



CARO'S
— EST. 1995 —
WINE MERCHANTS



PIEDMONT & TUSCANY

LATE RELEASES 2023

Barbaresco, Gattinara, Barolo, Brunello di Montalcino, 'Super Tuscans' and Chianti Classico.

This is an exciting indent offer that has been long in the making! We hope you enjoy looking through this collection of absolutely superb wines from Piedmont and Tuscany, arguably the two greatest regions in Italy. Here we explore some of the most famous appellations within these areas.

This includes late release bottlings from a number of the worlds greatest wine estates like:

Flli Cigliuti, Luciano Sandrone, Conterno-Nervi, Il Poggione, La Massa, Tenuta Tignanello and Fontodi.

As usual, many of these special wines are only available to New Zealand in very small numbers. This year in many cases our quantities have been cut back again, as worldwide demand for these wines is exploding. And well overdue in our opinion! No surprise as in many cases the value here is unmatched. Place your order as soon as possible, as some of the rarest wines may need to be allocated.

These wines are expected to land December 2023.

Payment is not due until arrival.

- John Caro & Regan McCaffery



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

| WINE ORDER FORM | QUANTITY | PRICE* (In mixed 6+) |
|---|----------|-------------------------|
| 2021 Cigliuti Barbera d'Alba 'Campass' | | \$53.99 |
| 2022 Cigliuti Langhe Nebbiolo | | \$53.99 |
| 2020 Cigliuti Barbaresco Bricco di Neive Vie Erte | | \$95.00 |
| 2020 Cigliuti Barbaresco Serraboella | | \$135.00 |
| | | |
| 2021 Sandrone Barbera d'Alba | | \$52.99 |
| 2021 Sandrone Nebbiolo d'Alba 'Valmaggiore' | | \$60.00 |
| 2019 Sandrone Barolo 'Le Vigne' | | \$170.00 |
| 2019 Sandrone Barolo 'Aleste' | | \$170.00 |
| | | |
| 2020 Conterno Nervi Gattinara | | \$135.00 |
| 2019 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Valferana | | \$255.00 |
| 2019 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Molsino | | \$255.00 |
| | | |
| 2016 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 'Vigna Paganelli' | | \$150.00 |
| | | |
| 2020 La Massa Toscana | | \$50.00 |
| 2018 La Massa Toscana 'Carla 6' | | \$150.00 |
| 2018 La Massa Toscana 'Giorgio Primo' | | \$185.00 |
| | | |
| 2020 Antinori Toscana 'Tignanello' | | \$215.00 |
| | | |
| 2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico | | \$75.00 |
| 2020 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Terrazze San Leolino' | | \$150.00 |
| 2020 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Vigna del Sorbo' | | \$150.00 |
| 2020 Fontodi Colle della Toscana Centrale 'Flaccianello della Pieve' | | \$225.00 |

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F.LLI CIGLIUTI

"If there is an estate in Barbaresco that deserves more attention, it is without question Cigliuti. They remain one of the under the radar gems in Barbaresco and Piedmont more broadly. Cigliuti is a terrific example of an estate that offers superb quality in artisan wine, at prices that remain quite reasonable"

– Vinous, Antonio Galloni

The Cigliuti family have been in the business for four generations, though it was not until 1964 that Renato Cigliuti, began bottling the wine to sell under their own name, around the time as other pioneers like Giacosa. Most of the vineyard and the winery is on the Serraboella hill, looking over Neive from the east, and it is the Barbaresco Serraboella which is the flagship wine of the estate. In fact, Cigliuti is almost singlehandedly responsible for the fame of this vineyard. This hill, composed of calcareous marl and tufa soils, gives classic wines which combine the textural finesse of clay and the length and longevity of wines from limestone. Of their 8 hectares, 6 are used for vines and 2 for their continuing hazelnut business. The estate is now together with his daughters Claudia and Silvia. The Cigliutis are all organic and practise "lutte raisonnee", using only copper sulphate in the vineyards. Work in the cellar is kept to a bare minimum and the wines are left to follow their own natural course. No select yeasts are used, only native. Fermentation is done in stainless steel at controlled temperatures and maturation takes place in Slovenian and French large barrels and barriques. The Barbera is a particularly beautiful wine, one of the best modern style examples of this grape you can find. The Barbaresco is aged in both large old oak (60%) and new barriques (40%).



