

THE RICHES



OF TUSCANY

THE LATEST RELEASES
SUCCEED IN A RANGE OF
STYLES, FROM POWERFUL
CHIANTIS TO ELEGANT
SUPER TUSCANS

By
Bruce Sanderson

Photograph by
JEFF HARRIS





Fattoria di Basciano proprietors Paolo and Annarita Masi produce outstanding value-priced reds from their estate vineyards at the heart of Chianti Rufina.

THE panoply of new releases from Tuscany strikes a deep vein of quality, with a trio of potentially stellar vintages on offer. Marked by periods of both dryness and rain, the generally warmer 2021, 2020 and 2019 harvests give fans of Tuscan wines plenty of opportunities for exploration, whether you're looking for designated areas such as Chianti Classico, Montepulciano and Bolgheri or seeking out the region's many super Tuscans.

The 2021 and 2019 vintages were more regular in terms of their growing conditions, meaning cold winters, warm summers, well-timed rain and a significant contrast between daytime and nighttime temperatures leading up to harvest. The 2020 vintage was more of an outlier, with its spring frost and earlier harvest, resulting in bottlings that Castello di Ama co-owner and winemaker Marco Pallanti describes as "sumptuous, powerful, elegant wines with formidable harmony."

Broadly speaking, the reds from 2021 and 2019 exhibit darker fruit flavors and firm, vibrant structures, whereas the more generous 2020s fall primarily into the red fruit camp. That said, Tuscany is a large region and there are always variations from place to place, not to mention across an array of grape varieties.

Vintages over the past two decades have mostly yielded quality at the outstanding level of 90 to 94 points on *Wine Spectator's* 100-point scale or in the classic range of 95-plus. This is a better track record than that of the 1990s, '80s and '70s. Indeed, the past 20 years have been a golden age for Tuscany, spurred by investments

in winemaking and viticulture, including restructuring the region's vineyards and greater attention to detail in the cellars. That's not to say there aren't some misfires, particularly when it comes to wines lacking the concentration, texture or ripe fruit to offset the new oak that many Tuscan reds are aged in. These wines are in the minority, but it's important to note where the region's weak spots lie.

Although the 2020 vintage represents about a third of the total number of wines in this report, many of the premier labels from 2020—including Chianti Classico *gran selezioni* and *riservas*, leading super Tuscans, and single-vineyard and *riserva* bottlings of *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*—are just reaching U.S. retailers and restaurants now. The 2021 and 2019 harvests are also well-represented, with about 20% of the total each, yet the 2019s stand out on this year's list of top-rated wines due to the high quality of the vintage. A handful of 2020s and late-release 2018s also top the charts.

Overall, the level of quality represented by the vintages under review is impressive, with 72% of the nearly 575 wines blind-tasted since my previous report on Tuscany ("Perfect Balance," Oct. 31, 2022) earning scores of 90 points or higher, including 49 rated classic. This figure does not include the Brunellos di Montalcino I reviewed this year from the 2018 and 2017 vintages, which I covered in a separate report ("Old-School Brunello," June 30, 2023).

Focusing in on 2020, I give the vintage an overall rating of 94 points for Bolgheri and Maremma and 94 for Chianti and Chianti



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Classico. Pulling back to look at all the vintages on offer, you'll find current releases of both age-worthy reds and ready-to-drink whites, as well as fine examples of Tuscany's traditional dessert wine, Vin Santo, from harvests dating back to 2008.

Leading the charge this year is the Antinori Toscana Solaia 2019 (98 points, \$450), featuring intense black currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit wrapped in accents of cedar, Mediterranean scrub and toasty oak, with a mineral streak underlining it all. Decades of winemaking experience at Antinori and small changes along the way have greatly benefited this signature bottling.

"What changed Solaia was having the vineyard as a reference point," explains Antinori CEO Renzo Cotarella. "We began vinifying parcel by parcel [in the 1990s], and the work became more precise and consistent. Since 2015, we have had a string of great vintages." That same year, Cotarella and his team also began blending the different grape components in January following harvest and malolactic conversion, nine to 12 months earlier than previously.

