

# GREAT WINES OF ITALY



OUR GREAT WINES OF ITALY EVENT FOR THIS YEAR IS NOW A PROMOTION AT JAMES SUCKLING WINE CENTRAL AND IT SHOWCASES SOME AMAZING BOTTLES FROM BELLA ITALIA. MOST OF THE WINES BELOW ARE JUST RELEASED ON THE MARKET AND THEY ARE PRICED BY THE GLASS AT OR NEAR RETAIL PRICE IN HONG KONG. THESE TOP ITALIAN WINE PRODUCERS WANTED THE HONG KONG WINE TRADE AND CONSUMERS TO BE SOME OF THE FIRST TO TASTE THEIR NEW RELEASES. MARIE AND I HAVE A HOUSE IN TUSCANY BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN BACK FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. WE MISS IT BUT TAKE A LOT OF COMFORT IN TASTING, DRINKING AND SHARING THESE WINES WITH YOU. I HOPE YOU ENJOY THEM. ALL THE RATINGS ARE MINE!

## SPARKLING

	RATING	GLASS
<b>Lombardy</b>		
<b>Bellavista Franciacorta Alma Gran Cuvée Brut NV</b>	<b>92</b>	100
This is very dry and chalky with lemon-rind and dried-pear character. Medium-fine bubbles give form to the wine. It's full and flavorful with a nice, dry finish. Drink now.		
<b>Bellavista Franciacorta Brut Rosé 2014</b>	<b>94</b>	130
A very sophisticated rosé with a rose-petal, orange-blossom and nectarine nose, leading into a wonderful combination of caressing silkiness and animating freshness. Long and delicate finish. Did I say seduction? Drink now.		
<b>Veneto</b>		
<b>Pitars Prosecco Millesimato Extra Dry 2019</b>	<b>91</b>	80
A creamy and fruity sparkling wine with a creamy texture and fine bubbles. Delicious cooked lemon and apple character. Some white peach. Drink now.		

## WHITE

<b>Alto Adige</b>		
<b>Nals Margreid Pinot Bianco Alto Adige Sirmian 2018</b>	<b>96</b>	90
This is one of the best pinot biancos in Italy with wild and vivid fruit and electric acidity. Full body. Tight and energetic. Cool single-vineyard white. Drink now or hold.		
<b>Nals Margreid Pinot Grigio Alto Adige Punggl 2018</b>	<b>93</b>	90
Lots of tropical fruit on the nose with papaya and sliced mango, as well as citrus. Full body, creamy texture and an excellent, bright finish. Single vineyard. Drink now.		
<b>St. Michael-Eppan Alto Adige Appius 2015</b>	<b>97</b>	280
Fantastically complex aromas of subtle cooked apples, minerals, toasted oak, croissant, and pralines with hints of nougat. Full-bodied with serious density of fruit, yet it remains vivid and energetic. A blend of mostly chardonnay with pinot grigio, pinot bianco and sauvignon. A white for the cellar. Super depth and power. Great to taste now, but much better in two or three years. Try after 2023.		
<b>St. Michael-Eppan Sauvignon Alto Adige Sanct Valentin 2019</b>	<b>93</b>	90
A bright, fresh white with sliced apples, white pears, crushed stone and minerals. Medium-bodied, creamy and crisp. A pretty and together sauvignon, as always. Drink now.		

## **Friuli**

### **Jermann Pinot Grigio Venezia-Giulia 2018**

**91** 80

A delicious pinot grigio with cooked apples and honey and hints lemon rind, following through to a medium body. Dried-apple and pineapple character at the finish. Drink now. Screw cap.

### **Jermann Venezia-Giulia Where Dreams Have No End 2017**

**95** 150

I love the subtle and warm, floral nose here, which shows peonies, daffodils, honeysuckle, Williams pears, cloves and white pepper. Dense and layered on the palate, which journeys through fleshy stone fruit to spicier elements, all the while retaining a wonderful sense of freshness, thanks to dialed-in acidity. Drink now or hold. Screw cap.

### **Pitars Pinot Grigio Friuli 2019**

**91** 80

A dense and layered white with sliced cooked pear and lemon rind with some mineral undertones. Full-bodied and intense with a lovely hot stone and dried fruit flavor at the finish. Drink now.

### **Schiopetto Friulano Collio Mario Schiopetto M 2018**

**98** 190

Intense aromas of cherry blossom, violets and acacia with lemon grass and citrus, as well as hints of white peaches. Flint, too. Full-bodied, layered and flavorful. Extremely long and textured. Round and fine tannins. Flinty and creamy. Beautifully subtle. Drink now.