2021 Cigliuti Barbera d'Alba 'Campass' - \$53.99

"The 2020 Barbera d'Alba Campass is superb. Rich and sumptuous in the glass, the Campass offers up a heady mix of red/purplish fruit, mocha, lavender, licorice and spice. Everything is dialed up in this gorgeous Barbera from Cigliuti. The 2020 spent 18 months in neutral French oak. Drink 2022-2030"

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2020 Vintage)

2022 Cigliuti Langhe Nebbiolo - \$53.99

"From young vines in Serraboella, planted 2017 on mostly chalky soils. Spontaneous fermentation in steel tank. Five months in a tank and tonneaux, depending on the vintage. Light to mid ruby. Such a contrast with the Serraboella Barbera just tasted. More red-fruited and ethereal. Bone, bone dry. Chalk-fine tannins give an almost powdery finish. Baby Nebbiolo with all to play for. Mouth-gripping texture for now. Wait. Drink 2026-2036"

17/20 jancisrobinson.com, Julia Harding (2021 Vintage)



2020 Cigliuti Barbaresco Bricco di Neive Vie Erte - \$95.00

"The 2019 Barbaresco Bricco di Neive Vie Erte is impressive. It shows the nervous energy that has long been its signature, but with a bit more depth through the middle than in the past. Whether that is the vintage or just the quality of older vines is harder to say, but its pretty obvious the 2019 is impressive. Bright red fruit, orange peel, white pepper, mint and orange zest infuse this nervy Barbaresco from a southwest side on sand with tons of nuance. The classically austere finish, with its vibrant acids, is quite attractive.

The Vie Erte was aged entirely in cask. Drink 2025-2039"

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2019 Vintage)

2020 Cigliuti Barbaresco Serraboella - \$135.00

"The 2019 Barbaresco Serraboella is stellar. Here, too, the austere style of the year comes through loud and clear, but with that extra kick of mid-palate sweetness that distinguishes the Serraboella. Bright, red-toned Nebbiolo fruit, crushed flowers, mint, chalk and orange peel all build in the glass. The Serraboella is usually a bit richer, but in the 2019 it is a Barbaresco very much marked by sizzling tension. I would cellar it for at least a few years. There's real depth and substance here. Drink 2025-2039"

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2019 Vintage)



LUCIANO SANDRONE

"Sandrone was the first stop on my trip for this report. Maybe there was some sort of meaning to that. I learned of Luciano Sandrone's passing in January 2023 just as we are going to press. To say Sandrone was a titan of Barolo is a massive understatement. Sandrone defined an entire generation of Barolo growers. With all due respect to his contemporaries, Sandrone did several things none of them did. First, he created an estate from nothing, with no inherited land, but rather with a vineyard he and his wife Mariuccia purchased. Sandrone almost immediately found remarkable balance, crafting Barolos that were decidedly modern in style and appealed to wine lovers reared on the classics. The 1989 and especially 1990 Cannubi Boschis were among his first iconic wines. Last and maybe most importantly, Sandrone was the only grower of his generation to create a winery and was able to climb the ranks and become part of Piedmont's elite, that small group of historic, family-run estates whose wines are highly sought after in the secondary market."

-Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2021 Sandrone Barbera d'Alba - \$52.99

"This is a terrific value wine. From vineyards in the villages of Barolo; Monforte d'Alba: Cascina Pe Mol Novello: Ravera and Rocche di San Nicola. Matured for 15 months in French oak, a good part of which are new. The 2020 Barbera d'Alba is another wine that shows the greater refinement at Sandrone these days. Even so, there's plenty of richness in the ripe red cherry, plum, mocha and spice flavors. Soft, silky contours wrap it all together, with a gentle kiss of oak that lingers. The 2020 is an absolute delight. Drink 2022-2031"

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2020 Vintage)

2021 Sandrone Nebbiolo d'Alba 'Valmaggiore' - \$60.00

"The 2020 Nebbiolo d'Alba Valmaggiore is gorgeous. Crushed red berry, spice, leather, mint and rose petal all grace this exquisite, silky Valmaggiore. The aromatics alone are so beguiling, but all the elements are so nicely balanced. The 2020 is compelling today, but will be even better in another few years. Drink 2024-2035"

