](http://www.tenutadighizzano.com)

**Badia di Morrone, Terricciola**  
**Terre di Pisa DOC**

**Sangiovese Vigna Alta 2017**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Engaging stone fruit nose with hints of blossom and balsamic touches, good balance between the lively acidity and compact tannins, and a lingering fruity finish framed by delicate spice notes.

[www.badiadimorrone.it](http://www.badiadimorrone.it)

**Usiglian del Vescovo, Palaia**  
**Terre di Pisa DOC**

**Rosso Il Barbiglione 2015**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Stone fruit, dried flower and mushroom nose, spirited on the palate with lively acidity, tightly knit tannins and a cherry and herb spice finish.

[www.usigliandelvescovo.it](http://www.usigliandelvescovo.it)

**Castelvecchio, Terricciola**  
**Terre di Pisa DOC**

**Sangiovese Qui e Ora 2016**  
**16.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

Raspberry and lilac notes with a touch of tobacco, full-bodied and pleasantly sharp on the palate with delicately tart tannins, and a well-balanced, crisp fruity finish.

[agricastelvecchio.com](http://agricastelvecchio.com)

**Le Palaie, Peccioli**  
**Toscana IGT Gatta Ci Cova 2018**  
**15.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

Ripe berry and herb spice aromas, a compact and juicy texture and a lingering fruity finish. Reliable.

[www.lepalaie.it](http://www.lepalaie.it)

**Masseto, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Toscana IGT Masseto 2017**  
**19 points | 2024 to 2032**

An astonishingly energetic wine from the 2017 vintage, offering complex blueberry, dried herb and liquorice aromas; it impresses with its tightly knit tannins, and then once swirled gains huge fullness and charisma, without losing the elegant touches of a Masseto. Suitable for laying down.

[www.masseto.com](http://www.masseto.com)

**Le Macchiole, Bolgheri**  
**Toscana IGT Messorio 2017**  
**18 points | 2023 to 2030**

Quaint nose of ripe fruit and black pepper aromas with dark chocolate and Mediterranean macchia notes, corpulent on the palate with a perfectly harmonious structure of tannins and acidity, complex with a lingering finish. A great wine.

[www.lemacchiole.it](http://www.lemacchiole.it)

**Uggiano, San Vincenzo a Torri**  
**Toscana IGT Petraia 2017**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

A touch of Cabernet is the icing on the cake of this Merlot wine: violet and fresh black cherry on the nose with some mint aromas, juicy on the palate with well-integrated, powdery tannins and a well-balanced finish of forest berries and undergrowth.

[www.uggiano.it](http://www.uggiano.it)

**Fornacelle, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Toscana IGT Merlot Erminia 2016**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Inviting dark stone fruit nose with floral aromas, well-balanced structure, well-integrated tannins, invigorating acidity, and a pleasantly fruity finish with delicate sandalwood notes. Good with juicy roast duck.

[www.fornacelle.it](http://www.fornacelle.it)

**Colline di Sopra, Montescudaio**  
**Costa Toscana Rosso IGT**  
**Merlot Sopra 2016**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Exquisitely made, complex right from the outset with its spicy forest berry nose before leather notes develop, compact on the palate with robust tannins, well balanced with a delicately tart plum finish. Merlot just as it should be.

[www.collinedisopra.com](http://www.collinedisopra.com)

**Terre del Marchesato, Castagneto Carducci**

**Toscana IGT Aldone 2017**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2027**

Varietal Merlot from a 70-year-old vineyard, matured in new oak barrels for 18 months: blackberry, vanilla and blossom nose, powerful in the attack, good balance between tannins and acidity, and a lingering finish of small forest fruit and pepper notes.

[www.terredelmarchesato.com](http://www.terredelmarchesato.com)

**Tenuta di Ghizzano, Ghizzano di Peccoli**  
**Costa Toscana IGT Nambrot 2017**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

60% Merlot with the remainder made up of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot: forest berry jam, herb and vanilla nose, harmonious on the palate combined with tightly knit tannins, characterful and refined with a cassis, liquorice and dark chocolate finish. Exceptionally made in its timeless, elegant style.

[www.tenutadighizzano.com](http://www.tenutadighizzano.com)

**Sator, Montescudaio**  
**Montescudaio Rosso DOC**  
**Merlot Sileno 2016**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2025**

Pleasant forest fruit nose with lilac and spice aromas, juicy and full on the palate, compact, corpulent, with a ripe nougat and berry finish. A successful wine from the small coastal Montescudaio region.

[www.satorwines.com](http://www.satorwines.com)

**Colline San Biagio, Carmignano**  
**Toscana IGT Merlot Quattordicisei 2015**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2026**

Spicy cherry nose with lilac and rosehip tea aromas, juicy yet powerful on the palate with a well-balanced structure of tannins and acidity, beautiful development into ripe cherry notes. Appealingly harmonious style.

