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Biondi-Santi
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SPECIAL ISSUE
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In Search of Brunello

Revealing the Essence of Tuscany's Fabled Red

For nearly a century, Brunello di Montalcino was Italy's most prestigious wine. In the late 1800's, it alone was winning medals in international competitions. And, with its sumptuous mouthfeel and evocative aromas, it was the *only* Italian wine that most foreign connoisseurs would dare serve discerning guests.

But for a long time, there was really only one Brunello, the creation of Ferruccio Biondi-Santi. Biondi-Santi was the first to make a wine called "Brunello" (named for the color of a local clone of Sangiovese) and it was his 1888 and 1891 that became Italy's first Holy Grail wines.

Biondi-Santi's success eventually attracted the interest of neighboring land owners—most of whom already had vineyards, but few of whom had any idea of the grapes' potential. The first to emulate Biondi-Santi's success were the Colombini family of Fattoria di Barbi, who first applied the Brunello name to their best red wine in 1931. They were followed by Clementi at Lisini, Franceschi at Il Poggione and a handful of others.

Brunello's Rarity

Yet, by the 1960's, Brunello remained an enigma. Fewer than a dozen estates (mostly owned by noble families) sold their own Brunello, and you could count the number of serious producers on one hand.

But what Brunello was being made! Production in those days was small, so few of the early bottles have

survived. Yet, collectors have long revered the Biondi-Santi Riservas made through the mid-1980's. And we can personally attest to the marvelous early Barbi and Il Poggione Brunellos. In the late 1980's we had the

privilege of tasting back to 1934 at Barbi and back to 1945 at Il Poggione, learning firsthand of Brunello's seductive texture and perfume, as well as of its aging potential.

The Revolution

However, the face of Brunello changed in the 1970's. What had been a sleepy backwater suddenly teemed with new investment and change. Old estates were sold and divided, multiplying the number of Brunello producers several-fold. Much of the new ownership represented new money: Milanese industrialists, Florentine merchants, and even a New York wine importer, Banfi's Mariani family. And a number of new producers came from the local community: the descendents of old tenant-farming families who were now landowners.

New money brought new ways. For decades, the old-line producers had followed Biondi-Santi's classically inspired lead: traditional viticulture and fermentations and four-plus years in large barrels called *botti*.

Most new producers sought inspiration elsewhere. In the 1970s, Mariani had a big impact on local thinking, creating modern vineyards and cellars, and American-style marketing. By 1979, French *barriques* entered the picture, and by the 1980's enologists ►



Montalcino above the fog

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like Ezio Rivella and Vittorio Fiore had begun to craft a new aesthetic for Brunello.

Brunello Today

Today Brunello has, of course, achieved an international following that even Biondi-Santi might have found unimaginable fifty years ago. But if there has been a downside to Brunello's success, it has been a loss of clarity—certainly in the marketplace, and perhaps even among some producers—about what Brunello is.

In the “old days” (prior to, say, 1990), a fine Brunello from a top year could be relied upon for its powerful fruit with strong earth and tobacco scents, its firm structure and, with aging, its creamy texture—with none of the characteristics derived from *barrique* aging.

In contrast, the Brunellos that are made today are stylistically all over the place. They range from the pure classicism of Barbi, Lisini and Il Poggione to the international modernism of Banfi, La Poderina and Fanti. Even within the same house, you may find one Brunello cuvée made traditionally and another made

to appeal to more “modern” palates.

The result has been a blurring of personality, where even knowledgeable consumers have little idea what a Brunello will taste like until they pop the cork. Reviews in the U.S. press too often tell us little about the winemaking, and even the more detailed guides published in Italy are often inaccurate.

This Offering

We have found that the only way to know Brunellos is to taste them yourself. And so we have, year after year, in countless settings. And we have narrowed down the field to a few favorites. Some are strict traditionalists; others have a more modern bent; while others bridge the past and present. But regardless of style, we believe that each captures what is special about Brunello.

