

# 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
<b>Carpineta Fontalpino Chianti Classico Fontalpino 2018</b> A medium-bodied red with plums, walnuts and hints of burnt orange, crushed stone and cement. Firm tannins and a fresh finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.	90	80	400
<b>Carpineta Fontalpino Chianti Classico Dofana 2017</b> Purity and raciness to this wine with blueberry and raspberry aromas and flavors that give it energy and brightness, which is very enjoyable. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.	94	100	500
<b>Mazzei Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli 2017</b> 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
<b>Barone Ricasoli Chianti Classico Ceniprimo Gran Selezione 2017</b> This is very perfumed and fruity with cherries, light currants and just a hint of vanilla. It's medium-bodied with tight, polished and silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Creamy and refined, yet structured. Subtle and very, very long. Drink or hold.	96	195	975
<b>Castello di Meleto Chianti Classico 2016</b> A beautiful red showing cherries, blueberries and hints of crushed strawberries. Medium body, firm tannins and an intense finish. Drink now.	90	80	400
<b>San Fabiano Calcinaia Chianti Classico 2016</b> 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
<b>Brancaia Chianti Classico Riserva 2016</b> This is a very spicy Chianti Classico Riserva that shows toasty oak, dark chocolate, coffee beans and a backdrop of plum paste and Christmas pudding. Full-bodied and decadent on the palate with ripe and round tannins and a structured finish. Drink from 2023.	92	100	500
<b>Rocca di Castagnoli Chianti Classico 2016</b> Beautiful, ripe dark berries with dried flowers and sandalwood on the nose. Full and rich, yet in check, thanks to the fine, firm tannins that give composure to this pretty red. Needs a little time to soften, but a beauty already. Drink after 2021.	93	135	675
<b>Frescobaldi Chianti Classico Tenuta Perano Rialzi Gran Selezione 2016</b> Aromas of black cherries, dark chocolate and dried flowers follow through to a full body with firm, silky tannins and a juicy, ripe-fruit finish. Fresh yet complex aftertaste, adding chocolate and fresh-mushroom notes. Beautiful now, but will age really well. Excellent potential. Drink or hold.	96	180	900
<b>Marchesi Antinori Chianti Classico Badia a Passignano Gran Selezione 2016</b> This is a wonderful pure sangiovese with wet earth, mushrooms, pine and cedar with black cherries. Full body. Dense and layered with ripe tannins, yet there's vivid and energetic acidity. It drives to the end and pulls you in. Top stuff. Drink or hold.	96	190	950

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<p><b>Castello di Bossi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016</b></p> <p>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.</p>	97	195	975
<p><b>Rocca di Castagnoli Chianti Classico 2015</b></p> <p>A ripe and juicy red with hot stone, dried cherry and hints of berry undertones. Full and chewy yet soft and polished texture. A muscular and solid red. Drink or hold.</p>	92	90	450
<p><b>Principe Corsini Chianti Classico Don Tommaso Gran Selezione 2015</b></p> <p>Aromas of blueberries, violets and lavender follow through to a full body with chewy tannins. A juicy finish. Lots of wood tannins, as well as grape tannins. Needs three to four years to soften. From organically grown grapes. Better in 2021.</p>	93	105	525
<p><b>Valiano Chianti Classico 6.38 Gran Selezione 2015</b></p> <p>Ripe aromas of black cherries, strawberries, black plums and cinnamon. Full body, round and velvety tannins and a powerful, juicy finish. Drink or hold.</p>	94	115	575
<p><b>Rocca delle Macie Chianti Classico Riserva 2015</b></p> <p>Aromas of blackberries, wet earth, lavender and blueberries. Full-bodied, deep and layered with bright acidity and a bacon-fat, mushroom, smoked-meat and fruit aftertaste. Soft tannins, too. A unique wine. Drink now or hold.</p>	95	120	600
<p><b>Villa Trasqua Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Nerento 2015</b></p> <p>This is a generous and succulent Gran Selezione with round, juicy tannins and a full body, yet it remains fresh and lively. Lots of cherry and blackberry flavors. So delicious now, but better in a year or two.</p>	95	130	650
<p><b>Castello di Bossi Chianti Classico Berardo Riserva 2015</b></p> <p>The floral aromas are so enticing with rose petals and lavender, which follow through to a full body with beautiful density of fruit. A long and complete finish. The best Chianti Classico ever made here in living memory. Even better than the 1961. Drink or hold.</p>	98	170	850
<p><b>Castello di Querceto Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Picchio 2015</b></p> <p>Lots of blackberry pie, vanilla, cedar, blackcurrants, dried lemon peel, blueberries and meatier elements that lurk beneath the very fine notes of blue fruit. Very layered with grippy tannins, which fall into just the right degree of ripeness. The tannins run around the full body that is brought to life by the acidity that pierces right through to the long finish. Drink in 2022.</p>	96	195	975
<p><b>Ruffino Chianti Classico Riserva Ducale Oro Gran Selezione 2014</b></p> <p>A very polished and refined Chianti Classico with medium body, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Citrus, berries and light hazelnuts on the finish. A clean and bright wine for a less-than-stellar vintage in Tuscany. Drink now and enjoy.</p>	90	85	425
<p><b>Rocca delle Macie Chianti Classico Sergio Zingarelli Gran Selezione 2014</b></p> <p>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.</p>	91	100	500
<p><b>Rocca di Castagnoli Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Stielle 2013</b></p> <p>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.</p>	93	110	550
<p><b>Castelli del Grevepesa Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Clemente VII 2012</b></p> <p>Lots of ripe plums, dark cherries, kirsch, dark chocolate, coffee beans, mocha-infused oak and some resin. Full body, big yet structured tannins, a wealth of dark, chocolate-coated, juicy fruit and a mouth-coating finish. Drink in 2020.</p>	93	95	475
<p><b>Viticcio Chianti Classico Riserva 2001</b></p> <p>An elegant, classy Chianti Classico, with berry, soft mineral and plum. Silky tannins and medium-to-full body, with a mineral, super long finish.</p>	94	125	625