[www.collinesanbiagio.it](http://www.collinesanbiagio.it)

# Classics and finds




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**Le Macchiole, Bolgheri**  
**Toscana IGT Paleo 2017**  
**19 points | 2022 to 2028**

One of Italy's best Cabernet Francs: once swirled, the increasingly bewitching nose develops cassis, eucalyptus and leather aromas; fine-grained tannins, spirited, juicy and refined, ending with sun-kissed fruit and sandalwood notes. Compelling polish and spice.  
[www.lemacchiole.it](http://www.lemacchiole.it)

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**Luce, Montalcino**  
**Toscana IGT Luce della Vite 2017**  
**18.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Founded by Vittorio Frescobaldi and Robert Mondavi in 1993, the Luce estate celebrated its 25th birthday this year with its cult wine of the same name: powerful style with a bewitchingly complex nose, utterly juicy and intense on the palate yet also refined, ending with an opulent berry and chocolate finish. Still needs to mature.  
[www.frescobaldi.it](http://www.frescobaldi.it)

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**Antinori, Firenze**  
**Toscana IGT Tignanello 2017**  
**18.5 points | 2023 to 2031**

Born nearly 50 years ago in 1971, this super Tuscan par excellence (as always made up of lots of Sangiovese with a touch of Cabernet) is as youthful and elegant as ever: beginning with red and black berry aromas combined with touches of juniper and dried flower, elegant structure with precise tannins and a dense, lingering fruity finish. Fantastic with food.  
[www.antinori.it](http://www.antinori.it)

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**Terre del Marchesato, Castagneto Carducci**  
**Toscana IGT Maurizio Fuselli 2017**  
**18 points | 2022 to 2027**

Pure Petit Verdot: rather closed on the nose before developing red berry, fresh flower, mac-

chia and undergrowth aromas, superb structure with a polished, still full-bodied texture and precise, fresh tannins. Will become even more elegant as it matures.  
[www.terredelmarchesato.com](http://www.terredelmarchesato.com)

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**Poggio Verrano, Magliano in Toscana**  
**Costa Toscana IGT Dròmos 2012**  
**18 points | 2023 to 2030**

Francesco Bolla's wine made from Cabernet Sauvignon (40%), Merlot (30%), Alicante (15%), Sangiovese (10%) and Cabernet Franc (5%): an elegant, powerful and spicy wine with cassis, macchia and pepper aromas, youthful and fresh on the palate, good balance between the lively acidity and robust tannins, and an endlessly lingering finish.  
[www.poggioverrano.it](http://www.poggioverrano.it)

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**Tenuta Argentiera, Donoratico**  
**Toscana IGT Ventaglio 2015**  
**18 points | 2021 to 2027**

1.2 hectares of vines at 120 metres above sea level provide the grapes for this Cabernet Franc, which was supported by Cabernet Sauvignon for the first vintage but will in the future become a single varietal: bewitching berry nose with herb and spice aromas, an angular, utterly harmonious texture and an endlessly lingering, delicately mineral finish.  
[www.argentiera.eu](http://www.argentiera.eu)

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**Agricola Le Corti Marsiliana, San Casciano Val di Pesa**  
**Costa Toscana Rosso IGT Marsiliana 2015**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

Duccio Corsini's interpretation of Maremma combines Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot: needs some swirling, then develops a tempting nose of blueberry and lilac aromas; compact structure with fresh acidity, juicy and luscious on the palate with well-integrated tan-

nins and subtle minerality. Enjoy with flavour-some wild duck.  
[www.fattorialecorti.principecorsini.com](http://www.fattorialecorti.principecorsini.com)

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**Tenuta Sette Cieli, Monteverdi Marittimo**  
**Toscana IGT Indaco 2016**  
**17.5 points | 2022 to 2026**

A blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot: a flattering nose of ripe cherry, Mediterranean macchia and spice aromas, full-bodied on the palate with tightly knit tannins balanced out by the acidity, and a lingering finish. Utterly successful.  
[www.settecieli.com](http://www.settecieli.com)

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**Colline di Sopra, Montescudaio**  
**Costa Toscana Rosso IGT Ramanto 2015**  
**17 points | 2021 to 2025**

Blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Syrah and Petit Verdot: forest berry, leather and macchia nose, compact texture, robust yet also polished tannins, and a beautiful finish of blueberry and herb notes. Powerful style.  
[www.collinedisopra.com](http://www.collinedisopra.com)

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**Brancaia, Radda in Chianti**  
**Brancaia Rosé 2019**  
**16.5 points | 2021 to 2022**

After three months on the lees, this pure Merlot becomes an astonishingly mineral rosé with rose blossom and berry aromas, robust acidity on the palate, but also lots of polish and a lingering finish. Excellent as an aperitif or with fish antipasti.  
[www.brancaia.com](http://www.brancaia.com)

Komplexer, eleganter,  
handgefertigter Rotwein  
aus der Maremma.



