

Italy, Tuscany: Icon Wines



This report covers a few of the icon wines of Tuscany, such as Tignanello, Maseto, Ornellaia, Cepparello, Tenuta di Trinoro, Biondi-Santi and many more familiar names.

In a sign of the growing market value of Italian wine, there has been a lot of breaking news in recent months, especially with regards to sales and acquisitions of benchmark wineries. Here are a few headlines:

Bibi Graetz – Maverick winemaker Bibi Graetz has unveiled three new wines made of Sangiovese, Colorino and Canaiolo, respectively. You will find them reviewed here.

Biondi-Santi – This iconic estate in Montalcino was sold to the Paris-based EPI holding company in 2016. In 2022, the same group purchased Isole e Olena in Chianti Classico.

Duemani – Elena Celli and Luca D’Attoma sold their organic and biodynamic estate Duemani to Tenute del Leone Alato in May 2023.

Fattoria le Pupille – Consulting winemaker Luca D’Attoma left Fattoria le Pupille. Elisabetta Geppetti’s talented son Ettore Rizzi is now in charge of winemaking.

Isole e Olena – Following the retirement of Isole e Olena founder Paolo De Marchi, this iconic estate was sold to the French EPI Group run by Christofer Descours in June 2022.

Marchesi Antinori – The Antinori family made headlines around the world on May 2023 when it confirmed the 100% acquisition of Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars in Napa Valley.

Maseto/Ornellaia – Estate Director Axel Heinz shocked the Italian wine world earlier this year when he announced he was leaving Tuscany and heading back to Bordeaux to join Château Lascombes as CEO.

Tenuta di Trinoro – Following the death of beloved winemaker Andrea Franchetti in 2021, his son Benjamin has taken over the estate.



Here is a selfie of me (far left), with Marchese Piero Antinori (center) and Managing Director Renzo Cotarella (center-right, in the dark jacket). We are surrounded by a new generation at Marchesi Antinori (from left to right): Dora Pacciani, Sara Pontremolesi and Niccolò Antinori.

2021 Tenuta di Trinoro • Bianco di Trinoro

Rating

93

Release Price

\$60

Drink Date

2023 - 2030

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

Made with Semillon in cement and stainless steel, the Tenuta di Trinoro 2021 Bianco di Trinoro opens to a very light golden color with crisp citrusy flavors that are both tart and sour at this young age. The wine is endowed with minerality, grapefruit, pear and quince. There is a crunchy or textured aspect to this wine that sets it apart. Only 1,700 bottles were made.

2021 Tenuta di Trinoro • Le Cupole

Rating

94

Release Price

\$39

Drink Date

2023 - 2035

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

The 2021 Le Cupole (a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot) is the well-priced entry-level red from one of the most prolific and creative wine estates in Tuscany. Le Cupole is velvety and full-bodied with dark fruit, dried cherry and sweet earth or terracotta. This is an incredible value. Fermentation takes place in stainless steel, and the wine is matured in neutral barrique and cement. Some 100,000 bottles were released.



2020 Tenuta di Trinoro

Rating

97

Release Price

\$490

Drink Date

2024 - 2048

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

The flagship wine from Tenuta di Trinoro is this gorgeous blend of 92% Cabernet Franc and 8% Merlot. The 2020 Tenuta di Trinoro follows on the heels of the 2019 vintage that earned a perfect 100-point score. The 2020 vintage is more open-knit for sure, but it offers a very special view onto Cabernet Franc in particular. The plush black cherry softness of the Merlot is aligned magically with the dark intensity and tannic power of the Cabernet Franc. The fruit ripeness is impeccable and there are no green tones, nor are there any overripe nuances. Everything comes together with balance. For the first time, this wine is being released with an extra year of bottle age. 6,000 bottles were made.



2020 Tenuta di Trinoro • Campo di Camagi

Rating

95+

Release Price

\$120

Drink Date

2024 - 2045

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

Made with Cabernet Franc, the Tenuta di Trinoro 2020 Campo di Camagi shows a level of sharpness and precision that you don't get as clearly in the other wines in this series of single-vineyard releases. There is more oak spice with redwood and cedar, along with crushed granite and pencil shaving. The wine is linear and delivers big intensity to the palate, and it has the structure and acidity to accompany a long drinking window. Production is 2,000 bottles.



2020 Tenuta di Trinoro • Campo di Magnacosta

Rating

94

Release Price

\$120

Drink Date

2024 - 2040

Reviewed by

Monica Lerner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

One of three single-vineyard expressions of Cabernet Franc produced at Tenuta di Trinoro, the 2020 Campo di Magnacosta comes from a warm climate and has an almost milky feel with a creamy texture backed by cacao, toasted espresso bean, sweet soil and lots of extracted dark fruit. This vintage doesn't deliver the chiseled pencil shaving aromas that you usually get with Cabernet Franc, but it does show lots of richness and powdery tannins. I found this wine to be slightly more accessible than the others. Only 1,400 bottles were released.



2020 Tenuta di Trinoro • Campo di Tenaglia

Rating

96

Release Price

\$120

Drink Date

2024 - 2045

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

The Tenuta di Trinoro 2020 Campo di Tenaglia (made with 100% Cabernet Franc) opens to an inky and impenetrable appearance and full-bodied texture. The bouquet is absolutely packed tight with dark fruit, spice, cured tobacco and mineral hints of granite or iron ore. The wine feels very young, and it has the textural fiber and firmness to withstand a long aging trajectory. Production is limited to 1,400 bottles.



2020 Tenuta di Trinoro • Le Cupole

Rating

93

Release Price

\$39

Drink Date

2023 - 2033

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

The Tenuta di Trinoro 2020 Le Cupole (with the bright pink label) offers terrific value. You get a glassful of sunny Tuscany and rich intensity at an affordable price. The wine is packed tight with black fruit, spice and leather, making for a classic bouquet, especially for a warm corner of Tuscany, off the beaten track, in Sarteano. The blend is 49% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Franc, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot. Some 90,000 bottles were made.



2020 Tenuta di Trinoro • Palazzi

Rating

97

Release Price

\$290

Drink Date

2024 - 2045

Reviewed by

Monica Larner

Issue Date

31st May 2023

Source

End of May 2023, The Wine Advocate

The 2020 Palazzi is 100% Merlot made according to the highest standards by a winemaker, the late Andrea Franchetti, who strived for perfection. From his beloved Tenuta di Trinoro in Sarteano, with its infinite skies and rolling landscapes, this wine shows plump fruit, blackberry, plum, spice and campfire ash. From a hot vintage, the fruit is beautifully ripened but certainly not in an exaggerated manner. The wine shows softness, tension and supple texture. This bottle awards a lot of intensity and charm. Only 5,000 were made.

