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— 2020 & 2019 RISERVA —
**BRUNELLO DI
MONTALCINO**
— INDENT OFFER —

We are proud to present our first Fine wine indent offer of the year, **Brunello di Montalcino**. The focus is on the **excellent 2020** vintage release, and the **incredible 2019 Riserva's**. This includes many of the **greatest** producers in the region. Some we have been importing for decades, as well as some extremely exciting new estates.

You'll find wines from:

Canalicchio di Sopra, Il Marroneto, Il Poggione, Le Chiusse, Lisini and Poggio di Sotto.

Amongst enthusiasts and collectors, Brunello has a well-deserved reputation for excellence. It is produced exclusively in the hilltop region around **Montalcino** in Tuscany, using only the famous Brunello clone of Sangiovese. The fame of these dates back to the **19th century** when winemaker Ferruccio Biondi-Santi began experimenting with **Sangiovese**, producing wines that would ultimately become the **benchmark** for this style.

Today, it is recognized as one of the **most prestigious** and sought-after wines in the world. What sets Brunello apart from other wines, is its unique combination of **power and elegance**. Its deep ruby color, intense aromas of dark fruit, and firm tannins make it a wine of **great structure** and depth. At the same time, Brunello's **refined acidity** and complex flavours of spice, earth and leather, give it a level of **sophistication and finesse** that few regions can match.

Brunello has gone from **strength-to-strength** in recent years, and the wines produced now are **better** than any time in their long history. **Demand** for these (especially the single vineyard and Riserva wines) is also **higher** than ever, so we may **need to allocate**. Let us know as soon as possible what you would like.

The Brunello di Montalcino's are expected to land by May 2025. Payment is not due until arrival.

- John Caro & Regan McCaffery



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BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 2020 VINTAGE & 2019 RISERVA OFFER

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WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE* (In mixed 6+)
2023 Canalicchio di Sopra Rosso di Montalcino		\$44.99
2020 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino		\$135.00
2020 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino 'Vigna la Casaccia'		\$300.00
2020 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino 'Vigna Montosoli'		\$300.00
2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino Riserva		\$370.00
2020 Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino		\$185.00
2020 Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino 'Madonna delle Grazie'		\$600.00
2020 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino		\$85.00
2019 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Paganelli		\$145.00
2009 Il Poggione Vin Santo Sant'Antimo Riserva (500ml)		\$65.00
2023 Le Chiuse Rosso di Montalcino		\$55.00
2020 Le Chiuse Brunello di Montalcino		\$115.00
2015 Le Chiuse Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Diecianni		\$260.00
2020 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino		\$110.00
2019 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino Riserva		\$170.00
2021 Poggio di Sotto Rosso di Montalcino		\$145.00
2020 Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino		\$420.00
2019 Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino Riserva		\$815.00

2020 VINTAGE SUMMARY



"I could not be more pleased with 2020 Brunello di Montalcino. I came away from my tastings with two main thoughts: 1. These are the wines I want to drink. 2. This is the vintage Montalcino needed. 2020 was a year that locked us inside our homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. For winemakers, it was a chance to pause, reflect and spend more time between the vines. I feel like this point may have proven much more significant than anyone would have imagined. Thanks to a combination of elevated heat and well-timed rain, the 2020 vintage turned out what is best described as "charming" or fundamentally "pretty" wines. This vintage does not have the stacked concentration of 2019 or the focused power of 2016; however, the wines are silky, fresh, immediate and fruit-forward. They offer a span of sweet fruit flavors from wild cherry and watermelon to blood orange. There are pretty floral nuances too, and the elegant mineral notes that come from my favorite of all favorite Tuscan soil types—schistic galestro clay—shine with unmatched brilliance in 2020. The wines are surely more immediate and accessible thanks to the polished nature of the tannins and the appetite-provoking acidity. These 2020 Brunello di Montalcino releases will make an epic companion to your favorite meals, and many bottles are nearly ready to drink straight out of the gate."

-Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Larner

"A hot and dry summer, with nights cooling in September and rain towards the end of the month. Graciously structured, seductive and immediately harmonious wines promise immense pleasure now and over the mid-term. Freshness is one of the over-arching characteristics of 2020 and a strength of the vintage. It has been admirably preserved despite the substantial heat accumulation of the growing season. I was also charmed by the generous aromas, seductiveness and immediate accessibility of the wines. 2020 is not comparable to vintages of the last century. Instead, it is a curious combination of 2015 and 2018. Some examples are more reminiscent of 2015, a luminous year yielding a voluptuous fruit character. However, 2020 is slightly dialled back, and more radiant in acidity. With an unexpected gentleness and finer frame, others recalled 2018, though with more substance. There are even similarities with 2019 – namely, the beautiful fragrances and freshness. 2020 doesn't typically reach the same heights as 2019, which is generally more complete and nuanced, although there are a handful of 2020 wines which do outperform their 2019 counterparts."

-Decanter, Michaela Morris

"(The top level is) undeniably elegant and harmonious wines that soothe the palate and the soul. These wines offer sweet, ripe tannins and cooling acidity with a core of balanced fruit. They are graceful yet complex and impactful. This is not a vintage to skip, nor is it just a "restaurant vintage." The successful wines of 2020 are absolutely gorgeous. This was the COVID-19 year. Winemakers were locked down and often decided to obsess over their vineyards - perfectly manicured. A vine-by-vine approach that wouldn't have been possible without the lockdown. Francesco Ripaccioli of Canalicchio di Sopra explained, "The time that we spent in the vineyard was decidedly superior to any other activity at the winery." Jacopo Mori reminisced, "No planes, no cars, no pollution, it was amazing."

-Vinous, Eric Guido

2019 RISERVA VINTAGE SUMMARY



"There is no doubt that 2019 is a superb vintage. I was struck by the gorgeous and immediate aroma profiles, the ripeness without excess, and the balance of richness with freshness. The 2019 Brunellos do not fatigue the palate, and are often stealthy in their power. Given the sheer number of bottlings previewed – 2019 is also unequivocally a Riserva year. Even the most selective producers made a separate Riserva bottling. The quality of offerings from 2019 restores faith in the Riserva category, which in lesser vintages can feel weary after the additional year of maturation, or barely differentiated from the annata bottlings. It is particularly admirable that in a warm vintage like 2019, these wines still convey the freshness I prized in the annata bottlings, along with balance and ageability – even after lengthy maturation. On one end of the spectrum, a velvety plushness is enticingly epitomised by Il Poggione's Paganelli, while at the other end Poggio di Sotto is built around steely tannins. With ageing potential between 10 and 20 years, the vintage's many successful Riservas will make worthwhile additions in the cellar alongside the annata – and the top examples are worth the extra price."

