

January 2019



2014 Brunello di Montalcino DOCG

92 points

This is the white label Brunello from Giacomo Neri and his son Giovanni. The 2014 Brunello di Montalcino is faithful to the vintage with a compact and streamlined style that suggests a near or medium-term drinking window. In general, I am hesitant to recommend this vintage for any significant cellar aging, and one reason is because these wines perform nicely straight out of the gate. The same goes for this relatively easy expression that is redolent of wild berry, rose hip, blue flower and moist potting soil. -ML



2013 Brunello di Montalcino Cerretalto DOCG

97 points

There are a handful of wines in Italy that make me nervous before I taste them because my expectations are so high. This is one of those wines. This is a beautiful Brunello that boasts deep intensity and bold black fruit flavors that are plummy and rich. Spice, toasted oak and tobacco frame that primary fruit. Cerretalto ages in oak for 30 months and that strong imprint has added to the structure, depth and contemporary character of this A-list Brunello. That oak imprint is also reinforced in the wine's tannins. There's no doubt that this wine needs more cellar aging. -ML



2016 Pietradonice Toscana IGT

94+ points

I am happily impressed by the 2016 Pietradonice. This wine is so easy and pleasant to drink, I'd say it's almost dangerous: The bottle finishes much faster than you'd like. This vintage shows a rich and darkly saturated color followed by ripe aromas of blackberry, plum, spice and sweet tobacco. I am especially impressed by the optimal ripeness of the tannins that gives this wine a smooth and supple approach. This wine could age, but it also performs beautifully straight out the gate. I am a fan. -ML