### **Schiopetto Pinot Grigio Collio 2018**

**96** 100

So much spice here – cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, white pepper and other spices. Limes and other citrus fruit. Star fruit, too. Full-bodied and minerally, showing stone and slate. Some olives, too. A pinot grigio masterpiece. Drink now.

## **Toscana**

### **Marchesi Antinori Umbria Cervaro della Sala 2018**

**96** 195

Focused and complex on the nose with stone, sliced cooked apple and hints of toffee. Full-bodied, with a density and freshness and liveliness. Vivid and energetic. All about class here. Drink or hold.

### **Monteverro Chardonnay Toscana 2016**

**93** 160

Lovely floral and herbal intensity to this white, including lemon grass, lemon meringue, dried thyme, honeysuckle, apricots and jasmine. Very oily and phenolic, but the full-bodied palate really takes off with subtle citrus character, thanks to the steely acidity on offer. Drink now or hold.

## **Sardinia**

### **Sella & Mosca Vermentino di Gallura Superiore Monteoro 2019**

**93** 80

Dried lemon and cooked apple with mineral and lightly spiced pear aromas. White pepper. Full-bodied and intense with citrus and bitter lemon with honeysuckle flavors. Very intense and very long on the palate. Big upgrade in quality here. Drink now.

## Sicily

### **Cusumano Etna Bianco Alta Mora 2019**

**93** 80

A dense white with cooked apple and papaya with some floral and dried peach undertones. It's full-bodied with gorgeous fruit and intensity. Really flavorful with a pleasing chalky and mineraly undertone and texture. Drink now.

### **Cusumano Grillo Sicilia Shamaris 2019**

**92** 80

Plenty of dried lemons and pears with fresh apples and minerals on the nose. Flowers too like daffodils. It's full and layered with similar character on the palate with a creamy texture and a fresh and vivid finish. Seriously done as always. Drink now.

## RED

## Campania

### **Donnachiara Aglianico Irpinia 2017**

**94** 100

Now here's a really exciting Aglianico. Full of life, it's overflowing with sea urchin, oyster shell, hot stones, blackberries and steak tartare. As for the palate, it's full in body, but very silky and sleek, tiptoeing with the grace of a ballerina through vibrant but concentrated dark fruit. Long and complex. Amazing value! Drink from 2023.

### **Donnachiara Taurasi 2016**

**94** 140

Fabulous aromas of crushed berries, wet earth, spice and dried meat. Some black pepper as well. It's full-bodied and layered with plenty of fruit and a juicy finish. A gorgeous young Taurasi. One for the cellar but delicious already.

### **Nativ Irpinia Campi Taurasini Eremo San Quirico 2016**

**91** 90

A very bold red with a wealth of ripe dark fruit; the barrage of dried elderberries, blackberries, vanilla, smoke and dried meats is awe-inspiring. Full-bodied, stocky and robust, it rattles off a plethora of plush brambleberries and even beetroot soup. Against the odds, this holds together. Drink from 2023.

### **Nativ Aglianico Irpinia Blu Onice 2017**

**94** 120

You don't notice the sumptuous blackberries and elderberries at first, because they're hiding behind an array of lightly toasted herbs and spices. The full-bodied palate is also more held-back than you might expect, as firm, steely tannins and meandering acidity cut a sleek form. Even so, this is a bold, impressive wine, all the better for its lack of overindulgence. Drink from 2023.

## Piemonte

### **Cordero di Montezemolo Barolo Monfalletto 2016**

**95** 140

The fruit here straddles the cross-junction between red and black, delivering black raspberries, red and dark plums and cherries and double-colored licorice stick. Tightly wound with stringy tannins and loads of savory undertones to match boisterous cherries and berries. Medium-to full-bodied and very mineraly on the finish. Drink from 2023.

### **Cordero di Montezemolo Barolo Enrico VI 2015**

**97** 190

Coal dust and graphite with some very attractive, sweetly ripe plums and cherries. Tarry accents, too. The juicy tannins are captivating, drawing fresh and zesty red-fruit flavors in long, upbeat fashion. Launches long and holds in succulent, impressive form. Drink this from 2022.