-Decanter, Michaela Morris

"As I taste older vintages regularly, I often find that the Riservas mature more gracefully than the straight Brunellos. Granted, much of this has to do with the style of the wines and the vintages themselves. Traditional winemakers who take full advantage of the Riserva category and mature their wines for an extended time in barrel will likely create a fantastic Riserva in a classic vintage. In last year's article, I described the 2019 vintage in detail. "Two thousand nineteen is a year of radiance and appeal without any sensation of over-ripeness or lack of complexity. The wines are aromatically intense and full of dimension, with translucent color, fruit typicity and the ability to communicate a sense of place. They are structured and built for cellaring, often showing their best after being open for over two days in bottle... While many 2019s display an inviting personality today, they are balanced for the cellar." I still agree wholeheartedly with these statements, and many of the 2019 Riservas have only amplified these qualities, adding an extra level of depth and more serious structure without compromising fruit expression."

-Vinous, Eric Guido

CANALICCHIO DI SOPRA



"Canalicchio di Sopra succeeded in producing a set of gorgeous wines. The higher-elevation sites and the marl, clay and limestone soils of Montosoli yielded the best results. Ripaccioli chose not to make a Riserva in 2020, so the additional fruit from Vecchia Mercatale aided the Brunello di Montalcino, typically a blend of the La Casaccia and Montosoli vineyards. The 2020s possess a more immediate quality that aligns with the season but are also gorgeously balanced, placing them amongst the best wines of the vintage. I also tasted each vintage of La Casaccia, back to its first release in 2015. I am amazed by the potential for these wines to mature gracefully despite their power. Readers will find that reflected in many of the notes in this report. Finally, there's the 2019 Riserva, produced entirely from the Vecchia Mercatale vineyard. It's as glorious as expected, dark yet radiant and well muscled. Canalicchio di Sopra bottles this wine with the Brunello and Cru wines yet releases it a year early, which helps it to stand out amongst its peers."

-Vinous, Eric Guido

2023 Canalicchio di Sopra Rosso di Montalcino - \$44.99

The first vintage was produced in 1975 when it was still called Red Wine from Brunello vines. The Rosso di Montalcino "Canalicchio di Sopra" mainly comes from the youngest vines on the vineyards located in the Canalicchio Cru, in a soil with marked clay component, very rich in intermediate elements such as magnesium, iron and Manganese. In some vintages a small percentage of the grapes can come from Montosoli Cru, where the presence of marl guarantees sapidity and minerality. Aged 12 months in Slavonian Oak Barrels (50 hl and 25 hl), and French oak barrels (750 liters). A vintage with surprising balance due to its great concentration but also high acidity, balancing the freshness and enjoyability, vinosity and florality without ever coming close to the risk of heaviness. A mini Brunello and exceptional value.

2020 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino - \$135.00

"Lots from the family's Vigna Vecchia Mercatale vineyard have been blended here to reinforce quality, rather than being set aside for a Riserva, and the result is very true to its character. You could get lost just in the alluring aromas of plum, fragrant blue flower, freshly mown hay, forest floor and leather on the beautiful 2020 Brunello from Canalicchio di Sopra. It's young, fresh, elegantly structured and delicious, delivering layers of Marasca cherry, raspberry, star anise and dried rosemary enveloped in velvety tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced."

96/100 Kerin O'Keefe

“A burst of black cherries and cloves gives way to shavings of cedar and lifting hints of mentholated herbs as the dynamic 2020 Brunello di Montalcino comes to life in the glass. This is soothingly round and pliant with an inner sweetness up front and crisp wild berry fruits that cascade across the palate. It’s structured and firm, yet its tannins are sweet and round, tapering off with a pleasantly bitter tinge of blackberry and sour citrus. The 2020 aims to please and it is already incredibly approachable today. With no Riserva produced in 2020, all of the juice from Vigna Vecchia Mercatale was used to bolster this spectacular Brunello. Drink 2026-2038”

95/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“The Canalicchio di Sopra 2020 Brunello di Montalcino carries a distinct signature that recalls not only the Sangiovese grape but a sense of place. You can mistake this for nothing but a Brunello. Graceful style to this wine, with earthy strawberries, cinnamon and sweet violets. Almost yellow stone-fruit, too. Full in body with crisp if not zesty acidity and intense, extracted and firm tannins giving a tight mid-palate. Yet, the finish is long and polished. Try from 2025.”

95/100 James Suckling



2020 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino ‘Vigna la Casaccia’ - \$300.00

“This famous single vineyard wine was first made in 2015. Dark and brooding, the 2020 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna La Casaccia slowly blossoms in the glass with a dramatic mix of steeped plums, cinnamon sticks, grilled herbs and sweet lavender. This is a model of purity, lifted and refined with soft textures and cool-toned acidity lending freshness as ripe red and hints of blue fruit settle upon the senses. The 2020 firms up through the finish, taking on a pleasantly bitter tinge that puckers the cheeks as grippy tannins and crunchy mineral tones frame the experience without getting in the way of its energetic persona. Drink 2027-2083”

96/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“Starting with this vintage, the Canalicchio di Sopra 2020 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna La Casaccia carries a “Vigna” designation. La Casaccia is a two-hectare parcel with clay soils rich in minerals that was planted in 1990. Francesco Ripaccioli embarked on an estate-wide mapping project about 10 years ago to determine which parcels would be worthy of single-vineyard distinction. Forest floor, violet and pipe tobacco mingle with leather and baked plum on the impressive 2020 Vigna La Casaccia. Polished and enveloping, the full-bodied palate features succulent black cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and spiced orange peel set against compact, close-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2029–2034.”