We don't have the space in this 8-page special issue to cover all of our favorites, so we've had to limit our selection to thirteen producers—or particular cuvées—chosen for the way they capture the essential magic of Brunello.

Fattoria de Barbi

One of Montalcino's proudest estates, Fattoria de Barbi is a superb source of classically styled, *botti*-aged Brunello, endowed with superb richness on the palate and wonderful complexity in the nose.

The property has been owned by the same family—Colombini—since 1790; and after Biondi-Santi, they are the oldest Brunello producer, having bottled their first wine in 1892.

But for consumers and collectors, Barbi's history begins in 1957, when they began to sell their blue label Brunello *normale*, and 1961 when they made their first red label *riserva*. Prior to that, Barbi made

only a small amount of white label Brunello for family and friends; the rest of their wine was sold off in demijohn.

Our love of Barbi Brunello dates to the late 1980's when, on a visit to the estate, we were treated to a vertical tasting spanning a half century. The oldest wine was a wine never meant for sale: the 1934 Brunello. While it was showing its age, this '34 still possessed those majestic aromas and the velvety texture that makes Brunello so special.

We are pleased to offer the fantastic 1999 blue label and 1995 red label at well-below-market prices.

1999 Barbi Brunello \$39.95



A total delight—and an incredible bargain—for lovers of classic Brunello. The color is a warm, rich ruby, the nose is ripe and penetrating, filled with scents of tar, leather and black fruits. The palate is firm, but rounded, the flavors focused by juicy acidity.

1995 Barbi Brunello Riserva \$59.95



Classic, from top to bottom. Beautiful burnished ruby color with a russet rim. The noble bouquet captures the essence of the Tuscan countryside with scents of leaves, mushrooms and wild berries. The palate is richly glyceric, with few hard edges.

Lisini

Great Brunellos from a Classic Producer

One of the few estates surviving from the 19th century, Lisini is a little-known treasure—and the source of intensely rich and complex Brunellos in the classic tradition.

Dating back to the Renaissance, it has had only two owners, and like the other old estates—Biondi-Santi, Barbi, Il Poggione—Lisini continues to make their Brunello in much the same way they did decades ago, with traditional vinification and aging in large seasoned barrels.

But what sets Lisini apart is that it has a small vineyard of pre-phyloxera vines—historically used not only to produce wine, but to replant its other vineyards.

The vineyard was planted in the 1880's; the production is only enough to produce 300 prized bottles, too little to sell. But while other Brunello producers have planted their vineyards with nursery stock of anonymous origin, Lisini has taken hundreds of thousands



Lisini

of cuttings over the years for replanting throughout the estate. Large sections of the property's vineyards are now between 40 and 70 years old, much older than most Brunello estates.

From its remarkable vineyards, Lisini not only produces an extraordinary

Brunello *normale*, but one of the finest Riservas—Ugolaia—made from a parcel planted in 1978 at a much higher density than the rest of the estate (5,000 plants per hectare). Ugolaia has one of the finest *terroirs* on the estate and the yields are low; the result is a Brunello of remarkable concentration and elegance.

Regardless of cuvée, Lisini makes, for our money, some of Montalcino's most compelling wines.

Whether it can be attributed to the age and extraordinary origins of the vines, or the classic winemaking, there is an old-vine creaminess which is lacking in the wines of all but a few producers.

Brunello

1999 Lisini Brunello
92 Thomases - 93 WS
\$49.95



Daniel Thomases: "... the powerful, lengthy, mineral-laced flavors indicate that this is a wine built to age."

Wine Spectator: "Full-bodied and well-knit, with a long finish ... Big and rich."



1997 Lisini Brunello
95 Wine Spectator
\$65.00

Wine Spectator: "A rich yet refined red ... Full-bodied and wonderfully polished, with beautiful tannins and lots of fruit and spices. Long, long finish."