<b>Damilano Barolo Cannubi 2015</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>210</b>
Lots of dried flowers, mushrooms and earth to the ripe and exotic fruit. Full body, chewy and intense tannins and a flavorful finish. Needs lots of time to come together. Try in 2024.		
<b>Damilano Barolo Lecinquevigne 2015</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>130</b>
Rose petals, dried cedar, hazelnuts and tobacco. Very structured and powerful, but with enough generous fruit not to be hard nor intrusive. Full-bodied and long on the finish. Drink from 2021.		
<b>Giovanni Sordo Barolo Rocche di Castiglione 2015</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>110</b>
Attractive and charming aromas of potpourri and dried roses make a very elegant, floral impression with subtly leafy nuances. The palate has an elegant core of light, cherry and strawberry flavors with very elegant, long tannins. Super pure now. Give this until 2023 at least to fill out.		
<b>Giovanni Sordo Barolo Gabutti 2016</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>180</b>
Lots of candied apple and cranberry character on the nose. Medium-to full-bodied with pretty, juicy and chewy tannins. Cedar, mushroom and tobacco undertones. Better after 2022.		
<b>Parusso Barolo 2016</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>130</b>
A very ripe and decadent red with so much depth and richness. Full-bodied, deep and rich. A big combination of ripe fruit and tannins. Give this a few years to come together. Better after 2022.		
<b>Parusso Barolo Bussia 2016</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>160</b>
Wild strawberries and plums with spices, dried flowers and hazelnuts. It's full-bodied, yet tight, fine and focused with lovely balance and finesse. Drink or hold.		
<b>Pio Cesare Barolo 2015</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>160</b>
Complex aromas of smoke, ash and dark fruits with a precision and intensity. Layered and gorgeous. Loads of dark fruit and perfume. Full-bodied with round and wonderfully polished tannins. Wonderful length and richness Goes on for minutes. Try in 2023 but already goes		
<b>Pio Cesare Barbaresco Il Bricco 2014</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>220</b>
Extremely perfumed aromas with dried flowers, light stems, fresh herbs and dried strawberries. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a linear and bright finish. So delicious now.		
<b>Poderi Aldo Conterno Barolo Romirasco 2014</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>360</b>
Plums and cherries with hint of cinnamon and dried flowers. Sandalwood, too. Medium-bodied, tight and focused. Chewy yet so focused and serious. Solid for the vintage. Drink in 2021.		
<b>Poderi Aldo Conterno Nebbiolo Langhe Il Favot 2016</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>120</b>
Notes of candied strawberries are nicely intermingled with hints of ripe stems and citrus. Medium to full body, fine but structured tannins and a rather long finish. The fruit is very well integrated and there's a whole load of richness to it, too. Drink now.		

## Sardinia

**Sella & Mosca Cannonau di Sardegna Riserva 2017** 92 90

Very pretty and pure blackberry and hints of bramble berry on the nose. It's full-bodied with round and creamy tannins and a delicious finish with light tar and smoke with some wet earth. Drink or hold.

## Sicily

**Feudo Maccari Nero d'Avola Sicilia Saia 2017** 94 90

Fascinating aromas of blackberries, tar, asphalt and flowers. Full body, firm and silky tannins and a bright and fruity finish. Yet in reserve. Needs some time to soften. Better after 2020.

**Contrada Santo Spirito di Passopisciaro Etna Rosso Animardente 2016** 93 100

A rich and silky red with blackberry, mineral and almond character. Medium to full body, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows focus and finesse. Best ever from here. Drink now or hold.

**Giudo Nerello Mascalese Sicilia Alberelli 2018** 95 100

The purity of fruit is all here with strawberry, lemon-peel and floral undertones. Goes to cranberries. It's medium-bodied with firm tannins and a bright, vivid and linear finish that keeps your palate clean.

## Toscana. Brunello di Montalcino

**Argiano Brunello di Montalcino 2015** 95 130

Very floral on the nose with plums, rose petals and freshly sliced porcini mushrooms. The palate is tight and compressed with beautiful ripe fruit, wet earth and cool, stone flavors. A structured and impressive wine. Drink after 2022.

**Casanova di Neri Brunello di Montalcino 2015** 94 140

There's beauty and drinkability to this wine that really is enticing with blueberry and cherry aromas, as well as hints of hot stone and licorice. Medium to full body, integrated tannins and a fresh and polished finish. Shows focus and brightness. Very drinkable now, but better in a year or two. Try in 2021.

