



CARO'S
— EST. 1995 —
WINE MERCHANTS



Brunello di Montalcino, 'Super Tuscans', Chianti Classico & Montepulciano

We hope you enjoy selecting from this very special Tuscan collection, the heart and soul of Italian wine. This is a fantastic indent offer that we have been working on for some time. It includes a number of exciting wines that we have never been able to offer before.

This includes some of the world's greatest wine estates like:

Canalicchio di Sopra, Il Poggione, Le Chiese, Lisini, Poggio di Sotto, San Giorgio, Grattamacco, Felsina, Fontodi, Montevertine and Poliziano.

All of these beauties are made predominantly from Sangiovese, one of the most ancient and important grapes in Italy. The literal translation of the name, the "blood of Jove", refers to the Roman god Jupiter. Its ability to express terroir and age gracefully, has earned it revered status among wine enthusiasts worldwide.

We are proud to present wines from the 2019-2021 vintages, where Sangiovese excelled in Tuscany. These are spectacular years that are in huge demand internationally. Many of these special wines are therefore only available to New Zealand in very small numbers (sometime only two cases). Place your order as soon as possible, as we will need to allocate quantities of some of the rarest wines.

These wines are expected to land mid-year 2024

Payment is not due until arrival.

- John Caro & Regan McCaffery



TUSCANY 2024 INDENT OFFER

TO ORDER, COMPLETE THE FORM ON THIS PAGE & RETURN TO WINE@CAROS.CO.NZ,
OR CALL CARO'S ON (09) 377 9974 OR 0800 422 767

We will need to allocate quantities of some of the rarest wines.
These wines are expected to land mid-year 2024. Payment is not due until arrival.

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WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE* (In mixed 6+)
2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino - <i>See note*</i>		\$130.00
2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello 'Vigna la Casaccia' - SOLD OUT		\$290.00
2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello 'Vigna Montosoli' - SOLD OUT		\$290.00
2019 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino		\$79.99
2016 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 'Vigna Paganelli'		\$150.00
2019 Le Chiusse Brunello di Montalcino		\$115.00
2019 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino		\$105.00
2019 Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino		\$415.00
2019 San Giorgio Brunello di Montalcino Ugolforte		\$105.00
2021 Grattamacco Bolgheri Superiore		\$230.00
2020 Felsina Chianti Classico Riserva		\$62.99
2020 Felsina Chianti Classico Riserva Rancia		\$100.00
2020 Felsina Fontalloro Toscana		\$120.00
2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico		\$75.00
2020 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Vigna del Sorbo'		\$150.00
2020 Fontodi Colle della Toscana Centrale 'Flaccianello della Pieve'		\$225.00
2021 La Vigna di San Martino ad Argiano Chianti Classico Riserva		\$54.99
2021 Monteverdine Toscana		\$135.00
2021 Monteverdine Le Pergole Torte Toscana		\$305.00
2021 Monteverdine Le Pergole Torte Toscana MAGNUM 1.5L - SOLD OUT		\$800.00
2021 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Asinone		\$105.00
2019 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Le Caggiole		\$150.00

*Unfortunately, due to tiny volumes on the Canalicchio di Sopra single vineyard wines, it is likely we will need to allocate 1x bottle of La Casaccia and 1x bottle of Montosoli, only to customers who purchase 6x bottles of their Brunello di Montalcino.

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO



Brunello di Montalcino is one of the greatest wines of Italy, and enjoys a well-deserved reputation for excellence among wine enthusiasts and collectors. Produced exclusively in the hilly region of **Montalcino, Tuscany**, using the **Brunello clone of Sangiovese**, this wine is known for its depth, complexity, and ageability.

The fame of Brunello di Montalcino dates back to the late 19th century when winemaker **Ferruccio Biondi-Santi** began experimenting with Sangiovese, producing wines that would ultimately become the **benchmark** for this style. Today, it is recognized as **one of the most prestigious and sought-after wines in the world**. What sets Brunello apart from other wines, is its unique combination of **power and elegance**. Its deep ruby color; intense aromas of dark fruit, and firm tannins make it a wine of great structure and depth. At the same time, Brunello's refined acidity and complex flavors of spice, earth and leather; give it a level of **sophistication and finesse** that few regions can match.

Vintage 2019 Brunello star rating: ★★★★★

A warm vintage without extremes, and rainfall at the optimal intervals. Long ripening and cool nights yielded perfumed wines with ripe tannins. Most are accessible now but possess structure for mid- to long-term ageing. The resulting wines were an immense pleasure to taste. After sampling over 170, many at least twice, there is no doubt that 2019 is a superb vintage. 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.

- Decanter, Michaela Morris

CANALICCHIO DI SOPRA



“Francesco Ripaccioli and his family at Canalicchio di Sopra have taken things to a new level with this recent set of new releases. From top to bottom, the 2019s display a balance of elegance, texture and transparency to terroir that keeps me coming back to the glass again and again. After years of tasting countless wines, I can confidently say that the 2019 Vigna La Casaccia is a perfect wine. La Casaccia is located just outside the winery and is primarily made up of clay soils with a good amount of mineral elements, primarily calcium, alternating with pebbles at about 300 meters of elevation. This is one of the first crus that Francesco Ripaccioli chose to single out years ago. As for the 2019 Montosoli, it’s another tremendous achievement. The Montosoli was one of the top wines of the 2018 vintage, and now, again in 2019, it’s at the very top of my list. However, the house Brunello remains unaffected by the fruit loss from these two sites. The Brunello di Montalcino of Canalicchio di Sopra is always a gorgeous and transparent representation of northern Montalcino terroir and a wine that stands on its own, shoulder to shoulder with the best of the region. On my most recent visit, Francesco Ripaccioli opened up his selection of 2016s, which are maturing beautifully. He also gave me a sneak preview of the 2019 Riserva, bottled entirely from the Vigna Vecchia Mercantale vineyard. At Canalicchio di Sopra, the Riserva has the same élevage as the Brunello, with 36 months in 25-hectoliter Slavonian oak barrels, but is released later and has a different blend of vineyards depending on the vintage.”

