

BRU NELLO

DI MONTALCINO

2014 AND

RISERVA 2013

GardiniNotes.

THE WINE KILLERS

Brunello di Montalcino



SANGIOVESE

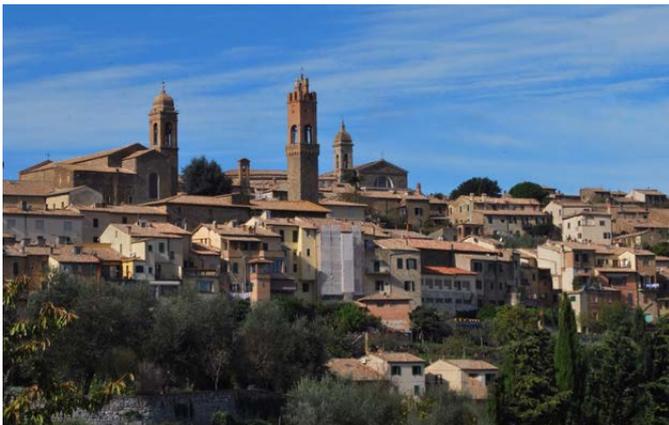
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The Brunello di Montalcino, DOCG since 1980, is produced in Tuscany about 40 km south of Siena, in the area of Montalcino. The wine takes its name from this Unesco World Heritage Site.

The Montalcino area is made up of about 24,000 hectares, although only 15% of these are dedicated to grape cultivation. The great Sangiovese variety, from which Brunello of Montalcino is made, is very sensitive to the land on which it is grown. Here in Montalcino several different geological typologies intersect, such as clay, tuff, and so-called original rocks, limestone

and marl. These last two are found at the higher elevations.

The higher location of the plants, together with a rich mosaic of variables, have determined the character of this Brunello, since its origin. The plants in the territory of Montalcino grow at elevations that range from about 120 to 650 meters above sea level. The cultivation area can be divided into four sub-zones, oriented according to the cardinal directions.



The most utilized method of vine training is that of spurred cordon. The Mediterranean climate tends to be dry, although some inflections of the continental climate are present. The nearby Monte Amiata often helps mitigate meteorological events of great intensity.

In the cantina, the Brunello di Montalcino typically brings together several plots located in different areas of the cultivation zone to guarantee a wine not too homogeneous nor too distinguished by a single cru. Recently however, numerous agencies have developed a concept of viticulture that privileges wines obtained from a single vineyard,

beyond the average geographical placement.

The aging of the Brunello di Montalcino takes place in wood for at least two years during which the producer may choose the dimensions of the barrels. This is followed by 4 months in the bottle. In order to earn the distinction of riserva, the wine must be aged for six years, subject to a period of at least two years of maturation in wood.

Brunello di Montalcino

VINTAGE 2014

GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.



SHORT (5-8 years)



MEDIUM (10-15 years)



LONG (more than 15 years)

Quite a cool vintage, but the heat was not lacking. The combination of factors was decisive in causing a very gradual ripening of the grapes. This constant growth allowed for, on paper, rather balanced wines. The producers, who have chosen however, by conviction, positioning on the fresher sides of the hill of Montalcino, see the elegance and drinkability awarded by agile sips, rich drinks and complexity. Those who instead were caught up searching for, accomplice of the good vintage, concentration and potency, already have today very open wines with some evolving standards.

95



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

IL MARRONETO

This epic Brunello exalts both undergrowth and the unique Montalcino subsoil. Its nose reveals notes of ripe fruit, whereas its mouth is full-bodied and vivacious. The finish is bitter, very appealing.



95



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

CASANOVA DI NERI

The 2014 Casanova Di Neri is already disconcerting, almost as much as the 2013 one was. Its distinctive nose presents remarkably salty and mineral traits. Its very iodated mouth is also wide and comforting; this wine, of an endearingly intense persistence, is characterized by a disarmingly fresh finish.



94+



Brunello di Montalcino "Vecchie Vigne" DOCG 2014

SIRO PACENTI

Its nose is balsamic and spicy, with blackberry notes enveloping the spirit of marasca, undergrowth and evergreen resin. In the mouth, this wine does not lose its body at all. Actually, it becomes more and more drinkable. Excellent.



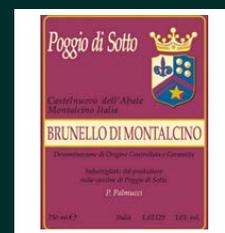
94+



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

POGGIO DI SOTTO

This is a salty firstling whose taste reminds us of sun and wind, of youthful energy released by ancestral and omnipotent divinities. Its nose is fine and elegant and its mouthful is very strong, but also compact, with no shallowness, witnessing a great aging potential.