**Casanova di Neri Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova 2015** 99 210

The purity of fruit in this wine really strikes you with black cherries, combined with sage, lavender and rosemary. Extremely aromatic. Full-bodied, yet so tight and polished with incredible tannin structure that gives the wine an endless mouth feel of caressing tannins, acidity and fruit. There's a fabulous saltiness and oyster-shell undertone to the fruit. Unique. Drinkable already, but this year there's the structure to last decades.

**Castiglion del Bosco Brunello di Montalcino 2015** 97 140

Wonderful aromas of flowers, plums, terracotta and white pepper. Intense, yet ever so subtle. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a long and intense finish. Shows excellent length. Drink after 2021.

**Ciaci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino 2015** 98 160

Extremely perfumed and decadent with dried flowers and spices and fresh mushrooms. Cherries, too. Full body. Solid core of fruit, yet ever so fine tannins. Goes on for minutes. Such beautifully crafted tannins. Drink after 2021.

<b>Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso 2013</b> A wealth of coffee and spice aromas with ripe fruit. Full body and round tannins. Delicious and rich. Flavorful finish. Opulent style. Drink or hold.	<b>94</b>	160
<b>Eredi Fuligni Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b> The purity of fruit on the nose is perfection with cherries, crushed raspberries, mineral, pumice and citrus fruit. Dust, too. Full body. Powerful, chewy tannins. So long and muscular, yet polished and formed. Most structured Brunello I have ever had from here. A wine for decades. Try after 2022.	<b>100</b>	245
<b>Eredi Fuligni Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2013</b> Very intense aromas of ripe dark fruit with plums and cherries, intermingled with aged meat, warm stones and sweet, dried-wood nuances. The concentrated palate has a suave and plush core with tannins building in impressive layers to hold a long, flavorful finish. Drink or hold.	<b>96</b>	210
<b>Frescobaldi Brunello di Montalcino Castelgiocondo 2015</b> This is a pure and beautiful Brunello with super fine and abundant tannins that are comprehensive and expansive. Builds on the palate. Full body. Round and firm with beautiful fruit and length. Lively and vivid. From organically grown grapes. Needs a year or two to soften, but already gorgeous.	<b>97</b>	120
<b>Giudo Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b> This is a splendid Brunello, showing extraordinary purity of sangiovese character. Cherry and floral aromas and flavors. Full-bodied with incredibly integrated tannins that seem like they are not there. But they are and are comprehensive on the palate. Great depth and agility. Just floats on the palate. Magic carpet. Drinkable, to enjoy the magic, but needs three or four years to come around.	<b>100</b>	300
<b>La Magia Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b> Intense aromas of blackberries, mushrooms, forest floor and wet earth. Full body and round, chewy tannins. Powerful palate. Persistent finish. Very structured. Give it three or four year to soften.	<b>96</b>	130
<b>La Rasina Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b> Lots of berry and mushroom aromas with hints of earth and cigar box. Full-bodied, deep and structured with lots of fruit in the center palate, framed by tannins. A serious and beautiful wine. Best ever? Better after 2021.	<b>96</b>	120
<b>La Rasina Brunello di Montalcino Persante 2015</b> Opulent Brunello with lots of ripe fruit and signs of toasted oak. Dried flowers, too. Full body and a dense center palate with cherry and berry character. Ripe tannins. Flavorful finish. New wine from here. This needs a few years to come together. Try after 2022.	<b>95</b>	130
<b>Livio Sassetti Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b> There's something ethereal in the nose with flowers, cherries, strawberries and shitake mushrooms. Full body. This grows on the palate with super tannin and fruit structure. So much berry flavor and round, caressing tannins that fill your mouth. Tight at the end. This needs four to five years to show its true greatness. Try after 2023.	<b>98</b>	160

