



These are some of the greatest sites in the world. Readers will find much to choose from in both 2018 and 2019, two very different vintages full of highlights. What impresses me most about the 2019s is their exceptional balance. The wines soar with aromatic intensity and show fine tannins with terrific depth, all with medium-bodied structure. Although the top wines are utterly breathtaking, Chianti Classico and Chianti also offer the consumer so many exceptional everyday values.

Vinous – Antonio Galloni

CHIANTI

One of the most famous of all wine regions in Italy, situated in the heart of Tuscany. The earliest documentation of a “Chianti wine” dates back to the 14th century, in the hilly regions around Florence. Chianti now must include at least 75% Sangiovese. Many of the earlier pioneers of the Super Tuscan movement rebelled against what they saw as antiquated regulations. This eventually led to the IGT Toscana title. Some wanted to use 100% Sangiovese, or include French varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot. The success of the Super Tuscan eventually led to change, and these adaptations have been legal as ‘Chianti’ since the mid-1990s. Though many producers never changed back.

2019 Felsina Chianti Classico Berardenga - \$44.99

“At the south-eastern limit of Chianti Classico, Felsina’s expansive vineyards look towards Montalcino. The annata is assembled from various parcels rising from 320 to 420 metres on rocky calcareous soil with layers of sandstone. As usual, it is more earthy than fruity, bringing in evocative accents of violet, liquorice and pepper. The palate is superbly textured with fine, grainy tannins providing a sensuous grip. Dark fruited and tangy with admirable depth, it will drink well now and over the next decade. Finishes with a sprinkle of cinnamon.

92/100 Decanter

“One of the best vantage points for drinking Chianti Classico is at the entry level. A wine like the Felsina 2019 Chianti Classico Berardenga offers so much freshness and cheerful, easy-drinking appeal. It’s a terrific partner to pizza, pasta or basically anything on the trattoria menu tonight. This wine shows bright cherry flavors and redcurrant with pressed flowers and some tangy blood orange. It is steady and generous, with lots of bright primary intensity.”

91/100 Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

“The 2019 Chianti Classico Berardenga is a classic wine for the year. Bright, perfumed and light on its feet, the 2019 Chianti Classico Berardenga is so wonderfully expressive. There is a feeling of vibrancy to the 2019 that is hugely appealing. A wine of energy more than power. Crushed red berry fruit, cinnamon linger in a gorgeous Chianti Classico that is more about transparency than power. Drink 2024-2029”

91/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2018 Felsina Chianti Classico Riserva - \$59.99

"The 2018 Chianti Classico Riserva is a powerful, brooding wine. Readers will have to be patient with the 2018, as it needs time to soften. The tannins are especially potent today. Time brings out a whole range of black cherry, plum, gravel, spice, game and leather notes. The Riserva spent 16 months in oak of various sizes. Drink 2024-2038"

93+/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2019 Felsina Fontalloro Toscana - \$100.00

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 (407-330 meters above sea level) with sandy, loamy and silty soil. Matured in new and first used French oak barrels for 18-22 months.

"The 2019 Fontalloro is terrific. In this vintage, the blend of three vineyards is a plus in giving a wine endowed with density, resonance and plenty of Sangiovese character. Dried herbs, leather, incense, tobacco and cedar open with time in the glass. Drink 2024-2036"

94+/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2018 Felsina Chianti Classico Riserva Rancia - \$100.00

"The 2018 Chianti Classico Riserva Rancia is an absolutely stunning wine. The archetype of Rancia in the past has been of a big, potent Chianti Classico but in 2018, Rancia is a wine of mind-blowing elegance and finesse. Silky, perfumed and indescribably finessed, the 2018 dazzles from start to finish. It's a magical wine in every way. Drink 2026-2048"

97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2019 Fontodi Chianti Classico - \$61.99

"Bright ruby with a slight purple shimmer. Opens on the nose with ripe, vivid fruit of blueberries and dark cherries, some liquorice in the background. On the palate gripping, dense tannin, unfolds into countless layers, still seems very young, but has a lot of substance, hearty and long."

