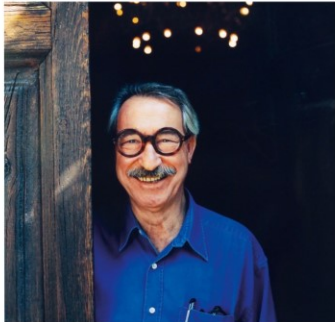


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Your unique wine experience...

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 2019: BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL



Brunello di Montalcino 2019 En Primeur: Bold and beautiful

In recent years Italy's presence within the global Fine Wine Market has gone from strength to strength as customers continue to diversify their portfolios; looking for new, and attractive opportunities for both drinking, and investment wines.

In September 2023, the Fine Wine trading platform, Liv-ex, declared "the Italy 100 outshone its peers, with a 0.6% month-on-month increase, once again surpassing all other sub-indices of the Liv-ex Fine Wine 1000." They further commented "Tuscany, in particular, saw the most substantial increase, rising from 7.2% to 13.2%. This boost can be attributed to the active trading of Argiano, Brunello di Montalcino 2018, Sassicaia, Tenuta San Guido, Bolgheri 2016 and Masseto, Toscana 2020."

Moreover, Argiano's Brunello di Montalcino 2018 was selected as the Wine Spectator's 2023 Wine of the Year; a hugely impressive accolade. Liv-ex confirmed in December 2023 that this saw the wine "securing its position as the most traded wine by both value and volume." A firm testament to not only the quality, but the heightened consumer interest in Italian fine wine, with a particular focus on Tuscany, and Brunello di Montalcino.

At Bon Coeur, we agree with the market sentiment and have been experiencing first-hand our customers increasing appetite for Italian Fine Wines over the last five years. It is therefore our belief that campaigns such as Brunello di Montalcino 2019, which has created bold and beautiful wines that can be enjoyed upon release, as well mid to long-term cellaring, providing customers with good investment potential and the opportunity to dip their toe into the wonderful world of Italian Fine Wine.

Montalcino: a single township

Located in the province of Siena, 30 miles south of the city with the same name, the medieval village of Montalcino sits atop a jigsaw puzzle of vineyards and cypress trees that encircle the town. It can be said it is the most famous DOCG in Tuscany (perhaps for the exception of Chianti) and is considered the prize jewel in Tuscany's crown.

Despite its modern-day fame, Brunello di Montalcino is a relatively young appellation, as it was in 1888 when Clemente Santi (founder of Biondi-Santi), who first bottled Brunello di Montalcino as we know it. Interest in the area and its wines waned over the next century due to war, depression, and migration to the larger Italian cities. However, everything changed when DOC status was achieved in 1966, followed by an upgrade to DOCG status in 1980; awakening a movement that saw the number of new estates grow from 11 in 1960, to over a staggering 250 by 2010.

Brunello di Montalcino is produced from Sangiovese Grosso, known locally as "Brunello", and must be made *in purezza* (meaning 100% Sangiovese). By law, it cannot be released onto the market before 1st January of the fifth year following the harvest (six years if it is a Brunello di Montalcino Riserva) and needs to be aged for a minimum of two years in oak, followed by a minimum four months in bottle (six months for a Riserva).

Zones and Crus

In its simplest form, Montalcino can be best divided into two main sectors: north, and south. The north is found at higher altitudes where the cooling winds, unique microclimates and stony-galestro soils combine to produce elegant, pure, and refined wines. The south, on the other hand, is found at lower altitudes where soils are more loam, silty, and clay dominant, which in turn, create fuller, complex, and more powerful wines.

However, upon closer inspection, Montalcino boasts a highly complex patchwork of zones, microclimates and vineyards producing many different styles of wine. The topic of introducing an official zoning system has been hotly debated with some stating it will result in greater clarity of regional style, making Brunello di Montalcino more accessible and appealing to consumers. In theory, a basic zoning system could be based on the small villages and surrounding land that encircle Montalcino such as Buonconvento (northwest), Torrenieri (northeast), Castelnuovo dell'Abate (southeast), as well as Camigliano and Sant'Angelo [in Colle and Scalo] (southwest).



Image credit: decanter.com

This approach would be akin to the already established communes of Burgundy, such as Gevrey-Chambertin, Vosne-Romanée, and Nuits-Saint-Georges as well as the appellations of Pauillac, Margaux, and Pomerol in Bordeaux. However, there is reluctance from some estates who claim that lesser regarded areas in the region would be unfairly criticised by wine critics and in turn, be undervalued and neglected by consumers. In addition to this, most producers own vines throughout the region and make their Brunello di Montalcino from several plots or vineyards, and therefore see the introduction of designated zoning as counterproductive.

Nevertheless, there is a small group who would like to go (and in some cases have gone) one step further, by highlighting and promoting specific plots and single vineyards that have distinct characteristics thanks to unique terroir. Of course, this is not a new concept as properties have been making single vineyard wines for decades such as Il Marroneto's 'Madonna delle Grazie', Altesino's 'Montosoli' and Gianni Brunelli's 'Le Chiuse di Sotto'.

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Leading Italian wine critic, Ian d'Agata, discusses in his book *Italy's Native Wine Grape Terroirs (2019)* that *"creating meaningful subzones is never a bad thing, for this increases curiosity about a denomination, encourages more listings in wineshops and on wine lists, and creates a sense of somewhere-ness for the wines that is always a plus, both culturally and commercially... I have always been in favor of establishing, and fostering, wine-township self-identity, though I realize it is a complex issue. And when it comes to Montalcino, it is even more complex than usual."* And so, for now, the heated debate rages on...

Vintage and growing conditions

Winter 2018/19 was cold and relatively wet with average levels of rainfall throughout the appellation at the end of January-early February, which replenished the water table without any issues. Spring was much the same as March, April, and early May saw similar conditions; sufficient rain combined with below average temperatures, delaying budbreak. However, this did not trigger too much cause for concern. Thankfully this year, there was little to no risk of Spring frost... grazie mille, Madre Terra!

All the foundations were put in place and prepared the vines for the hot summer ahead; mid-May welcomed warmer temperatures, flowering took place in near-perfect conditions. June and July were hot and dry, yet without the extreme heat peaks of previous "solar" vintages as average temperatures remained around a comfortable 20-25°C (only a few days exceeded 30+°C). However, there was a notable storm at the end of July which saw 70mm of rain fall in just two days; the same volume that fell throughout the whole of January and February. Thankfully, the vineyards and vines coped well with the downpour and both fruit set, and véraison followed suit.