1995 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino69.95

Tanzer: "Powerful and concentrated in flavor ... (Lisini is) regularly among the finest Brunellos"

1990 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino110.00

Gambero Rosso: "Tre Bicchieri ... the structure and the suppleness are notable, as is the length ... a complex wine."

Brunello Riserva "Ugolaia"

"Since the 1990 vintage, Ugolaia has established itself as one of Brunello's greatest wines." Daniel Thomases

1995 Lisini Brunello
"Ugolaia"
92 Daniel Thomases
\$65.00



Robert Parker: "... offers a seductive perfume of smoke, minerals, earth, jammy cherries and strawberries, Asian spices, and fruitcake. Once past the complex aromas, there is formidable fruit, full body, a sweet entry on the palate, and well-integrated tannin and acidity."

1993 Lisini Brunello 'Ugolaia'85.00

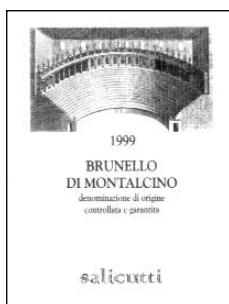
1991 Lisini Brunello 'Ugolaia'79.95

1990 Lisini Brunello 'Ugolaia'135.00

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The Cult of Salicutti

From the moment it released its 1995 Brunello—all 100 cases of it—Salicutti was preordained a superstar. In fact, of all the new Brunellos of the past 15 years, Salicutti most deserves to be called a cult wine—with tiny production, unique style and transcendent quality.



With its tiny production and rabid following, Salicutti is nearly impossible to find in Italy. So, we are delighted to offer the spectacular 1999 at an equally spectacular price—along with a few bottles of the legendary 1997. Quantities are very limited.

**1999 Salicutti Brunello
\$69.95**

But while Salicutti's 1995 was magical—Gambero Rosso called it a “masterpiece in miniature”—the 1997 and 1999 secured the estate's mythic reputation. These two great vintages demonstrated that Francesco Leanza's perfectionism, and *garagiste* philosophies, were capable of producing Brunello of epic power and richness.

Leanza's organically certified vineyards form a south-facing amphitheatre, their tightly controlled yields producing grapes of remarkable concentration and intensity. In the cellar, the combination of 500-liter *tonneaux* and larger Slavonian oak *botti* produce some of Montalcino's most profoundly expressive wines.

In last October's **Executive Wine Seminars** tasting of top 1999 Brunellos (*erobertparker.com*), Salicutti came in second only to Siro Pacenti: “Open, rich, complex, spicy, leathery, nose shows classic old-style Brunello character ... even though this is a huge wine, all of the components are in harmony ... an excellent choice for lovers of traditional Brunello. **\$90 retail.**”

1997 Salicutti Brunello159.95

The legendary Salicutti—now very rare. Wine Spectator: “98 rating ... fabulous aromas of violets, berries, cherries and minerals that turn to black licorice ... big, velvety tannins ... Super wine from this small producer.”

Altesino 'Montosoli'



Altesino's Brunello “Montosoli” has long been a Montalcino icon. Produced from the famed vineyard of the same name—and aged 90% in *botti*, 10% in *barrique*—it has, since 1990, been a wine of complex minerality and staggering concentration.

Many consider the 1990 Montosoli to be the true essence of Brunello, and perhaps one of the best ever made. It is nearly impossible to find today. And it appears that the 1995 and 1997 are destined to be just as great. We are pleased to offer limited quantities of these legendary wines.

1990 Altesino Brunello 'Montosoli'*195.00

Wine Spectator: “98 rating. One of the greatest Brunellos ever made. Very muscular ... full-bodied and powerful ...”

1995 Altesino Brunello 'Montosoli'* 79.95

Wine Spectator: “96 rating. Monster Brunello ... superripe aromas of black licorice, dried plum, mint and meat ... Best version of this Tuscan red since the legendary 1990 ...”