94/100 Falstaff

“The 2019 Chianti Classico is fresh, vibrant and so expressive. Aromatic and expansive, with terrific nuance, the 2019 is one of the most elegant Chianti Classicos I have tasted at Fontodi. Crushed flowers, red/purplish fruit, spice, lavender and pipe tobacco build into the delineated, vibrant finish. Drink 2022-2034

93+/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

“This benchmark Panzano estate is still in the hands of long-time owner, Giovanni Manetti, but the new generation is very much in evidence: Manetti’s son Bernardo, daughter Margherita and nephew Costa now play fundamental roles as the estate continues to grow. Fontodi’s 2019 is striking and pronounced in fragrance. Liquorice and black cherry are offset by coffee, char and tobacco. Vigorous tannins yield slowly but surely as this makes its way across the palate. Its structure is well-proportioned with the ripe black fruit, substantial but never heavy or imposing, underscored by some tanginess. As always, it soars above its category.”

93/100 Decanter

“100% Sangiovese. Certified organic. Lustrous deep ruby. Bright sour-cherry nose with savoury, minerally notes and what smells like a note of oak. Fantastic balance between succulent fruit, lots of juicy acidity and gripping but ripe tannins. Tactile fireworks”

17.5+/20 Jancis Robinson.com, Walter Speller

2019 Fontodi Vigna del Sorbo Chianti Classico Gran Selezione - \$135.00

“At an elevation of 400 metres, Vigna del Sorbo boasts Chianti Classico’s classic Galestro soil. The warm southwest-facing vineyard typically yields a powerful, intense wine in need of ageing. The 2019 demonstrates all the wild, penetrating characteristics of this site but it comes into harmony quickly, revealing its balance and precision. Wood-driven top notes of smoke and vanilla meld into pressed violets, rosemary and liquorice. Luscious red cherry and dark plum flesh are wrapped in long, layered chalky tannins. Across the palate there’s an energetic beam of unwavering acidity, giving the wine a linear feel. The finish reverberates with fennel and crushed stone.”

97/100 Decanter

“The 2019 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo is a potent, virile wine endowed with tremendous depth and equally imposing tannins. A blast of dark fruit, herbs, chocolate, menthol and spice races out of the glass. Large-scaled tannins and hints of rusticity suggest the 2019 won’t be one of the most finessed Sorbos, but it is a fine effort for the year. Drink 2025-2044”

95/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2019 Fontodi Flaccianello della Pieve Colli Toscana Centrale - \$195.00

Produced since 1981, this is one of the finest wines of Tuscany. Flaccianello was a single-vineyard wine up to 2003, then a selection of the best grapes of the estate. Guyot-trained Sangiovese is fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks with indigenous yeasts for at least three weeks, then racked in barrels for the malolactic fermentation. It ages for 24 months in barrels.

“The 2019 Flaccianello della Pieve is another potent wine from Fontodi in this vintage. That said, it has more than enough mid-palate heft and overall intensity to balance its equally imposing tannins. Black cherry, mocha, licorice, lavender, spice and tobacco fill out the layers. The 2019 needs time to integrate its oak and for the imposing tannins to soften. Drink 2026-2044”

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2019 La Massa Toscana - \$44.99

La Massa is a legend amongst affordable Super Tuscans. Situated in the heart of Chianti Classico within the prestigious “Conca d’Oro,” (Golden Basin), they are one of the finest estates in the region. Their namesake blend has the freshness and minerality of majority Sangiovese, with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and a touch of Alicante Bouschet. Matured in French oak barrels, 10-20% new wood, Exceptional value with a solid 10yr drinking window.

“The 2019 La Massa is a very pretty wine. Crushed flowers, red berry fruit, mint, chalk and spice accents are all nicely delineated. There’s terrific energy driving the 2019. Once again, Giampaolo Motta’s Sangiovese based blend delivers the goods. Drink 2023-2031”

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2018 La Massa Carla 6 Toscana - \$135.00

““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.”