– Vinous, Eric Guido

2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino - \$130.00

“Dusty violets, lavender and cloves accentuate dried black cherries as the dramatic 2019 Brunello di Montalcino smolders up from the glass. This is impossible to ignore, bursting with energy as depths of ripe red fruits, chalky minerals and exotic spices saturate all they touch, balanced by textures of pure silk. The 2019 finishes with fantastic length and concentration, leaving a staining of tart blackberry and hints of orange that curl the tongue as crunchy tannins tug at the palate. It’s rare to see such a combination of vibrancy and power. Canalicchio di Sopra nailed it in 2019. Wow. Drink 2026-2042”

96/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“Deep ruby with orange tinges. Brooding raspberry with the merest suggestion of cardamon pod. Minty raspberry that grows in stature and concentration on the palate. Long, dramatic, aromatic finish with fine-grained tannins. Fantastic balance and precision. Drink 2026-2038”

18/20 JancisRobinson.com, Walter Speller

"Canalicchio Di Sopra makes a powerful statement with their release of the 2019 Brunello Di Montalcino and puts their stamp on this vintage with confidence. Tasted multiple times, this brooding, layered, and noble wine is jeweled in appearance, pouring a dark ruby/red color; and offers a gorgeous bouquet of black cherry preserve, wildflowers, licorice, cedar, and incense. Moving to the palate, it's powerfully structured and full-bodied, with rich tannins and great length throughout. A very impressive wine with a flourish of saline and mouthwatering notes of black tea on the finish, it demands time in the cellar and, if stored properly, should age gracefully over the next 15-20 years. Drink 2026-2046."

94/100 Jeb Dunnuck



Unfortunately, due to tiny volumes on the single vineyard wines, it is likely we will need to allocate 1x bottle of La Casaccia and 1x bottle of Montosoli, only to customers who purchase 6x bottles of their Brunello.

2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello 'Vigna la Casaccia' - \$290.00

"The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna La Casaccia is impossible to ignore; it is earthy and mineral, almost smoky and animal in nature. Ashen stones, violets and balsam herbs complicate depths of dried black cherries, sage and clove. This is deeply textural and seductive, balancing ripe red and black fruits with sweet spice and minty herbal tones that create a kaleidoscope of sensation on the palate. A salty flourish shines through the finale, along with a crunchy tinge of blackberry seeds to contrast, as fine-grained tannins wrap the senses with youthful poise and a bitter twang resonates. The 2019 may be immortal. La Casaccia is a showstopper. Drink 2026-2040"

100/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

"Produced since the 2015 vintage, Vigna Casaccia is fashioned from 30-year-old vines of the BBS11 clone. Reaching 315 metres, the plot is characterised by a high percentage of brown, magnesium-rich clay. Surely the most impressive release yet, the 2019 exhibits the cru's intrinsic sumptuous character and girth, along with telltale resinous herb nuances of rosemary, thyme and eucalyptus. yet this year, there is an extra spark. Through that expansiveness, an underlying firmness keeps this from overflowing its limits. Plump fruit marked with a mineral lick and terracotta earthiness is all wrapped up in smooth, velvety tannins, and it carries its 15% alcohol with ease and grace. Drink 2026-2041"

98/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

“The 2019 Brunello Di Montalcino Vigna La Casacchia pours a rich and youthful red/ruby color and is from the unique clay-based soils just outside the winery. This wine takes things up another notch, with notes of raspberry liqueur, licorice, toasted sage, and lavender perfume. Full-bodied, it has a lot to offer, with ripe tannins, balanced, even acidity, dark mineral accents, and pure lasting concentration of fruit all the way through a mouthwatering finish. A remarkable wine, I highly recommend seeking out it for your cellar and aging.”

98/100 Jeb Dunnuck

“Whereas Montosoli is more mineral-driven and finely stitched together, this wine is broad, big and driven by balsamic tones, vapor rub and dried rosemary. The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino La Casaccia, however, is more explosive with spice, toasted coffee, black licorice, cherry cola and rich cherry. The tannins feel chalky, although they are fine-grained, but they play a bigger role against the concentrated fruit. Only 7,200 bottles and larger formats were made. Drink 2025-2042”

97/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer



2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello 'Vigna Montosoli' - \$290.00

“Francesco Ripaccioli embraces the excellence of 2019 across his new releases. However, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Montosoli really stands out for its elegance and balance. This is a gorgeous wine that really takes off in this vintage. It starts off with gentle floral aromas of lilac or dried violet and a hint of fragrant rose. The Canalicchio di Sopra 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Montosoli boasts an impeccable nose with elegant berry fruit and light minerality. All this beauty is transferred to the palate, where the wine shows very fine-grained tannins. The fruit flows steadily over a long, rich finish. The challenge is to get a fruit finish this long, considering Brunello's strong tannins, but this wine definitely succeeds. Drink 2025-2045”

98/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

“Boasting aromas of new leather, eucalyptus, violet, forest floor and spice, the stunning 2019 Vigna Montosoli from Canalicchio di Sopra is an excellent expression of this celebrated site, great vintage and historic winery. Firm and youthfully austere, it delivers ripe raspberry, blackberry, tobacco and licorice before a salty finish. Framed in tightly wound, fine-grained tannins, it's elegantly structured, packed with energy and intensity, with bright acidity that also keeps it balanced. Give it time to fully develop. A gorgeous wine. Drink 2039-2044.”

98/100 Kerin O'Keefe

“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Montosoli is coy in the glass, youthfully restrained and requires coaxing to reveal its delicate bouquet. With time, a dusty display of dried roses, licorice, cherries, cloves and camphor emanates from the glass. This model of purity is polished, silky and refined with savory spice and mineral-laden red fruits that saturate, all perfectly guided by brisk acidity. It leaves the palate stained in primary concentration, turning inward upon itself. Tart currant and mentholated herb notes add freshness to a web of fine-grained tannins. The 2019 is a breathtaking interpretation of Montosoli fruit. Drink 2027-2042”

97/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“One of fewer than 10 producers with precious holdings on the Montosoli hill, Canalicchio di Sopra owns six hectares, contiguous with Le Gode. The second vintage of this cru bottling comes from a northwest-facing plot planted in 1997. Almost painfully young, its gradually emerging, alluring scents flit between dry and wet earth as dusty stone mingles with forest undergrowth and liquorice root. Crispness of acidity and vertical, edgy tannins makes for an austere palate now, but the structure is in step with the underlying tight yet pure and sapid red berry core. Finishes with lingering orange bitters. Drink 2027-2042”

97/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

IL POGGIONE



“Il Poggione continues to set the benchmark for uncompromising quality, which is all the more remarkable considering it is one of the largest wineries in Montalcino and makes some 200,000 bottles of Brunello a year. The estate is located on the southern slopes of Montalcino, in the warm, yet well-ventilated micro-climate of Sant’Angelo in Colle, where we find varied exposures, soils and elevations of behind these impeccably balanced Brunellos. They eschews the trend of cru classifications in Montalcino, preferring to stick to traditions has served this estate well for decades now. That said, the winery technically already has a cru Brunello in the form of their Riserva, which emerges from fifty-five-year-old vines in the Paganelli vineyard. Simply stated, you’d be hard pressed to find more dependable bottles of Brunello or Riserva with this combination of quality and price point.”

