



New-release Brunello: 30 top Tuscan reds to impress

Wines are ordered by score according to Michaela Morris' ratings, then alphabetically by producer name. UK or US stockists are shown where available, as allocations for some wines may still not be finalised – contact specialist merchants for current availability and pricing. For any wines marked 'Value pick' with no price details, it's based on our predicted pricing

Brunello 2021 highlights

1 ● Gaja, Pieve Santa Restituta, Sugarille 2021 98

POA £ Lay & Wheeler

While the lowest stretch of Sugarille suffered slight frost damage, the rest of this south-facing site was unaffected. In fact, the estate reports 15% more fruit overall in 2021. Quality across the range is also superb, with Sugarille coming out among the top wines of the vintage. Beguiling and precise in aromas of iris root, cedar bark and bergamot, the nose reveals just enough to tempt for now. It's remarkably finessed for all its density and architecture. Layers of clayey tannins are intricately intertwined with concentrated wild forest berries. Stealthy in its power, savoury minerals swirl throughout while pressed blossoms unfold toward the back end. Certainly not ready to drink yet. **Drink** 2028-2043 **Alcohol** 14.5%

2 ● Montesoli, Montesoli 2021 97

POA £ John E Fells

The original Montesoli bottling, first made in

1975, this is a gorgeous interpretation of the 2021 vintage and a testament to this revered site. Discreetly seductive, it slowly unleashes violet, vanilla, tarragon, sweet spice and damp forest floor. The palate is amply loaded with red- and blackcurrants without being heavy. Sangiovese's brilliant acidity is on full display here. Finessed tannins are well stacked, seamlessly placed and confidently firm. Floral and herb accents rebound on the finish. Taut but not austere, this promises to deliver slowly.

Drink 2028-2043 **Alc** 14.5%

3 ● Salvioni, La Cerbaiola 2021 97

£145 (ib) Decorum Vintners

There are neither frills nor fuss at Salvioni's Cerbaiola estate, and second-generation Alessia Salvioni is always refreshingly direct. She reports that harvest was very early in 2021 – at the start of September – as grapes were starting to raisin. The Brunello is the result of rigorous selection. It is a transparent expression of vintage while demonstrating the wisdom of the estate.

Saturated in colour and full of vigour, it boasts pristine, beautifully formed fruit. Ripe and firm dark red cherry suffuses the core, and violet and lilac rise from its depths. An underlying salinity amps up the freshness while the sturdy frame gives confidence for ageing. Great energy: it carries its alcohol with grace. **Drink** 2028-2042 **Alc** 15%

4 ● Canalicchio di Sopra 2021 96

£43.50 (ib) Lay & Wheeler, Turville Valley

US\$130 Millesima USA

VALUE PICK The estate's flagship Brunello is among the top 'classic' bottlings of the vintage. With equal parts from holdings in Montosoli and Canalicchio, it combines the best of both in one harmonious expression of Montalcino's northern sector. Vibrant aromas don't give everything away at once. Instead, they emerge with paced precision conveying dark red cherry, raspberry, sage and rosemary blossom. Florals and balsamic herbs perfume the beautifully composed, pristine palate, while concentrated acidity and sandy tannins are seamlessly ►