August was dry and hot, though critically there were no heatwaves or signs of drought/hydric stress with average temperatures stabilising at 30-35°C (compared to 40+°C in 2017). In addition, the combination of replenished water reserves and diurnal range (hot days and cool nights) allowed for gradual and uniform grape ripening throughout most of the month. Furthermore, the hot and dry weather meant that there was barely any risk of disease pressure, and vineyard management was focused on grape and canopy health.

Moving into September there were some rain showers in the first week, though rather than concerning producers, they were encouraged, as it provided the vines with a booster shot to restrain sugar, rejuvenate the grapes, and delay harvest to reach optimal phenolic and physiological ripeness. Although the season overall was relatively easy, as always, the decision to pick is dependent on vineyard management, location, altitude, and microclimate, as well as producer preference and style. Ultimately, their aim is demonstrate estate terroir and uniqueness to the best of their ability, whilst staying true to the Brunello di Montalcino style.

There has been a lot of excited murmurs and whispers around the Brunello di Montalcino 2019 campaign and its wines, supported by a steady stream of reports from journalists and critics lauding the latest *anteprima* release.

Vinous' Eric Guido professes in his article ***Buckle your seatbelts: 2019 Brunello and 2021 Rosso di Montalcino*** *"the current releases from Montalcino are an embarrassment of riches for collectors and fans of the appellation... Montalcino continues to create world-class wines of the highest caliber and, in most cases, at reasonable price points."*

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Guido further declared *“this is a year where the entire region excelled, from southwest to east and northeast to west. Frankly stated, finding a 2019 that doesn’t show remarkable balance, vivid fruit and freshness is a difficult task. In my opinion, this is always a mark of a great year... This is a vintage of radiance and appeal without any sensation of over-ripeness or lack of complexity. The wines are aromatically intense and full of dimension, with translucent color, fruit typicity and the ability to communicate a sense of place.”* Guido concluded with *“they are structured and built for cellaring... The terms classic, racy, cool-toned, crunchy and sleek litter my tasting notes, and while many 2019s display an inviting personality today, they are balanced for the cellar and sure to mature beautifully over the next ten to fifteen years, if not more. This is the vintage we’ve all been waiting for.”*

Kerin O’Keefe concurred in her ***Brunello di Montalcino 2019 Vintage Report*** that *“2019 has definitely lived up to its lofty reputation as an excellent vintage across Montalcino... I’ve never tasted so many drop-dead-gorgeous young Brunellos from a single vintage. In 2019, many estates made the best wines they have ever made... So if you are going to experiment with names you aren’t familiar with, 2019 is the vintage to do that.”*

O’Keefe continued to state *“the 2019s are incredibly fragrant, delivering quintessential aromas of perfumed red berry, blue flower, new leather and forest floor... They are full-bodied, with great, delicious fruit flavors that range from ripe red cherry all the way to mature plum. Spicy notes are ubiquitous. They also have great energy thanks to good acidity levels and taut but refined tannins. Many are exhilarating while some are almost opulent, but they are also lifted by vibrancy. The best combine body and finesse, and most will be hitting their ideal drinking window starting in 2027 or 2028 and will age beautifully for fifteen or twenty years after the vintage year. Some will easily age twenty-five years.”*

Decanter’s Michaela Morris proclaimed in her report ***Brunello di Montalcino 2019: Spoilt for Choice*** *“I was struck by the gorgeous and immediate aroma profiles, the ripeness without excess, and the balance of richness with freshness. The 2019 Brunellos do not fatigue the palate and are often stealthy in their power... Given the quality in 2019, Brunello enthusiasts will be spoiled for choice.”* Morris further divulged *“There were no surprises among the highest scoring wines. They hailed from some of the region’s most celebrated estates – Conti Costanti, Le Chiuse, Il Marroneto and Canalicchio di Sopra... The 2019 vintage also continued the trend of single-vineyard and special selections. Overall, these didn’t diminish estates’ classic Brunello and, in many cases, delivered a step up.”*

Last but by no means least, The Wine Advocate’s Monica Lerner revealed in her article ***Brunello di Montalcino: Nouvelle Vague*** *“now is the time to take a closer look at this storied Tuscan appellation... if Brunello is your thing, I recommend that you buy and collect the 2019 vintage bottlings (or annata wines), selections and single-vineyard expressions.”*

Lerner summarised that the 2019 wines have *“good balance between acidity, concentration and tannins, which feel elegantly fine-grained and sometimes chalky... the wines boast a special duality in that many bottles are slightly more accessible to drink in the near or medium-term, but they also have the acidity and structure to age should that be your preference.”*

Our Buying Policy

We continuously review our En Primeur buying policy based on the performance of each vintage, with a focus on sourcing wines that we believe are the best from the appellation. We can therefore give you, the customer, a more personal and tailored service to suit your requirements. We are very happy to talk you through the vintage and discuss what will best suit your cellar/palate.

We believe we have once again rightly concentrated on offering a more quality focused selection from the vintage that we feel will provide pleasure for both drinking upon release, as well as mid-to-long term cellaring with investment potential. Furthermore, as your independent wine merchant it is our job to continuously search for new and exciting producers, and we are therefore delighted to include Conti Costanti, Il Marroneto, Pian delle Vigne as well as Sesti to our 2019 En Primeur campaign.

I do hope you enjoy reading this report. If you require further information on the Brunello di Montalcino 2019 vintage and wines; please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Best wishes,
Andrew Ray
Wine Buyer & Private Client Associate Director**

Please note that all En Primeur wines are sold In Bond (excluding UK VAT and Duty) by the case as stated. They do, however, include shipping costs and insurance into our UK bonded warehouse at Moor Park.

The Brunello di Montalcino 2019 wines are due to arrive in Spring/Summer 2024. Once they have physically arrived, if you wish to transfer your wines to another UK bonded warehouse or have them released from Bond to a UK mainland address, please be aware that UK Duty, VAT, and/or delivery and logistic charges will be applicable. E & OE.

Key

IB:	Prices quoted In Bond (excluding Duty, VAT, and logistics charges)
NEW:	A new wine offered in this En Primeur campaign.
RECOMMENDED:	A firm wine buyer favourite.
ON ALLOCATION:	Wines are sold on an allocation basis, please contact the office if interested.
ESTIM:	A wine not yet released, and therefore pricing is an estimate.

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ARGIANO



ARGIANO

Established in 1580, (Tenuta di) Argiano boasts a rich and illustrious history as one of the oldest estates in the region and a founding member of the Consorzio del Brunello di Montalcino. The Brazilian financier, André Esteves, purchased the property from Countess Noemie Marone Cinzano in 2013 and extensive investment and development in both the vineyards and cellar have been undertaken in the quest for further greatness, all under the watchful eye of Head Winemaker and CEO: Bernardino Sani (pictured).