- Vinous, Eric Guido

2019 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino - \$79.99

“Good bright, dark red. Pure but restrained nose shows outstanding mineral lift to the aromas of red plum, red cherry, pomegranate and herbs. Densely built but weightless and sappy, with a distinctly juicy fruitiness and energizing minerality to the fine-grained fruit and floral flavours. Beautifully delineated and seamless, showing superlative fruit intensity and lift. Long on the dense aftertaste with building, noble tannins. Drinking window: 2028-2045.”

97/100 Ian D’Agata

“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino pulls the taster close to the glass with its dark and earthy blend of crushed ashen stones, giving way to rosemary, cedar, exotic spice and a core of raspberry preserves. Enveloping and serene, this flows across the palate like pure silk, steadily building in tension as tart wild berries and orange hints give way to a sweet herbal thrust. The 2019 finishes with tremendous length and is classically structured, as crunchy tannins resonate and violet inner florals slowly fade over a tactile coating of minerality. Il Poggione has captured the radiance of the vintage, yet this is just a baby today. Drink 2026-2040”

96/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“The 2019 is a vintage of balance, somewhere between 2016, 2013 and 2010. Sant’Angelo in Colle, which suffers in warmer vintages, performed very well and Il Poggione is a great example of the harmony of the area’s wines in this vintage. Fruity at first sniff, it becomes more restrained later, with black cherry, violet, leather, graphite vibrancy and its typical nutty finish. The chalky tannins are extracted but velvety, underlined by an almost zesty acidity. Drink 2024 – 2034”

94/100 Decanter, Aldo Fiordelli



There was no Riserva produced in 2017 or 2018 at Il Poggione.

They have generously provided us with a small parcel of the stunning 2016 Vigna Paganelli.

2016 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 'Vigna Paganelli' - \$150

"A beguiling mix of camphor and minty herbs, along with crushed stone, blows off slowly to reveal dark depths of black raspberry, licorice, autumnal spice and worn leather as the 2016 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Vigna Paganelli unfolds in the glass. Its textures are unexpectedly soft and velvety-smooth, coupled with depths of intense red fruits that make an appearance just before a mix of brisk acids and tannins creates a more tactile and youthfully clenching expression toward the finale. This leaves the palate aching under the 2016's structural heft, yet with plenty of primary concentration to balance, as wild savory herbs and earthy mineral tones linger for up to a minute. The potential here is off the charts, but readers will need to be very patient. The Riserva Vigna Paganelli is a cru selection of old vines that refines for 48 months in large French oak barrels of 33–52 hectoliters." Drink 2028 – 2042

98/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

"This is the top-shelf wine from Il Poggione, and it's a must-have bottle for those who collect wines from this celebrated estate. From an icon vintage, the 2016 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Vigna Paganelli is a beauty. It stands at the intersection of intensity, elegance and power. The fruit is shapely and dense with plenty of blackberry and black cherry, and you also get savory touches of campfire ash, tar, licorice, ferrous earth and balsam herb. Honestly, you get it all, including that distinctive Brunello power and abundance that is not easily achieved with such careful balance. The finish is structured, fresh and long, and with more time in the glass, the leathery or savory aromas become more pronounced (as does the alcohol). Production is 40,000 bottles." Drink 2025 – 2050

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"The estate's oldest plot, Vigna Paganelli is a 12-hectare vineyard planted in 1964. It boasts a rich diversity of old Sangiovese clones which are used for newer plantings. Spiced plum, cured leather and a roll-call of marjoram, tarragon and basil beckon generously. Though hefty in size, this carries its girth with charming ease. There is a richness and sweetness to the fruit, while ripe, granular tannins provide a framework. A mineral edge emerges underneath all the layers. It will be hard to resist young, but I suspect intricate details will become more apparent in time. Drink 2023 – 2040"

96/100 Decanter

LE CHIUSE



After many years of trying, we have managed to obtain a small allocation of this wine for the first time. Being made only in small quantities and distributed very little outside of Italy, Le Chiuse has garnered a cult following over the past decades. Located on the northern slopes of Montalcino's hill, this small gem of an estate has a storied lineage. Owned by the Biondi Santi family since the late 18th century, Le Chiuse's oldest grapes were used to make the legendary Biondi Santi Riservas.

When Tancredi Biondi Santi passed away in 1970, his youngest daughter, Fiorella, inherited the farm, which she leased to her brother, Franco, until her death in 1986. Franco Biondi-Santi believed Le Chiuse's vineyards were the finest in the appellation, which is why he continued to make the famed Biondi-Santi Riservas with Le Chiuse's grapes until 1990, when the estate was taken over by his niece, Simonetta Valiani. She runs the estate today with her husband, Nicolò Magnelli, and their son, Lorenzo.

Le Chiuse is very small, only 7ha. Their organic vineyards are in the heart of the historical growing zone, situated north of the hilltop town in an area known for long-lived wines that boast complexity, intensity and elegance. Vineyards sit 984 feet above sea level, where altitude and north/northwest exposures ensure ideal grape ripening and fresh acidity. Soils are of marine origin and contain flaky schist known as galestro, clay and marl that yield rich yet graceful wines with fragrance and depth.

The estate has been certified organic since 2005, one of the first in the denomination. Most of its Sangiovese vines are the BBS I clone chosen at the Biondi Santi Greppo estate and in Le Chiuse's vineyards in the 1970s. Lorenzo is in charge of winemaking. To produce classic, terroir-driven Brunello, he ferments in stainless steel and concrete with indigenous yeasts. Aging takes place in roughly 660-gallon casks made of 90% Slavonian oak and 10% Allier.



2019 Le Chiuse Brunello di Montalcino - \$115

“The gorgeous, fragrant Le Chiuse 2019 Brunello sets a benchmark for Sangiovese and Montalcino. Another stellar wine from this dynamic, leading winery, the nose alone stopped me in my tracks, thanks to the intensity and refinement of its blue flower, rose, camphor, truffle and cake spice scents. Elegantly structured, loaded with energy and utterly delicious, the captivating palate doles out ripe raspberry, crushed cherry, licorice and cinnamon framed in firm but ultra-refined tannins. Bright acidity provides plenty of tension and an age-worthy structure. A truly mesmerizing wine. Drink 2028–2044.”