VINTAGE 2014

94⁺**Brunello di Montalcino “Bramante” DOCG 2014**

SAN LORENZO

This is a very intense and veracious Brunello interpretation, coming from an historically complicated grape harvest. Its solid nose reveals scents of toasted dry fruit and an orange-peel aftertaste. The tannic sensation during the drinking is very incisive, not excessively corpulent but quite simple, kind of a marathon runner.



94

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014**

CAPANNA

Iodated, compact and balsamic to the nose. The great astringency during the drinking derives from saltiness, with pleasant taggiasca olive flavours that make the wine very drinkable and simple in its unique sip. You will surely be willing to taste one more glass.



94

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014**

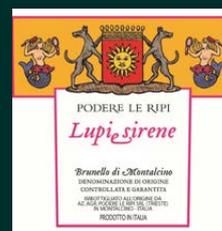
SAN FILIPPO

This interesting Brunello presents a nose with peposo (peppery stew) and undergrowth aromas, great sharpness held by a clearly tannic structure. The mouthful reveals a great evolutionary potential and is currently young and fresh, impatient and quivering. Perfect in its own way.

93⁺**Brunello di Montalcino “Lupi e Sirene” DOCG 2014**

PODERE LE RIPI

Its fruit ringing out, literally exploding on the palate. It suddenly moves forward from a toasted, wild and masculine nose with leather scents, to a fruity mouthful which is not blinking, but of natural balance actually, and of both velvet and wool.

93⁺**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014**

BELPOGGIO

From Montalcino too, the Martellozzo family came up with very straightforward ideas, which were confirmed by the ongoing increasing quality of its products. This 2014 Brunello presents an incisive nose, with white pepper and iodine aromas and a full-bodied mouthful, which is also intense, contrapuntated and with an innate and extraordinary drinkability.



93

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014**

CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGONA

This is a rich Sangiovese in a vibrant, passionate version, like a Foscolo poem. Its nose is intensely iodated, enveloping the spirit of cherries and caper blush fruit. Its mouth reveals fustian flavours and is also full-bodied, whereas its finish is capable to be not only clear-cut and dry, but also persistent. Absolutely great.



VINTAGE 2014

GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.



SHORT (5-8 years)



MEDIUM (10-15 years)



LONG (more than 15 years)

93



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

COL D'ORCIA

This one represents the Slavonia region blessed in its measure while it gives intensity and compactness to this excellent Brunello. Aged in wood, it is characterized by maturity, softness and by a balsamic nose, which envelopes the spirit of cherries. Its impressive mouthful is supplied by a iodated finish.



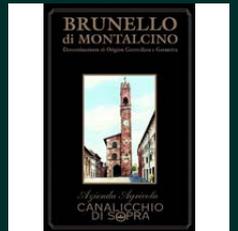
93



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

CANALICCHIO DI SOPRA

Great and decisive tannic sharpness for this product which is, also this one, of great aging potential. Its nose is very variegated, with leather, freshly-cut grass aromas and a balsamic but not excessively marked end. It seems mostly fresh, breezy and irreverent while drinking. Its age will enrich it with wisdom and (perhaps) truth.



92



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

LE CHIUSE

Sapid and intense nose with vegetal and clearly balsamic nuances enveloping the spirit of cherries. The sylvan and resinous sensation is increased in the mouthful, which is very vibrant, salty and also iodated, with caper blush flavours and of a comforting width.



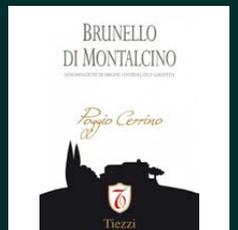
92



Brunello di Montalcino Poggio Cerrino 2014

TIEZZI

This very compact Brunello, coming from very authentic vine varieties, presents an apparently close nose. Then, it becomes bearer of great aromatic wellness: thymus, violet, rhubarb and cherry jam aromas. The mouthful is full-bodied, compact, very elegant and particularly balanced.



91



Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2014

LE POTAZZINE

Exciting terroir. The denomination great tits come back thanks to this bottle. For this Brunello, coming from vine varieties that were not very interventionist, represents ease. Its fruit is of great richness, clear-cut and intense. Its nose is vibrant and herbaceous, with a chamomile flavour. The mouth is rightly sharp and with tannins, but most of all is extremely elegant, almost royal.



Brunello di Montalcino

RISERVA 2013

GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.



To clarify; this was a very good vintage in which a cold winter and a very hot summer - though rainy before the harvest - yielded very clear outcomes. The great result was uniform on all the slopes, even where the southern part has always been more temperate and the plants already accustomed to the intense summer heat. Even if it is likened to another recent and very good vintage, that of 2010, the record still goes to 2012, by virtue of a lower characteristic mass that is amply compensated by a great finesse and elegance.