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. Succulent dark cherry, cedar, tobacco and spice are all kicked up in this beautifully textured wine. The Carla 6 deftly marries power with translucence. Drink 2023-2033”

94/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2018 La Massa Giorgio Primo Toscana - \$155.00

“The 2018 Giorgio Primo represents a new level of finesse at La Massa. 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

"Rich, deep dark ruby with a slight violet shimmer. Very clear and intense nose, shows rich notes of blackcurrants, black cherries and plums, some ginger in the background. Shows a very polished approach and course, lots of fine-meshed tannin, builds up rich pressure, hearty aftertaste of tobacco in the long finish." 97/100 Falstaff

2019 Montevervine Toscana - \$105.00

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.

"Tasted from cask, the 2019 Montevervine is creamy, rich and beautifully layered. Today, it is decidedly on the more opulent side of things. I can't wait to see how it develops over the next year, and then beyond. Montevervine spends two years in cask, while Le Pergole Torte sees a year in French oak followed by a year in cask. These remain some of the most singular wines readers will come across in Chianti Classico, or anywhere, for that matter. Drink 2029-2049."

94-96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni



2019 Montevervine Le Pergole Torte Toscana - \$225.00

Le Pergole Torte was the first 100% Sangiovese wine to be produced in the Radda in Chianti area in 1977. The grapes come from their oldest vineyards, planted between 1968 and 1999. Aged for one year in Allier barriques and one year in Slavonian oak barrels.

"The 2019 Le Pergole Torte is a dense, packed wine loaded with dark fruit and equally broad, imposing tannins. Naturally, it is very early days, but the 2019 is promising. I especially like the way it marries the classicism of Radda with the richness of the year. The 2019 will need 10-15 years to come into its own. Drink 2029-2049"

95-97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2019 Pagliarese Chianti Classico Riserva - \$49.99

Situated in the commune of Castelnuovo Berardenga near to the Borgo of San Gusmè -east of Siena. Pagliarese's house style is heightened by a classic vinification regime, which calls for privileging elegance over structure. They have fairly light macerations, and maturation is for 16-20 months in medium-large Slavonian oak ovals. The wine that emerges is a Chianti Classico of true breed and finesse. 90% Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Mammolo.

93/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni (2018 vintage)

2019 San Martino Chianti Classico - \$49.99

"Lustrous ruby. A warm cherry nose with a hint of gingerbread but much more complex than it sounds. Great depth of fruit. Gorgeous mouth-filling red fruit shot through by fresh acidity and bags of finely ground tannins. Deserves further bottle age but already hard to resist."

17.5/20 Jancis Robinson.com, Walter Speller

MONTEPULCIANO

Produced primarily from Sangiovese (at least 70%), grown around the picturesque hilltop town of Montepulciano in Siena province, southern Tuscany. Locally the grape is known as Prugnolo gentile and is blended with Canaiolo Nero, and small amounts of the local variety Mammolo. Not to be confused with another well-known wine Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. Confusingly that comes from the Abruzzo region of east-central Italy, and is made from the Montepulciano grape variety.



2019 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano - \$49.99

"Decisive and fragrant in the radiant sensory profile alternating notes of elderflower, strawberry, prunes, geraniums and passion flower. Full bodied, decidedly mature soft, velvety, elegant tannins and a rich, tasty finale which demands a return to the glass. Better from 2024."

94/100 Winescritic, Raffaele Vecchione

"Poliziano's 120 hectares extend over diverse subzones within the northern sector of Montepulciano. Drawing fruit from the various plots, its Vino Nobile (90% Sangiovese) is bolstered by Canaiolo Nero, Merlot and Colorino. It is youthfully restrained, with discreet mineral notes eventually giving way to black currant, red plum and floral nuances. The palate is tight but full with tangy acidity, appetising salinity and a subtle hint of oak. The tannins sport a grainy grip and all the elements are kept in check."

92/100 Decanter

2019 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Asinone - \$95.00

First made in 1983, this represents the highest expression of their production. Made entirely from Sangiovese with an average age of around 40yrs off the Asinone vineyard. Situated at 380-400m the soils are extremely poor clay and silt with embedded fossils. Aged 18 months in 500- and 600-liter French oak tonneaux; 20% new, 80% 1yr old. This has an aging potential over 20yrs. Only around 20,000 bottles are produced.

"Juicy and well distended on the nose showing notes of cherries, red prunes, lemon blossom, lime and pomegranate. Full bodied, tannins slightly rigid at the moment and a progressive finale which lights up from the central palate onwards. Better from 2026."