The year's other high-scorer is a relatively new cuvée from Andrea Cortonesi of Uccelliera in Montalcino, the Toscana Costabate 2016 (98, \$375/1.5L), offering a majestic medley of blackberry, black currant, eucalyptus, menthol, wild rosemary and mineral flavors.

Just a notch below are a number of 2019s earning 97 points. Carnasciale's classy Toscana Il Caberlot 2019 (97, \$285) is complex, elegant and supple in texture; Castello di Ama's dark and brooding Chianti Classico Vigneto Bellavista Gran Selezione 2019 (97, \$300) shows fine balance and harmony; and Le Macchiole's graceful Toscana Messorio 2019 (97, \$350) is marked by new oak at this stage yet remains pure.



Castello di Ama's Pallanti describes his 2019s as richer than 2018, with similar elegance but more volume. "The quality of the wines is really outstanding for power, freshness and balance," he says. "Since the beginning of the fermentation all the grapes showed perfect varietal compounds, good balance and amazing harmony."

All of Tuscany's leading denominations are represented among this report's highest-rated wines, from the hills of Chianti Classico to the coastal areas of Bolgheri to the inland region of Montepulciano in the south. The top-scorers also represent multiple harvests, from 2020 back to 2016.

From the Chianti Classico area, there are a number of classic-rated offerings to seek out. Isole & Olena's sumptuous and expressive Toscana Cepparello 2020 (96, \$150) is made from 100% Sangiovese; Castello di Ama's dense, burly Chianti Classico Vigneto La Casuccia Gran Selezione 2019 (96, \$300) offers succulent flavors; Castello di Bossi's solidly built Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2019 (96, \$42) features a beautiful core of fruit; and San Giusto a Rentennano's taut and linear Sangiovese Toscana Percarlo 2019 (96, \$145) has a silky texture and terrific energy.

A pair of 96-point 2018s also hail from Chianti Classico. The muscular Castello di Monsanto Chianti Classico Il Poggio Gran Selezione 2018 (96, \$80) offers both savory and fruity notes, while the rich, mineraly Rocca di



Capezana is one of the top estates in the small appellation of Carmignano, where Cabernet Sauvignon thrives on the sloping hillsides.

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Montegrossi Chianti Classico San Marcellino Gran Selezione 2018 (96, \$80) boosts its Sangiovese with a dash of Pugnitello.

"Overall, 2018 can be considered a cooler vintage than 2019," says Laura Bianchi, whose family owns Castello di Monsanto. "The main difference between the two vintages is that in 2019 we had a more regular season because the rain and the warmth arrived in the perfect moments. In 2018 we had a warm summer but with some extreme rainy days during August. In September we had a succession of sunny days with considerable day-night temperature variation and a few days of light rain, allowing the grapes in our area to achieve the expected level of phenolic and aromatic ripeness."

In Bolgheri, along the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea, Bordeaux grape varieties are the stars. Here, the top-rated wines are Masseto's Toscana 2020 (97, \$860), a complex Merlot with a luscious texture, offering saturated plum, blackberry, black olive, iron, tobacco and toasty spice flavors, and Tenuta San Guido's Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 2020 (97, \$275), which relies on Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc for its notes of black currant, blackberry, iron, sweet tobacco and Mediterranean herbs. Ornellaia's Bolgheri Superiore 2020 (96, \$310), a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, beckons with aromas of blackberry, black currant, anise, cedar, vanilla and tobacco that



Since the 1960s, Elisabetta Fagioli has built her Montenedoli estate into one of San Gimignano's most distinctive producers.

lead to a sleek and open palate.

Just south of Bolgheri lies Suvereto, an area with excellent soils that are the source for some of Maremma's best reds. This is the home of Tua Rita, whose flagship Toscana Redigaffi bottling is made from 100% Merlot. The 2020 (95, \$330) is a luscious, silky red that shows finesse and detail despite its richness, with deep aromas of black cherry and blackberry that lead to notes of chocolate, coffee, vanilla and mineral on the complex aftertaste.