100



Brunello di Montalcino "Madonna delle Grazie" Riserva DOCG 2013 IL MARRONETO

ISculptural fruit moving forward with regard to the wine aged in oak barrels. No mainstream, in this case. No impoverishment. Actually, its nose is quivering: with undergrowth fruit aromas, saltiness and olive iodation. Its mouth is energetic, tense and of great drinkability. The finish is superb and very persistent.

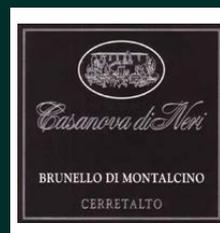


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Brunello di Montalcino "Cerretalto" DOCG 2013 CASANOVA DI NERI

A great Brunello expressing talent and standing for years at the top of the category. Its nose reveals undergrowth and evergreen resin aromas. Besides, its mentolation and minerality are well-dosed. As always, it has more fresh than austere mouthful, with additionally implacable persistence.



96+



Brunello di Montalcino Riserva DOCG 2013 CAPANNA

The characteristic trait of saltiness gives exotic qualities to this wine. Its mysterious and dense nose reveals fresh herbs and strictly enveloping balsam. Harmonized symphony in its mouth of a great measure. It has to be tasted with closed eyes, in a dark room that will never look much sun-drenched.



96



Brunello di Montalcino Riserva "Lupi e Sirene" DOCG 2013 PODERE LE RIPI

Francesco Illy working for misappropriation, convinced that the ground, if helped, could always give us good things. After living in 2013, you are surely feeling like a dad with a teenage son. You would like to give him some of your wisdom, but you are just so jealous for its unawareness and liveliness. The wine's nose is very spicy and sizzling. The mouthful, instead, is compact and elegant. Cool.



GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.

 SHORT (5-8 years)

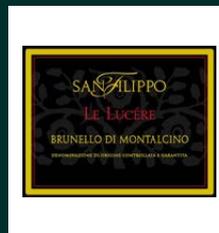
 MEDIUM (10-15 years)

 LONG (more than 15 years)

96

 **Brunello di Montalcino Riserva “Le Lucère” DOCG 2013**
SAN FILIPPO

Nice interpretation made up of balance in a Brunello which feeds itself with measure. Its good nose reveals undergrowth and clearly mentolated red berries. The mouth is not excessively wide, but mostly vertical and drinkable, held by a strong sharpness. Good persistence.



95+

 **Brunello di Montalcino “Pianrosso” DOCG 2013**
CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGONA

Intense and complex aromas of red-berried ripe fruit. Cherry, in particular. It tastes rich, hot and full-bodied on the palate, with a good sharpness. It is characterized by soft tannins and a special finish where aromatic herbs and tobacco can be definitely considered the main characters.



95

 **Brunello di Montalcino Riserva “Poggio alle Mura” DOCG 2013**
CASTELLO BANFI

We should thank Castello Banfi for this very mature Brunello. Everything is well-dosed, strong and comforting all together, like in a perfectly oiled machine, where everything is silent and gears are matching and working perfectly. Its superb nose is also strong and balanced, including undergrowth and spices. Its mouthful is compact and already considerably mature. Its perfection can, nevertheless, make us feel thrilling with enthusiasm.



95

 **Brunello di Montalcino Riserva “Vigna soccorso” DOCG 2013**
TIEZZI

Fascinating Brunello associating a very wide spectrum of aromas with an undergrowth basis, with liquorice root, cinnamon and blackberry jam aromas. Its very fine mouthful is also elegant and particularly friendly, like a friendly hand on our shoulder when we need somebody's presence. The finish is really persistent.



94

 **Brunello di Montalcino Riserva DOCG 2013**
POGGIO DI SOTTO

Fruit benefiting from the organic vineyard leading, and becoming bold: it is iodated, salty, very spicy and with a smoked aftertaste. It is strong and incisive in the mouth, but it looks not at all blinking. It shows up its sincerity, its ruthlessness with no useless frills, exactly as a Brunello should do.



94

 **Brunello di Montalcino Riserva “Bramante” DOCG 2013**
SAN LORENZO

With both toasted fruit and wooden tones at first, it includes pepper and orange peel scents. Apparently, its mouthful is aggressive and sapid. But then, magically, it expands on the palate with tannins, introducing width, agreeableness and drinkability that do last until the very intense finish.



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THE WINE KILLERS

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FEBRUARY 2019

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO
VINTAGE 2014 & RISERVA 2013
WINE RANKING BY
LUCA GARDINI

TASTING PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2019