100/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“Lorenzo Magnelli says the timing of the harvest was similar to 2015. To avoid richness and over-ripeness, he picked relatively early – between 20 to 22 September. Like a well written story, Le Chiuse’s 2019 has an enticing beginning, significant and juicy middle, and stimulating end. Heady violet, incense and leather waft steadily from the glass, then the palate explodes with surround-sound intensity, filling the mouth with dark red cherry and crushed stones. Long, chalky-textured tannins wrap confidently around the mouth, leaving space for that succulent acidity to work its quenching magic. An interplay of depth and drama with lightness right through to the zesty, citrus-soaked finish. Drink 2027-2042”

99/100 Decanter; Michaela Morris

“Pouring a jeweled ruby color, the 2019 Brunello Di Montalcino benefits from a little air on opening and reveals a layered yet pure bouquet of raspberry liqueur, mocha, candied violets, and anise. Medium to full-bodied, it’s light on its feet while having outstanding concentration and length, with refined tannins and an even a spine of energetic acidity to keep it driving through the palate. A stunning vintage for Le Chiuse, this is going to have a very wide drinking window over the coming two decades.”

97/100 Jeb Dunnuck

Pale medium red. Very deep, multilayered aromas and flavours of red cherry, dark plum, camphor, licorice, loam and violet. Fine-grained if youthfully chewy tannins nicely support the rich fruit present on the long finish. Elegant, full, rich, dense and beautifully suave, this is another knockout Brunello from Le Chiuse. Drinking window: 2029-2042.

97/100 Ian D’Agata

“Lorenzo Magnelli of Le Chiuse continues to show the prestige of their terroir in their new 2019 Brunello. Its purity and balance alone are something to behold, yet it will take some time before this northern Montalcino beauty is ready to reveal all of its charms. The Magnelli family now tends to vineyards originally planted using massal selection from clones specifically picked by Tancredi Biondi-Santi. The vineyards span across the north hill, between the town of Montalcino and Montosoli, averaging around 330 meters, with soils that are a unique mix of schist, rocks and fossils over a water-retaining layer of clay only two meters below. The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino is just a baby today, youthfully coiled and understated, with dusty dried flowers and nuanced violet pastille complementing wild strawberries and autumnal spice. It sweeps across the palate, lifted and refined, with a core of vividly ripe red and blue fruits that swirl throughout as vibrant acidity maintains balance despite gripping tannins that mount toward the close. This leaves a coating primary concentration as it finishes structured and long yet remarkably pure, ending with lingering licorice hints. Breathtaking. Drink 2026-2038”

96+/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

LISINI



“One of Montalcino’s historic, reference-point estates. Lisini makes quintessential Brunellos that perfectly demonstrate their exclusively Sangiovese origins. Given the cult status and high demand of Lisini Brunellos, these bottlings easily put to rest the idea that what people really want is a little Merlot blended into their Brunellos. Rather than overoak, overextract, or overripen, the firm prefers to craft its classic offerings with the denominations tried and true winemaking methods.”—Kerin O’Keefe

2019 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino - \$105

“The estate preference is to pick quite late, and they are one of the last in the area to harvest. The Lisini 2019 Brunello is compelling, starting with its captivating aromas of fragrant blue flower, hay, perfumed berry, dark exotic spice, new leather and aromatic herb. It’s also delicious, delivering a great depth of flavors including juicy Morello cherry, raspberry croissant, licorice and crushed mint before a blood orange close. A backbone of velvety tannins provides seamless support while fresh acidity keeps it vibrant and balanced. What a gorgeous wine and the best Brunello I’ve had so far from this historic estate. Drink 2028–2039!”

98/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“Below the town of Sant’Angelo in Colle, Lisini sprawls over 120 hectares, 24 of which are planted to vines. The 2019 embodies this warm, munificent, exotically scented southern stretch of Montalcino. Ripe arbutus berry and red rose meld marvellously with chestnut, iron and sunbaked earth. Sumptuously textured, it is generous in body and flavour, exuding fleshy persimmon and ripe strawberry. The palate drips with luscious acidity and a mineral drive lifts the core. Sandy tannins are relatively supple without sacrificing their commanding hold, and it finishes with crushed allspice. Drink 2026–2038”

96/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

POGGIO DI SOTTO



Arguably the greatest of all, there are few names in Brunello di Montalcino that rank higher than Poggio di Sotto. The estate's obsession in the vineyards, combined with its incredibly elegant winemaking style has garnered a cult following. The tannins here are as fine as they come for Sangiovese. The estate believes that it is the combination of the multiple clones planted, their unique location on these southern slopes and the high-density planting that creates such a distinct and beguiling example of Brunello di Montalcino. These wines are incredibly rare.

2019 Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino - \$415.00

"Bright, full red. Nuanced, extremely deep and complex nose offers raspberry, redcurrant, superripe red cherry, tobacco, sandalwood, warm stones, vanilla and a violet nuance. Suave, juicy and multilayered, with harmonious acidity nicely framing the wine's concentrated red plum, tobacco and mocha flavors. This subtle but very concentrated Brunello finishes delicately savoury and mineral, with substantial but smooth tannins and lovely lingering perfume of sweet spices and perfume. A huge success for an estate that has known many over the years, this may well be the wine of the vintage. Drinking window: 2028-2045."

100/100 Ian D'Agata

This is a set of impeccable wines. Although this wine was very shy initially, the Poggio di Sotto 2019 Brunello di Montalcino eventually hits all the high notes of Sangiovese. This is a wine of enormous inner tension, showing a punchy, lifted personality with aromas of cherry skin and blackberry. You get brandied cherry, strawberry glazed pie with the gelatin, underbrush, blue flower, forget-me-nots, balsam herb, mint and licorice. A few hours later, the wine had developed into a classic beauty with slender lines, firm structure and a sparkle of brilliant acidity. The oak is integrated to the point of invisibility, the tannins are elegant and fine, and the acidity is that proverbial cherry on top. Drink 2020-2055

98+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"I was able to taste the 2019 Brunello Di Montalcino three times for this report, and it's one of the great wines of the vintage. It takes on a bit more muscular style for the Poggio di Sotto estate, but it retains the DNA of the estate at large with its outstanding clarity. It's medium ruby-colored and reveals notes of pure cherry, anise, wildflowers, wet stone, and tea leaf. Structured and long on the palate, it has ripe, chiseled tannins, a balanced spine of acidity, and notes of salted orange through the finish, with a long-lasting perfume. Its transparency, balanced with its complexity, makes this one of the most intriguing wines, and if stored properly, it will only improve with time in the cellar. This is incredibly youthful and inward today, but the potential is off the charts. Glorious. Drink 2027-2047."