**Unser Topwein: Dròmos 2012**  
Costa Toscana IGT

.....  
**Tenuta PoggioVerrano**

Valentina Bolla  
Strada Provinciale 9, km 4  
I-58051 Magliano in Toscana (GR)  
info@poggioverrano.it  
www.poggioverrano.it

To produce a good  
wine is not enough  
but it's a good start.



**Unser Topwein: Vernaccia San**  
Gimignano Lyra

.....  
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www.ilpalagione.com



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TRAVEL

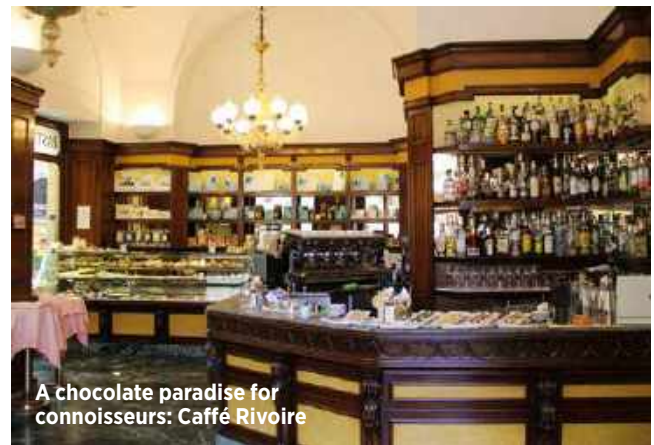
# 24 hours in Florence

If you watch twilight falling over the city, the honey-coloured walls and pink rooftops merge into one mass dominated by a single vast building: the cathedral with its majestic dome by the architect Brunelleschi rising above the sea of roofs, featuring a simple silhouette but magnificent detail.

**F**lorence has been shaping European history ever since the early 13th-century town was transformed into an economic and artistic hotspot thanks to flourishing trade, art-minded business and military successes. The Medicis in particular produced entrepreneurs, patrons of the arts, and popes. When Catherine de' Medici moved to France as the wife of King Henry II, she taught the previously utterly inexperienced French the meaning of haute cuisine - which many Italians think is still France's favourite food. So Florence's gastronomy is worth the trip alone. Within the city walls you will find elegant restaurants such as Cibrèo and the simple trattorias of the San Frediano district with their tasty Tuscan cuisine. Where else could a bistecca or an arrosto alla fiorentina taste so good?



View of the famous Piazza della Signoria



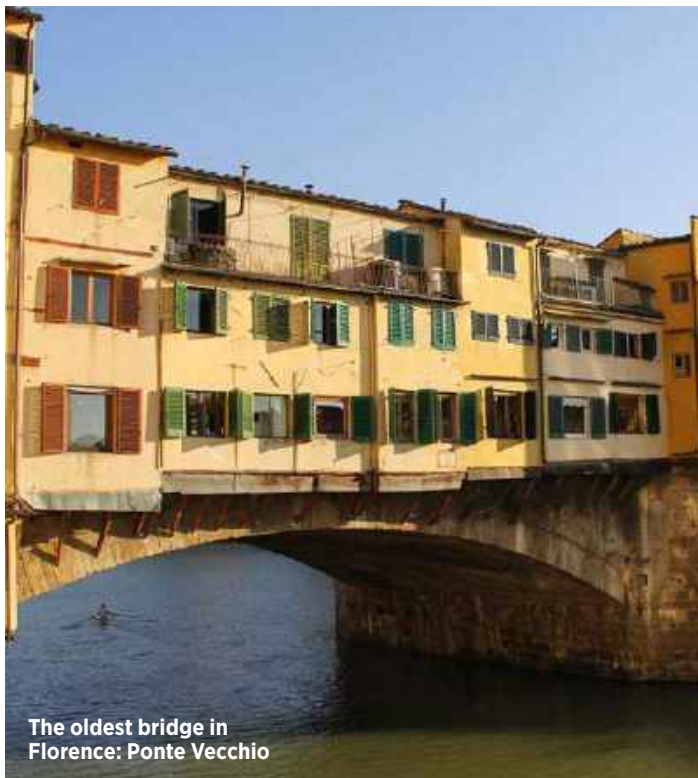
A chocolate paradise for connoisseurs: Caffé Rivoire