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2020 Vintage)



2019 Sandrone Barolo 'Le Vigne' - \$170.00

"The 2019 Barolo Le Vigne is a historic blend of fruit from Baudana in Serralunga d'Alba, Villero in Castiglione Falletto, Vignane in Barolo and Merli in Novello. This year, a fifth site was added to the final blend. It is the Le Coste MGA in Barolo with south-facing exposures and 45-year-old vines in a two-hectare parcel. The backbone of this wine is Baudana, and Merli adds freshness. The wine needs more time in bottle, but already it proves generous and bold with dark fruit, spice and crushed mineral. Drink 2025-2055"

97+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"The 2019 Barolo Le Vigne is pure and total seduction. Kirsch, sweet pipe tobacco, mint, cedar, dried herbs and orange peel all grace a Le Vigne built on mid-weight structure and energy. There is a feeling of youthful classicism and austerity that is so beguiling. Readers should plan on being patient, though. The 2019 won't be ready to drink anytime soon, but there is enough fruit to make me think it will be superb, in time. Drink 2029-2049"

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2019 Sandrone Barolo 'Aleste' - \$170.00

"Aleste is a contraction of the names Alessia and Stefano, grandchildren of the late Luciano Sandrone. With fruit all from Cannubi Boschis, the 2019 Barolo Aleste shows important richness and structure. This is the proverbial Barolo with a capital B. It reveals thick layers of dark fruit, cherry and spice. It shows sweet tannins and impactful texture. When tasting at the winery, Le Vigne is usually served first, and Aleste comes after that.

Both wines promise a very long aging window. Drink 2025-2055"

97/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"The 2019 Barolo Aleste is another stellar wine from Sandrone. Like Le Vigne, the Aleste is a tightly wound ball of energy. Dark cherry, mocha, plum, licorice and lavender all race across the palate. This racy, but youthfully austere Barolo has a ton to offer. There's more density and a darker profile than in the Le Vigne, sort of like a soloist to Le Vigne's orchestra. Drink 2029-2049"

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



CONTERNO-NERVI

Conterno-Nervi is a historic, benchmark Gattinara producer possessing some of the most prized Nebbiolo vineyard holdings in all of the appellation. Seizing the opportunity to acquire such an historic estate, it was purchased in 2018 by the legendary Roberto Conterno from Barolo. Roberto's aim, along with his sons, is to apply the same fastidious attention to detail and quality to the wines of Nervi as he does to those of the mythical Giacomo Conterno estate in Montforte d'Alba. The prices here are likely headed to the stratosphere... The winery was founded in 1906 by Italo Nervi and is the oldest Cantina in Gattinara, though many of the vineyards had already been in the family dating back as far as 1679. Situated around 120km north of Barbaresco, the estate comprises 28.5 hectares of vineyards including their top crus of Molsino and Valferana as well as Garavoglie and Casacce. The soil in Gattinara is composed largely of volcanic gravel rich in minerals – remnants of an extinct super volcano which collapsed 280 million years ago. These are historic crus in Gattinara – mentions of Molsino in town records date as far back as 1471, and those of Valferana date back to 1231!

2020 Conterno Nervi Gattinara - \$135.00

"I fully expected that Roberto Conterno would elevate quality at Nervi upon his acquisition of the winery in 2018. What I did not expect was that the change would happen so fast and that the makeover would be so extreme. A historic estate, Nervi had fallen on rough times in which quality was all over the place. Before his acquisition, Conterno had started consulting on an informal basis for the former owners, so he had a running start. Even so, the investments here have been considerable and include a new winery and a state-of-the-art bottling line, which means Conterno owns two more of these gleaming machines than most wineries around the world. It was not that long ago that Conterno answered all phone calls himself at the family winery in Monforte. Since then, he has elevated the wines at two estates through passion, conviction and relentless drive. Just as impressively, though, Conterno has built a strong team to execute on his vision. The importance of that can't possibly be overstated. The Gattinara contains the best fruit from the Garavoglie and Casacce sites, as well as some wine declassified from Molsino and Valferana."