98+/100 Jeb Dunnuck

TENUTA SAN GIORGIO



“There is probably no bigger Brunello success story in the 2019 vintage than that of San Giorgio, which has most likely made and released its best Brunello ever this year. I guess this turn of events cannot surprise all that much given that San Giorgio is looked after by the same team that makes the wines at Poggio di Sotto, arguably the best Montalcino winery of this day and age. Still, it is truly remarkable how this estate’s wines have evolved over the years from the very chunky, fleshy Brunellos of a decade ago, that had very little if anything in common with those of its stablemate Poggio di Sotto (the vineyards of which are located just next door) to wines that cause you to do a double take, since the similarities between the wines of the two wineries are now obvious. For wine lovers, this is super-good news, given that San Giorgio’s wines cost a fraction of those of Poggio di Sotto, but with the 2019 and 2018 Riserva you are getting wines that are similar and not far off in quality level. Let me be clear, lest I risk being misunderstood. I’m not saying San Giorgio’s Brunellos are the equal or almost the equal of Poggio di Sotto’s; what I am saying is that they have never been this good before and that they now bring to mind those of their stablemate a good deal more than they did in the past.”

-Ian D’Agata

2019 San Giorgio Brunello di Montalcino Ugolforte - \$105

“Good bright red. Sultry red cherries, licorice, flint, mocha and sweet spices. Fat, sweet and moderately intense, but with excellent mid-palate lift and building sweetness. Finishes with youthfully chewy but ripe tannins and a note of iodine. I have always found interesting as the Colle Massari team as been slowly but surely coaxing more Poggio di Sotto-likeness from San Giorgio’s vines (San Giorgio is located next to Poggio di Sotto) over the last six-seven years. Tasted a second time recently, I have upped my score as it really is a knockout effort that seems denser and fruitier to me than when I last tasted it in November. Drinking window: 2028-2036.”

95/100 Ian D’Agata

“The beautiful 2019 Brunello Ugolforte from San Giorgio is elegantly structured and delicious. Showing the intensity of the vintage but also restraint, it delivers juicy raspberry, steeped cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside smooth, velvety tannins. Drink 2028–2039.”

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“From the sister property of Poggio di Sotto, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Ugolforte opens with a minty freshness as flint stone and dusty rose give way to crushed cherries. Silky and pliant, this possesses an elegance not often seen, with violet and lavender tones accentuating its polished red and blue fruits. This tapers off with sweet tannins balanced by an orange hint. A structured yet mouth-watering sensation lingers on. What a beauty this is. Drink 2024-2038”

94/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

BOLGHERI – TUSCAN COAST

GRATTAMACCO



An absolute bargain compared to its peers in the region. Grattamacco was founded in 1977 by Piermario Meletti Cavallari and sits at the end of a long, winding drive in Bolgheri on the Tuscan coast near Sassacaia. It was the second estate established in the region, quickly followed by Ornellaia. Together these three spawned the 'Super Tuscan' category. Grattamacco sets itself apart from the surrounding wineries with its winemaking practices, using around 15% Sangiovese to impart quality and elegance in its wines. Grattamacco was the first winery in Bolgheri to use Sangiovese in the blend because of its higher altitude. The 67 acres of vineyards are located on a rise between Castagneto Carducci and Bolgheri, with a panoramic view of the Tuscan coast. The Grattamacco vineyards are located at 100m above sea level, in a wonderfully protected plot that spans over one of Bolgheri's only two hills. Here the estate gets 300 sunny days a year and a steady cooling breeze. The sun and the wind work together to help their organically grown grapes.

Vintage 2021 Bolgheri star rating: ★★★★★

A top vintage in this special part of the Tuscan coast where Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc thrive. The director of the Consorzio, Riccardo Binda, volunteered that, with 2016, 2021 is regarded as the best vintage of the last decade. The wines of the vintage are convincing: marked acidity, ripe tannins and good extractability, important alcoholic components that never dominate the varietal one. It promises to be one of the best vintages for aging potential.

- Decanter



2021 Grattamacco Bolgheri Superiore - \$230.00

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 15% Sangiovese. Aged for 18 months in 225-litre French oak barriques.

Very sappy and appetising and interesting on the nose with a well-integrated assemblage of three grapes. On the palate it seems notably more youthful than its peers – perhaps it's the extra acidity and tannin of the Sangiovese? Interesting... Drink 2025-2035+

17+/20 Jancis Robinson.com, Richard Hemming

"In addition to the 2019 vintage, I previewed the 2020 and the 2021 vintages. I'm holding back on the 2021 review because it is too early, but have two exciting vintages before us. The 2021 (that is still in barrel) shows lots of perfumed intensity and an explosive mouthfeel. The 2021 shows a seamless delivery of soft black fruit, cherry, spice and grilled herb. This is an iconic blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot and Sangiovese."

97/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner (2020)

97/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner (2019)

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner (2018)



CHIANTI

FELSINA



"I have had many memorable tastings at Felsina over the years, but my most recent visit was especially of note, as I tasted an extensive vertical of Fontalloro for an upcoming article. As for the current releases, they are terrific. Felsina excels with bold Sangioveses that show the wilder side of the variety typical of Castelnuovo Berardenga, which lies at the southern end of the Chianti Classico appellation, just a few kilometers from Siena, which can be seen from the vineyards on a clear day. Felsina is of course best known for their flagship Chianti Classico Rancia, which is one of the world's most distinctive wines. For my money, though, the real standout in this range when it comes to quality and for the price is the Chianti Classico Riserva, which is a mini-Rancia of sorts that opens a bit earlier in bottle but that can also age."

-Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Felsina Chianti Classico Riserva - \$62.99

"A solidly built red introduced by aromas of mint, lavender and wild rosemary. Shows cherry, raspberry, earth, iron, sanguine and tobacco flavors allied to an almost viscous texture as this cruises to the long finish. Impressive now, yet will be better in three to five years. Best from 2026 through 2045."