<b>Livio Sassetti Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2012</b>	<b>95</b>	290
An extremely dense and complex red with dried berry, cherry, floral and spice. Full body, powerful with a wealth of fruit and chewy tannins. This really is intense and beautiful. Goes on for minutes. Big wine. Drink in 2021.		
<b>Luce della Vite Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b>	<b>100</b>	300
Amazing aromas of crushed berries, cherries, flowers, black truffles and wet earth, turning to violets and black tea. Extremely aromatic. Full-bodied, deep and profound with fantastically strong tannins that just melt into the wine. Fantastic length and intensity. Truly great. Drinkable, but better in 2024 and onwards.		
<b>Marchesi Antinori Brunello di Montalcino Pian delle Vigne 2015</b>	<b>94</b>	140
Quite reductive and earthy, but opens to show tidy cranberries and glazed red cherries. Hints of citrus and spice. Full-bodied and rich, but there's savory edge to the plush, juicy tannins, and lots of weight and density. Drink from 2024.		
<b>Renieri Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b>	<b>100</b>	195
Earthy aromas of bark, sand, truffles, graphite, rust, terracotta and sandalwood rise up from the deep with Burgundian poise; fruitier orange zest and preserved lemons glimmer in their wake, while riper incense and tar lurk in this dense forest of aromas. Physics itself gives way as the line between reduction and oxidation is blurred. There's such richness to the center palate, but the fruit there is vivacious and elegant, swaddled in robust but generous tannins that breach the outermost reaches of the mouth. The finish is hauntingly long, the after effects of the acidity unworldly. This is certainly in a quiet, reserved stage of evolution, and will need time to fully mature in bottle. Drink from 2025.		
<b>San Polino Brunello di Montalcino Helichrysum 2015</b>	<b>97</b>	170
Ripe boysenberries, tar, chestnuts, orange peel, dried cherries and tobacco. There's a beautiful interplay between the more subtle, citrus notes and darker red fruit, and nothing's out of kilt to the ripeness. Lots of powerful tannins take the full-bodied palate by storm, coating the mouth in layers of intense but fragrant red fruit and steamrolling this Brunello to a long, chewy conclusion. This is a contrastive wine ,built on the foundation of an intricate, wild tannin backbone, but framed in a vibrant and transparent package.		
<b>San Polino Brunello di Montalcino Helichrysum 2013</b>	<b>96</b>	180
A dense and layered red with gorgeous intensity and fruit with a full body, round and chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Powerful yet attractive and satisfying. Savory and intense. Drinkable but better in a year or two.		
<b>San Polo Brunello di Montalcino 2015</b>	<b>95</b>	140
The ripe red fruit here is so expressive and floral, featuring dried rose petals, hibiscus, poppies, dried strawberries and raspberries. It falls inwards on the palate, compressed and captivating, gathering rough-edged strands of tannins as it goes, threading them through an iron-fisted, central core of flavor and texture. Drink from 2025.		
<b>San Polo Brunello di Montalcino Podernovi 2015</b>	<b>97</b>	200
A dense and layered red with plum, cherry and chocolate character. Full body. Dense and ripe tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Shows layers of fruit and rich tannins. New and exciting wine from here. Try after 2022.		

<p><b>Siro Pacenti Brunello di Montalcino Vecchie Vigne 2015</b> <i>Wine of the Year</i></p> <p>This is very intense on the nose with blue fruit, cool stones, brambleberries and blackberries. Wet earth, too. Full-bodied and extremely dense and powerful with a super center palate of fruit and ripe yet compact tannins. Lightly chewy and expressive. Superb transparency and integration. Goes on for minutes. One of the best Brunellos I have tasted in my career. Try after 2021, but already amazing.</p>	<p><b>100</b>    295</p>
<p><b>Siro Pacenti Brunello di Montalcino Pelagrilli 2015</b></p> <p>Such lovely aromas of flowers and red fruit with some cedar and spice. Hot terra cotta. Full-bodied, very round and soft textured with beautiful fruit and balance. Fresh and vivid. Such balance and beauty. Drink or hold.</p>	<p><b>96</b>    110</p>
<p><b>Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino 2010</b></p> <p>Absolutely stunning aromas of nectarine, orange peel, sweet black cherry, plum, flower, licorice and mushroom. Full body with layers of ultra-fine tannins and hints of tangy acidity. Such beautiful length and beauty to this wine. It's powerful and structured but shows a gorgeous finesse and length. Truly wondrous. So long and refined. The texture is phenomenal. Better in 2016.</p>	<p><b>99</b>    250</p>
<p><b>Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino Madonna del Piano Riserva 2013</b></p> <p>This opens with savory, truffle and meaty aromas with a complex and quite cryptic nose that delivers a wealth of ripe plums and cherries, cedar and fresh, violet-like flowers, as well as some earthy nuances. The palate has a very sturdy, intense and power-charged core of rich plums and dark cherries, framed in quite fierce tannins that are so long. Super Brunello Riserva here with great potential. Try from 2022.</p>	<p><b>98</b>    310</p>
<p><b>Toscana. Chianti Classico</b></p> <p><b>Brancaia Chianti Classico Riserva 2016</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>92</b>    100</p>
<p><b>Carpineta Fontalpino Chianti Classico Dofana 2017</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>94</b>    10</p>
<p><b>Carpineta Fontalpino Chianti Classico Fontalpino 2018</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>90</b>    100</p>
<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>	<p><b>98</b>    140</p>



