

CHIANTI CLASSICO PROMOTION

A lot of attention is given to Brunello di Montalcino and Super Tuscans, but Chianti Classico can equal these in producing top quality, cellar-worthy wines. From the heartland of the Classico region in Tuscany, the best examples have naturally high acidity swathed in juicy, savory fruit, framed in a firm tannin construction. Chianti Classicos are wonderfully versatile with food, given the tannin and acid structure of sangiovese, the main variety, but keeping to Tuscan tradition we recommend pairing these with a pasta or steak dish.

These selected wines have excellent drinkability, with a range of vintages from 2012 to 2018, as well as a 2001 Riserva. Many of these are Gran Selezione: the small classification atop the Chianti pyramid, with stricter rules such as minimum ageing of 30 months. Producers are increasingly using this appellation to express the uniqueness of their terroirs and purer expressions of sangiovese, and represent fantastic value. This is a great category to discover.

Please drink and enjoy.

RED	Score	Glass	Bottle
Barone Ricasoli Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ceniprimo 2018 <i>(No 2 Wine of the Year 2021!)</i> This is amazing Chianti Classico. Perhaps the greatest I have ever tasted. The aromas are so complex with crushed cherries, sour cherries, peaches, bark and hints of meat. Incredible finish with such intensity and beauty. Hard not to drink, but one for the cellar. Best after 2024.	100	250	1250
Vallepiciola Chianti Classico 2018 A bright, fruity red showing reserve, yet it's tight, fresh and zesty. Medium-bodied with black fruit and hints of wet earth. Drink now.	92	80	400
Castello Vicchiomaggio Chianti Classico Agostino Petri Riserva 2018 Cherries and flowers with wonderful perfumes exuding from the glass. Medium-to full-bodied and fresh with a stony texture. Lightly chewy. Drink after 2021.	94	95	475
Fontodi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo 2017 Powerful, tight red with currant and plum character. Hints of new wood and bark. Full-bodied with dark berries and hints of dark chocolate, as well as other dark fruit. Flavorful finish. Solid. Needs time to open. Better after 2022.	95	220	
Mazzei Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli 2017 Lots of ripe fruit with walnuts, tile, dried berries and chocolate powder. Full-bodied, velvety and chewy. This is a very powerful and structured Chianti Classico that will rival many top Brunellos. Needs time to come completely together. Better after 2022.	96	190	950
Castello Vicchiomaggio Chianti Classico Gran Selezione La Prima 2017 Sweet-berry and cherry aromas with hints of chocolate, hazelnuts and plums. Full-bodied with round, layered tannins and a juicy finish with hints of toasted oak. Needs some bottle age to resolve some of the wood, but should come out nicely in 2022.	93	110	
Castello di Bossi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016 A stunning Chianti Classico Gran Selezione that shows pure lavender and violets, in addition to riper dark cherries, tea leaves, olives, eucalyptus and spice box. Very structured and muscular on the palate, which encompasses layers of dark fruit and plenty of driving acidity to take this through to a long, chewy finish. Drink from 2024.	96	195	975
San Fabiano Calcinaia Chianti Classico 2016 A very intense nose of soaked fruit with blackberry compote, licorice, tea leaves, tobacco and ash. Full-bodied, very structured and serious, which is not something you can often say about a normal Chianti Classico. Chewy, but the acidity more than balances everything out. Drink in 2020.	94	95	475

Marchesi Antinori Chianti Classico Tenuta Tignanello Riserva 2016	93	120	600
A layered and very rich Chianti Classico with blackberries, chocolate and hints of coffee. Full body, round tannins and a flavorful finish. Drink or hold.			
Felsina Chianti Classico Rancia Riserva 2015	95	160	800
Plenty of dark plums, black cherries, blackberry pie, cedar, tobacco and a hint of orange rind. There's a real vitality to the palate, which is so well carved out by firm, savory tannins and seriously bright acidity. A chewy finish. Drink in 2022.			
Rocca di Castagnoli Chianti Classico Poggio a' Frati 2015	94	120	
A Chianti Classico with serious density and richness. Yet, this remains fresh and energetic. Medium to full body, a solid core of fruit and a long, flavorful finish. Drink or hold.			
Valiano Chianti Classico 6.38 Gran Selezione 2015	94	115	
Ripe aromas of black cherries, strawberries, black plums and cinnamon. Full body, round and velvety tannins and a powerful, juicy finish. Drink or hold.			
Rocca delle Macie Chianti Classico Sergio Zingarelli Gran Selezione 2014	91	100	
This red shows red plums, raspberries and hints of light cedar. Medium to full body, soft and juicy tannins and a nice finish. Drink now.			
Lecce e Brocchi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione MCMDXVII Celerarium 2013	90	80	
Firm and silky with a tight and rather chewy palate. The wood is covering the fruit slightly. Medium-bodied with a slightly lean finish. Drink now.			
Lanciola Chianti Classico Le Masse di Greve Riserva 2013	90	90	
Soft and easy with plum and chocolate character. Lightly funky. Medium body. Round tannins. Drink now.			
Rocca di Castagnoli Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Stielle 2013	93	110	550
Very fine and tight with berry and chocolate character. Hints of cedar and walnut. Medium to full body, lightly chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Needs a year or two to come together but already impressive.			
Castello di Radda Chianti Classico Riserva 2013	93	90	450
A firm and silky red with berry and chocolate character. Hints of walnut. Medium to full body, juicy fruit and a savory finish. Plenty going on here. Drink or hold.			
Podere La Cappella Chianti Classico 2013	93	120	600
This is a solid red with layers of ripe tannins and blueberry fruit character. It's full-bodied, bright and structured for Chianti Classico. Better in 2016.			
Fontodi Chianti Classico Vigna del Sorbo Gran Selezione 2012	95	240	
A red with blueberry, blackberry and hints of flower on the nose and palate. Full body, firm and silky tannins and a crisp finish. Elegance with depth, yet structured and solid. Better in 2017.			
Mazzei Chianti Classico Castello di Fonterutoli Gran Selezione 2011	93	140	
A fresh and fruity red with dried strawberry, cherry and citrus fruit. Full body, firm and silky tannins. There's a citrus, salty undertone. Shows structure and length. Needs a year or two to soften			