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96 2012 Casanova di Neri Brunello di Montalcino *Tenuta Nuova* DOCG **Points**

The Casanova di Neri 2012 Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova is a beautiful wine that recalls many of the stunning characteristics found in its high-scoring predecessor. I gave a perfect 100 points to the 2010 edition of this same wine. This expression, made two years later, continues in that tradition of excellence. The quality of fruit is profound and intense. The bouquet offers black cherry, spice, leather, balsam herb, cola and licorice. The complexity is absolutely impressive. The mouthfeel, however, is slightly thinner. The classic 2010 vintage is remembered for its twofold punch of elegance and power. Alternatively, the 2012 vintage shows aromatic intensity and less persistence on the finish, generally speaking. Having said that, this remains one Bellissimo Brunello.

—Monica Larner