Located to the southwest of Montalcino between the village of Sant'Angelo in Colle and Sant'Angelo Scalo, Argiano own 50-hectares of prime, south-facing vineyards on the plateau, making them a formidable producer in the appellation. Nevertheless, there is no compromise on quality thanks to the mapping of their vineyards into six separate zones by famed Chilean terroir consultant Pedro Parra, to the introduction of organic viticulture as well as the creation of ultra-modern facilities in a new, custom built winery producing multi-layered, balanced, and elegant wines with a true sense of place.

Bernardino proclaimed to be "extremely happy to present the 2019 vintage for Argiano... a rich vintage in every sense of the word: perfect weather during ripening season, great quality, and also good yields across Montalcino... This is a Brunello that you can cellar for a long time as it will improve in finesse over the next twenty years."

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

RECOMMENDED

£210 IB (6x75cl)

£220 IB (3x150cl)

A selection of vineyard plots where vines between 15-60 years old are planted on clay-limestone dominant soils. Aged in traditional Slavonian barrels for 30 months, followed by further bottle ageing before release.

"Aromas of ripe dark-skinned berry, blue flower, camphor and pipe tobacco form the enticing nose on the gorgeous 2019 Brunello from Argiano. Delicious and elegantly structured, the palate also has captivating, youthful tension that lifts mature black cherry, raspberry compote, blood orange, licorice and dried herb. A backbone of firm, refined tannins provide support while bright acidity keeps it perfectly balanced."

97/100 points. Drink 2028-2039. Kerin O'Keefe

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“Delightful aromas of juicy red cherries, strawberries, rose petals and wild bush, together with hints of juniper and ground herbs. Medium-bodied with firm tannins and crisp acidity. Zesty and piquant with beautiful balance and finish. Plenty of fruit at the end. Give it more time to come around. Try after 2027.”
95/100 points. James Suckling

“The Argiano 2019 Brunello di Montalcino comes out stronger than the previous 2018 and 2017 vintages, thanks to the precision and focus of its fruit flavors in this balanced vintage. It shows ample depth and volume, with sweet cherry and blackberry that fold into softly toasted spice and earth. Floral hints of lilac and iris make brief but poignant appearances. Velvety tannins and a nicely concentrated mid-weight palate give good staying power.”
94/100 points. Drink 2025-2040. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

“Crushed ashen stones, cloves, dried black cherries, rosemary and balsam herbs create a spice box display as the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino blossoms in the glass. This is surprisingly fresh and energetic, nearly juicy in character, yet refined and focused, with silken textures ushering in crisp wild berry fruits and orange tones that slowly saturate the palate. It finishes spicy and long, yet its energy never wavers, with grippy tannins that tug at the cheeks as licorice and cranberry notes fade.”
94/100 points. Drink 2026-2038. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“The 2019 is poignantly evocative of place exuding salt-tinged sweet herbs, rose and bergamot. Generously weighted with succulent strawberries and cherries, this fills the mouth without feeling heavy. Tangy tangerine instils freshness. Long chalky tannins caress with increasing firmness as it flows confidently across the palate. Rosemary and sage echo on the finish.”
94/100 points. Drink 2024-2035. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“Lustrous deep ruby with orange tinges. Firm, concentrated fruit nose with spice hints. Bags of tangy fruit and ripe, grainy tannins striking a very good balance. Long, chewy, deep fruit. This will develop nicely over the next few years.”
17++/20 points. Drink 2024-2032. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)

BANFI



(Castello) Banfi was created in 1978 by the Italian American brothers, John, and Harry Mariani, when they acquired the Castello di Poggio alle Mura and surrounding vineyards to the southwest of Montalcino near Sant'Angelo Scalo.

The aim was to simply produce the best Brunello di Montalcino possible from their carefully nurtured vineyards and state-of-the-art winery. As a result, the Mariani's hired one of the greatest Italian winemakers of the time, Ezio Rivella, to turn their dream into reality. Almost half a century later, the estate is still family owned, now in the capable hands of the third generation with Cristina Mariani-May (pictured), as well as her cousin; James Mariani. Cristina became President and CEO in 2018, yet has been involved with the winery since the early 1990s, where from the beginning her mantra has always been "in the pursuit of excellence" driving Banfi to become one of the largest, and most prolific producers in Montalcino.

Head Winemaker, Gabriele Pazzaglia, summarised the 2019 as "outstanding... this highly anticipated vintage was awarded 5 stars [by the Consorzio del Brunello di Montalcino], and distinguishes itself due to the impressive quality of the Sangiovese grapes and growing conditions. An extraordinary harvest rivalling the best years. The combination of differing terroirs and microclimates contributed to an exceptional year for Banfi."

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

£200 IB (6x75cl)

Vineyards are nestled between the Orcia and Ombrone rivers to the south of Montalcino on stony-chalk soil. Aged for 2 years in a combination of 60-90hl French casks (80%) and 350L French barriques (20%) with further bottle ageing prior to release.

"A beautiful red with cedar, mushroom and cherry character, as well as hints of sandalwood. It's medium-bodied and very polished with loveliness and finesse that comes through clearly. A wine to drink young, but will age very nicely."

95/100 points. James Suckling

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“Castello di Banfi’s straight Brunello just gets better every year as the 2019 aptly proves. It’s smooth, concentrated, delicious and energized, not an easy combination but one that they rock in the 2019 vintage. It starts out with aromas of camphor, truffle, ripe black-skinned berry and tobacco while the enveloping palate doles out fleshy black cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice, almond and cake spice framed in velvety tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it lifted and vibrant.”

95/100 points. Drink 2027-2039. Kerin O’Keefe

“Darkly alluring, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino opens slowly with a blend of dried flowers and cedar spice box giving way to red currants. It’s soft textured with a lovely inner sweetness up front contrasted by tactile mineral tones and tart wild berry fruits. Acidity maintains balance as the 2019 finishes spicy and long, leaving the mouth watering despite grippy tannins that linger on. The energy of the 2019 vintage lends this an accessibility not often seen from such a young Brunello.”

90/100 points. Drink 2025-2030. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“Effusively perfumed, Banfi’s estate Brunello wafts with vanilla, tobacco and sweet herbs. These echo quietly on the relatively straightforward palate, where ripe red cherry is lit with bright acidity. Tannins are just a touch raw though mostly resolved and neatly frame the whole. With broad and easy appeal, this is immediately approachable. While not the most complex Brunello, it offers a genuine and affordable taste of the denomination.”