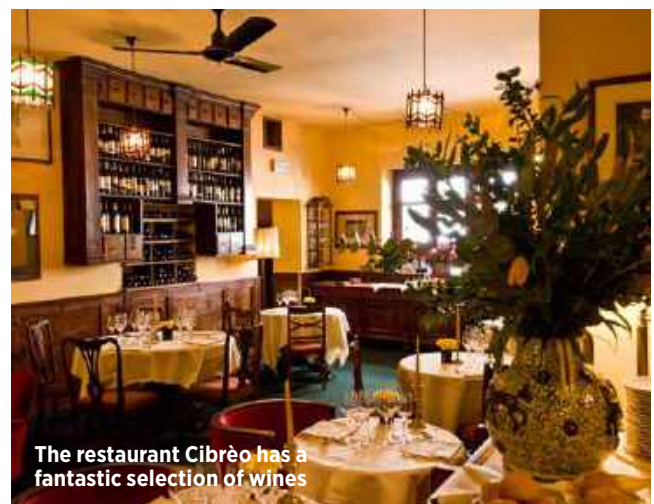
Hat maker Antonio Gatto



Head chef Fabio Picchi



The oldest bridge in Florence: Ponte Vecchio



The restaurant Cibrèo has a fantastic selection of wines



### 8 a.m. Chianti Classico and caffè

'My favourite Florence is the one that appears at 4 in the morning when I go to the market. The colours are unique, and somehow everyone you meet likes you', says Cibrè's legendary chef Fabio Picchi. You won't find anyone there at 4 a.m., but at 8 a.m. you can enjoy a cappuccino and a brioche in Il bar e la caffetteria. Here at the Mercato Centrale you can revel in the aromas of basil, Aubergine, cheese and fresh prosciutto, all of which are available to buy alongside all kinds of pasta, fruit and vegetables. However, the Mercato Centrale is also a fantastic place to eat and drink all day long: It is home to numerous trattorias and restaurants, as well as the well-stocked Enoteca del Chianti.

**Mercato Centrale**  
**Piazza del Mercato Centrale**  
**www.mercatocentrale.it**

### 10 a.m. Beautiful bags

Alice Caporale and Marco Contiello at Atelier.c on Via de Mossi in the city centre not only sell their own haute couture and interior design, but also offer their speciality of unique handbags: each is an individual piece. Marco calls them 'borse a misura', or custom-made bags. They are made from top-quality leather with exceptional details and elegant shapes. Some of the collection is permanently available from the retail shop at the heart of Florence, but Marco Contiello's first love is working on individual orders: 'It is essential that the bag suits the wearer and matches their personality, whether they are a man or a woman. My job is to make this connection.'

**Atelier.c**  
**Via dei Fossi, 33R**  
**+39 055 289 787**  
**www.ateliercfirenze.it**

### 1 p.m. Cibrè at Cibrè

The 'toscanità' – the cuisine, traditions and thus culture of Tuscany – on offer from Fabio Picchi at 'Cibrè' has long since ceased to be a secret. However, it is still worth visiting time and again. It is fittingly named after the Tuscan culinary classic 'cibrè', a chicken liver dish. The restaurant Cibrè has developed various offshoots, with a trattoria, bar and alimentari all around the Piazza Sant'Ambrogio. There is also the Teatro del Sale, a stage,

cabaret and music venue. In addition, Cibrè offers equally fine cuisine at lower prices.

**Il Cibrè**  
**Via dei Macci 118**  
**www.edizioniteatrodelsalecibreofirenze.it**

### 3 p.m. Head to the hat maker

Oltr'Arno, opposite the Palazzo Pitti, has for many years been home to Antonio Gatto's small workshop. Fabrics, tools and folders are piled up on a workbench in the back, whilst the front has a stand displaying various hat designs together with a large mirror. This is where the hat maker's creations are born – each a unique piece. Although he only really works on individual orders, Antonio Gatto also has a small collection available for purchase from his workshop – as hats need to be introduced to the public as soon as possible, Gatto smilingly explains: 'A hat is never finished until it is worn.'

**Capelli Antonio Gatto**  
**Piazza de Pitti, 5**  
**+39 334 857 18 79**

### 5 p.m. Negroni at Rivoire

Caffè Rivoire on the Piazza della Signoria is the perfect place for an aperitif: either on the terrace with views of Michelangelo's David, or in the wood-panelled interior. The 'molto fiorentino' house speciality is a Negroni: one third gin, one third vermouth and one third Campari. Up to 50 of these Florentine cocktails are sold every day, especially on warm summer evenings when the terrace is open until midnight. It was created when Count Negroni, who moved from America back to Florence in 1912, asked for his American cocktail to be a bit stronger: the barman replaced the soda with gin, and the Negroni was born.

**Caffè Rivoire**  
**Piazza della Signoria**  
**www.rivoire.it**

### 7 p.m. Dine beneath the stars

It almost sounds like poetry: carpaccio di cernia, maionese di baccalà, ravanelli, olio di peperone or ravioli di bietole, arrostiti e non bolliti, con caviale e spuma di aringa affumicata. The cuisine on offer at Enoteca Pinchiorri is the best in the city, as is its wine cellar. You can sit in one of the many small or larger rooms available. Giorgio Pinchiorri and Annie Féolde at the stove run this classic restaurant with great care and attention, which has earned them three Michelin stars. Booking definitely required!

**Enoteca Pinchiorri**  
**Via Ghibellina, 87**  
**www.enotecapinchiorri.it**

### Other highlights

#### Galleria degli Uffizi

A must: the Uffizi Gallery boasts delights such as Botticelli's 'Primavera' and the 'Madonna and Child with Two Angels' by Fra Filippo Lippi. However, make sure you buy your ticket online to avoid spending hours in the queue.