For the 2020 vintage, owner Stefano Frascolla and his winemaking team aged the Redigaffi a few months less than the typical 18 months, in barrels with higher toast. Their belief is that in warmer years with quicker harvests, the concentration of the wine, as well

***THE* PAST 20 YEARS HAVE BEEN A GOLDEN AGE FOR TUSCANY, SPURRED BY INVESTMENTS IN WINEMAKING AND VITICULTURE.**

as its tannins, can handle more toasting and achieve enough oxygenation to express the Merlot fruit well.

From vineyards near San Gimignano, on the Montenedoli estate owned and managed by Elisabetta Fagioli, comes the Toscana Sono Montenedoli 2016 (97, \$85), a pure Sangiovese that features silkiness offset by refined tannins and vibrant acidity, setting the stage for ripe black cherry, blackberry, Mediterranean herb, iron and tobacco aromas and flavors. Just west of Florence lies Carmignano, where a tradition with Cabernet Sauvignon is on display in the wines of Capezzana, one of the area's leading estates. Its Carmignano Villa di Capezzana 10 Anni Library Release 2013 (95, \$67), comprised of Sangiovese with 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, is maturing nicely, showing notes of ripe, sweet black currant, blackberry and black cherry.

Moving southward to Montepulciano, look for the Dei Toscana Sancta Catharina 2017 (95, \$65), a smooth Merlot laced with plum, blackberry, leather and mineral flavors, while in a remote corner of the Val d'Orcia, where the southeastern part of Tuscany meets Umbria and Lazio, you'll find Tenuta di Trinoro, a sprawling estate founded by the late Andrea Franchetti and now managed by his son Benjamin. Trinoro's Toscana 2020 (96, \$420), a blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, is a mouthwatering and harmonious red, exuding flavors of black currant, blackberry, black olive, violet, cedar and graphite, and its Toscana Palazzi 2020 (96, \$220), a pure Merlot, displays black cherry and blackberry fruit accented by olive, wild herbs and mineral.

Chianti Classico and the greater Chianti region and its sub-zones are typically the best source of value in Tuscany. This year is no exception, particularly from the 2021 vintage, which is shaping up to be superb. Castello di Meleto's sleek and polished Chianti Classico 2021 (93, \$24) and Castello di Monsanto's succulent and intense Chianti Classico 2021 (93, \$20) are prime examples. For more widely available labels, try the elegant Antinori Chianti Classico Pèppoli 2021 (90, \$25) or the fruit-filled Castello Banfi Chianti Classico Riserva 2019 (90, \$22)

Other well-priced options from Chianti include Fattoria di Basciano's supple Chianti Rufina 2020 (90, \$16) and Enrico Pierazuoli's lively Chianti Montalbano 2022 (90, \$16), along with a pair