90/100 points. Drink 2024-2029. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“Lustrous ruby. The nose is not entirely open yet, hinting at concentrated cherry fruit. Lots of sappy, tangy cherry fruit with mellow, creamy notes. The dry tannins let the wine down a bit; otherwise this is pretty much ready.”

15.5/20 points. Drink 2024-2030. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)

Brunello di Montalcino ‘Poggio alle Mura’ DOCG 2019

£320 IB (6x75cl)

Produced from specially selected vines surrounding the Castello di Poggio alle Mura on clay, stone, and pebble soil. Aged for 2 years in a combination of 60-90hl French casks (40%) and 350L French barriques (60%) with further bottle ageing before release.

“Black-cherry, ash, bark and dried dark-mushroom aromas follow through to a medium to full body with a solid sense of tannin and acidity. Polished and focused. Needs time to soften a bit, but shows fascinating oyster-shell and iodine undertones. Best in three or four years.”

96/100 points. James Suckling

“Aromas of blue flower, mature plum and exotic brown spice mingle with earthy scents of new leather and Mediterranean scrub on the compelling 2019 Poggio alle Mura. Full-bodied and intense, the palate delivers juicy Morello cherry, licorice and tobacco framed in tightly-knit, fine-grained tannins. It’s well balanced, with fresh acidity.”

95/100 points. Drink 2028–2039. Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Poggio alle Mura smolders up from the glass with a dark blend of grilled herbs and ashen stones enshrouding crushed wild berries. It washes across the palate with silky textures and ripe red and blue fruits, guided by juicy acidity. Dark chocolate and autumnal spice amass toward the close. The Poggio alle Mura finishes structured and dry, leaving a chewy wood tannin concentration and a bitter tinge that curls the tongue. There is real potential here, yet it will be many years before these hulking tannins mellow.”

91/100 points. Drink 2026-2034. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“Named after the medieval castle that presides over Banfi’s expansive property in the southwest of Montalcino, Poggio alle Mura is the estate’s limited production Brunello. It is crafted from parcels planted with selected clones based on a zonation study in the 1980s. The animated 2019 charms with nutmeg, juniper and fennel-laced red berries. Youthful fruit is yielding and pliable though still wrapped up in some dry, toasty oak tannins. Perhaps wants a bit more concentration to absorb the alcohol. Give this another year in bottle to come together.”

91/10 points. Drink 2025-2031. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“Deep ruby. Firm, dark-fruit nose with peppery oak notes. Concentrated yet fresh, with firm and slightly astringent tannins under the tangy cherry fruit. Could do with more time in the bottle.”

16/20 points. Drink 2025-2032. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)

CASANOVA DI NERI



Casanova di Neri

Founded in 1971 by Giovanni Neri, Casanova di Neri is without a doubt one of the superstar producers in Montalcino. The estate has been in the capable hands of his son, Giacomo Neri since 1991, who now works alongside the third generation and his two sons: Gianlorenzo, and Giovanni (pictured).

Giacomo has expanded holdings organically over the last three decades through acquiring some of the best vineyards in the region and now owns 63-hectares of vines, including the single plots of ‘Cerretalto’ and ‘Tenuta Nuova’ as well as the most recent addition: ‘Giovanni Neri’. This patchwork of vineyards allows the estate to create a blended and balanced expression of Brunello di Montalcino, together with their highly sought-after single-vineyard bottlings. Casanova di Neri’s philosophy is to produce wines that are approachable and drink well in their youth, yet also have the complexity, concentration, and structure to age impeccably.

Giacomo declared that “2019 is a magical year... the Brunellos are vibrant. We had rain at the right moment, and it made the grapes even more beautiful. I like 2018, but 2019 is great and richer. It is at the same level as 2016, 2015, 2010 and 2006.”

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

£260 IB (6x75cl)

£110 IB (1x150cl)

Simply referred to as ‘etichetta bianca’ (white label) so as not to be confused with their other Brunello di Montalcino bottlings. It has been produced since 1978 and is their flagship wine; a blend of two sites – one from the north, and the other from the northeast of Montalcino. Aged for 43 months in oak barrels, followed by 6 months bottle ageing prior to release.

“The Casanova di Neri 2019 Brunello di Montalcino shows thick fruit fabric with stitchings of underbrush, pressed rose, bright cherry, tobacco and balanced oak spice. This wine definitely has a special groove. It offers a ripe, round texture with good acidity followed by fine, chalky tannins. This is impressive quality for 109,600 bottles produced. In fact, this is one of the best village Brunellos from Giacomo Neri and his family made so far.”

95/100 points. Drink 2025-2038. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

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“Redcurrants and lavender followed by layers of dried herbs and spices. Full-bodied and opulent on the palate with chewy tannins. Persistent long finish with some citrusy undertones. Yet young, healthy and concentrated. Very attractive now and in the future.”

92/100 points. James Suckling

Brunello di Montalcino ‘Tenuta Nuova’ DOCG 2019

£520 IB (6x75cl)

£195 IB (1x150cl)

First produced in 1993 and translates ‘new property’ given Sangiovese had never been planted here before. Grapes are sourced from the ‘Cetine’ single vineyard found southeast of Sant’Angelo in Colle, where the south-facing vineyard produces rich, opulent, and intense wines. Aged for 35 months in oak barrels, followed by 15 months bottle aging before release.

“In my mind, this is the wine that best represents the Casanova di Neri house style. With 30 months of aging in tonneaux, it shows enormous richness and texture, and the stellar fruit quality appears with more primary elegance compared to the more expensive Cerretalto that is released with an extra year of aging. That dynamic is especially pronounced in a comparison of the 2019 and 2018 vintages. The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova has a dark vein of toasted spice, black fruit, ink, blackberry compote, licorice and star anise. Dark as night, it is exceptionally well crafted with a robust delivery of concentrated fruit and solid tannic structure. You can count on excellent cellar potential, or at a minimum, serve it with a classic steak.”

97/100 points. Drink 2026-2050. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

“Black cherries with violets and other flowers on the nose. Full-bodied with chewy tannins and a juicy finish. Needs time to soften. Give it three to five years of bottle age. Better after 2025.”

96/100 points. James Suckling

Brunello di Montalcino ‘Giovanni Neri’ DOCG 2019

SOLD OUT

£600 IB (3x75cl)

The second release of this single vineyard (positioned in between Castelnuovo dell’Abate and Sant’Angelo in Colle) with remarkable terroir, where the 50-year-old Sangiovese vines produce a pure, authentic, and unmistakably elegant wine. Aged for 30 months in oak barrels, followed by 22 months bottle ageing before release.