#### Duomo Santa Maria del Fiore

Its huge dome, 90 metres high and 42 metres wide, is the city's landmark. The majority of the cathedral's artistic treasures can now be found in the cathedral's museum. Ponte Vecchio Built in 1345, this bridge is probably the most photographed structure in the city. On the top floor above the jewellery shops, the Corridoio Vasari passageway leads from the Uffizi Gallery to the Palazzo Pitti renaissance palace.

#### Palazzo Medici Riccardi

One of the most sumptuous Medici buildings. The 15th-century 'Journey of the Magi' by the painter Benozzo Gozzoli can be seen in the neighbouring Capella dei Magi. Open Thursday to Tuesday.

#### Galleria dell'Accademia

Most visitors come to see Michelangelo's 'David' or his 'Slaves'. Open Tuesday to Sunday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE TO STAY

# Staying with winemakers

Tuscany has been a dream travel destination for centuries. Now, you can experience the landscape's stunning charms amid the vineyards and olive groves at the agriturismo offered by some of the region's best winemakers.

**T**his magnificent landscape between the peaks of the Apennines and the Tyrrhenian Sea is makes for a wonderful holiday destination - especially staying amid the vines at a winery. And if the winemaker's dwelling is a castle, even better.

Take Castello di Querceto, for example, on the road leading to Valdarno. At their castle, the Francois family makes typical local wines such as the Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Picchio or La Corte, named after the eponymous vineyard.

The estate also has around a dozen holiday apartments. Some are directly above the manor house just a few steps from the medieval castle and are entered from the old, paved castle courtyard which is also home to the wine shop, offices and old wine cellar. Others are in an old farmhouse and barn, named Le Giuncaie after the surrounding vineyard and located around 700 m from Castello. The stone farmhouse, which once housed the estate's sharecroppers, is surrounded by a shaded garden. However, Castello di Querceto is just one of the many castles and palaces that welcome guests: you can also enjoy a holiday at Castello di Cacchiano, Castello di Ama or Villa Le Corti belonging to the Corsini family.

Furthermore, the castelli of Chianti are not the sole purveyors of Tuscan flair: take Fattoria Lavacchio, a well-known winery in Montefiorale in the Chianti Rufina region, which offers comfortable, lavishly and stylishly furnished rooms amid the organic vines. You can relax by the beautiful pool in front of the house or head to nearby Florence for some art and culture. In the Val d'Orcia in southern Tuscany, renowned Brunello producer Donatella Cinelli Colombini owns the wine estate Fattoria del Colle near Trequanda (where she produces Val d'Orcia DOC wines). She has transformed an entire village into a Tuscan resort with rooms and holiday apartments, including outstanding cuisine in the restaurant.

True Tuscany: the city's medieval silhouette



The enchanting alleyways of Ama





Not only Sangiovese but also Merlot thrives magnificently on Ama.



Art installation at Castello die Ama



Gaiole attraction: Castello di Ama

### Tipps

L'Apparita, Haiku, San Lorenzo or Bellavista: the comfortable suites at Villa Ricucci in the peaceful village of Ama are named after Ama's fine wines. You can eat at the neighbouring Ristoro di Ama, and make sure you plan a visit to the art exhibition, as well as of course a wine tasting.

**Castello di Ama**  
**fraz. Lecchi in Chianti**  
**I-53013 Gaiole in Chianti**  
**+39 0577 74 60 69**

The apartments are called Ambra, Begonia and Camellia, and offer beam ceilings and rustic flair. Self-catering only; you can get the essentials in the nearby hamlet of Dudda.

Castello di Querceto  
**Via A. François, 2**  
**I-50020 Greve in Chianti**  
**+39 055 85 921**  
**www.castellodiquerceto.it**

Renowned winemaker Donatella Colombini owns this agriturismo near Trequanda in southern Tuscany: cosy apartments and houses, a good restaurant, and of course a pool, nestled amid a landscape of vines and olive groves.

**Fattoria del Colle**  
**Località Colle**  
**I-53020 Trequanda**  
**+39 0577 66 21 08**

It doesn't always have to be Chianti Classico: visitors can also enjoy Tuscan flair in the Chianti Rufina region – take this comfortable agriturismo with beautiful views and a swimming pool, only 20 minutes from Florence.

Fattoria Lavacchio  
**Via di Grignano, 37/38**  
**I- 50065 Pontassieve**  
**+39 055 839 6168**  
**www.fattorialavacchio.com**

# The grown-up icon



Saffredi's 30th birthday was celebrated at the Ten Trinity Square private club in London: Elisabetta Geppetti, the owner of the Le Pupille estate on the Tuscan coast, and her children Clara Gentili and Stefano Rizzi presented a unique vertical tasting of 19 vintages from 1987 to 2017.

**W**ith its Saffredi 2017, Fattoria Le Pupille celebrated 30 years of its wine icon using Bordeaux grape varieties. A starry sky of 30 golden rhombuses adorns the associated anniversary label.