96/100 Kerin O’Keefe

“Very intense and deep wine. The nose is savory, with earthy strawberries, cinnamon, sweet violets and even yellow stone-fruit. Full-bodied, graceful palate with velvety tannins, refreshing acidity and a polished finish. Long aftertaste. Grace and power go hand in hand here. Only 4,133 bottles. Drinkable now, but best after 2025”

96/100 James Suckling



2020 Canalichio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino ‘Vigna Montosoli’ - \$300.00

“The third vintage of this stunning single vineyard bottling. The 2020 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Montosoli is dreamy, with a darkly floral bouquet that blends dried rose and violet with hints of sour cherry, blackberry and Tuscan dust. This is silky-smooth and round in feel, with fresh acidity that adds a lovely lift as vibrant wild berry fruits swirl throughout. Tactile mineral tones add traction as the 2020 finishes long and staining, with a coating of fine-grained tannins that gently tug at the palate. This is a radiant and generous Montosoli with the balance necessary to mature beautifully in the cellar. Drink 2027-2038”

97/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“There’s no doubt that Vigna Montosoli is the hottest vineyard site in the appellation at the moment, and it remains virtually impossible to purchase land in this prized subzone. The Canalichio di Sopra 2020 Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Montosoli has a distinct character with reinforced concentration and bold black fruit flavors. I get a hint of Turkish coffee and sweet earth. The bouquet also reveals a mineral side with petrichor, iron ore and peat moss. Of the new releases in this portfolio, I think you will find this wine to be the most complete and age-worthy. Sadly, only 4,133 bottles were created. Drink 2026-2045”

96+/100 Parker’s Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

“Combining power and finesse, the fragrant 2020 Vigna Montosoli from Canalichio di Sopra is a great expression of the vintage and the vineyard. It has aromas of blue flower, ripe black plum, grilled rosemary, dark exotic spice and the barest hint of tar while the full-bodied, delicious boasts weightless concentration, delivering fleshy raspberry, ripe Morello cherry, cake spice and a hint of licorice. Velvety tannins provide polished support. Already tempting, hold for even more complexity. Drink 2028–2034.”

96/100 Kerin O’Keefe



2019 Canalicchio di Sopra Brunello di Montalcino Riserva - \$370.00

"The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva is an understated beauty, impressing with a perfumed bouquet of red currants, cedar spice box and roses. This sweeps across the palate with ease, sleek and spry, with an elegant wave of ripe red and black fruits. Tension slowly mounts through a blend of crisp minerality and brisk acidity. It takes on a spicy persona through the finish, mixing citrus-tinged blackberry, a saline sensation and hints of spice. Crystalline tannins add youthful poise—gorgeous. The 2019 Riserva was produced entirely from Vigna Vecchia Mercatale. This is a stunning showing. Drink 2028-2040"

97+/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

"Aromas recalling blue flower, cedar, wild berry and forest floor come to the forefront on the captivating 2019 Brunello Riserva from Canalicchio di Sopra. Showing strength and finesse, the full-bodied, structured palate delivers dried cherry, cranberry, blood orange, licorice and chopped rosemary framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it vibrant and balanced. Showing serious aging potential, this will benefit greatly from several years or more in the cellar. Drink 2031–2039."

97/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"In the bottle with the black label, the Canalicchio di Sopra 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva reveals a savory and austere bouquet with dried fruit flavors, licorice and a hint of brandied plum. The alcohol measures 15% and is the same for all the other Brunellos from the 2020 vintage. Despite that power, vintner Francesco Ripaccioli manages phenolic ripeness and oak aging masterfully. You might not guess the real alcoholic content in this limited 4,133-bottle release. Drink 2025-2045"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

IL MARRONETO



We are extremely excited to have Il Marroneto arriving in New Zealand for the first time. They are one of the absolute greatest estates of all in Montalcino, and John has been trying to secure an allocation for over a decade! Many rejections later it's finally coming. Monica Lerner describes their legendary single vineyard: "Madonna delle Grazie is to Sangiovese, what the Chapel of St. Christopher on the hill of Hermitage is to Syrah." Do not miss having some of these incredible wines in your cellar.

"How does Alessandro Mori and the team at Il Marroneto do it? Vintage after vintage, this portfolio stands out for its depths of vividly pure fruit, energy, character, balance and the silkiest of tannins that make them both approachable in their youth and able to mature for decades. So what makes them different, besides Alessandro Mori seeming to impart his passionate personality into the wines? For one thing, it's the terroir.

Standing on the balcony of the Il Marroneto winery, looking out across the Madonna di Grazie vineyard and, beyond that, all of Montalcino's north hill puts the magic of this place and this wine into perspective. This is not your average Montalcino sight or terroir. In fact, it's difficult to compare this location to nearly any other place. As you descend down from the castle town, the inclines become quite steep very quickly. In fact, without the right vehicle and tires, you could almost imagine losing control on these dirt roads and sliding backward or literally off of the edge. This is high elevation, with the Madonna di Grazie vineyard, which is Il Marroneto's first vineyard, planted in 1974, averaging around 400 meters.

Owner and winemaker, Alessandro Mori explained to me, "We are standing on a beach." This is when things get really interesting, as most producers on the north hill have a combination of soils that mix the deposits of an ancient sea with the deteriorating shear rock of the Montalcino hill that has slowly crumbled down into their vineyards over the centuries. However, at Madonna di Grazie, we are on the "beach", at the water line, and these high-elevation vineyards are growing in much sandier soils, laced with marine fossils and minerals. This mix also means that they retain less water which, when combined with these old vines, creates fruit of extraordinary character. Now we add the influences of northern wind currents to the equation, which descend upon this hill each evening, cooling and tempering the vines. When you take into account the natural approach, traditional methods and transparent winemaking of Alessandro Mori, it suddenly becomes very easy to see why the Brunello di Montalcino Madonna di Grazie is a standout in nearly every vintage, and also able to excel in the most difficult ones.