Bruce Sanderson's Recommended Wines From Tuscany

Nearly 575 wines were reviewed for this report, along with more than 100 Brunellos di Montalcino. A free alphabetical list is available at WineSpectator.com/TuscanyAlpha103123. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
ANTINORI Toscana Solaia 2019 Intense black currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit is wrapped in accents of toasty oak, with terrific balance, vigor and length.	98	\$450
UCCELLIERA Toscana Costabate 2016 Ripe, expressive and harmonious, this majestic red offers blackberry, black currant, eucalyptus, menthol, wild rosemary and mineral flavors.	98	\$375 1.5L
CASTELLO DI AMA Chianti Classico Vigneto Bellavista Gran Selezione 2019 Dark and brooding, this evokes violet, black currant and black cherry accented by wild herbs and spices, with fine balance and harmony.	97	\$300
CARNASCIALE Toscana Il Caberlot 2019 A classy red, complex and delineated, yet elegant and supple, with black currant, blackberry, violet, cedar, rosemary and mineral flavors.	97	\$285
FATTORIA DI FELSINA Vin Santo del Chianti Classico 2015 Exquisite, with flavors of brown butter, caramel, molasses, gingerbread and roasted walnut riding the vibrant structure. Impeccably balanced.	97	\$65 375ml
LE MACCHIOLE Toscana Messorio 2019 Well-marked by new oak, with vanilla and toasty spices around a core of plum, black cherry, earth and cedar. Gracelul and balanced.	97	\$350
MASSETO Toscana 2020 This has a full, rich timbre, with a luscious texture and saturated plum, blackberry, black olive, iron, tobacco and toasty spice flavors.	97	\$860
MONTENIDOLI Toscana Sono Montenedoli 2016 Pure and elegant, with silkiness offset by vibrant acidity, showing notes of ripe black cherry, blackberry, herbs, iron and tobacco.	97	\$85
TENUTA SAN GUIDO Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 2020 Flavors of black currant, blackberry, iron, tobacco and herbs mark this elegant, tensile red, showing superb harmony and freshness.	97	\$275
CASTELLO DI AMA Chianti Classico Vigneto La Casuccia Gran Selezione 2019 Packed with succulent flavors of plum, blackberry and black cherry, this broad red has a dense, burly structure, accented by iron and earth.	96	\$300
CASTELLO DI BOSSI Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2019 There's purity to the cherry, strawberry, rose, mineral and herb flavors in this solidly built red, which has excellent balance and length.	96	\$42
CAPEZZANA Vin Santo di Carmignano Riserva 2015 Though underscored by vibrant acidity, this sweet white offers toffee, butterscotch, walnut, orange zest and multigrain toast flavors.	96	\$96
FATTORIA DI FELSINA Chianti Classico Colonia Gran Selezione 2019 A racy style defined by black cherry, blackberry, black currant, Tuscan scrub and mineral flavors, this is linear and well-delineated.	96	\$165
ISOLE & OLENA Toscana Cepparello 2020 Expressive and sumptuous from the get-go, this features cherry, strawberry, rose, orange peel, mineral and Tuscan herb flavors.	96	\$150
CASTELLO DI MONSANTO Chianti Classico Il Poggio Gran Selezione 2018 A muscular red, with iron, almond, tar and underbrush aromas that lend a savory element to the core of cherry and blackberry fruit.	96	\$80
ORNELLAIA Bolgheri Superiore 2020 Inviting blackberry, black currant, anise, cedar, vanilla and tobacco aromas draw you in to this red, which is sleek and open on the palate.	96	\$310