“Cherry, flower and cedar aromas follow through to a full body with lots of pure and juicy fruit character. Creamy and savory with a crushed bean and cherry aftertaste. Defining today’s Brunello with purity and perfection of fruit. Making the most of an outstanding vintage. A selection from a seven-hectare parcel of 50-year-old vines. Drink after 2026.”

100/100 points. James Suckling

“Wow, this wine steals the show. A new addition to the Casanova di Neri portfolio now in its second year, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Giovanni Neri pays tribute to Giacomo Neri’s father and represents a stylistic shift to the most elegant side of Montalcino. The wine reveals a very nuanced bouquet with toasted cherry pit, Luxardo syrup and balsam herb. There is dark slate and stony mineral that dovetail into a very clean and pretty earthiness. The tannins are slightly sweeter compared to other wines from this vintage, and there are fragrant tones of heritage rose and lilac. The ratio between tannin and fruit is excellent, and I can see this wine aging long into the future.”

98/100 points. Drink 2026-2050. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

BON COEUR FINE WINES

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CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO



Castiglion del Bosco is an iconic estate with records dating back to the 11th century, as well as being another key participant in the creation of the Consorzio del Brunello di Montalcino. After many years of underperformance the winery was purchased in 2003 by fashion mogul, Massimo Ferragamo, who immediately began an extremely ambitious restoration project to return it to its former glory.

Only the very best will do at Castiglion del Bosco, from the immaculate 62-hectares of south-east facing vines to the purpose-built state-of-the-art winery, as well as the combination of superstar winemaking team of Cecilia Leoneschi (pictured), and long-term consultant oenologist Beppe Caviola. In August 2023, the winemaking team was further bolstered with the announcement of Elena Penna and Luca Currado (formerly of the famous Piedmont producer: Vietti) as additional consultants with a particular focus on terroir. There is no expense spared in their quest to produce world-class Brunello di Montalcino, and as a result, Castiglion del Bosco has emerged from the shadows and rightfully taken its place on the world stage.

Cecilia professed that “20 years after my arrival at Castiglion del Bosco, I can say that that 2019 vintage is an ode to perfection and slowness, expressing strength, balance, and elegance... The musts were rich in aromas, with excellent colour intensities and tannic ripeness, the prerequisite of wines with great complexity and ageing potential.”

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

RECOMMENDED

£239 IB (6x75cl)

Grapes come from the ‘Capanna’ single vineyard, which is in the cooler climes of the Bosco sub-region to north-west of Montalcino near Buonconvento. A single 42-hectare site where the combination of altitude and Galestro sandstone-clay soils produce refined, aromatic, and complex wines. Ageing mainly takes place in French oak barrels (30-50hl) for 24 months, followed by long bottle ageing before release.

“This is really fine on the palate with wonderfully integrated tannins that give tension and focus. It’s medium-bodied with lovely berry, cherry, cedar and spice. Peaches and flower stems, too. Creamy texture. Extremely long and vivid. Structured, but showing beautiful drinkability with wonderful balance and form. One to drink or hold”.

96/100 points. James Suckling

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“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino is a gorgeous interpretation of Northwest Montalcino terroir, with a darkly alluring bouquet of sage and rosemary giving way to crushed blackberries and stone dust. This opens with a lovely inner sweetness, perfectly balanced by crisp red fruits, mineral tones and a core of vibrant acidity. It finishes grippy and long yet surprisingly fresh, with a staining of primary concentration that lingers on and on.”

95/100 points. Drink 2026-2040. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“Showing sweet fruit, plump cherry, cured tobacco and perfumed redwood, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino has a savory side that is nicely folded into a generous core of pronounced fruit. The wine feels smooth and soft over the palate with velvety tannins. This is a bottle you can enjoy upon release if you so choose.”

93/100 points. Drink 2024-2037. Monica Lerner (The Wine Advocate)

“With a profusion of Mediterranean herbs, forest shrub and sweet spice, there is lovely freshness and precision here. On the palate, vanilla and eucalyptus lace through woodland berries. Surprisingly, still a bit angular in frame yet it flows evenly with gravelly tannins and vivacious acidity. Youthful exuberance needs settling as warming alcohol is apparent. Castiglione del Bosco has been working with renowned Piedmontese oenologist Beppe Caviola since 2014. In 2023, ex-Viotti owners Elena Penna and Luca Currado also came on board.”

92/100 points. Drink 2024-2034. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“Lustrous ruby with brick rim. Deep, concentrated fruit nose with savoury oak and hints of liquorice. Lots of savoury-sweet tangy cherry fruit on the palate with just the right dose of chewy tannins. Quite a big finish and can be approached now.”

16.5/20 points. Drink 2024-2032. Walter Speller (JancisRoinson.com)

Brunello di Montalcino ‘Campo del Drago’ DOCG 2019

£485 IB (6x75cl)

First produced in 2003. Grapes are also sourced from a 3.5-hectare plot within the ‘Capanna’ single vineyard. It is the highest (450m), and finest part of the vineyard, which creates a wine with impressive structure, unique character, and great ageing potential. Ageing takes place in French oak barrels (30hl) for 24 months, followed a short time in concrete, and then long bottle ageing before release.

“Berry aromas with fresh herbs, such as lemon grass and basil, from the mostly whole-berry fermentation. Lots of fresh flowers, too. Medium body with a solid core of fruit and very fine tannins that are polished and beautifully curated. Lovely presence and harmony. So drinkable now, but even better in 2027.”

97/100 points. James Suckling

“Dark and savory in the glass, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Campo del Drago lifts up with a bouquet of grilled herbs, exotic spices, ashen stones and dried wild berries. It’s soft and enveloping, yet there’s an energy within. Zesty acidity motivates its tart red fruits, all underscored by a salty core of minerality. This finishes long and staining with a coating of grippy tannins, yet is still remarkably fresh. Rosy inner florals linger. The textures here are stunning, as is the 2019’s spry personality.”

95/100 points. Drink 2026-2040. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“The Castiglione del Bosco 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Campo del Drago has cola, blackberry, soft tannins and a medium-weight mouthfeel that expands softly over the senses, imparting lasting length and sweet fruit flavors. There are savory or earthy tones as well, with integrated freshness. The Campo del Drago Vineyard rests on the crest of a hill with panoramic views that extend down to southern Tuscany and toward the Tyrrhenian coast.”

94/100 points. Drink 2025-2038. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

“In the glass, the wine evokes the forest after a drenching when the sun starts to dry out the vegetation. Warm cedar, porcini and licorice root aromas are heady. Dense and concentrated, the palate is weighty in red summer berries, yet the structure is tight. Chewy tannins provide an essential girdle. Oak-derived vanilla notes pervade, though hints of leather and gamey meat portend what is to come as this evolves.”