94/100 Wine Spectator, Bruce Sanderson

"A juicy and pretty wine with berries, chocolate, and bark. Subtle. Medium-bodied with fine tannins that are slightly chewy and austere now but will soften nicely with age. Better after 2025."

94/100 James Suckling

"The 2020 Chianti Classico Riserva is another super-classic wine in this range from Felsina. Dried herbs, game, scorched earth, tobacco, incense and dark fruit infuse the Riserva with tons of nuance. The Riserva conveys tons of village character as well as the house style. Drink 2024-2040"

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2020 Felsina Chianti Classico Riserva Rancia - \$100.00

"The 2020 Chianti Classico Riserva Rancia shows beautiful minerality with dusty notes of crushed limestone or flint. This is the wine's special signature, and it shines through in a warm vintage such as this. Rancia also offers an upfront quality of red and purple fruit tones. The 2020 vintage displays pretty concentration and richness with wild cherry and plum, but ultimately the wine leaves you with that elegant mineral sendoff. Rancia will require extra bottle age. Drink 2024-2040"

95/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"Intense, with complex flavors of cherry, blackberry, violet, mineral and leafy underbrush, this red is silky and verges on racy. Harmonious and persistent, with a long, resonant aftertaste that echoes red fruit, mineral and savory elements. Best from 2025 through 2045."

95/100 Wine Spectator, Bruce Sanderson

"A polished and very refined Rancia with sweet berries, cedar and hints of chocolate. Medium body. Fresh and focused. A little reserved at the end. It needs two or three years to come around. Best in 2025."

95/100 James Suckling



2020 Felsina Fontalloro Toscana - \$120.00

A very famous wine in the region. First made in 1983 from vineyards straddling Chianti Classico and Chianti Colli Senesi, 100% Sangiovese is elevated to a level of exceptional finesse and purity in this stunningly beautiful wine. The most representative expression for Felsina. The vineyards within the Classico appellation are in the highest area of Felsina on stony calcareous soils, while those in the Chianti Colli Senesi are lower down with sandy, loamy and silty soil. Matured in new and first used French oak barrels for 18-22 months.

"Made with a special selection of Sangiovese, the 2020 Fontalloro is generous and rich, and the wine sports medium-dark color and concentration. The winemaking team has succeeded in bringing out an especially elegant side to this vintage. The wine offers pronounced notes of cherry and wild plum with delicate spice at the back. Like the other wines in this portfolio, there is a pretty mineral note that makes for a consistent through-line in all these new releases. Drink 2024-2040"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"Very refined and complex nose with a hint of pine cones, botanicals and dark mushrooms to the zesty oranges, mineral, fine musk and plums. Juicy, dry but textured on the palate with stacks of dusty tannins growing on the savory, full-bodied palate. Long and quite mineral in the finish. Better from 2025."

95/100 James Suckling

"A vibrant red, with fleeting aromas of lavender and wild rosemary mingling with cherry, orange peel, earth, mineral and tobacco flavors. On the elegant side, despite its youthful power, with excellent harmony, refined tannins and a long, complex aftertaste. Sangiovese. Best from 2026 through 2045."

95/100 Wine Spectator, Bruce Sanderson

FONTODI



Fontodi is one of the finest wine estates in the world, located in the heart of Chianti Classico precisely in the valley which lies south of the town of Panzano. This is called the “Conca d’Oro” (the golden shell) because of its amphitheatre shape. These vineyards that have been in production since the time of the Roman Empire. A genuine and characteristic terroir, famous for centuries for its tradition of quality wine cultivation, thanks to a unique combination of high altitude, calcareous clay-schist soil, lots of light, and a fantastic microclimate. Owned by the Manetti family since 1968, Fontodi is a certified organic estate which extends over 130 hectares of which about 70 are planted with vines. Giovanni Manetti is a fierce proponent of the integrity of the Sangiovese grape, earnestly increasing the proportion of Sangiovese in his wines as his vines age. Since 1981, his most famous wine, the iconic ‘Flaccianello della Pieve’, has been made entirely of Sangiovese.

2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico - \$75.00

“Half in botti and half in small oak, but older. Brooding nose of sweet black cherry fruit with a touch of blackcurrant. Lovely focus here. The palate shows tight, dark, tannic black fruits with amazing structure and acidity. There’s lovely fruit here, but also concentration and structure that suggest a long future for this wine. So expressive and yet unyielding at the moment.”

94/100 Wine Anorak, Jamie Goode

“Panzano 100% Sangiovese. Certified organic. Deep crimson. Enticing, deep red-fruit nose with hints of white pepper and leather. Succulent red fruit, with the finely grained, plentiful tannins unfurling on the finish.

17.5/20 Jancisrobinson.com, Walter Speller

“The 2020 Chianti Classico offers notable tension to balance the natural richness that is such a signature here. There is plenty of Panzano intensity, but less opulence than has been the norm in the past. A shift towards larger format oak and bottling four months earlier contribute to that feel. Dark red cherry, leather, spice, rose petal, dried herbs and wild flowers all grace this nuanced Classico. I would not plan on opening this too young. Drink 2026-2040”

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2020 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Vigna del Sorbo' - \$150.00

"This iconic wine has all new energy, as it is now part of an exciting set of potential Gran Selezione wines made at Fontodi. Soil geeks will absolutely enjoy comparing Vigna del Sorbo from schistous galestro soils to the limestone alternative found in Terrazze San Leonlino. I tend to lean toward Vigna del Sorbo thanks to those etched mineral notes of pencil shaving and iron ore that I find so appealing. Showing enormous precision and direction, the 2020 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo (with 25,000 bottles released) is a generous expression of Sangiovese that boasts singular intensity. This organic wine offers black fruit, grilled rosemary, pressed rose and crushed limestone. All of these aromas enjoy special, forward-moving intensity that dovetails into the ample fruit generosity that this sun-filled vintage will be remembered for. Drink 2024-2048"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"First produced in 1985, Vigna del Sorbo sits alongside Flaccianello at the apex of Fontodi's range. It was elevated from Riserva to Gran Selezione in the 2010 vintage with the introduction of the category in 2014. The vineyard extends over eight hectares with the oldest plantings now well over 50 years old. The Vigna del Sorbo site is located directly in front of the winery at an elevation of 400 metres. The southwest-facing vineyard with Galestro soils covers 8 hectares at an altitude of 450 metres. The Riserva was first produced in 1985 and has been designated Gran Selezione since the 2010 vintage. This red is tightly wound, linear in profile and full of black cherry, blackberry, blueberry, fresh loam and mineral flavors, supported by lively acidity and dense, suave tannins that integrate nicely with the tension and silky texture. Shows terrific length."