<b>Castello di Bossi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016</b>	<b>97</b>	150
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.		
<b>Castello di Querceto Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Picchio 2015</b>	<b>96</b>	130
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.		
<b>Frescobaldi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Tenuta Perano Rialzi 2016</b>	<b>96</b>	130
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.		
<b>Barone Ricasoli Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello di Brolio 2016</b>	<b>97</b>	140
There's lots of clove character here, but the fruit really shines through, offering up intense hibiscus, orange rind, cranberries, Thai basil and dark chocolate. Full-bodied and really structured and refined with an agile core of red berries and savory undertones. Long but minerally on the finish. Drink from 2024.		
<b>Barone Ricasoli Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ceniprimo 2017</b>	<b>96</b>	135
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.		
<b>Toscana. Super Tuscan</b>		
<b>Argiano Toscana Solengo 2016</b>	<b>98</b>	150
Very complex aromas of fresh flowers, blackberries and black licorice follow through to a full body, integrated tannins and a long and linear finish. Focused and racy. The tannins are so polished. Better in 2022, but already such a joy to try.		
<b>Bertinga Toscana 2016</b>	<b>93</b>	110
Extremely well crafted with tannins that are very resolved and polished. The palate is medium-to full-bodied. Dark fruit, salt and crushed-cement undertones. Extremely long and caressing. A blend of half merlot and half sangiovese. Drink or hold.		
<b>Bertinga Toscana Volta di Bertinga 2016</b>	<b>97</b>	145
This is a pure merlot with violets, blueberries and hints of minerals and black truffles. Black olives, too. Full-bodied, yet so tight and polished with a reserved and agile mouth feel. Linear and racy. Superb quality for this first released vintage. Try after 2022.		
<b>Bibi Graetz Toscana Testamatta 2018</b>	<b>97</b>	210
Very subtle aromas of cherries, bark, black truffles and flowers. Hints of crushed stones. It's full-bodied, yet very tight and solid with a very tight, minerally structure. Very long and intense. Racy and bright at the end. Powerful, orange-peel and citrus-fruit undertones. Salty and minerally. This needs time to develop in the bottle. Extremely structured. A wine not to touch until after 2023.		

<b>Bibi Graetz Toscana Colore 2018</b>	<b>99</b>	295
<p>What intense aromas of cherries and raspberries! Then it turns to flowers and orange peel. Roses, too. This is really full and powerful with layers of ripe tannins. It's super fine-tanned, but shows wonderful length and intensity. A great expression of Lamole in Chianti Classico with ancient vines. Some older than 100 years. Best ever? Superb. Try after 2024 and onwards.</p>		
<b>Brancaia Toscana Ilatraia 2016</b>	<b>95</b>	150
<p>This is really impressive with roasted blackberries, thyme, forest floor, pine needles, conifer, iodine, mint and light vanilla. Powerful and muscular, but agile and floral, this sweeps through decadent layers of dark fruit, while keeping the linear acidity constantly in view. Long and very structured on the finish. Drink from 2021.</p>		
<b>Caiarossa Toscana 2016</b>	<b>97</b>	155
<p>Very complex aromas of crushed berries, yet the fresh herbs, dried berries, sandalwood and Spanish cedar add complexity and brightness. Full-bodied with tannins that melt into the wine. Savory. Cabernet franc, merlot, syrah, cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot with a touch of alicante and sangiovese. Better after 2021.</p>		
<b>Caiarossa Toscana Aria di Caiarossa 2016</b>	<b>93</b>	100
<p>This is very perfumed and pretty with lavender, dried-flower and blackberry character. Medium body, firm and lightly chewy tannins and vivid acidity. This combination gives the wine energy and focus. Blend of merlot, cabernet franc, syrah, cabernet sauvignon and alicante. Drink or hold.</p>		
<b>Castellare di Castellina Toscana I Sodi di S. Niccolò 2015</b>	<b>96</b>	170
<p>Explosive fruit on the nose with dark cherries and plums, but there are also lots of fresh fragrances here, including spearmint, eucalyptus, forest floor and boysenberries. The palate is very pure and focused, the driven acidity providing a welcome counterpoint to the layers of rich, dark fruit. A blend of 85 per cent sangiovese and 15 per cent malvasia nera. Drink from 2022.</p>		
<b>Rocca di Frassinello Maremma Toscana 2017</b>	<b>92</b>	90
<p>A very bold and decadent expression of a Super Tuscan, this shows blackberry pastille, eucalyptus, vanilla and tar. Despite being dense, full-bodied and very chewy, it manages to hold together. Has an almost oil- or petrol-like texture. Drink from 2021.</p>		
<b>Castello di Querceto Colli della Toscana Centrale Cignale 2013</b>	<b>94</b>	150
<p>A big and ripe red with chocolate, coffee bean, toasted oak and a ripe fruit. Full body, layered and juicy. An intense wine. Better in 2019 when it softens.</p>		
<b>Prima Pietra Toscana 2016</b>	<b>96</b>	155
<p>This is a fabulous red with bright aromas of dark berries, mint, spices and blueberries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Best wine ever from here. A blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, and petit verdot. Needs at least three to four years to come together. Try in 2021.</p>		
<b>Collemassari Montecucco Rosso Riserva 2016</b>	<b>91</b>	90
<p>Aromas of cherries and watermelon follow through to a medium body, light tannins and a fresh finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.</p>		