Vinous, Antonio Galloni

94/100 – 2019

95/100 – 2018



2019 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Valferana - \$255.00

“Roberto Conterno follows his 2018s with a set of 2019s that is equally compelling. The 2019s are perhaps a bit more austere and less forthcoming at this stage than the 2018s. That won't be an issue for readers who can exercise a bit of patience. As all Nebbiolo lovers know well, this mighty Piedmont grape is especially sensitive to place. That's the main takeaway with the Vigna Valferana. This is a west-facing vineyard at 300 to 350 meters in altitude that is characterized by volcanic soils and slightly cooler conditions, resulting in an etched and very focused expression of Nebbiolo (as opposed to Molsino that tends to be open-knit and more concentrated). A wine of soaring intensity, the 2019 Gattinara Valferrana opens with intensely floral aromatics that are immediately alluring. Bright red-fleshed fruit, chalk and mint lend notable inner sweetness. At times, the Valferrana is quite potent, in other moments it presents notable finesse. That counterpoint makes for an absolutely compelling Gattinara that readers will want in their cellars. Drink 2029-2049”

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2019 Conterno Nervi Gattinara Molsino - \$255.00

“The 2019s were vinified in wood uprights. Malolactic fermentations followed quickly, as they often do at Nervi-Conterno. The wines spent about 32 months in oak prior to being bottled. All three 2019s were bottled at the same time, but the crus see an extra year in bottle prior to being released. From vines planted in 1992 in a cozy and protected position at 400 meters in elevation, the 2019 Gattinara Molsino is a dark, brooding wine. Smoke, incense, licorice and leather open in the glass, but only with great reluctance. A wine of tremendous persistence and presence, the Molsino is so impressive in 2019. It is also embryonic and in need of cellaring. The only question is how long. Time in the glass brings out the wine's natural resonance, offering a glimpse of what will come in time. The ambition is pretty clear: Molsino will soon be the Monfortino of Alto Piemonte. Drink 2029-2049”

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni





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. Simply stated, you'd be hard pressed to find more dependable bottles of Brunello or Riserva with this combination of quality and price point. 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. Fabrizio Bindocci explains that Il Poggione has no interest in making any big changes in the near future, and 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, a selection from within the Paganelli vineyard, which was planted in 1964. Speaking of Vigna Paganelli, the 2016 may just be the greatest rendition of this wine that I've yet encountered. This is a wine that will require a lot of patience from collectors, as today it is tightly wound yet densely packed with fruit and teeming with unbridled energy. While at the winery, I was able to taste a 1967 Riserva with Alessandro Bindocci, which resolidifies the staying power of these wines. In the end, we collect Il Poggione Brunello with the long game in mind—but it's a game worth playing."

-Vinous, Eric Guido

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

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



2016 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 'Vigna Paganelli' - \$150.00

"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



LA MASSA

"I was blown away by the wines I tasted from La Massa this year. Giampaolo Motta has always been a lone wolf in Chianti Classico, a producer who takes his inspiration from Bordeaux and who has perhaps a more worldly view than many of his colleagues. The wines have always been rich and flamboyant, but in recent years they have gained notably in finesse and nuance. The Cabernet Sauvignon-based Giorgio Primo remains the flagship wine. Carla 6, 100% Sangiovese, is a more recent addition to a range that does not have a Chianti Classico. La Massa, the second wine of Giorgio Primo, is a great choice for readers on a budget."

-Vinous, Antonio Galloni

Fattoria La Massa can be found hidden amongst the Chianti Classico hills of Panzano in the prestigious "Conca d'Oro," (Golden Basin). It was acquired by its passionate owner, Giampaolo Motta, in 1992. Infamous as the 'Bad Boy of Panzano', Giampaolo, originally from Naples, came to the area in 1989 to follow his dream of making high quality wines. After working in some of the most famous Chianti Classico estates and spending time in Bordeaux, Giampaolo established La Massa with the technical consultation of famed enologist and friend Carlo Ferrini. Since 2008, he relies on the advice of renowned Stéphane Derenoncourt for the vineyards and cellar. La Massa's vineyards range in altitude from 315 to 460 meters (1,033 to 1,510 feet) above sea level, occupying an area of about 45 hectares (111 acres), of which 27 are planted with vines.