Of course, Il Marroneto is about much more than just Madonna di Grazie. The estate Brunello is also at the head of the pack, from vineyards further down the hill at around 250 meters of elevation. These parcels enjoy the same loving care, yet in soils that promote a lighter, more delicate yet still characterful and age worthy style. The Brunello of Il Marroneto is pure elegance, yet delicate in feel. Both wines undergo extended aging in a combination of large French and Slavonian oak casks, with just a matter of time and material that sets them apart. Yields are kept painfully low through natural means, allowing grasses and flora to grow between the well-spaced vines, as well as all organic, non-interventionist practices, which continue throughout the winery cellar

Whereas most wines from Montalcino are elegant, soft and earlier-drinking in 2020, at Il Marroneto, they are classic to the core, which is completely atypical of the vintage. The 2020 Brunello and 2020 Madonna delle Grazie are simply spellbinding. Frankly, it's difficult to consider them alongside what I've tasted from the 2020 vintage. They are aromatically stunning and packed full of depth and concentration but also energetic and refined. Iacopo Mori mentioned that the wines are incredibly high in dry extract, yet the acidity holds them together. He went on to explain that due to the lockdown the team was able to focus all of their energy on the vineyards. Asked about the level of depth they achieved, Mori went into detail about the harvest. Considering the higher elevations at Il Marroneto and its sandy soils, they were able to wait until after the September rains, when many producers had already picked their fruit, resulting in perfectly ripe tannins. Il Marroneto remains at the top of their game and at the head of the pack. These wines are not to be missed."

-Vinous, Eric Guido



2020 Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino - \$185.00

"Those familiar with Il Marroneto will notice that the name of the estate is now at the fore on all labels. This echoes proprietor Alessandro Mori's conviction that the estate possesses greater significance than the denomination. A restrained wine that's complex and deep, with aromas of cherry stones, butter, fresh violets, orange peel and prunes. Firm tannins with a grainy texture, yet it has a sweet finish, super-energetic acidity and a full body. Flavors of blood oranges and violets. Perfect balance and incredible aging potential. A super classic. Drink or hold."

97/100 James Suckling

"The 2020 Brunello di Montalcino is an understated beauty, slowly emerging with a delicate blend of rose petals, fresh mint, crushed rocks and vividly ripe black cherries. It hovers across the palate, lifted and finessed yet spry, with ripe red berry fruits and hints of lavender, taking on a liquid floral concentration toward the close. Pleasantly chewy and long, the 2020 leaves the senses stained in primary concentration, with a tinge of bitter cranberry and pretty inner florals that resonate over a bed of classically dry tannins. This is a more concentrated and intense yet wonderfully balanced rendition of Il Marroneto's Brunello. Drink 2028-2038"

96/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

The Il Marroneto 2020 Brunello di Montalcino is a wine of special depth and elegance. Alessandro Mori tells me that fermentation in 2020 proceeded nicely with what he describes as a "primordial stew" of grape must, resulting in high pressure "geysers" or "liquid bombs" that rip right through the cap because of pressure build-up. Someone is having tons of fun in the winery. High temperatures (between 36 to 38 degrees Celsius) serve to fix the wine's ruby color and the elegance of its perfumes, which are more floral than fruity. At the end of fermentation, he manages the skins with light wetting by hand with a tube. This vintage offers softness and a silky texture that feels glossy to the palate. Drink 2026-2048"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"Definitely among the vintage's anomalies, Il Marroneto's 2020 is more overtly structured than its 2019 counterpart. While the latter verges on dainty and ethereal, the 2020 is steelier in resolve and almost austere by comparison. Proprietor Alessandro Mori also felt it needed longer in wood, so this saw a total of 45 months in Slavonian oak casks. Subtle and sweet to start, it flits with strawberry and cherry blossom before taking on earthier tones. Elegantly weighted but still tight, the palate is built around pure red cherry and raspberry, embedded with nutmeg and incense. Chalky and layered, the tannins sport an assertive bite. Give it a couple of years. Drink 2027-2039"

96/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris



2020 Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino 'Madonna delle Grazie' - \$600.00

"To arrive at Il Marroneto, an almost impossibly steep street is to be followed. The estate is on the northern flank of Montalcino, lying over a Jurassic soil; one of the oldest in Italy. The two-hectare Madonna delle Grazie vineyard on the north slope of Montalcino occupies one of the coolest parts of Montalcino, where the vines experience big swings in temperature from day to night – 'a big advantage today,' states Iacopo Mori. 'In '74 [when the estate was purchased by the family] it wasn't,' he adds. An exquisite mix of elegant aromas dominates the nose, with notes of Parma violets, orange peel, Earl Grey tea, dried cherries, smoky woodland and earthy minerality. Full-bodied, it shows significant tannins, but it's velvety, sweet and full of aging potential. The flavors are enhanced by energetic, slightly lifted acidity and a super-long, austere finish. It will last for decades. Try after 2025."

99/100 James Suckling

"The undeniably elegant 2020 Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie is amazingly fresh and vibrant on the nose, cascading from the glass with a burst of crushed cherries, rose petals, blood oranges and cloves. This displays exceptional elegance and grace, soothing the palate with its silken feel and ripe red and blue fruits. Hints of sour citrus add contrast, a mix of iron-borne minerals and fine tannins that mount toward the close. A saturation of primary concentration remains, offset by residual acidity as this finishes structured and impossibly long, leaving a sour cherry tinge and masses of violet pastille. The 2020 is a showboat yet complex and harmonious from start to finish. It's easily one of the absolute top wines of the vintage. Fewer than 3,000 bottles made. Drink 2028-2042"

98/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

"The Il Marroneto 2020 Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie (tasted once in the winery and again in my office) is another super classical expression of Sangiovese from vintner Alessandro Mori and his son Iacopo. This vintage is best described as more charming compared to the stacked 2019 vintage or the powerful 2016 edition. This is a very pretty wine, elegant and finessed, with pretty floral highlights of rose and violet that lean into a subtle menthol note. There is caramelized sugar and candied orange. The wine lives in oak for 46 months with just a brief time in steel before going into bottle (at the end of July 2024). This vintage is a little closed or tight in terms of mouthfeel, which suggests it needs more time in bottle to spread its wings. Drink 2027-2055"