96/100 Wine Spectator

"The 2020s are a bit reticent, but they have also begun to soften in recent months. An example is the 2020 Vigna del Sorbo, which was brooding when I first tasted it a few months ago but is quite a bit more refined in recent tastings. The 2020 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo is one of the most backward editions of this wine I can remember tasting. Dark and almost somber, the Vigna del Sorbo packs a ton of intensity in its deceptively midweight frame. In many vintages, Vigna del Sorbo is quite showy in its youth. That is not at all the case with the 2020, a wine that will require many years to be at its best. Hints of lavender, dried herbs, plum and graphite appear over time, but the 2020 is very clearly an infant. There is a feeling of youthful austerity (in a positive sense) that I find quite alluring. The 2020 Sorbo is a wine for those who can wait.

95+/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2020 Fontodi Colle della Toscana Centrale 'Flaccianello della Pieve' - \$225.00

"The vineyards of Fontodi are some of the most beautiful in Tuscany. They are all organically farmed near the town of Panzano in Chianti Classico. Fontodi's top vineyard is Flaccianello, a wonderfully sun-exposed hillside vineyard encompassing about 25 acres. It is planted with Sangiovese. Flaccianello has always been a pure Sangiovese since 1981. It ages wonderfully, remaining fresh and persistent on the palate, and intense and aromatic on the nose. Extremely floral with sage and licorice to the berry and dark cherry aromas that follow through to a medium body, with fine and silky tannins that run the length of the wine. Very crunchy for Flaccianello. Vivid on the palate. From organically grown grapes. Drink after 2025."

97/100 James Suckling

"The 2020 Flaccianello della Pieve is the full package. This point is clear when you taste all the other wines in the Fontodi portfolio and conclude with this bottle. Flaccianello remains an old love and a wine that hits the highest marks for quality consistency vintage after vintage. This organic Sangiovese shows beautiful intensity and remains balanced throughout with dark fruit, crushed stone, spice and wild rose. It borrows themes of elegance, depth and ripeness played across this vintage. The wine wraps smoothly over the palate with substantial fruit weight and sweet tannins. This warm-vintage expression can be aged or enjoyed straight out of the gate. Drink 2024-2048"

96+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"Proprietor Giovanni Manetti could certainly rest on his laurels. The wines have been benchmarks for some time. In recent years, Manetti's influence as a leader in Panzano and Chianti Classico has exploded because of his role as the President of the Consorzio del Chianti Classico. Instead, Manetti has continued to acquire vineyards and introduce new wines while also quietly refining his approach with the established labels. The 2020 Flaccianello della Pieve is a blend of Fontodi's vineyards, mostly three main vineyards planted on sites with very dense, heavy rocks. Dark, pliant and inviting, the 2020 is so expressive today. Black cherry, plum, spice, lavender, licorice and mocha are seamless in the glass. The 2020 is a fine Flaccianello with a bright future. Most of this blend is sourced from three parcels in upper hillside vineyards close to town center. The 2020 spent a year and a half in barrique (40% new) and six months in cask. Drink 2026-2045"

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

LA VIGNA DI SAN MARTINO AD ARGIANO



Truly artisanal, this wine is very rare in retail anywhere in the world with less than 2000 bottles made each year! We only know it exists because the winemaker is the accomplished Tuscan oenologist Giampaolo Chiettini, who was friends with John Caro years ago when they were both working at the legendary Chianti house Isole e Olena.

Trained in Trentino, Chiettini moved to Tuscany at a young age, where he spent many years working alongside Paolo De Marchi as winemaker at Isole e Olena, where he developed a profound understanding of Sangiovese. Now Chiettini operates as a consultant oenologist in Tuscany, as well as throughout Italy and Europe. Unlike many “flying winemakers”, Chiettini does not put his fingerprint on the wines. He has the idea of allowing the wines to express their place of origin. La Vigna di San Martino is his personal project, produced in miniscule quantities from a 1ha vineyard in Argiano, in the commune of San Casciano Val di Pesa, in the north-west of the Chianti Classico zone.

The soil is a mixture of clay loam, stone fragments and sand, not unlike the soils of Berardenga in the south of Chianti Classico. The difference here is the cooler climate, producing more fragrant and tightly structured wines. The vineyard is at an altitude of 250 metres and is cultivated with organic methods. The vines are planted at a density of 5000 vines to the hectare, trained with the Guyot system. The ferments are carried out with wild yeasts and in stainless steel tanks. After fermentation, the wine is racked into used barriques where it ages for 18 months. The wine is not clarified and only undergoes a light filtration prior to bottling, then bottle aged for a further 30 months prior to release.

2021 La Vigna di San Martino ad Argiano Chianti Classico Riserva - \$54.99

Telling it like it is, 2021 is a vintage for the ages when we speak of Chianti Classico wines. There have been terrific years in the last 10 or so and each for different reasons, but I for one have never witnessed these kinds of tannins, this peculiar excitement of tension. “100% Sangiovese. Deep, lustrous ruby. Beautifully perfumed yet firm raspberry nose. Elegant and polished sour-cherry and raspberry palate with underlying sandy tannins. Great length and tension. Drink 2024-2034”

17.5/20 Jancis Robinson, Walter Speller

MONTEVERTINE



Montevervine is situated in the heart of the Chianti district about halfway between Florence and Siena, specifically 3 kilometers or so south of Radda in Chianti. Documents attest to the fact that the hilltop hamlet of Montevervine was first inhabited in the 11th century as a rural defensive fortress. There are traces of the original construction on the site today. Sergio Manetti acquired Montevervine in 1967 as a vacation home for his family. Once there, Signor Manetti planted two hectares of vineyards and built a small cantina with the idea of producing some wine for family and friends. Shortly thereafter, Signor Manetti abandoned his principal activity to devote himself to producing wine at his magnificent estate. Having recognized the importance of the Sangiovese grape, Signor Manetti crafted his wines with an almost exclusive reliance on that grape variety. By 1981, due to Signor Manetti's refusal to incorporate Trebbiano into the blend, Montevervine left the Chianti Classico consortium, thereby forgoing the Chianti Classico denomination. In time the consortium recognized the wisdom of Manetti's stance but Montevervine remains outside the consortium, simply labeling its wines "Rosso di Toscana". Because of these circumstances, Montevervine is frequently, but erroneously, included in the category of "Super-Tuscan" wine. In fact, Montevervine's policy of strict reliance on Sangiovese with a small complement of Colorino and Canaiolo is in direct contradiction to the approach of the "super-Tuscan" group of wines. Despite the formal lack of the appellation, Montevervine is one of the rare examples of a true Chianti Classico.