1997 Altesino Brunello 'Montosoli'*145.00

Wine Spectator: “98 rating ... extremely well-structured ... ripe and concentrated fruit. Superbly made.”

Costanti

Montalcino's noble Costanti family first produced Brunello commercially in the 1960s, but their history as winemakers is much older. In fact, they grew grapes on their estate for 300 years before bottling any wine and waited a further century to begin selling it.

The estate's original heart was on the hallowed Colle al Matrichese, on the town's eastern flank. But a few decades ago, the family picked up 10 hectares on Montosoli, also one of the area's most revered sites.

Andrea Costanti took the reins in 1983 and enlisted the great Vittorio Fiore to create the polished, classic style for which Costanti became famous.

1997 Costanti Brunello di Montalcino 49.95

Ed Beltrami in Tanzer's IWC: “94 rating. Ethereal nose of wildflowers, especially lavender. Vibrant, sharply focused flavors of anise, chocolate, coffee and white pepper. Superbly concentrated, with a velvety mouth feel and firm, ripe tannins.”


1978 Costanti Brunello Riserva 95.00

Rare bottles of a classic Costanti Riserva—from a serious European cellar. *One bottle limit.*

Salvioni

We first heard of Giulio Salvioni in the mid-1990's, when most of his 500-case production was being sold to a loyal following in Europe—with only 50 cases coming to the United States.

Salvioni's fame has since grown dramatically; his reputation today among collectors is second only to that of Soldera's. Yet, his Brunello production remains tiny: about 800 cases. He makes no *riserva*, only a Brunello *normale* with breathtaking aromatics and a seductive texture—a style often

 "In just ten years (Salvioni's Brunello) has become a veritable cult object for wine lovers, who squabble over the few bottles to come out of those two producing hectares." *Gambero Rosso 1999*

compared to that of Soldera.

There is good reason for this. When Salvioni decided in 1985 to begin making Brunello on his family's century-old estate, he hired Attilio Pagli, a young enologist who had trained under Soldera's advisor, Giulio Gambelli. Pagli remains at Salvioni's side to this day.

Salvioni's wines are among the most prized Brunellos of all. We are pleased

to offer six highly sought-after vintages at below-market prices.

1999 Salvioni Brunello
95 Daniel Thomases
\$89.95



1997 Salvioni Brunello
97 IWC 96 Wine Spectator
\$125.00

Daniel Thomases in *The Wine Advocate*: "The best Brunello di Montalcino in the history of this jewel of an estate? For me it would be this 1999 ... Sangiovese taken to the umpteenth power." **Regular retail: \$140.**

1998 Salvioni Brunello79.95

Tanzer: "... superripe aromas of kirsch, cassis, game and roasted nuts; shows an almost port-like richness that reminded me of the 1997 vintage ... an impressively layered texture ... **\$136 retail.**"

1996 Salvioni Brunello59.95

One of the year's best Brunellos, with beautifully defined blackberry fruit, leather and classic Salvioni white fruits. The palate is lush and dense. A well-below-market price.

Ed Beltrami in Tanzer's *IWC*: "Ethereal aromas of incense, honeysuckle, and nutmeg ... Very rich flavors of blackberry liqueur, espresso and mint ... a riveting wine."

Wine Spectator: "Great wine with licorice, blackberry and meaty aromas. Full-bodied, huge yet balanced, with amazing concentration and complexity. Subtle yet outlandish."

1995 Salvioni Brunello159.95

Daniel Thomases: "**92** rating ... Concentrated and full on the palate... More muscular than the usual style of the house but with important prospects."

1990 Salvioni Brunello245.00

Apart from the even more impossible-to-find 1985, the 1990 is Salvioni's "Holy Grail" vintage. Extremely rare.