98/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"Among the standouts of the vintage, Il Marroneto's Madonna delle Grazie reaches a rare level of profundity and density of structure. This soars out of the glass with heady scents of violet, rose and lilac, eventually joined by flecks of pepper, potting soil and roasted chestnuts, yet the palate is almost stubbornly closed as the tannins clutch assertively to a brooding core of dark cherry. Acidity is just as concentrated as the fruit, and next to the estate's classic Brunello, the single-vineyard Madonna delle Grazie bottling demonstrates more density and volume, and it will need even longer in the cellar. Next year, Il Marroneto will come out with a 2020 Riserva, only the estate's second ever (2013 being the first). Based on the performance of these two wines, the decision seems highly justified. Drink 2028-2040"

97/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

IL POGGIONE



"Il Poggione never ceases to amaze with its blend of consistency, dependability, remarkable quality and complexity from vintage to vintage. The 2020 is no different. Alessandro Bindocci described 2020 as a very warm season but not as dry as recent years, with an extended cooldown ahead of harvest that helped retain freshness in the finished wine. It goes without saying that they achieved remarkable balance from this warm year. The 2020 is a more immediate style—bright and punchy. Still, considering that the typical Il Poggione Brunello takes 10 to 15 years even to begin to enter its window of maturity, I welcome this edition. As for the 2019 Riserva Vigna Paganelli, it's a perfect example of a Riserva that delivers all of the added depth and regal structure that is often missing from this category. Bury this beautiful beast in a deep, dark corner of your cellar—it's money in the bank."

- Vinous, Eric Guido

2020 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino - \$85.00

"The 2020 Brunello di Montalcino is explosive, bright and punchy at first, evolving from cranberry to cherry with dusty sage, spiced blood orange and Tuscan dust. The is pure elegance, texturally deep and nearly velvety in feel with a core of tart wild berries that add contrast as a balsamic tinge emerges along with fine-grained tannins toward the close. It finishes long, structured and staining, leaving a flinty sensation and primary core of fruit that drenches the palate as violet inner florals and hints of lavender abound. The 2020 is seamless from start to finish and, while more approachable than a typical vintage of Il Poggione, is balanced for an extended maturation. Drink 2028-2040"

95/100 Vinous, Eric Guido.

"Showing very nice results, with greater accessibility in this vintage, the Il Poggione 2020 Brunello di Montalcino has dark fruit aromas with blackcurrant followed by something spicy or herbal. I am reminded of licorice root, exotic spice, pressed rose and fragrant tea leaf. It finishes smoothly with silky tannins and an open-knit approach. This vintage is almost ready to drink, and you get elegant complexity at the same time. It sees three years in oak botti. Fruit is sourced across vineyards with 25-year-old-plus vines. This is an ample production of 200,000 bottles. Drink 2025-2038"

94/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"Stretching southward from Sant'Angelo in Colle, Il Poggione's 140 hectares of vineyards rise from 120m to 430m above sea level. Vines with a minimum 25 years of age are singled out for the Brunello. A sun-soaked nose of macerated cherry and nutmeg is offset by porcini and leather. This has all the generosity and lushness of the south, with dusty tannins folded in to give shape. Dense red fruit is punctuated by sweet, dried herbs and the finish offers a saline twist. There is a lot of wine here, but it is impeccably balanced. Drink 2026-2036"

94/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris



2019 Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Paganelli - \$145.00

“The Riserva is a selection from within the Paganelli vineyard, which was planted in 1964. A second selection then takes place at the winery, prior to crush, fermentation and a long refinement of forty-eight months in large French oak barrels between thirty-three to fifty-two hectoliters. Brooding and balsamic, the 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Vigna Paganelli is a dark stallion of a wine with a bouquet to meditate to, wafting up exotic spices, flint, incense, dried roses, black cherries and hints of ashen stone. It’s racy yet complex and sensual, with silken textures and masses of mineral-inflected red berry fruits, all guided by a core of zesty acidity as a tinge of sour citrus adds tension throughout. Pleasantly chewy yet still mouthwatering, the 2019 leaves a web of fine tannins, along with a hint of orange zest and cloves to linger on and on and on. This is drop-dead gorgeous. Drink 2028-2042

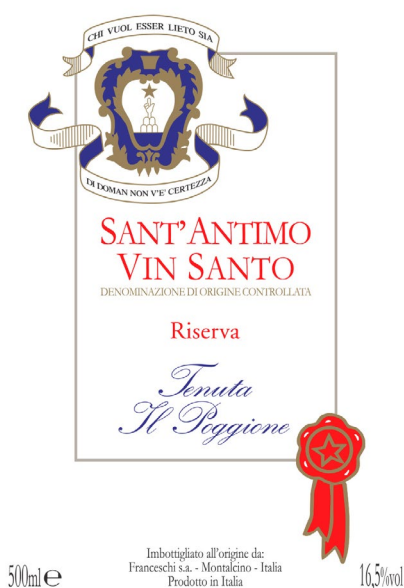
98/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“The estate’s prize plot, Vigna Paganelli was planted in 1964. Fabrizio Bindocci says that while it performs well even in the most challenging vintages, it is only bottled separately in the best years. The rejected fruit of three successive selections is completely discarded, rather than used for another wine. Gorgeously perfumed but properly restrained, the 2019 doles out nutmeg, cinnamon, black tea and incense on a persistent backdrop of dried cherry and black plum. Dense and sizeable but deftly balanced in its proportions, it remains effortlessly afloat as it expands assuredly across the palate. Soft, grainy tannins leave the mouth cleansed, yet this needs time, gratifyingly, for all its intricacies to be revealed. Drink 2027-2042”

97/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

“The Il Poggione 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Vigna Paganelli (with 40,000 bottles produced) sees a prolonged 48 months in oak botti with an additional 12 months in bottle. Fruit comes exclusively from a 12-hectare vineyard that was originally planted in 1964. We haven’t seen this Riserva since the 2016 vintage. It starts off with broad richness, and the bouquet fires on all cylinders. It shows tart blackberry and plum with cured tobacco leaf and sweet baking spice. You feel a rich buildup on the palate from what is a naturally concentrated vintage. I have adjusted the drinking window to be a bit shorter compared to past vintages. Drink 2025-2043”

95/00 Parker’s Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer



2009 Il Poggione Vin Santo Sant'Antimo Riserva (500ml) - \$65.00

Typical traditional Tuscan sweet wine produced from Trebbiano and Malvasia grapes (planted in the 1970s and 1980s), harvested from estate vineyards planted at 127 metres (416 feet) above sea level, then dried on straw mats for at least 90 days in the old traditional way, in order to increase the sugar concentration. After pressing, fermentation and slow aging for over ten years take place in Caratelli, 100 litre barrels, on the "madre" (mother), a compound of yeasts and bacteria kept from year to year, which has a significant effect on the characteristics of the Vin Santo. Amber in colour, intense bouquet with notes of dried apricot, bitter almond and honey. Neither too sweet nor too dry, its good acidity make it a versatile wine to accompany many kinds of food.