93/100 points. Drink 2025-2037. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“Lustrous deep ruby. Rich raspberry. Intense nose with chalky, mineral hints and a smoky touch. Lots of sweet juicy raspberry fruit on the palate and coating tannins. Deserves more time.”

17+/20 points. Drink 2026-2036. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)

CIACCI PICCOLIMINI D'ARAGONA



CIACCI PICCOLOMINI d'ARAGONA

Located to the southeast of Montalcino, close to the charming medieval village of Castelnuovo dell'Abate, the Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona estate can trace its rich heritage back as far as the 17th Century. After several centuries of ownership under different noble families, the Ciacci family from nearby Castelnuovo dell'Abate purchased the entire estate and retained it for over a hundred years until the death of Countess Elda Ciacci in 1985. As the Countess had no children, she left the property to her long standing and well-respected Estate Manager: Giuseppe Bianchini, much to his amazement.

Giuseppe applied a brand new and refreshing philosophy to the Palazzo del Vescovo and winery, which in turn improved quantity and more importantly quality, as well as opening the door to the export market. Sadly, Giuseppe passed away in 2004, however, his hard work and dedication has been continued by his son and daughter, Paolo, and Lucia Bianchini (pictured). The siblings have developed the property with the helping hand of consultant oenologist, Paolo Vagaggini, to become known as one of the most distinguished producers in Brunello di Montalcino.

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

RECOMMENDED

£220 IB (6x75cl)

Grapes come from an 8-hectare plot with marl dominant soils in the heart of the Val d'Orcia, which are kept cool by a combination of altitude (340-360m) as well as the nearby Orcia river. Aged for 24 months in 20-75hl Slavonian oak barrels, followed by further bottle ageing before release.

"The 2019 straight Brunello from Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona is a beauty, starting with its heady scents of red berry, dog rose, spice and Mediterranean scrub. Full-bodied and loaded with finesse, the smooth palate delivers juicy red cherry, cracked peppercorn and licorice alongside tightly-woven, refined tannins. Juicy acidity keeps it balanced and fresh."

98/100 points. Drink 2027-2039. Kerin O'Keefe

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“There’s no mistaking this wine for anything but Brunello. The Ciacci Piccolomini d’Aragona 2019 Brunello di Montalcino shows beautiful continuity, crescendoing on the nose and palate in synchronicity. There are aromas of grilled watermelon, red cherry, garden herb and violet, and there is a charred note that recalls the toasted oak. The bouquet balances out beautifully, but you do get considerably more power on the palate thanks to the oomph of 15% alcohol and young tannins that get under your gums. Give this wine a few more years of bottle age.”

95/100 points. Drink 2026-2042. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

“Sour cherries with stone and bark undertones to the aromas. Medium body, firm tannins and a long, linear finish that ends tight. But this will soften with some age. Subtle bark and dried mushroom character at the end. Drink after 2025, but already pretty.”

94/100 points. James Suckling

“Exceptionally fragrant, the 2019 bursts with sweet Mediterranean herbs, arbutus bush and raspberry. Mid-weight with soft, sandy textured tannins, it charms with tangerine freshness. While a touch of warming alcohol pokes through, this retains its graceful stature.”

92/100 points. Drink 2024-2029. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

Brunello di Montalcino ‘Pianrosso’ DOCG 2019

ON ALLOCATION

£320 IB (6x75cl)

Only produced in the very best vintages from a careful selection of grapes that are sourced solely from the 11.69-hectare ‘Pianrosso’ single vineyard. Aged for 36 months in Slavonian oak barrels (20-62hl), followed by a further bottle ageing prior to release.

“Boasting great depth and extreme elegance, the drop-dead gorgeous Ciacci Piccolomini Pianrosso delivers crushed raspberry, succulent Morello cherry, star anise and crushed mint flavors while aromas of eucalyptus, wild rose, new leather and forest floor continuously lift out of the glass. It’s a smooth, stunning wine, with taut, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity that lend great aging potential and energy. Absolutely stunning.”

100/100 points. Drink 2029-2044. Kerin O’Keefe

“The Ciacci Piccolomini d’Aragona 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso opens to a wide and all-encompassing bouquet with dried cherry or cherry pie with the crust, plum tart and rose potpourri. There are evident oak tones, but they fold into underbrush, grilled herb and the generous texture of this wine. Likewise, the 15% alcohol content also neatly disappears into the wine’s fleshy fruit consistency. For sure, this is a wine that needs more bottle evolution in order to hone in on the silkiness and pretty freshness of such an important Sangiovese.”

97+/100 points. Drink 2026-2048. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

“It shines for its Earl Grey tea aroma combined with dark cherry, cinnamon, liquorice, and a floral bouquet. The fruit character is very dark and precise; gorgeous in this vintage. Full bodied, thick and velvety with firm, long yet integrated acidity, it tapers on the finish but this should be considered a signifier of its elegance.”

97/100 points. Drink 2024-2034. Aldo Fiordelli (Decanter)

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“Sweet berries and cherries on the nose, together with fresh violet and lilac notes. Full body with juicy tannins and a flavorful finish that opens on the palate. Lots of ripe cherry flavor. Tar, too. A rich and layered Pianrosso. One of the bigger, riper wines of the vintage, but still holds true. Try in 2027.”

94/100 points. James Suckling

“Pianrosso 2019 rings out with its signature heady scents. Gorgeous mint, pink peppercorn and orange peel converge with tar and mocha. On the palate, it offers more substance and concentration than the estate bottling yet is still of the elegant mould. Lush in fruit and smooth in texture, it is accessible now and built for mid-term ageing.”

94/100 points. Drink 2024-2032. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

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CONTI COSTANTI



CONTI COSTANTI

The Costanti's are an old Sienese family who have owned the Colle al Matricchese estate for over 200 years. Current proprietor, Andrea Costanti, took over from his uncle in the 1983 inheriting a winery with a reputation for creating some of the most distinguished Brunello di Montalcino.

Nevertheless, Andrea was up to the challenge and has worked tremendously hard to not only maintain, but improve Conti Costanti's reputation as one of the best producers in the region. The 10-hectare estate is situated to the east of Montalcino village (near Casanova di Neri) where vines are grown at altitudes rising to 400m, making them some of the highest in the appellation. The friable galestro rock soil is particularly suited to producing top-quality Sangiovese, especially when in combination with the varying degrees of elevation and optimal east-southeast exposure.