Fuligni

"Fuligni Brunello has the great merit of projecting a distinctive, identifiable style The elegance of expression ... is undeniable." *Gambero Rosso*



Though there are Brunellos that captivate with their power and richness, many great Brunellos are more cerebral than showy. And one of the finest of this style is Eredi Fuligni's mythic Brunello Riserva "Vigneto dei Cottimelli."

This great Brunello Riserva is produced from high-altitude vineyards, scrupulously pruned and hand-selected to produce low yields. Aging is in a mixture

of large Slavonian *botti* and French *tonneaux* and *barriques*, producing a rich and structured Brunello that is expressive of its *terroir*.

The 1995 vintage produced a magical Fuligni Riserva. This now-rare wine lists at \$100 a bottle, but we can offer it at an excitingly low price.

1995 Fuligni Brunello Riserva "Vigneto dei Cottimelli" ..59.95

Sublimely elegant Brunello Riserva, with superb depth and expressiveness. Classic autumnal scents marry with aromas of leather, tobacco and blackcurrant. The full, expansive palate—featuring a sensual texture—leads to a long, velvety finish. Superb.

Biondi-Santi

Just as Vega Sicilia laid the foundation for winemaking in Ribera del Duero, Biondi-Santi was the forerunner of all Brunellos. It produced the region's first great wines, achieving vast international prestige at a time when great wines were thought only to come from France.



secured two private collections of Biondi-Santi Riservas at far below market prices. The bottles are all pristine. As for the prices, you are unlikely to see their likes again.

1955 Biondi-Santi Brunello Riserva450.00

Named by *Wine Spectator* one of the top dozen wines of the twentieth century. Sheldon

Wasserman: "★★★★- nuances of mint, leather and plums; great concentration and richness of flavor...."

1964 Biondi-Santi Brunello Riserva295.00

Wasserman: "★★★★+ Lovely color; lovely nose, complex and rich; sweet impression, rich and flavorful, nice texture, very long; still room to grow; a lot of class."

1975 Biondi-Santi Brunello Riserva295.00

Clive Coates: "Quite splendid color, like a Latour 1961 ... Sumptuous creamy-rich fruit ... Roasted nuts, coffee, cooked plum tart ... great length and depth of character." Wasserman: "★★★★(+) rich and mouth-filling, real class and concentration ... a fine wine by any standard."

1983 Biondi-Santi Brunello Riserva195.00

Wasserman: "★★(★+) Flowers, nuts and spices, delicately scented bouquet yet richly concentrated; sense of sweetness, packed with flavor and concentration ... real class here."

1985 Biondi-Santi Brunello Riserva250.00

Wasserman: "★★★★(★★★★+) Perfumed, scented bouquet; great structure and elegance ... the quality is already evident; it shines from the bouquet through the flavor and the finish." Clive Coates: "A lot of depth here ... Rich and concentrated ... and a lovely, fat, ample, multi-dimensional finish. Very fine."

It was Biondi-Santi's success in the late 1800's and early 1900's that gave the Brunello name its ring of nobility, making possible the emergence of scores of aspiring new producers in coming decades. Yet unlike Vega Sicilia—whose star continued to rise—Biondi-Santi has been lost in the shuffle, an anachronism as much as it is a progenitor.

But while its wines have been forgotten by some, the Biondi-Santi family can boast several of the greatest wines ever made in Italy. Foremost among these are the Riservas of 1888, 1891, 1945, 1955 and 1975.

In fact, for Biondi-Santi collectors such wines are the Holy Grail. Devotees can only dream of acquiring an 1888 or 1891 (the last time one of these traded, it sold for over \$20,000), but they regularly pay up to \$1000 for 1955s and nearly as much for 1975s. (Note that such prices are for Riservas; the "basic" Brunellos are made from younger vines and hardly collected at all.)

By dint of hard work, and good fortune, we have

Il Poggione

Throughout the 20th century, Il Poggione produced wine. But it was not until it hired Pierluigi Talenti in 1958 that Il Poggione's golden era began—a forty-year period during which it became a standard bearer for classic Brunello.