Traditional accompaniment to cantucci (dry Tuscan biscuits made with almonds and honey). It pairs well with dry cakes and biscuits. Not too sweet, it is also a good match for blue cheeses.

"The Il Poggione 2009 Sant'Antimo Vin Santo Riserva (in a 500-milliliter bottle) is not cloying or too viscous. In fact, the wine is surprisingly lithe and elegant in the glass with its characteristic Vin Santo aromas of candied fruit, caramel, toasted almond and maple syrup. It feels light and approachable on the palate with mid-weight creaminess. Less than 3000 bottles are made. Drink 2022-2035"

93/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

LE CHIUSE



We have again managed to obtain a small allocation of the Le Chiuse Brunello, as well as the very rare Riserva Diecianni for the first time! Being made only made in small quantities and distributed very little outside of Italy, Le Chiuse has garnered a cult following over the past decades. Located on the northern slopes of Montalcino's hill, this small gem of an estate has a storied lineage. Owned by the Biondi Santi family since the late 18th century, Le Chiuse's oldest grapes were used to make the legendary Biondi Santi Riservas.

When Tancredi Biondi Santi passed away in 1970, his youngest daughter, Fiorella, inherited the farm, which she leased to her brother, Franco, until her death in 1986. Franco Biondi-Santi believed Le Chiuse's vineyards were the finest in the appellation, which is why he continued to make the famed Biondi-Santi Riservas with Le Chiuse's grapes until 1990, when the estate was taken over by his niece, Simonetta Valiani. She runs the estate today with her husband, Nicolò Magnelli, and their son, Lorenzo.

Le Chiuse is very small, only 7ha. Their organic vineyards are in the heart of the historical growing zone, situated north of the hilltop town in an area known for long-lived wines that boast complexity, intensity and elegance. Vineyards sit 984 feet above sea level, where altitude and north/northwest exposures ensure ideal grape ripening and fresh acidity. Soils are of marine origin and contain flaky schist known as galestro, clay and marl that yield rich yet graceful wines with fragrance and depth.

The estate has been certified organic since 2005, one of the first in the denomination. Most of its Sangiovese vines are the BBS1 I clone chosen at the Biondi Santi Greppo estate and in Le Chiuse's vineyards in the 1970s. Lorenzo is in charge of winemaking. To produce classic, terroir-driven Brunello, he ferments in stainless steel and concrete with indigenous yeasts. Aging takes place in roughly 660-gallon casks made of 90% Slavonian oak and 10% Allier.

"I enjoyed a mind-blowing visit to Le Chiuse with proprietor Lorenzo Magnelli and consultant Valentino Ciarla. The tastings (both vertical and horizontal) served to teach me how this estate operates across its various vineyard parcels. As a rule of thumb, fruit from the side of the vineyard that looks toward the sunset is used for the Rosso di Montalcino, and fruit facing sunrise is earmarked for the Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Diecianni. Here, on the cooler northern side of the appellation, Lorenzo says, "If the 2020, 2021 and 2022 vintages had come 10 years ago, the wines would not have been as pretty as they are today." Many recent lessons have been learned, he says, to be able to create classical, terroir-driven wines in the face of climate change."

-Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer



2023 Le Chiose Rosso di Montalcino - \$55.00

“Made with certified organic fruit, the juicy and delicious 2022 Rosso di Montalcino from Le Chiose is a textbook Rosso. It opens with aromas of ripe dark berry, spice and blue flower while the succulent palate delivers ripe Morello cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and ground clove. Lithe polished tannins and tangy acidity keep it balanced, bright and accessible. Drink through 2027.”

93/100 Kerin O Keefe (2022 Vintage)



2020 Le Chiuse Brunello di Montalcino - \$115

"The 2020 Brunello from Le Chiuse is gorgeous, starting with its enticing aromas of forest berry, rose, new leather and Mediterranean herb. Young but already delicious, the palate shows the estate's hallmark finesse and offers layers of complexity in the making, delivering ripe red cherry, wild raspberry, citrus, white pepper and anise. Taut but extremely refined tannins provide support while fresh acidity keeps it bright, balanced and loaded with energy. Incredible performance. Drink 2029–2040."

98/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"The Magnelli family now tends to vineyards originally planted using massal selection from clones specifically picked by Tancredi Biondi-Santi. The vineyards span across the north hill, between the town of Montalcino and Montosoli, averaging around 330 meters, with soils that are a unique mix of schist, rocks and fossils over a water-retaining layer of clay only two meters below. The Le Chiuse 2020 Brunello di Montalcino (made with organic fruit) is a wine that prizes transparency and tension with cassis, Rainier cherry and raspberry coulis. I really love the bold fruit intensity that shines in this wine. To the palate, it offers subtle sweetness contrasted by bright acidity and silky tannins. This is a solid Brunello choice from 2020. Production is 18,800 bottles. Drink 2026-2045"

96/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"Among the top wines of the vintage, Le Chiuse was picked on 17 September just before a period of unsettled, rainy weather. It evokes its northern origins within Montalcino unequivocally. Discreet yet precise, the nose suggests balsamic herbs, fennel and rose mixed with autumn leaves. Gracefully midweight, it builds with flavours of rosehip tea and sweet earth wrapped in a chalky texture, with cranberry-esque acidity lending tension. That slight austere edge isn't characteristic of the vintage, but alludes to the estate's Riserva, which by the way, they didn't produce in 2020. Drink 2026-2038"

96/100 Decanter; Michaela Morris



2015 Le Chiusse Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Diecianni - \$260.00

"Aromas recalling pressed iris, underbrush, wild herb and camphor mingle with new leather and pipe tobacco on the exceptional 2015 Diecianni Riserva. Made with the smallest grape bunches from the oldest vineyard, aged for four years in large casks followed by another five years in the bottle and released ten years after the harvest, it's firmly structured, full-bodied and elegant, delivering dried cherry, licorice, spiced orange zest and a hint of flinty mineral accompanied by tightly woven, fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity provides balance and vibrancy. Lorenzo Magnelli and his family do an outstanding job vintage after vintage. Drink 2030-2040."