Not one for fleeting trends or turning his back on tradition, Andrea has always aspired to produce complex and intense wines that need time to mature, however, in doing so reveal themselves as exceptionally sophisticated and highly sought after wines.

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

NEW / ON ALLOCATION

£360 IB (6x75cl)

Grapes are sourced from estate vines with an average age of 6-25 years old grown in galestro soil. Aged for 36 months in oak (combination of 5hl tonneaux and 30hl Slavonian barrels), followed by an additional 12 months in bottle prior to release.

"The 2019 Brunello from Costanti is breathtakingly gorgeous. Combining the intensity of the vintage and the hallmark finesse that defines the wines of this historic estate, this is a wine Brunello lovers will want in their cellars. It opens with heady aromas of fragrant blue flower, woodland berry, forest floor and new leather that on the palate segue into juicy Marasca cherry, wild raspberry, blood orange, menthol and baking spice. Firm, ultra-refined tannins offer support while bright acidity keeps it beautifully balanced and vibrant. What. A. Stunner."

100/100 points. Drink 2027-2044. Kerin O'Keefe

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“Simply gloriously sculpted, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino is indeed statuesque and stately. While it doesn’t give everything up all at once, it is gracious in its presentation. From chestnut forest and sweet earth, to anise and orange extract, the aromas are visceral, and boundless depths of wild red berries suffuse the palate. It vibrates with scintillating acidity and long, tactile tannins which stretch out leisurely. I bet that Rosso has hit its stride now – if you have some, it’s what you’ll want to drink while waiting for this captivatingly beautiful Brunello.”

100/100 points. Drink 2027-2043. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino offers plenty of dark fruit and spice, but the wine also shows slightly more austerity that could set it up for a roast pork or ham. There is a drying oak note of smoked cedar or redwood that dovetails into the structural impact of the wine. Yet it also shows very good momentum on the mid-palate, adding more layers or black fruit that soften the tannins.”

94/100 points. Drink 2025-2038. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

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IL MARRONETO



IL MARRONETO

Giuseppe Mori, a lawyer from Siena purchased a 12th century farmhouse and land on the northern slopes of Montalcino in 1974. His sons, Alessandro, and Andrea, instantly fell in love with the picturesque hill-top village and surrounding area, and Il Marroneto was founded a year later in 1975. Initially wine production was purely a leisurely past-time for the family, however, this all changed in 1994 when Alessandro decided to quit his job as a lawyer (just like his father) and become full time winemaker.

For almost 50 years Alessandro (pictured with his son Jacopo) has managed the 9-hectare estate, naturally expanding throughout the 1980s and 1990s with several vineyard acquisitions focusing on the same area near the property, yet at varying altitudes for both Rosso and Brunello di Montalcino production. There is no denying the jewel in the crown is the famous Madonna delle Grazie vineyard; the original and modest 1.6-hectare plot (named after the nearby 11th century church), which is made as a single-vineyard bottling in only the very best vintages and is known as the epitome of Brunello di Montalcino.

A self-confessed traditionalist, Alessandro was lucky enough to be a pupil of the great “masters of Sangiovese”: Mario Cortevasio and Giulio Gambelli, two consultant oenologists who changed the face of Tuscan winemaking, and made a real impact on Alessandro’s winemaking philosophy. The result is powerful, structured, and complex wines with excellent ageing potential, that has seen Il Marroneto become one of the most respected and sought after producers in Montalcino.

Brunello di Montalcino D.O.C.G. 2019

NEW

ESTIM £500-580 IB (6x75cl)

Grapes come from three separate vineyard parcels planted on sandy soils with a north-facing aspect. Aged for 39 months in oak barrels, followed by an additional 10 months in bottle before release.

“Jacopo Mori described the 2019 vintage as ‘perfect, no disease...lots of fantastic grapes,’ when he visited Decanter in December 2023. Indeed, 2019 is looking superb across the board. Il Marroneto's Brunello di Montalcino 2019 has the most incredible scent; an enticing waft of aromatic cherry and fragrant violets. In the mouth it's supremely precise, with a silky texture and sweet red fruits. Intense, chiselled and sapid, there's a bewitching pureness and delicacy here. Delicious.”

97/100 points. Drink 2024-2036. James Button (Decanter)

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“Alessandro Mori’s wines are easy to spot in a blind tasting thanks to the soaring intensity and vibrant Sangiovese aromas they display. They are truly one of a kind. A wine that sees a relatively short and hot fermentation, the Il Marroneto 2019 Brunello di Montalcino respects local winemaking tradition and remains true in spirit. The steep verticality of the bouquet evokes almost-carbonic or lifted aromas of bright cherry, strawberry shortcake, lilac and heritage rose. You get straight to the heart of Sangiovese. The tannins are extremely fine and powdery and the freshness of the fruit is beautifully intact. This wine really pops in 2019.”

97/100 points. Drink 2025-2048. Monica Larner (The Wine Advocate)

“Il Marroneto is one of Montalcino’s most consistently outstanding producers, in challenging and celebrated vintages alike. Brought up under the tutelage of Tuscan greats, Giulio Gambelli and Mario Cortesio, Alessandro Mori has been at the helm of the estate for 30 years. In 2019, his son, Jacopo joined him full time. This release manages to marry intensity with delicacy and restraint, exuding perfectly ripe fruit with no excess. Pristine raspberry and succulent strawberry provide the backdrop from which liquorice, spicy pepper and fragrant violet surge, while the sculpted, silky tannins have a soft, yielding quality. Midweight and gracefully styled with effortless buoyancy, this is lovely now but with years of potential.”

96/100 points. Drink 2024-2037. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

“A cascade of bright cherry, rose buds, lavender and cedary spice wafts up from the whimsically perfumed 2019 Brunello di Montalcino. This is surprisingly juicy yet quite complex, with hints of zesty orange and vibrant acidity that add tremendous energy as crisp clove-inflected red fruits drench the senses. It finishes with cheek-puckering tannins, yet they are sweet and round. The 2019 tapers off spicy and fresh, leaving lingering mint, violets and sweet herbal tea notes. Don’t be fooled by its energy and approachability; the 2019 holds a massive amount of power in reserve. This is a spell-binding Brunello from Il Marroneto.”

95/100 points. Drink 2025-2036. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“Lustrous mid ruby. Stunning nose chock-full of minerals with raspberry and a hint of eucalyptus. Elegant and succulent with pure raspberry and super-fine but firm tannins lining the fruit. Great precision. Transparent.”