This anniversary wine is from a particularly dry vintage. The mild, short winter combined with the dry spring meant that plant vegetation appeared twenty days earlier than expected. This head start then continued throughout the vintage's entire growth cycle, including in the hot, dry summer months. The aspect and location of the Saffredi vineyard, surrounded by forests, streams and hills and overlooking the sea from 250 to 280 metres above sea level, helped to compensate for some of the hot, dry weather and prevent disease. As a result, by harvest time (which began in early September for the Merlot and mid-September for the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot), the grapes were beautifully ripe. Each grape variety was processed separately with fermentation in stainless steel, and the blend was then matured in barriques for 18 months. A vertical tasting of 19 vintages demonstrated the ongoing evolution of this wine icon. Famous oenology names such as Giacomo Tachis, Riccardo Cotarella, Christian Le Sommer and since 2011 Luco D'Attoma have all provided their support, but for the past 30 years, Saffredi has primarily been the work of Elisabetta Geppetti.

The wine has changed somewhat over the years: Cabernet Sauvignon was reduced in favour of Merlot, and Alicante was replaced, initially by Syrah then from 2012 onwards by Petit Verdot.

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#### **Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 2017**

**18.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Proximity to the sea and its breezes benefited Saffredi in the dry 2017 vintage: temptingly complex nose with blueberry and cassis aromas plus some touches of coffee and dried flowers, perceptible and still very youthful tannins balanced out well by the acidity, elegant yet also very complex right into the lingering finish. Needs to mature.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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#### **Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 2015**

**18.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

A warm, well-balanced summer allowed the grapes to ripen perfectly: dense ruby colour, a complex fruit and spice nose, still very fresh and youthful with eucalyptus and juniper aromas, then polished on the palate with youthful yet fine-grained tannins and an endlessly lingering finish. A great wine which should be left to mature.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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#### **Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 2008**

**18.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

A similar blend to the 2005 vintage ensures a fresh, astonishingly fruity nose of blackberry, undergrowth and sweet spice aromas, finely chiselled in the attack with perfect balance between tannins and acidity, and a velvety, caressing finish. Currently on phenomenal form.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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**Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 2005**

**18.5 points | 2021 to 2024**

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 5% Syrah reached the winery perfectly ripe and create a sparkling clean, fruity nose of delicate spice aromas, very corpulent on the palate, multifaceted with perfectly integrated acidity and a complex, endlessly lingering finish. One of the most astonishing wines of the tasting.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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**Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 2010**

**18 points | 2021 to 2026**

Following cool temperatures during the growth cycle, the grapes were harvested late but at perfect concentration levels: tempting cherry aromas on the nose with touches of Mediterranean macchia and pepper, invigorating acidity, and tightly knit tannins that ensure an elegant finish.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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**Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 1995**

**18 points | 2021 to 2024**

A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 12% Alicante impresses in the attack with inviting stone fruit notes and balsamic touches, delighting with its fine-grained, very agile tannins, its fullness and its well-balanced finish. Captivatingly youthful style.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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**Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 2013**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot from a well-balanced vintage with a warm autumn: intense stone fruit, herb and vanilla nose, powdery tannins on the palate supported by lively acidity, and a lingering finish. Enjoyable now but could also be left to mature.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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**Fattoria Le Pupille Elisabetta Geppetti, Istia d'Ombrone**

**Maremma Toscana IGT Saffredi 1992**

**17.5 points | 2021 to 2023**

A cool summer and a warm autumn provided a dark fruit nose with cocoa and tobacco aromas, exceptional development on the palate with present acidity, elegant reticence, but nevertheless a certain fullness ensuring a lingering finish.

[www.fattorialepupille.it](http://www.fattorialepupille.it)

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# Il Merlot che chianteggia



'Casarsa is a Merlot che chianteggia, the type of Merlot that only Chianti can make', explains Sebastiano Capponi. It was first produced at Villa Calcinaia in 1997 and then almost every year since, with the exception of 2002 and 2017. A vertical tasting of selected vintages between 2004 and 2015 demonstrates the potential of this terroir wine from Chianti.

**T**he Conti Capponi can look back at centuries of agricultural tradition at Villa Calcinaia. The estate converted entirely to organic winegrowing and olive oil production a few years ago. Production is from non-genetically-modified vines, with new vine stock still taken from this genetic material. The vines grow on the left bank of the Greve river at 220 to 350 metres above sea level, and the subsoil is primarily calcareous clay and loam.

As Sebastiano Capponi explains, Casarsa was in fact created by accident. In the spring of 1967, his father and his father's agent procured nursery vines to plant seven hectares of new vineyards. Malvasia Nera was originally supposed to be growing in the Casarsa vineyard, and for 30 years no-one questioned this. It was not until 1996 that an ampelographic examination of the Casarsa vineyard showed that it was in fact Merlot and not Malvasia Nera that had been planted. In 1997, therefore, Sebastiano decided to make it into a wine: Casarsa, a Merlot that made itself at home here a long time ago, a Merlot che chianteggia.