<b>Grattamacco Bolgheri Superiore 2016</b>	<b>95</b>	150
So much rosemary and tobacco, highlighting the currants and other fruit on the nose. Medium body and firm, silky tannins. Balanced and fresh finish. Remains subtle and complex. From organically grown grapes. Best after 2020.		
<b>Fattoria Le Pupille Maremma Toscana Saffredi 2018</b>	<b>97</b>	170
A fantastic nose to this with currant, sage, rosemary and rose-petal character. Sweet tobacco and spicy chocolate, too. Very complex. The palate shows lovely depth of fruit with blackberries, blackcurrants and fine tannins. It's racy and refined with a direct, focused palate. Just a baby. A blend of cabernet sauvignon 60%, merlot 32% and petite verdot 8%. This needs at least two or three years to soften. Try in 2023.		
<b>Fattoria Le Pupille Syrah Toscana Le Pupille 2016</b>	<b>96</b>	165
Fabulous complexity on the nose with crushed blackberries, chocolate, walnuts and tar. Lots of dried flowers. Full body. Layered and creamy with superb tannin texture and length. Hints of stone. Half made in amphora and half in casks. Aged one year in old casks. Drink or hold. 3,500 bottles made.		
<b>Monteverro Toscana 2016</b>	<b>98</b>	260
This is another incredible edition of this wine. The fruit pops straight out with pure blackberries, blackcurrants and blueberries. Then, if that wasn't enough, the nose reveals dark herbs, citrus, iodine, crushed stones and pressed violets. The quality of the tannins blows you away, as they take you on a journey through layers of dark fruit, supported by cutting acidity and savory undertones. Very long on the refined yet chewy finish. Drink from 2025.		
<b>Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore 2017</b>	<b>97</b>	360
A big, rich wine for the vintage, yet poised and lively with firm, chewy tannins that give form and intensity to the wine. It shows loads of blackberry, blackcurrant and walnut flavors. Ripe yet polished tannins. Give this three or four years to come together.		
<b>Ornellaia Bolgheri Le Serre Nuove 2017</b>	<b>93</b>	160
An integrated, ripe red with currant, berry and light tobacco character. Medium to full body, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Second wine of Ornellaia. Lovely now, but better in a year or two. Try after 2021.		
<b>Petra Toscana Potenti 2015</b>	<b>94</b>	110
Underbrush, bracken and other forest aromas spring from the glass, before being joined by fruitier notes of blackberries and mulberries, as well as some tobacco. Full body, ripe and chewy tannins and a grainy finish. Drink in 2020.		
<b>Petra Toscana Querce Gobbe 2016</b>	<b>94</b>	110
A very attractive red that shows red berries, fresh herbs and hazelnuts. I love the graininess on the palate, supporting compact fruit and refreshed by bright acidity. Pure merlot. Drink now or hold.		
<b>Petrolo Valdarno di Sopra Galatrona 2018</b>	<b>98</b>	180
Aromas of blackberries, black olives, green olive, and violets. It's really aromatic. Full-bodied, yet so precise and polished with creamy, layered tannins that caress your palate. It's extremely persistent and goes on for minutes. Only 40% new wood. Really balanced. All about purity and complexity From organically grown grapes. Try after 2023.		