17.5/20 points. Drink 2024-2038. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)

PIAN DELLE VIGNE (ANTINORI)



(Marchesi) Antinori is, without a doubt, one of Italy's most famous wine producers established over six centuries ago and spans an impressive twenty-six generations. Following the unwavering stewardship of Piero Antinori for many decades, the baton was recently passed onto his three daughters: Albiera, Allegra, and Alessia (pictured) who now oversee this Tuscan dynasty. Balancing courageous and innovative decisions while maintaining a fundamental respect for time-honoured techniques is never easy, yet this pioneer of Italian wine is thriving and continues to be driven by its three guiding principles; tradition, passion, and intuition.

The Antinori family ventured into Montalcino in 1995 with the acquisition of Tenuta Pian delle Vigne, an estate aptly named after the 19th century train station located on site. The property totals 184 hectares, of which 65 hectares are dedicated to vines near the village of Tavernelle. Now with over 20 vintages of experience and through their philosophy of traditional ageing in large casks, Antinori create rich, powerful, and elegant wines, that more than deserve their place at the top table.

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

NEW

£250 IB (6x75cl)

Grapes are taken from estate vines planted on clay-chalk rich soil with a southwestern exposure at an altitudes of 130m. Aged for a minimum of 2 years in oak barrels of varied sizes (30-80hl), followed by further ageing in bottle before release.

"Sweet black cherries with some blackberries, as well as cherry blossom in both the nose and palate. Medium to full body with firm tannins and a chewy finish, but it will soften and come together nicely with bottle age. Try after 2025."

94/100 points. James Suckling

"Aromas recalling of underbrush, mocha and baked plum mingle with whiffs of violet. On the full-bodied, concentrated palate, tightly wound, close-grained tannins envelop liquor-soaked cherry, licorice and tobacco."

93/100 points. Drink 2027-2034. Kerin O'Keefe

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“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino opens with a dark and brooding bouquet that mixes plum sauce with dark chocolate and espresso beans. This blends velvety textures with ripe red and black fruits all over a core of juicy acidity while maintaining a lifted and energetic feel. The 2019 finishes structured and long yet still relatively fresh. Orange-tinged blackberry and savory herbs linger. I am very impressed by the palate performance and tannin management of the 2019, yet I wish the winery would push for an equally fresh display on the nose. That said, fans of the Pian delle Vigne style will love the energy in this wine.”

93/100 points. Drink 2025-2033. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“Produced since 1995, when Antinori purchased this sprawling property in Montalcino’s southwest, Pian delle Vigne expresses the balmy, Mediterranean side of Montalcino. Ebullient in its aromas of cinnamon, mint and pepper, the 2019 offers instant appeal. The palate is soft and supple in raspberry fruit with plush velvety tannins to match. These sneak up but are ultimately kept in check. Citrusy acidity buoys, and a finale of peppermint and nutmeg enchants. While I don’t see this making old bones, it will provide plenty of pleasure over the next eight to 10 years.”

91/100 points. Drink 2024-2033.

“Deep ruby with orange tinges. Rather stalky and reduced and with no obvious fruit right now on the nose. The palate is the opposite with rich, juicy cherry fruit and a eucalyptus note from the oak, followed by rich, grainy tannins. Needs an additional year to come round and show its true colours.”

16/20 points. Drink 2025-2034. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)

SESTI (CASTELLO DI ARGIANO)



Giuseppe Maria Sesti moved from Venice to Montalcino in 1975 when he purchased the Castello di Argiano estate (not to be confused with [Tenuta di] Argiano) in the hamlet of Argiano searching for a quieter life... he almost succeeded. Producing wine was never part of his plan, however, being fluent in English he was hired as an intermediary interpreter for local producers when receiving foreign merchants and importers. This chance employment ignited his passion and talent for wine, and slowly but surely, Giuseppe (known as "Guigi"), realised that he owned prized land to the southwest of Montalcino.

Using the extensive knowledge gained and local connections made over the best part of a decade, the first vineyard was planted in 1990. Giuseppe immediately knew the style of wine he wanted to create; traditional and authentic Brunello di Montalcino with a real sense of this unique micro-climate. In addition, having studied astronomy and written no fewer than five books on the subject, he considers the influence of the moon indispensable to viticulture and makes wine according to the lunar calendar and biodynamic practices (though the wines are not certified).

Giuseppe and his talented daughter, Elisa, oversee the 13-hectare estate where they produce sophisticated, delicate, and charming wines that are critically acclaimed as some of the finest Brunello di Montalcino available.

Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2019

NEW / RECOMMENDED

£340 IB (6x75cl)

Grapes are sourced from estate vines located between Sant'Angelo in Colle and Sant'Angelo Scalo on a mix of sand, quartz, and light clay soil at an altitude of 350m.

"Ripeness allies with brightness, particularly in this 2019, which recalls the joyfulness of the estate's IGT and Rosso di Montalcino counterparts but with the gravitas of Brunello. There's a sweetness of fruit and fragrance as sandalwood, arbutus shrub and vanilla bean suffuse lush red cherry, and it flows with grace and ease. Yet as becoming as this seems to be now, it is tightly wound underneath that gracious core – the intricate structure is fashioned for endurance."

96/100 points. Drink 2025-2037. Michaela Morris (Decanter)

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“Underbrush, leather, hay and camphor aromas mingle with whiffs of exotic brown spice. On the solid palate, notes of licorice, vanilla and coffee bean accent black cherry, plum and orange rind. Close-grained tannins provide the framework and leave a rather drying close.”

93/100 points. Drink 2027-2034. Kerin O’Keefe

“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino pulls the taster close to the glass with an array of chalk dust and grilled sage, giving way to crushed wild berries and hints of split pine. This is surprisingly soft and supple, with juicy textures and ripe red and blue fruits that swirl throughout. Its tannins come through in the finish, combined with a burst of residual acidity to balance as the 2019 tapers off long, lightly structured and with a pleasantly bitter tinge. This may not be a Brunello for the ages, but it is going to make Sesti fans very happy over a long and broad drinking window.”

93/100 points. Drink 2024-2031. Eric Guido (Vinous)

“The Sesti 2019 Brunello di Montalcino has a soft side with ripe fruit nuances of black cherry and dried currant. This estate is located in one of the warmer parts of Montalcino, and in a balanced vintage like this, you appreciate the richness of the wine and its dark, accessible fruit. It is also very generous in terms of mouthfeel, with broad brush strokes and plush softness that extends most specifically to the velvety quality of tannins presented in this wine.”

93/100 points. Monica Lerner (The Wine Advocate)

“Lustrous ruby. A simply stunning, complex nose of taut cherry layered with garden herbs. Lots of juice that is fantastically balanced by gorgeous, fine-grained tannins. Complete.”

18/20 points. Drink 2026-2038. Walter Speller (JancisRobinson.com)