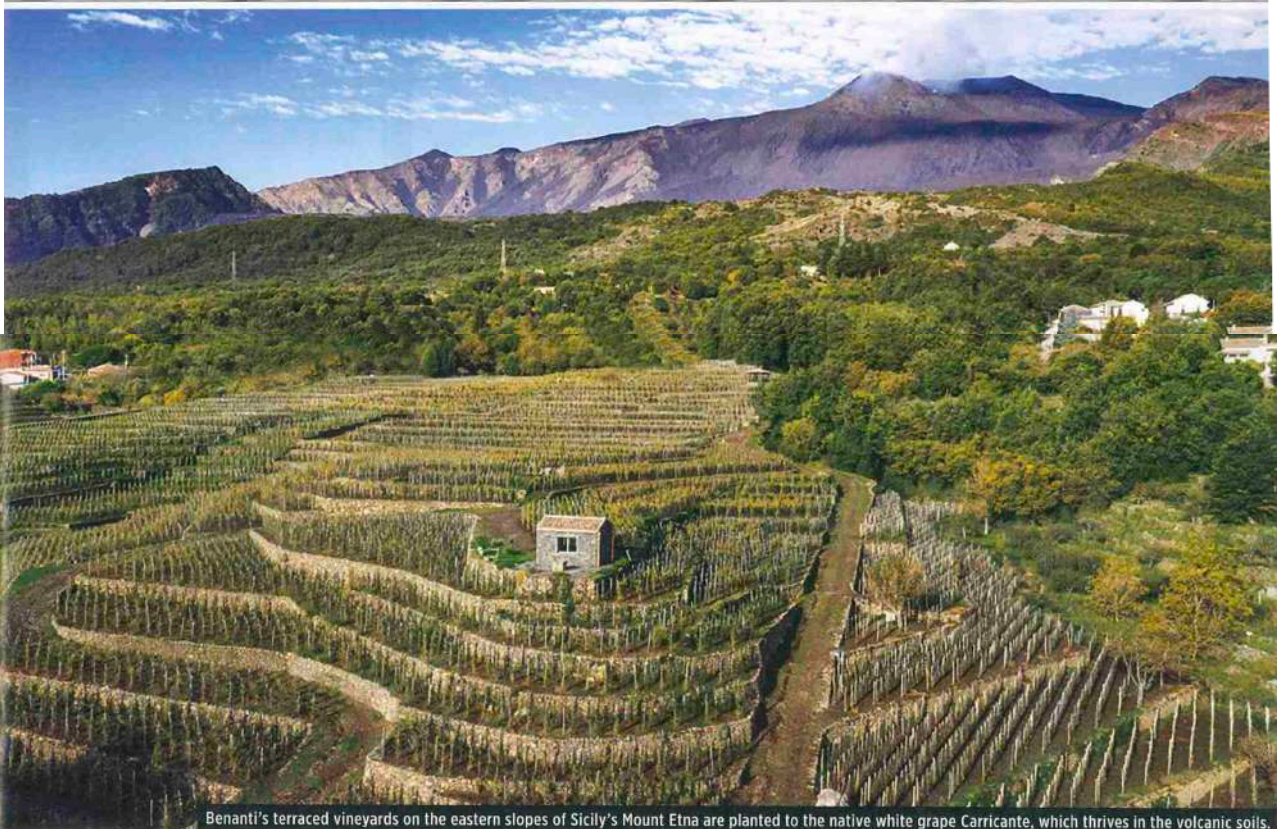
TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI Chianti Classico San Marcellino Gran Selezione 2018 A rich, succulent red, this boasts cherry, raspberry, rose, graphite and earth flavors. Pure, with vivid acidity and refined tannins.	96	\$80
SAN GIUSTO A RENTENNANO Sangiovese Toscana Percarlo 2019 A vibrant, finely knit red, featuring black cherry, blackberry and plum fruit accented by iron, wild herbs and spices, with terrific energy.	96	\$145
TENUTA DI TRINORO Toscana 2020 A complex red, with incisive flavors of black currant, blackberry, black olive, violet, cedar and graphite. Mouthwatering and harmonious.	96	\$420
TENUTA DI TRINORO Toscana Palazzi 2020 Showing pure black cherry and blackberry fruit, with olive, wild herb and mineral accents, this has ample structure and a velvety texture.	96	\$220

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CASTELLO DI GABBIANO Chianti Classico Cavaliere d'Oro Riserva 2018 This firm yet fresh red features cherry and berry fruit framed by notes of leather and loamy earth, ending with harmony and length.	93	\$23
CASTELLO DI MELETO Chianti Classico 2021 Sleek and saturated with blackberry, black cherry and pomegranate flavors, this balanced red has density and polished tannins.	93	\$24
CASTELLO DI MONSANTO Chianti Classico 2021 A supple, succulent red marked by intense flavors of blackberry, black cherry, violet, earth and graphite, with vibrant acidity.	93	\$20
POGGERINO Chianti Classico 2021 The picture of harmony, elegance and purity, this supple, vibrant red features black cherry, blackberry, violet and mineral flavors.	93	\$26
CASTELLO DI QUERCETO Chianti Classico Riserva 2019 This draws you in with the purity and depth of its cherry, raspberry, iron, tobacco and black tea flavors, supported by the dense structure.	93	\$25
SAN FELICE Chianti Classico Il Grigio Riserva 2020 Bright and fruity, with cherry, strawberry, rose and Mediterranean scrub flavors. Shows no shortage of structure, staying balanced.	93	\$27
BINDI SERGARDI Chianti Classico Tenuta I Colli Ser Gardo 2020 A silky, elegant red, with bright cherry and raspberry notes at the core, gaining depth from floral, iron and spice accents.	92	\$25
CARPINETO Chianti Classico Riserva 2019 Starts out supple, revealing cherry, blackberry, violet and spice flavors. There's a line of dusty tannins, yet this is balanced in the end.	92	\$29
CASTELLARE DI CASTELLINA Chianti Classico 2021 Intense, with saturated black cherry and blackberry fruit framed by menthol and tar. Firmly structured and balanced.	92	\$22
DIEVOLE Chianti Classico Petignano 2020 This sleek red is penetrated by a beam of cherry and strawberry fruit, with a silky texture, ending with almond, earth and herb accents.	92	\$28
PODERE IL PALAZZINO Chianti Classico Argenina 2018 A vibrant, oak-scented red, with a beam of cherry, raspberry, iron and tobacco flavors. Elegant and intense, with a muscular structure.	92	\$28