<b>Petrolo Valdarno di Sopra Bòggina A 2018</b>	<b>95</b>	150
The purity of fruit here is impressive with cherries, plums and highlights of grilled meat and wet earth. Some tile, too. Full-bodied with chewy tannins that are pure and polished. Lots of fruit at the end, but not overdone. From organically grown grapes. Fermented and aged in amphora. Drink or hold.		
<b>Poggio Argenteria Toscana Capatosta 2017</b>	<b>93</b>	100
Since the dried cherries here are complemented by very fresh sage and citrus, you would never guess this wine has 15% alcohol. Meanwhile, the tannins are very tense and quite powerful for this price point and the acidity is mineral and mouthwatering. Drink from 2021.		
<b>Poggio Argenteria Cabernet Franc Toscana Poggioraso 2017</b>	<b>94</b>	110
Very fresh and floral aromas here of violets, hyacinths, crushed stones and oyster shell. Despite its flowery, bonhomous appeal, there are some mouth-puckering tannins that coat the mouth in deeply flavored waves of dark fruit. Vivid style. Drink from 2021.		
<b>Renieri Toscana Regina di Renieri 2016</b>	<b>98</b>	170
Wow. Amazing nose of crushed berries, tea, iodine, oyster shell and bark. Forest flowers, too. Full body. Dense and layered with great intensity and length. Pure syrah. Incredible. Drink or hold.		
<b>Tenuta di Biserno Toscana Biserno 2016</b>	<b>94</b>	280
Complex aromas of dark fruit and smoky meat with hints of black licorice. Subtle yet rich. Full bodied, very velvety and round yet fine grained in the tannins. Extremely long and juicy. Better after 2021.		
<b>Tenuta di Biserno Toscana Il Pino Di Biserno 2017</b>	<b>93</b>	140
Beautiful ripe dark berries with dried flowers and sandalwood on the nose. Full and rich yet in check by the fine and firm tannins that give composure to this pretty red. Needs a little time to soften but a beauty already. Drink after 2021.		
<b>Luce della Vite Toscana 2017</b>	<b>97</b>	210
Dark-berry, walnut, cedar and violet aromas with just a hint of chocolate. Full-bodied, layered and rich with ripe tannins and a vivid finish. Shows energy and a velvety texture. Deep and long. Give it two or three years to soften. Try after 2022.		
<b>Tenuta Sette Ponti Toscana Oreno 2017</b>	<b>95</b>	170
A fresh yet rich and dense red with cherries, berries, light cream and hints of hazelnuts. Full body, soft and layered tannins and a fruity finish. Reserved and tight. Shows balance for 2017. Better after 2021.		
<b>Tenuta Sette Ponti Valdarno di Sopra Vigna Dell'Impero 1935 2016</b>	<b>96</b>	210
Complex aromas of fresh flowers and cherries follow through to a full body, firm and very silky tannins and a long, long finish. Driven and fine. Drink from 2022.		
<b>Tua Rita Toscana Redigaffi 2016</b>	<b>99</b>	390
The aromas of violets, roses and lavender are captivating. Turns to spices and hazelnuts. So complex. This full-bodied wine grows and grows on the palate, yet it remains agile and fresh. Plenty of energy in the palate. More powerful than the perfect 2015. We will see which is better in the end. Great wine. Try in 2022.		

**Tua Rita Toscana Rosso Redigaffi 7 2013**

Aromas of dried herbs, currants and berries with hints of wet earth. Meaty undertones. White truffle. Full-bodied, dense and layered with loads of berry and plum character, as well as walnut shell and tobacco. Dark berries at the end. Needs time to come completely together. A limited-edition wine from merlot vineyards planted in 1988. 2020 bottles made.

**Veneto****Zenato Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore Ripassa 2015**

94 110

This is so refined and focused with layers of fruit and ultra-fine tannins. Plenty of chocolate and spice, too. Medium to full body, integrated tannins and a focused finish. Drink or hold.

**Zenato Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Sergio Zenato Riserva 2013**

99 280

This is a huge and impressive wine, but somehow graceful and subtle. It packs an eclectic array of brambleberry compote, violet essence, eucalyptus, oyster shell, pure iodine, vanilla, resin, tar, cassis, plum liqueur and hot stones. You can only stand back in awe as one shade of fruit appears after the next and a barrage of tannin coats your mouth. Yet, this is gentle, agile and flowing. Nevertheless, its main attraction remains its unashamed, monumental power and muscularity. A haunting wine that sends chills down your spine. An epoch-defining wine for Veneto that harks back to the legends of the '50s and '60s. Perhaps the best Amarone ever made. Impossible to resist now, but better in 2022.