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**Villa Calcinaia Fattoria, Greve in Chianti**  
**Rosso dei Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT**  
**Casarsa 2010**

**18 points | 2021 to 2027**

After swirling this gains increasingly complex aromas of blackcurrant and dark chocolate with herb touches, full bodied on the palate with robust tannins and lively acidity, combining body and elegance, and a polished finish. Noble style.

[www.villacalcinaia.it](http://www.villacalcinaia.it)

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**Villa Calcinaia Fattoria, Greve in Chianti**  
**Rosso dei Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT**  
**Casarsa 2004**

**18 points | 2021 to 2024**

Temporarily spicy berry and herb nose with balsamic touches, powerful in the attack with vibrant acidity, and precise red berry notes in the finish. Timeless style with an opulent, spicy cherry finish.

[www.villacalcinaia.it](http://www.villacalcinaia.it)

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**Villa Calcinaia Fattoria, Greve in Chianti**  
**Rosso dei Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT**  
**Casarsa 2015**

**17.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Tempting chocolate and berry nose with plum and oak aromas, powerful on the palate with smooth, well-integrated tannins, and chocolate and berry notes in the finish. Complex yet very polished style.

[www.villacalcinaia.it](http://www.villacalcinaia.it)

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**Villa Calcinaia Fattoria, Greve in Chianti**  
**Rosso dei Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT**  
**Casarsa 2012**

**17.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

After swirling, the wine develops red berry aromas with touches of herbs and spice, full-bodied in the attack with robust tannins and perceptible acidity, then an elegant, lingering red berry finish. Offering appealing elegance.

[www.villacalcinaia.it](http://www.villacalcinaia.it)

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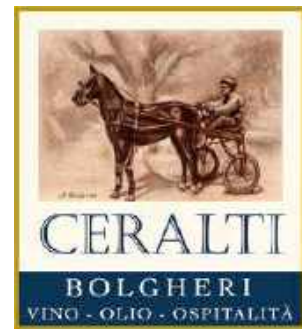
**Villa Calcinaia Fattoria, Greve in Chianti**  
**Rosso dei Colli della Toscana Centrale IGT**  
**Casarsa 2007**

**17 points | 2021 to 2024**

Initially rather closed on the nose before developing black cherry, tobacco and herb aromas, fine-grained tannins balanced out by the still very lively acidity, and a harmonious finish of blackberry and dried flower notes.

[www.villacalcinaia.it](http://www.villacalcinaia.it)

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# The essence of Tuscany

Pane, olio, vino: these form the basis of any meal in both Tuscany and many other parts of Italy. The materia prima are the essence of cooking, the fantastic base products from which gastronomic delights are conjured up. We present three classics of cucina toscana.

## Aperitivo **Pane e Olio**

Fulvio Pierangelini lets his star-studded dishes speak for themselves. In the opinion of this renowned Tuscan head chef, once in charge of Gambero Rosso in San Vincenzo, pane e olio (fresh bread and olive oil) is the essence of Tuscan cuisine.

'Pane e olio is how we once welcomed guests to the house', explains Pierangelini, 'and with a glass of wine, what more could you want?' Tuscany has plenty of good bread and oil to offer: ciabatta - the typical unsalted white bread - can be found in supermarkets in numerous countries, and native olive oil is a whole other story with most villages boasting their own oil mill, known as a frantoio.

So what does good olive oil from Tuscany smell like? Giorgi Franci puts his nose right in the cup, breathes in, then takes a gulp of the fresh green liquid and swirls it noisily around. 'It smells of pure olives with herb aromas, artichokes, ripe fruit and tomatoes. Fresh and pure on the tongue, with herb notes and artichoke dominating in the finish. Bitter touches and astringency are a particular sign of quality.' The Montenero d'Orcia oil producer adds with a satisfied smile: 'Freshness is vital in an olive oil, with green aromas, young fruit and floral notes.'

Giorgio Franci runs his oil mill in a small community at the foot of Monte Amiata. This involves no small amount of effort, since as he adds, the olives are still harvested by hand. The olives harvested in November and December are gently processed in the state-of-the-art in-house oil mill within 24 hours, and stored by variety in chilled tanks in a consistently oxygen-free environment.

Tuscany's old varieties are very sensitive to terroir: boulder soils produce a very elegant oil with the Frantoio variety, whilst clay soils are for example suitable for characterful oils made from Leccino or Leccio del Corno. Moraiolo instead forms the basis of a tangy, almondy oil. And Franci has another tip to offer. Unlike wine, olive oil does not get better with laying down: if the bottle is sealed, then it should be consumed within two years of the harvest, but if it is open, then we recommend finishing it within a few weeks, ideally with a piece of good white bread.



## Wine

### **Brancaia - Toscana IGT Il Rosé 2019**

This varietal Merlot rosé best displays its freshness and fruitiness as an aperitif or with a plain piece of bread.