Fabrizio Bindocci & Pierluigi Talenti

The first Brunello that Talenti ever made for sale was the 1965, and this majestic Brunello proved to be the first of many outstanding efforts from this brilliant winemaker. In fact, looking back over the years, we have drunk more definitive Brunellos from this estate than any other.

Talenti died in 1999, having groomed his longtime

assistant Fabrizio Bindocci to succeed him. Bindocci clearly carries with him not only Talenti's philosophy, but also his gift for crafting wines of richness, balance and perfume.

Made in the year of Talenti's death, Bindocci's 1999 is a fitting tribute to a great winemaker.

1999 Il Poggione Brunello 42.95

Tanzer: "91 rating. Roasted berries, chocolate and cedar on the nose; a bit porty yet lively. Dense, sweet and rich, with fruit of steel. Rather powerful, even a bit youthfully aggressive, in a port-like way, with concentrated flavors of dark berries, licorice and spices. Finishes with chewy tannins and excellent length."

Cerbaiona

"Except for Gianfranco Soldera, no one in Montalcino has made better wines than Diego Molinari over the past 15 years." Daniel Thomases 2000

Diego Molinari is a traditionalist who isn't afraid to experiment. He has always aged his wine in larger barrels, but a few years back he gave *barrique* aging a whirl. After a few vintages, he gave up: "We can make an interesting wine out of them, but nothing special."



consistent taste of black cherries, licorice and tobacco, and a firm tannic spine and mouthwatering acidity, that makes the wine easily recognizable.

For years, Molinari's wines have challenged those of Soldera for the highest prices in the zone.

However, we have succeeded in rounding up his top wines of the past quarter-century at amazingly low prices. Consider this your golden opportunity to explore the legend of this mythic producer.

Molinari's Brunello (no Riserva is made) is among the most distinctive, and widely admired, in Montalcino. Since his first great vintage, 1982, there has been a

1999 Cerbaiona Brunello di Montalcino 79.95

Gambero Rosso: "Tre Bicchieri ... the typical licorice sensation makes the wine instantly recognizable to its many admirers." Daniel Thomases: "93 rating." Tanzer: "... lovely thrust and inner-mouth floral character ... real clarity and grip, not to mention energy in the mouth ... Excellent Brunello. \$166 retail."

1998 Cerbaiona Brunello di Montalcino 69.95

Tanzer: "91 rating. Silky, juicy and firm, with cool, vibrant, Chambolle-like flavors of tangy red fruits and spices. Very elegantly styled, sharply delineated Brunello with a compelling but restrained sweetness. Finishes with suave, fine tannins and lovely persistence. Got better and better with aeration. \$160 retail."

1997 Cerbaiona Brunello di Montalcino 89.95

Ed Beltrami in Tanzer's *IWC*: "Intense blackberry jam flavor explodes in the mouth ... Richly textured ... this brooding wine offers an imposing Brunello experience. \$168 retail."

1996 Cerbaiona Brunello di Montalcino 59.95

A stunning success—one of the wines of the vintage—1996 Cerbaiona offers a compelling nose of raspberries, truffles, chocolate and cedar, and full, ripe, lush flavors on the palate. The tannins are soft and caressing. Outstanding.

1990 Cerbaiona Brunello di Montalcino 175.00

1982 Cerbaiona Brunello di Montalcino 150.00

These are the two vintages that put Molinari on the map. Extremely rare.

Talenti



In 1980, Il Poggione's owners showed their gratitude to Pierluigi Talenti by helping him purchase "Pian di Conte," a superbly situated estate south of Montalcino. From 1981 until his death in 1999, Talenti annually made a few hundred cases of classically styled Brunello from Pian di Conte.