2020 La Massa Toscana - \$50.00

"The Tenuta La Massa 2020 La Massa, with 100,000 bottles produced, offers great value across the board. This is a generous and deeply layered blend of 50% Sangiovese, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, Alicante and Petit Verdot. The wine sees 12 months of barrique aging with 20% new oak. Vintner Giampaolo Motta breaks the rules by making Bordeaux-inspired wines in one of the most fervently Sangiovese-leaning spots in Tuscany. But he adds a little charm and magic to this wine nonetheless. Drink 2023-2030"

94/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"Elegant and with a good sensorial dimension, it shows notes of plums, agapanthus, hyacinth, almonds, lavender, passionflower, ginger and white musk. Full body, solid and centered on the palate, it shows grace and notable relaxation. Excellent. Better from 2025."

94/100 Winescritic.com, Raffaella Vecchione

2018 La Massa Toscana 'Carla 6' - \$150.00

"Made with 100% Sangiovese, the Fattoria La Massa 2018 Carla 6 comes from a 1.5-hectare vineyard that was planted in 1999 on schistous and clay soils. A very fine-tannined, pure sangiovese Super Tuscan red with crushed stone, blueberries, blackberries and black cherries. Real terroir-driven character to this wine with well-balanced, intense and fine tannins and a long finish. This 5,000-bottle production is fermented in stainless steel and then moves over to tonneaux (with one-third made from new oak) for finishing."

96/100 James Suckling

"The 2018 Carla 6, the estate's top Sangiovese, is terrific. Like all of the La Massa wines, it is deep, fleshy and super-expressive. Incandescent and precise with sensory nobility alternating notes of red prunes, camphor, orange blossom, bay, cloves, blackberries, liquorice and wet earth. In the background bergamot tinges the secondary scene and augments the workmanship. Full bodied, soft and enveloping in the sip showing grace and equilibrium. Splendid now it will grow more in the bottle. A masterpiece from Panzano in Chianti. Better from 2023 on."

95/100 Winescritic.com, Raffaella Vecchione



2018 La Massa Toscana 'Giorgio Primo' - \$185.00

"An epically rich and concentrated Bordeaux-style red from the heart of Chianti. This is the last vintage of this wine direct from the winery, as it is now moving to be sold through the prestigious Place de Bordeaux. The 2018 Giorgio Primo represents a new level of finesse at La Massa. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Powerful and dense in the glass, with tremendous structure, Giorgio Primo is a terrific example of how compelling international varieties are in Panzano's Conca d'Oro district. Crème de cassis, spice, new leather, chocolate and sweet spice build into the textured, palate-staining finish. Drink 2025-2038"

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"Deep and intense in the primary profile offering notes of black prunes, blackberries, wild myrtle, juniper berries, cumin, sage and coriander. The character of the secondary matrix is kind and balsamic, attracting attention in the nuances of cut cedar, peppermint and basil. Full bodied, fine grain tannins perfectly integrated with a velvety perception on the palate and a flowing finale which closes with grace and gustatory balance."

97/100 Winescritic.com, Raffaella Vecchione

"The Fattoria La Massa 2018 Giorgio Primo is a wine of richness, volume and texture. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, and maceration times last 26 to 28 days to add the lovely depth and creaminess you taste here. Black fruit, crushed stone, truffle essence and toasted spice emerge from the bouquet. The wine's full-bodied structure and its freshness promise a long cellar-aging future. Drink 2023-2043"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Larner



ANTINORI – TENUTA TIGNANELLO

The Tenuta Tignanello winery is located in the heart of Chianti Classico, nestled between rolling hills and the Greve and Pesa rivers, only about 30 km from Florence. Since 1850, the estate with its Renaissance villa has belonged to the Antinori family. 319 hectares in size, 127 of which are planted with vineyards, including the single vineyard sites of Tignanello and Solaia, which produce two unique terroir wines from Marchesi Antinori. These have been defined by the international press as “among the most influential wines in the history of Italian viticulture”. Tignanello was the first Sangiovese to be aged in barriques, the first contemporary red wine blended with untraditional varieties (specifically Cabernet) and one of the first red wines in the Chianti Classico region that didn't use white grapes.

2020 Antinori Toscana ‘Tignanello’ - \$215.00

“Violets and lavender with dark fruit and hints of dark chocolate. Sophisticated nose. Medium-bodied with fine tannin structure that gives this finesse and beauty. It's very long and goes on for minutes. Precision. 68% sangiovese with the rest in cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon. Drinkable but better in three or four years.”