98/100 Kerin O'Keefe

"Le Chiusse is one of the first estates to hold back old vintages (totalling 4,000 bottles) for late release. Only a handful of other Montalcino wineries have joined ranks, but praise goes to this estate for playing an important role in this growing trend. To be released 10 years after the harvest, the 2015 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Diecianni carries the extra fruit weight and richness that I remember so vividly when this vintage first hit the market. You can expect tertiary tones with dried cherry, pitted plum, toasted rye bread and fireplace soot. There is a hint of sweetness on the close, and the tannins are resolved. Drink 2025-2045"

97/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

"A wonderfully fresh cascade of dried strawberries, cherries, rose petals and sweet spices make the 2015 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Diecianni a total pleasure to the senses. This is round and soft-textured with depths of juicy red berry fruits and crunchy mineral tones, all excited by zesty acidity. This leaves the palate stained in wild berry concentration yet maintains a juicy persona. Hints of red licorice and cinnamon spice linger over a gentle tug of fine tannins. The 2015 contains the energy and radiance of this sun-kissed vintage while maintaining a fantastic balance. Drink 2026-2035"

96/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

LISINI



marcobechi.it

“One of Montalcino’s historic, reference-point estates. Lisini makes quintessential Brunellos that perfectly demonstrate their exclusively Sangiovese origins. Given the cult status and high demand of Lisini Brunellos, these bottlings easily put to rest the idea that what people really want is a little Merlot blended into their Brunellos. Rather than overoak, overextract, or overripen, the firm prefers to craft its classic offerings with the denominations tried and true winemaking methods.”—Kerin O’Keefe

2020 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino - \$110.00

“Near Sant’Angelo in Colle, on the road that leads to Castelnuovo dell’Abate, Lisini is within the zone of Sesta. The estate preference is to pick quite late, and they are one of the last in the area to harvest. Here is the epitome of 2020’s seductiveness: dark exotic berries are tinged with a scent of juniper, while the palate strikes an arresting fusion of black cherry and lush apricot, with a ferruginous facet. Fulsome without being weighty, it deftly balances sumptuousness with rigour as firm tannins mark their territory. With this vintage, Lisini finally returns to its full lineup of Brunello. It is difficult to imagine the Ugolaia or Riserva bottlings topping this, however we will have to wait until next year see how those wines fare. Drink 2026-2036”

95/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

“The full-bodied 2020 Lisini Brunello has intense balsamic aromas of camphor and eucalyptus that mingle with violet, dark-skinned berry and dark spice. Bold, high-toned and already delicious even at this primary stage, the firm, enveloping palate delivers crushed raspberry, fleshy Morello cherry, star anise and white pepper before a black tea finish. Tightly woven, close-grained tannins provide the backbone while fresh acidity keeps it lifted.

Drink 2029–2035.”

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe



2019 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino Riserva - \$170.00

“Due to reduced quantities in 2019, the Lisini family decided to sacrifice their Ugolaia bottling in order to augment the Riserva. It is a striking specimen of the balmy Sesta zone in Montalcino’s southeast. Scents of myrtle and pine infuse dark cherry and black raspberry. On the palate, iron and chestnut weave through the luscious and exotic red fruit. Equally sumptuous tannins bestow a generous sandy-textured embrace. Polished and layered with mineral depths, this already feels satisfying, but the best is yet to come. Drink 2027-2042”

97/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

“The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva tempts the imagination as a mix of geranium and rose petals complement citrus-laced blackberries and hints of violet pastille. This is lifted and finessed with vibrant acidity and masses of mineral-infused red and black fruit aromas offset by a tinge of orange zest toward the close. The finish reveals its tannic and poised structure, yet it’s blended with a primary concentration that adds tremendous balance as nuances of tobacco and licorice fade. Bury this deep in the cellar. Drink 2028-2038”

95/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“The Lisini 2019 Brunello Riserva ripples with power while it also boasts a weightless concentration, delivering ripe black plum, fleshy Morello cherry, tobacco and cake spice flavors. Firm, velvety tannins provide enveloping support. It’s also fragrant, offering aromas of violet, grilled rosemary, ripe berry and Mediterranean scrub. Drink 2029–2034.”

95/100 Kerin O’Keefe

POGGIO DI SOTTO



There are few names in Brunello di Montalcino that rank higher than Poggio di Sotto. The estate's obsession in the vineyards, combined with its incredibly elegant winemaking style has garnered a cult following. The tannins here are as fine as they come for Sangiovese. The estate believes that it is the combination of the multiple clones planted, their unique location on these southern slopes and the high-density planting that creates such a distinct and beguiling example of Brunello di Montalcino. These wines are incredibly rare. If you consider these three factors—consistent quality over many vintages, a steadfast adherence to a classical winemaking tradition and a ready influx of capital—you might agree that Poggio di Sotto has few rivals in Montalcino.

Poggio di Sotto, owned by Claudio Tipa of ColleMassari since 2011, holds “the” blueprint for elegant Brunello di Montalcino. The estate's pedigree was set by Piero Palmucci, who acquired the property in 1989 and certified it for organics that same year. The first vineyards date back to the 1970s (with replanting efforts in 1982, 1985 and 1989), and the first Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino was produced in 1991.





The guiding principle here is “early is better.” Head winemaker Luca Marrone says “It’s better to pick two days early and not one day late.” In Tuscany, olives are harvested only after all the grapes are safely brought into the winery, and Poggio di Sotto strives to be among the first to pick grapes each harvest season.” We start picking the olives when others are still picking grapes.” Recent vintages boast a contained 13.5% alcohol content as a result of these choices. The Poggio di Sotto Rosso di Montalcino usually sees two years in oak, the Brunello di Montalcino ages for three years and the Brunello di Montalcino Riserva can mature between three and four years.