Talenti's grandson Riccardo has now taken over and, working with consultant Carlo Ferrini, is continuing his grandfather's legacy of superb Pian di Conte Brunello.

1999 Talenti Pian di Conte Brunello 39.95

Tanzer: "93 rating. Sexy, wild aromas of briary berries, plum, spicecake, roast coffee and minerals. Lush, dense and packed with fruit. Very ripe but with firm, harmonious acidity giving the wine shape and grip. This really dusts the palate with dark berry and woody flavors. Deep, thick and brooding on the long finish."

Siro Pacenti



Of all the Montalcino winemakers to incorporate global influences in their work, Giancarlo Pacenti is perhaps the most widely admired. He uses a combination of new *barrique* and old *botti* to produce just one Brunello, a blend of two vineyards on opposite sides of Montalcino. Since the 1995 vintage, this Brunello has annually won *Gambero Rosso's* coveted *tre bicchieri*, a tribute to the wine's fabulous quality.

We are pleased to offer the superb 1999 at a below-market price.

1999 Siro Pacenti Brunello 69.95

Wine Spectator: "96 rating. Beautiful spice, berry, plum and raspberry character with hints of spices. Full-bodied, with well-integrated tannins and a long, long finish. This is always one of the greatest producers of Brunello and 1999 is no different."

The Great Gianfranco Soldera

For two decades, Gianfranco Soldera has made Montalcino's most majestic and aromatically complex wines. For many of us, if we could choose one Brunello to drink now or to cellar—it would be Soldera's.

Yet, Soldera the man is not without controversy. His strong convictions are freely voiced and his peers often call him arrogant. But his supporters argue that Soldera's clarity of purpose is precisely *why* his wines are so great.

He knows exactly what he wants to achieve, and his techniques are a unique blend of traditionalism and his own quest for perfection. He continues to age his



Soldera

Brunello for five years in large Slavonian oak tanks and vats. But in the vineyard he is a modernist: he short prunes in the winter, green prunes in the summer, and does grape-thinning and limited leaf-stripping in the fall to maximize ripening.

Soldera has pursued his vision since 1972, and for the first two decades, his fame was limited by his tiny production. But the lid came off in the 1990's, thanks in part to huge scores from Robert Parker. Today, his wines are uniquely sought-after among Brunellos, the equivalent of Dal Forno's Amarones or Bruno Giacosa's riservas.

Brunello Riserva

1997 Soldera Brunello Riserva
95+ Tanzer
\$245.00

Tanzer: "... Silky and seamless ... A brilliantly focused Brunello of compelling intensity and structure. Expands impressively in the mouth and finishes with outstanding brightness and subtle length **\$473 retail.**"

1995 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva225.00

Parker: "96 rating ... exotic nose of truffle juice ... powerful concentration ... must be tasted to be believed."

1995 Soldera Brunello 'Intistieti' Riserva* 265.00

Parker: "98 rating ... extraordinary ripe, surreal perfume ... I have never tasted anything quite like it."

1994 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva149.95

Wine of the vintage termed "sensational" by Thomases.

1991 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse' Riserva179.95

Parker: "94 rating ... a magnificent Brunello ... the wine of the vintage ... superb richness, incredibly sweet"



Brunello

1990 Soldera Brunello
98 Parker
\$395.00

Parker: "A modern day classic, as well as one of the greatest Brunellos I have ever tasted ... The wine is extremely powerful and full-bodied, with layers of highly concentrated, ripe fruit. Despite its massive size, it retains a gracefulness and sense of elegance."

1987 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse'145.00

Superbly cellared bottles from a European collection. Daniel Thomases writes, "sensational."

1986 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse'*149.95

How many times has Soldera made the wine of the vintage in Montalcino? Here's yet another example.

1985 Soldera Brunello 'Case Basse'350.00

From the great 1985 Brunello vintage, a legendary wine of great power, richness and perfume that is now virtually impossible to find. *A strict one bottle limit.*

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