Wine Spectator Buying Guide



Benanti's terraced vineyards on the eastern slopes of Sicily's Mount Etna are planted to the native white grape Carricante, which thrives in the volcanic soils.

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BY THE NUMBERS

The Oct. 31 Buying Guide features **37 classic wines** and more than **450 outstanding wines** from among reviews of nearly **550 new releases**. Members can access tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with **hundreds of additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, using the Wine Ratings search at WineSpectator.com.

ITALY

Tuscany / Toscana / Red

- 98 Uccelliera Toscana Costabate 2016 \$375/1.5L** Ripe, expressive and harmonious, this majestic red has blackberry, black currant, eucalyptus, menthol, wild rosemary and mineral flavors framed by vanilla and toasty oak. Gains support from firm tannins, yet the lasting impression is sweet fruit, so be patient. Sangiovese. Best from 2025 through 2047. 25 cases made, 13 cases imported.—B.S.
- 97 Masseto Toscana 2020 \$860** See Collectibles, page 91.
- 97 Montenidoli Toscana Sono Montenidoli 2016 \$85** Pure and elegant, with silkiness offset by refined tannins and vibrant acidity, setting the stage for ripe black cherry, blackberry, Mediterranean herb, iron and tobacco aromas and flavors. Shows superb balance and length. Sangiovese. Drink now through 2043. 310 cases made.—B.S.
- 96 Isole & Olena Toscana Cepparello 2020 \$150** See Collectibles, page 91.
- 96 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana 2020 \$420** A complex red hallmarked by incisive aromas and flavors of black currant, blackberry, black olive, violet, cedar and graphite. Mouthwatering, with all the elements in harmony. Long finish, revealing fine latent power underneath it all. Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Best from 2026 through 2042. 500 cases made, 158 cases imported.—B.S.
- 96 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana Palazzi 2020 \$220** Shows pure black cherry and blackberry fruit, along with olive, wild herb and mineral accents. Delivers ample structure, but overall the impression is one of velvety texture and terrific harmony. Vibrant finish, where a salty impression lingers. Approachable now, yet should improve over time. Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2042. 381 cases made, 120 cases imported.—B.S.
- 95 Brancaia Toscana Il Blu 2020 \$120** Shows a resinous note from the oak that envelops ripe black cherry, plum, leather, mineral and tobacco flavors. This red just keeps building in intensity and fruit on the palate, ending with a succulent, fruit- and spice-infused aftertaste. Merlot, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2025 through 2040. 3,500 cases made, 495 cases imported.—B.S.
- 95 Castellare di Castellina Toscana I Sodi di San Niccolò 2019 \$92** An intense, vibrant red marked by haunting scents of violet, black cherry, blackberry, wild rosemary, eucalyptus and iron. Supple and open, yet with solid structure underneath. This wine's precision balance renders it approachable now, yet this will be better in two to three years. Spicy aftertaste. Sangiovese and Malvasia Nera. Best from 2026 through 2047. 2,500 cases made, 800 cases imported.—B.S.
- 95 Fattoria di Felsina Toscana Fontalloro 2020 \$80** A vibrant red, with fleeting aromas of lavender and wild rosemary mingling with cherry, orange peel, earth, mineral and tobacco flavors. On the elegant side, despite its youthful power, offering excellent harmony, refined tannins and a long, complex aftertaste. Sangiovese. Best from 2026 through 2045. 3,800 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—B.S.
- 95 Tenuta Sette Ponti Toscana Sette 2020 \$155** A sleek, well-defined red, exuding vivid cherry, raspberry, plum, iron, chocolate and vanilla flavors. Nicely balanced, with the youthful tannins lending assertiveness now on the saline finish. Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2040. 100 cases imported.—B.S.