2021 Montevervine Toscana - \$135.00

Produced from 1971 to 1981 as Chianti Classico Montevervine, from 1982 they left the Chianti Classico Consortium and has simply been Montevervine. A blend of carefully selected Sangiovese 90%, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Colorino grapes, aged for two years in Slavonian and Allier oak barrels.

"Martino Manetti excelled in both 2020 and 2021. The 2021s are a bit richer than the 2020s, but also show tremendous harmony. I tasted all the 2021s from cask after a first blending of all the lots. As has been the case for a number of years, I continue to be impressed by the Montevervine, a wine that sometimes gets less attention than the flagship Pergole Torte. The 2021 Montevervine is shaping up to be majestic. It presents a mind-boggling display of explosive aromatics, vibrant fruit and driving structure. The purity of the flavors is stunning. I tasted the 2021 from a single cask of the blended wine following the first racking. This is the first vintage that includes a new parcel in Radda located at the far end of town. Rich, dense and very potent. The 2021 is embryonic, but also incredibly promising. Drink 2031-2046"

94-97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2021 Montevernine Le Pergole Torte Toscana - \$305.00

One of Italy's most mythical and important wines. One to try once in your life, if you can find it! Just 2 hectares in the vineyard that gives the wine its name. Often, due to its Tuscan IGT denomination and fame, this wine is mistaken for a Super-Tuscan, but it is actually produced solely with the most typical grape variety of Tuscany. Le Pergole Torte was the first 100% Sangiovese wine ever to be produced in the Radda in Chianti area in 1977. The grapes come from their oldest vineyard, planted between 1968 and 1999. Aged for one year in Allier barriques and one year in Slavonian oak barrels. Sergio Manetti commissioned artist Alberto Manfredi to depict a female face on the label of Le Pergole Torte for the 1982 vintage, and the tradition has continued ever since.

"The 2021 Le Pergole Torte is dense, powerful and explosive, with huge fruit and stunning balance. Readers will find a heady, dense Pergole Torte that is going to need many years to be at its best. Dark red/purplish fruit, lavender, rose petal, mint and blood orange infuse the 2020 with tremendous depth. The intensity of the 2021 is mind-boggling. It's an exotic, thrilling wine. Drink 2031-2046"

97-100/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2021 Montevernine Le Pergole Torte Toscana MAGNUM 1.5L - \$800.00

VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

POLIZIANO



Here Montepulciano is the eastern Tuscan town (not the grape from Abruzzo), with Vino Nobile being a top village expression of the Sangiovese grape. Antonio Galloni calls Azianda Poliziano "one of the reference points in Montepulciano." It was started in 1961 with an initial nucleus of 22 hectares. It has grown over the years to reach its present size of 120 hectares. Its name is an homage to the humanist poet Angelo Ambrogini (1454-1494), known as "Il Poliziano", who was born in Montepulciano. There are approximately 30 hectares of vineyards clustered around the winery's buildings as well as a number of individual properties that range in size from eight to thirty hectares. The vines are planted at altitudes ranging from 280 to 400 metres above sea level, with soil that is primarily volcanic clay and slightly rocky.

2021 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Asinone - \$105

"Asinone is a single vineyard on clay soil that has been bottled separately since 1983. This makes it one of the first recognized individual locations in Tuscany. 5.5ha planted in 1963, 5 ha planted in the 1990s, and 1.5ha planted in 2017. Today it is only made from 100% Sangiovese in the best years and there are then a maximum of 15,000 to 20,000 bottles, depending on the vintage. Aged mainly in barriques for 18 months, of which 20-30 percent was new wood. Medium ruby red. Ripe red cherries, graphite and a slightly dusty minerality. Gradually a warm, pleasant spice is added. Bay leaf, allspice, nutmeg, a touch of vanilla and dried herbs, thyme and tar. Crunchy, fresh, your mouth will water. The wine has an impressive balance of cherries, dark berries and essential herbs. All aromas are wrapped around the velvety tannins. This is a really chic wine, full-bodied, fresh and with such beautiful elegance. Although it's already a lot of fun, it can easily be forgotten in the cellar for a few years.

95/100 Heiner Lobenberg





2019 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Le Caggiole - \$150

"We put around 50 wines from the current 2018 to 2021 vintages through their paces. The winner of this year's Nobile Trophy is the Caggiole single-vineyard wine from Poliziano's 2021 vintage - an outstanding wine with plenty of Sangiovese character. Poliziano has been one of the dynamic forces in Montepulciano for many years. The winery, run by Federico Carletti and his children, is now also one of the largest in the region. Bright ruby red. Elegantly fragrant nose with wild strawberries, cherries, subtle oak, cold smoke, some plum and red-cheeked peach, complex and fine. On the palate with clear, bright fruit, embedded in tight-knit, salty tannin, precise, clear, comes in many layers, shows very great ageing potential, already accessible, uniquely nobile!"

96/100 Falstaff, Simon Staffler

"Poliziano excels through its two single-vineyard wines in the 2019 vintage. Last year, it was the Asinone that stood out amongst its peers, and this year, I was reminded of the perfect combination of vintage power and house style from Le Caggiole. There's a polish to the Poliziano wines, yet expertly accomplished in a way that terroir shines through uninterrupted. Intensely spicy and complex, the 2019 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Le Caggiole smolders up from the glass with a bouquet of crushed ashen stones, dried black cherries, cedar spice box and rosemary. This is pure elegance, deep and textural, with a dense wave of ripe red and black fruits that rush across a core of salty minerals and brisk acidity. It finishes long and structured, with a lingering concentration promising steady evolution. This is the best rendition of Le Caggiole that I've ever tasted. A wine for the cellar. Drink 2025-2035"

95+/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

"This wine is part of the Alliance, a group of like-minded producers who seek to raise the quality bar in this storied appellation. The Poliziano 2019 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Le Caggiole comes from a special 14-hectare vineyard site with sandy soils of ancient marine origin. The vines are all over 40 years of age. The wine carries its significant oak spice very nicely, thanks to the extracted and generous black fruit found at its core. This is a balanced, full-bodied expression that embraces contemporary Montepulciano winemaking. Only 5,000 bottles were crafted. Drink 2023-2035"

94/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Larner