## Primo **Ribollita**

This was once the basis for rural Tuscan cuisine: the name ribollita, meaning 'reboiled', comes from the fact that it is brought back to the boil with oil after it cools down, after which it is sprinkled with cheese before being served.

There are numerous different versions, but traditionally the main ingredients are leftover bread, cannellini beans, kale, cabbage, and cheap vegetables such as carrots, beans, chard, celery, potatoes and onions. Like most Tuscan dishes, this soup has rural origins. It was first made by bringing the previous day's leftover minestrone or vegetable soup back to the boil. An alternative story is that in the Middle Ages, farmers collected up the leftover bread from their feudal lords' banquets and cooked it for dinner, which became ribollita.

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### **Wine**

#### **Badia di Morrone – Terre di Pisa DOC Sangiovese Vigna Alta 2016**

An elegant Terre di Pisa from Terricciola with its authentic elegance and fruitiness provides the perfect counterpoint to this traditional dish.

## Secondo **Bistecca Fiorentina**

Few Tuscan dishes go quite so well with mature Tuscan red wine (and more) as bistecca fiorentina. The shoulder joint is grilled just a few millimetres over hot coals, seasoned and served with potatoes.

Ideally, the meat for this would come from Tuscan Chianina cattle, a native breed which was long in danger of extinction but is now being bred once again - including in Panzano, in the stalls of the Fontodi farm. 'The basic product is the most important thing for an artigiano, or artisan', explains il macellaio, Panzano's butcher Dario Cecchini, 'but it is not so much about the breed as about how it lived, what it ate, and whether it was allowed to have a life or was just treated as a commodity'.

Cecchini believes that a good butcher should personally know virtually every single pig or cow they handle - or at least the farmers that raised them.

Many tourists naturally gravitate to Cecchini's restaurant to eat bistecca, and he specialises in this Tuscan delicacy: as he says, it should be juicy with a good vein of fat, and very tasty. Give it a try!




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### **Wine**

#### **Fontodi – Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo 2017**

A powerful varietal Sangiovese from Conca d'Oro in Panzano: it is intense and corpulent, pairing perfectly with a flavoursome bistecca.

# I want to make the best wines in Tuscany

## Where is your favourite place to live?

During the winter months, in Switzerland. In the summer, in Tuscany at Gagliole. We discovered the 'land of our dreams' in 1990, and it was love at first sight. Gradually and with great dedication, we have renovated everything. We bottled our own wine for the first time in 1994 after tasting our grapes, which were initially leased and processed by a neighbour. We have been indulging our passion for taste ever since.

## When you are not drinking wine, what do you drink?

Beer - ideally a full-flavoured Calanda.

## What was your most formative encounter in the world of wine?

Rolf Kriesi, the founder of Vinum, introduced me to the fascinating world of wine. This took place over a glass of wine with friends, where he captivated all present with his enthralling observations on this fermented grape juice. The next meeting was just a few days later in his tasting laboratory at the Vinum publishing house.

## And in the world of business?

Andy Rihs, a brilliant entrepreneur and wine producer.

## What is your favourite wine not from Gagliole?

Blanc de Lynch Bages, Pauillac Bordeaux.

## Which wine do you think is worth the sin?

I do not believe in sin, so I enjoy drinking all good wines.

## What was your first defining wine experience?

A private tasting with James Suckling when he moved from London to Tuscany. That evening, we tasted a couple of the best-known super Tuscans, and for each one James was able to offer some fascinating background information that I still remember today.

## What is your greatest passion?

I want to make the best wines in Tuscany.

## Which wines do you always keep stocked in your fridge?

A bottle of our Il Bianco, a white wine made from Procanico, Malvasia and Chardonnay grapes, offering a fruity nose and particularly refined style.

## Natural or orange wines are...?

Trendy wines for consumers who are constantly looking for something new.

## Do you and your wife argue over your tastes in wine?

Our tastes have become attuned over the course of our long marriage.

## Sangiovese is:

To me, it is a grape variety that has long been unjustly neglected and embodies the unique, true nature of Tuscany.

## What restaurant offers the best combination of atmosphere, food and wine?

The Kronenhalle in Zurich offers an atmosphere that perfectly combines culture, food and wine.

## What do you drink after a wine tasting?

Water.

## What wine would you recommend for a wedding night?

Our Pecchia: 'pecchiare' means to sip - sip at love. Pecchia is the diamond of our wine range, an impressive wine with huge structure that nevertheless expresses pure elegance.

## What is your top hangover cure?

If you drink good wine, you will not have a hangover.



Castellina in Chianti with its hills and vines: the magic of this Tuscan landscape cast a spell over Zurich native Thomas Bär (Julius Bär bank, Bär & Karrer law firm) and his wife Monika right from the very start. It was love at first sight, leaving them in no doubt about the vineyard that would become the land of their dreams. Over the years, their love of Tuscany and their excellent wines became a genuine passion - and a winery: Gagliole. Gagliole's coat of arms, a pair of compasses with a horizontal balance beam, was the private emblem of the old Bettschart family house and represents quality, diligence and precision.



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