- 95 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana Campo di Magnacosta 2020 \$170** This shows breadth and flesh to its profile, encapsulating flavors of cherry, black currant, tapenade, mineral, wild thyme and rosemary. Offers a solid structure, with dense yet refined tannins and a lingering finish. Excellent length. Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2042. 147 cases made, 47 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 Casanova di Neri Toscana Pietradonice 2019 \$95** A distinctive red, with an opulent profile and complex, expressive flavors of black currant, blackberry, leather, mineral and spices, plus flashes of lavender and orange peel. Gains support from the muscular structure, with a long, spicy finish. Best from 2025 through 2043. 500 cases made, 100 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 Isole & Olena Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana Collezione Privata 2019 \$130** A tightly wound style, exhibiting blackberry, black currant, cedar, iron and tobacco aromas and flavors. Lively, with dense yet finely wrought tannins and a long, concentrated finish. Powerful, this remains within bounds. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2040. 90 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 La Massa Toscana Carla 6 2018 \$90** This offers fruity, floral flavors signaled by aromas of ripe raspberry, cassis and violet, with earth, lavender and wild herb details. Elegant and silky, with firm tannins lurking beneath. Still needs some time to integrate. Best from 2025 through 2040. 500 cases made, 40 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 Masseto Toscana Massetino 2021 \$360** Elegant and vibrant, this red flows nicely, building to a long, spice-tinged aftertaste. Boasts blackberry, black currant, violet, cocoa, mineral and fresh herb flavors that ply its length, while lively acidity and powdery tannins provide structure. Focused and approachable now, yet will be better in a year or two. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2024 through 2033.—B.S.
- 94 San Giusto a Rentennano Merlot Toscana La Ricolma 2019 \$200** A supple red, packed with bright, pure flavors of blackberry, black cherry, plum and oak spices. Reveals an interwoven mineral streak, with a long, focused finish. Best from 2025 through 2042. 200 cases made, 35 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana Campo di Camagi. 2020 \$170** A lithe, spicy red, with a beam of black currant and blackberry fruit shaded by violet, black pepper iron and mint. Ends with a line of resonant tannins on the tobacco-tinged finish. Cabernet Franc. Best from 202 through 2038. 166 cases made, 65 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana Campo di Tena gli. 2020 \$170** Juicy, this red exudes black cherry black currant, cassis and wild herb aromas and flavor. This has a light chewiness to the texture, with dusty tannins flexing their muscles on the long aftertaste. Show superb balance and length, despite needing time to cor together. Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2041. 118 cases made, 39 cases imported.—B.S.
- 94 Tua Rita Toscana Keir 2020 \$150** Marked by blackberry, black olive, bacon and black pepper flavor this shows fine varietal character. Supple and harmonious, despite the firm structure, ending with a complex cascade of fruit, spice and mineral notes. Best from 202 through 2040. 208 cases made, 50 cases imported.—B.S.
- 93 Ampeleia Toscana 2019 \$45** Perfumed aromas of cherry, raspberry, cedar, leather, wild herbs and spices echo on the palate. An intense red, with a firm structure, this builds to a long, complex finish. Needs time to integrate the dusty tannins. Best from 2025 through 2036. 1,250 cases made, 280 cases imported.—B.S.
- 93 Castello Banfi Toscana Magna Cum Laud 2020 \$50** Both elegant and intense, this red features pure black currant, blackberry, olive paste, cedar, iron and a hint of anise aromas and flavors. Balanced and vibrant with excellent staying power on the fruit- and mineral-laced aftertaste. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sangiovese and Syrah. Drink now through 2030. 7,500 cases made, 1,400 cases imported.—B.S.