97/100 James Suckling

“The 2020 Tignanello is so primary, so intensely fruit-driven, that it almost tastes like a barrel sample. A burst of red Sangiovese fruit opens first, followed by hints of blood orange, cinnamon, spice, dried flowers and mocha develop later. Time in the glass brings out striking dimensions. In 2020, Tignanello is wonderfully sleek and racy, with fine tannins that lie below a core of bright, sculpted fruit. The balance here is just sublime. I can't wait to revisit the 2020 with age. Drink 2028-2045”

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

“Newly on the market now, the 2020 Tignanello shows a gorgeous bouquet with an upfront and accessible personality. Right off the bat, you get dark cherry, dried raspberry, spice, toasted almond and citrusy blood orange. The blend is normally 75% to 80% Sangiovese with 7% Cabernet Franc. The grape in between, making up 13% to 18%, is Cabernet Sauvignon. This vintage is very pretty and won't require a long wait. The tannins are sweet and silky. “Tignanello proves itself as a great vineyard site in both the challenging and the classic years,” says Managing Director Renzo Cotarella. Annual production falls between 300,000-350,000 bottles. Drink 2025-2045”

95/100 Parker's Wine Advocate



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, calcar 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 famed wine, the iconic 'Flaccianello della Pieve', has been made entirely of Sangiovese.

2021 Fontodi Chianti Classico - \$75.00

"Panzano. 100% Sangiovese. Certified organic. Youthful ruby. Subtle yet enticing nose of sweet red fruit with meaty notes and hints of laurel. Lots of juice on the palate and plenty of grainy but ripe tannins; but they are in perfect harmony with the succulent fruit. Drink 2023-2032"

17++/20 Jancisrobinson.com, Walter Speller (2020 Vintage)

"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



FONTODI

2020 Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 'Terrazze San Leolino' - \$150.00

The first vintage for us in New Zealand of this exciting new wine from Fontodi! The years of the COVID 19 pandemic were particularly fruitful for Giovanni Manetti at Fontodi, you could call them an epiphany. He had time to think and walked through his vineyards at Conca d'Oro in Panzano in Chianti, an amphitheatre of postcard-ripe vines, and decided it was time to expand his portfolio. In particular, he was looking for a way to better articulate the concept of Chianti Classico Gran Selezione, which is essentially a perfect vehicle for a Grand Cru winemaking philosophy. Its existing Chianti Classico Gran Selezione "Vigna del Sorbo" is a flagship for this highest category of the appellation, but unfortunately it represents only one vineyard site. The fruit comes from an area with a higher proportion of slaty galestro for dark fruit, etched mineral notes and pencil shavings. Now this wine can be seen in context. This is how the Chianti Classico Gran Selezione "Terrazze San Leonlino" was born. It comes from a site in Panzano, not too far from "Vigna del Sorbo". However, this small parcel near the country chapel of San Leonlino is characterised by calcareous Alberese, which produces fresh wines with a less dark character.

"Terrazze San Leolino Gran Selezione from Fontodi is a real eye-catcher. San Leolino was already recognised as a cru site 200 years ago. The recently renewed terraces are located at 450 metres above sea level in Panzano, but unlike Fontodi's Vigna del Sorbo, which is dominated by Galestro, the soil here is calcareous Alberese. Deep in color; this sumptuous red shows both power and finesse, packed with blackberry, black currant, violet, iron and spice flavors. Expressive and beautifully balanced, yet this is poised for a long evolution thanks to its solid structure. Offers superb refinement and a long aftertaste. Best from 2025 through 2043."

97/100 Wine Spectator

"The Fontodi 2020 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Terrazze San Leonlino (a certified organic wine) is a new addition to this exciting portfolio, now in its second vintage. With fruit from the upper part of the Conca d'Oro of Panzano near the small chapel of the same name, this wine shows a more robust and powerful personality with a strong 15% alcohol content. It ages in barrique and botte for 24 months. The bouquet is rich with cherry liqueur, blackberry kirsch and dried plum. There is more fruit weight here and you taste the ripeness in the grape skins. The wine has an almost carbonic quality that reminds me of cherry cola, and it ends on a sweet note with soft tannins. Only 5,000 bottles were made. Drink 2023-2040"

94/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Larner



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 Leonino. 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 Larner

"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