95/100 Winescritic, Raffaele Vecchione

BOLGHERI

Bolgheri is a DOC situated on the Tuscan coast. Until even the 1970s, the area had little reputation in contrast to the prime Tuscan vineyards further up in the hills. That all changed as it became the birthplace of some of the most famous original Super Tuscan wines like Sassicaia and Ornellaia. Produced primarily from classical Bordeaux varieties, though they may have up to some Sangiovese in the blend if desired.



2020 Grattamacco Bolgheri Rosso - \$49.99

Founded in 1977, the Estate lies in a protected area on one of Bolgheri's only two hills. It was the second estate in Bolgheri after Sassicaia. A classic blend from a vineyard of 10 hectares located at 100 meters above sea level, with average age of 25 years. The fermentation is made in stainless steel and the aging is for 8 months in French oak barriques. 50% Cabernet sauvignon, 20% Cabernet franc, 20% Merlot, 10% Sangiovese.

"The 2020 Bolgheri Rosso is an absolutely gorgeous wine that overdelivers in its peer group. Silky, layered and light on its feet, the Rosso is superb. Hints of blueberry, menthol, licorice, pine and cinnamon all grace this attractive, stylish offering. Drink 2022-2027"

91/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

2018 Grattamacco Bolgheri Rosso Superiore - \$150.00

An iconic Super Tuscan wine. All organic, 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 15% Sangiovese fermented in open-top oak vats with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 18 months.

"The 2018 Grattamacco is the most elegant, refined and satisfying wine I have ever tasted from Grattamacco. There is a level of finesse here that is simply unreal. Bright and translucent, with tons of detail, the 2018 oozes with pedigree. Lavender, spice, mint, tobacco and dried flowers add an attractive upper register. Drink 2026-2043"

96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"Sparkling, rich ruby with a slight garnet shimmer. Exciting and multi-layered nose, initially showing fine notes of cedar; a little resinous, then full of fresh currants and raspberries. Very juicy on the palate, opens with fine-meshed, grippy tannin, salty and long."

96/100 Falstaff

BASILICATA

Basilicata is dominated by the extinct volcano Monte Vulture. The region is bordered by Campania in the north, Puglia in the east and Calabria in the west, the instep of the Italian boot. It is one of the smallest wine-growing regions in Italy with only 0.3 percent of the total wine production. More than 80% made from the Aglianico variety. When young, this wine is often closed and rich in tannins. But over the years it matures in the bottle into a velvety, concentrated and deep red wine similar to Barolo.



2019 Elena Fucci SCEG Aglianico del Vulture - \$44.99

The SCEG is a new bottling by Elena Fucci, to help out friends of her 94-year-old grandfather Generoso. To preserve their vines and tradition, she makes this from his friends' vines, four parcels aged 70+ near her family's vineyards. SCEG (pronounced Sheg) is organically farmed Aglianico, spending one year in 500L tonneaux and 6 months in bottle before release.

"Deep and clear; it shows energy and character in the notes of black plums, plums, lavender and lots of wild violet. The background is rich in notes reminiscent of dark chocolate and the subtle sweetness of vanilla. Full body, soft and voluminous on the palate it shows perfectly ripe tannins rigid at the moment and a tense and vibrant finish that will need time to relax. Wow, a spear of infinite persistence. Better from 2024."

93/100 Winescritic, Raffaele Vecchione

2019 Elena Fucci 'Titolo' Aglianico del Vulture - \$74.99

"The 2019 Aglianico del Vulture Titolo is stunning. It opens with a bit of an exotic flair; mixing smoky plum and lavender with animal musk, crushed ashen stone and a whiff of sour citrus that lights up the senses. Then it enters the palate silky and pliant, quickly gaining in youthful tannic tension, but not before providing a preview of mentholated herbal tones and depths of mineral-laden dark fruits that will take center stage after a few years of cellaring. This finishes incredibly long yet structured, leaving a staining of primary concentration to linger under an air of pretty inner florals and savory spice. I believe the 2019 may one day rank among the best vintages ever produced of Elena Fucci's Titolo."

94+/100 Vinous, Eric Guido