2021 Poggio di Sotto Rosso di Montalcino - \$145.00

“There’s a lot of excitement over the 2021 vintage in Montalcino. The 2021 is glorious, a powerful yet graceful Rosso that should age beautifully. However, there will be a 10% reduction in quantity for 2021 due to hail in August. The 2021 Rosso di Montalcino is dark and intense, smoldering up with masses of smoky black cherries, sage and incense. This possesses a core of ripe wild berry fruit underscored by saline minerals and savory spice, all guided by zesty acidity. The 2021 finishes structured and long, with a concentration that reminds me more of Brunello than Rosso, leaving grippy tannins and hints of sour citrus that keep me looking back to the glass for more. There will be a 10% reduction in quantity for 2021 due to hail in August. The decision was also made to reduce maceration time down to a month, using a gentler practice to counterbalance the character of this warm and dry vintage. This decision paid off in spades. Drink 2026-2033”

94/100 Vinous, Eric Guido

“Poggio di Sotto is well known for its Rosso as well as for its Brunello, precisely because it is only ever made from declassified lots of Brunello. One of the most expensive and celebrated Rosso labels in Montalcino, it’s also one of the few with real ability to age. You can tell that there is some seriously fine fruit in here. Organic. The wine is silky, rich and deep with very refined tannins and real polish to the fresh cherry fruit, shot through with liquorice and bay leaf aromas. The 2021 is particularly exceptional, with excellent length and concentration throughout, and a real sense of energy. Certainly better than many Brunellos, although priced accordingly. Drink 2024-2036

93/100 Decanter

2020 Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino - \$420.00

“Very much still a baby at the time of my tasting, the Poggio di Sotto 2020 Brunello di Montalcino shares many similarities with the epic 2016 vintage in terms of its pretty perfumes and polished length. However, this elegant wine does not have the same sheer inner power. This bottle ultimately offers a fresh and charming interpretation of Sangiovese. This is a delicate wine with floral aromas, wild rose, crushed stone and white cherry. Aged in large Slavonian oak casks, it requires more time to flesh out. Harvest started the last week of August and finished the first week of October, which represents a conscious decision to start picking earlier than most. The vineyards are planted on schistic galestro soils, and that territorial imprint comes through strongly in all of these wines. I love that refreshing hint of lemon rind or navel orange at the very end. Drink 2027-2048”

97+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lerner

“Restrained strawberries and cherries, with a touch of lavender and a lot of licorice. Super juicy on the palate with thick, chalky tannins at the moment, yet they are balanced by supple, sweet fruit. Medium- to full-bodied with a very savory aftertaste. Though very pleasant, it's not fully ready to drink now, and there's a lot of potential for the long haul.”

97/100 James Suckling

“Fragrant and loaded with finesse, the 2020 Poggio di Sotto Brunello opens with heady scents of blue flower, camphor, hay and dark spice. It's cool and classy, delivering succulent Morello cherry, cranberry, licorice and nutmeg set against a backbone of fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it well balanced. 2029–2036.”

96/100 Kerin O'Keefe

“The 2020 Brunello from Poggio di Sotto is a class act, showing a level of lift and finesse seldom seen from these southern Montalcino vintages. At this early stage, the 2020 Brunello requires a good amount of decanting to show its magic, especially aromatically, but it has a beautiful balance that will reward cellaring. Incredibly floral and mineral, the 2020 Brunello di Montalcino displays a cascade of rose petals, violets, white smoke, underbrush and dried strawberries. This is wickedly fresh and feminine in style, with a vibrant core of acidity and juicy red berry fruits that swirl throughout, complemented by a sweet herbal thrust. It finishes with lovely length and concentration yet is still potent with crunchy tannins and a resonance of savory spice that lingers on and on. This understated yet drop-dead gorgeous Poggio di Sotto Brunello should put on more weight with cellaring, but today, it's already enjoyable on its potential alone. Drink 2026-2038”

95/100 Vinous, Eric Guido



2019 Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino Riserva - \$815.00

"This incredible wine is slated to be released in January 2025. The Poggio di Sotto 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva shows a point of brilliant fruit over a medium-plus texture. The wine exhibits dusty tannins from the galestro-rich schistic soils that have a huge impact on the elegance and complexity of this exceptional and cellar-worthy Sangiovese. The palate salivates when you taste this wine. The bouquet is refined and bright with floral tones, red fruit and pencil shaving. Everything is in perfect form and balance. The 2019 vintage has the power and muscle for a long bottle evolution. Drink 2020-2060"

99/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, Monica Lamer

"Selected after multiple blind tastings, Poggio di Sotto's Riserva represents a single cask distinguished by its deeper colour, youthful countenance, and – according to winemaker Leonardo Berti – the emotion it evokes. A brooding mass, the 2019 wafts furtively with gingerbread, juniper and cloves. Zesty citrus provides a countering snap. Full and still compacted, it charges the mouth with steely yet elegantly sculpted tannins and brisk acidity. Pure, dark berry fruit is lying in wait to flesh out the structure. An absolute masterpiece of proportionality. Tuck away in the cellar. Drink 2028-2044"

98/100 Decanter, Michaela Morris

"Focused and perfumed, showing violet, dark-cherry, orange-peel and crushed-stone character. Medium-bodied, this has firm and refined tannins that caress the palate. It's silky and very long, showing precision and finesse with structure. Stunning balance. Already hard to resist. From organically grown grapes. Best after 2026 but will age for a very long time with confidence."

98/100 James Suckling

"I also tasted the 2018 and 2019 Riservas. While collectors will likely gravitate to the 2019, I must say that the 2018 is killer—easily one of the best of the vintage. Both wines are absolutely stunning. If you can afford them, do not hesitate. The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva is just an infant in its evolution. A bouquet of dusty earth, dried rose and worn leather give way to wild strawberries, shavings of blood orange and lifting hints of pine. Its silken textures wash across the palate, soothing and seamless, with a wave of ripe plums and cherries guided by a stream of cooling acidity as nuances of brown spice amass toward the close. The 2019 tapers off with a spicy, citrus concentration that swirls beneath an air of violet inner florals and lavender tones as a coating of sweet tannins reminds the taster that this is nowhere near ready to reveal all of its hidden charms. Drink 2028-2042"

97/100 Vinous, Eric Guido