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Well-marked by vanilla from the new oak, this also features flavors of black currant, blackberry, flowers and iron. Racy even, with vibrant acidity and a line of dusty tannins lingering on the finish. Comes together with air, so give this a few years to absorb the oak. Sangiovese and Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2040. 7,917 cases made, 850 cases imported.—B.S.

93 Tenuta Sette Cieli Toscana Scipio 2018 \$128

A lean, intense style, this red delivers cherry, black currant, iron and tobacco flavors framed by toasty oak. Ends with a dusty feel from the tannins on the lingering finish. Best from 2025 through 2036. 600 cases made, 250 cases imported.—B.S.

93 Tenuta Sette Ponti Toscana Oreno 2021 \$134

A juicy red marked by blueberry, boysenberry, cassis, wild herbs and oak spices. Reveals a line of dusty tannins, putting grip on the compact finish, yet this has freshness, ample fruit and persistence. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2036. 49,000 cases made.—B.S.

93 Tolaini Cabernet Franc Toscana Pelui 2018 \$360

A lush, opulent red, featuring plum, blackberry and black currant fruit, iron, wild herb and toasty oak flavors. Shows muscular tannins, which leave a chalky sensation on the lingering aftertaste. This borders on hedonistic, with a spine of lively acidity. Best from 2025 through 2038. 50 cases made, 30 cases imported.—B.S.

93 Tolaini Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana Legit 2020 \$45

This robust red shows nice balance between the black currant, plum, licorice, cedar and spice flavors and the dense matrix of tannins. Starts out fluid, before the dusty tannins take hold on the finish. This is long, so have faith. Best from 2026 through 2043. 10,000 cases made, 3,000 cases imported.—B.S.

93 Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana Le Cupole 2021 \$42

This round, fleshy red opens with a blast of pure blackberry and black cherry fruit. Gains depth from earth, mineral and spice notes, with a base of refined tannins adding support. Long and balanced. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2027. 8,300 cases made, 3,300 cases imported.—B.S.

dark spices, this red is also dense with gravelly tannins. Features flashes of medicinal herbs as this plays out on the long finish. Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2037. 3,333 cases made, 810 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Castellare di Castellina Toscana Coniale 2019 \$55

A muscular red, with charred oak, leather and camphor notes framing blackberry, plum and earth flavors. Offers well-integrated tannins, with a long, spicy finish. Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2025 through 2038. 300 cases made, 100 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Toscana Mormoreto 2019 \$75

Delivers an immediately appealing lush texture that envelops flavors of black currant, plum, iron and licorice. Gains support from tightly wound tannins, which leave a chewy feel on the spicy, lingering finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Sangiovese and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2038. 3,333 cases made, 80 cases imported.—B.S.

92 La Massa Toscana 2020 \$35

This red starts out with bright black cherry and raspberry fruit, picking up tobacco, eucalyptus, iron and leafy notes. Reveals dense tannins as this winds down on the lengthy finish. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Alicante Bouschet and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2040. 8,500 cases made, 250 cases imported.—B.S.

92 La Massa Toscana Giorgio Primo 2018 \$120

A supple, balanced red marked by evolving flavors of ripe sweet cherry, black currant, leather, mushroom and woody underbrush. Firms up and offers a lively structure, with a lingering, spicy finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2032. 1,500 cases made, 40 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Il Molino di Grace Toscana Gratus 2019 \$65

A powerful red, offering a mix of cherry and raspberry fruit and savory notes of eucalyptus, wild herbs and iron. Gains support from solid, densely packed tannins, lingering nicely on the finish. Sangiovese, Colorino and Canaiolo. Best from 2026 through 2040. 500 cases made, 300 cases imported.—B.S.

92 Montenedoli Toscana 2019 \$30

Light-bodied and delicate, yet shows no shortage of intensity. Packs generous strawberry, cherry, mint, earth, iron and tobacco notes, building nicely to the long finish. Offers fine balance. Drink now through 2033. 1,650 cases made.—B.S.

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