Brunello di Montalcino 2013 and Riserva 2012

Release Offer
Introduction

“A Vintage of Extreme Elegance and Harmony”

Montalcino March is upon us. The demand for these exotic Tuscan wines remains as strong as ever with more and more selling out upon release. After the iconic 2010 vintage, 2011 and 2012 were more variable in quality but both certainly regarded as very good overall, yielding some deliciously opulent, slightly earlier drinking styles. 2013 may have been a difficult vintage in much of France, but in Italy it produced some fantastic wines in Piedmont, Tuscany and Bolgheri. The 2013 season was a cooler year in general producing more elegant wines with good homogenous quality across all vineyard sites of Montalcino. Wines are marked with a fine intense concentration, suave polished tannins, exceptional elegance, moderate alcohol levels and wonderful overall harmony.

The Vintage

“It’s a textbook Brunello vintage, the kind we greet with open arms.”

Brunello di Montalcino 2013 is a vintage for those that want to experience the energy, elegance and age worthy structure that first drew wine lovers and collectors to Brunello di Montalcino decades ago. A classic vintage, the best 2013s boast remarkable aging potential not seen in years. The top wines are stunning, with a radiance missed in many of the muscular, more approachable and higher alcohol Brunellos from recent vintages. The top 2013s will require some patience to reach their maximum potential. Unlike the extremely warm, dry years that have become the norm in Montalcino since the mid-1990s (exceptions include 1998, 2002 and 2005); the 2013 vintage was a blast from the past. It was a cool year, with abundant rainfall in spring and the first part of the summer. Careful vineyard management was needed to keep the grapes free of disease.

The 2013 growing season proved incredibly long and slow. Cooler temperatures prevailed in September and the first half of October, and the grapes benefitted from ample sunshine and breezy conditions. Picking started in mid October, about 20 days later than usual. Indeed, picking this late hasn’t happened since the 1980s! The vintage produced fragrant, medium-bodied wines loaded with finesse, intensity, energy and firm but well-integrated noble tannins. The best are impeccably balanced with vibrant acidities and alcohol levels that also ring of the past, as many wines declare 13.5% to 14% abv’s. That’s a stark contrast to 14.5% and 15% levels that have become increasingly common since the start of the 2000s. Many of the winemakers we spoke to echo the same impressions ~ that 2013 is a classic 5 star vintage in every sense and definitely one to fill your cellar with!
**How the Offer Works**

Prices are quoted per case of 6 (unless stated) in bond (i.e. duty free) at London City Bond. Wines may be stored by us or transferred in bond. Most wines will be shipped toward the end of spring or summer of 2018 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £12.99 per case) and V.A.T. on the total value (including duty) must be paid prior to delivery. Transfer under bond and delivery to the UK mainland are free for orders over £500 (in bond value). Otherwise delivery charged at £25 per address or per transfer. Wines may be collected from 105 Old Brompton Road. Wines will automatically be transferred into storage should no preference be stated. Storage with us at LCB is £0.96 per case of 12 per month including VAT. Payment of duty bills, fine wine and en Primeur offers should be by cash, cheque, debit card or bank transfer only.

Buyers accept that the actual value of the wine could change between purchase and delivery.

*Tasting notes have been included with reference to both our scores and critic’s scores from across the globe where possible. Drinking dates give an idea of when the wines will be ready. There are never fixed rules and wines should be enjoyed at as many stages of their life as possible.*

Orders will be invoiced for payment by return.

Many thanks

*James Handford MW & Greg Sherwood MW*
The Wines

“The global success of Brunello di Montalcino has hit a delicious sweet spot. Demand is high and supplies are limited”.

~ Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate
Sesti

Sesti is one of the leading producers in Brunello di Montalcino – an estate of 9 hectares under vine which is run by astrologer Giuseppe Sesti and his daughter Elisa. In the vineyard, everything is kept as natural as possible with zero use of herbicides, pesticides, chemical fertiliser and even outside sourced yeasts. The study of astronomy and lunar cycles has also influenced Giuseppe’s approach in the winery - he follows the phases of the moon when it comes to winemaking techniques; only racking wines during a waning of the moon. Aging of the wines takes place in larger Slavonian oak casks because, according to Sesti, if he is happy with the fruit, the tannins and the overall growing season, then there is no need to mask the wine, but rather preserve the inherent qualities that Sangiovese Grosso draws from these meticulously farmed vineyards.

Sesti Rosso di Montalcino 2016 @ £110.00 per 6 IB

The 2016 Rosso di Montalcino is a nicely balanced and forthcoming expression of Sangiovese executed in an easy and streamlined style. Bright cherry and red currant flavours would pair with your favourite pasta dishes. The wine closes with crisp and refreshing acidity. (89/100 Robert Parker's Wine Advocate; 90/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Sesti Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £275.00 per 6 IB

Located at Castello di Argiano, Sesti produces classic wines from a slightly warmer corner of the Montalcino appellation. However, the 2013 Brunello di Montalcino does a great job of capturing the light and delicate side of this vintage. It does so because of the plump and bright quality of fruit at its core. Aged in botte grande for 39 months, the wine shows a tight and streamlined structure that is backed by a firm but integrated tannic backbone. This wine is showing nicely now and should evolve over the next decade. (95/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Sesti Phenomena Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2012 @ £385.00 per 6 IB

Maturing mid-ruby with bricky rim. Savoury and sweet and concentrated on the nose. Succulent, racy fruit with gorgeous, almost Nebbiolo-like tannins. Powerful yet elegant. (17.5/20 Walter Speller; 95/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Sesti Phenomena Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2012 Magnums @ £425.00 per 3 IB

(95/100 Greg Sherwood MW)
**Podere Salicutti**

Podere Salicutti is a winery that has enjoyed a meteoric rise in reputation over the last few years. This has also been an incredible journey for now ex-owner Francesco Leanza, who recently sold the winery but has agreed to stay on to continue making the wines. Not only does he continue to craft some of the top Brunello wines from this region, but he has arguably (and time will tell) created a reputation for Salicutti that will long out live himself. Part of the reason for the success of Salicutti lies in the location of the vineyards, situated at an altitude of 420 metres, which allowed the vines to benefit from excellent ventilation and exposure during the annual August heat spikes as witnessed in 2011 and 2012. The resulting wines are nothing short of spectacular with the 2013 being easily the best vintage from the estate since 2010.

**Salicutti Brunello di Montalcino ‘Piaggione’ 2013 (6) @ £295.00 per 6 IB**

*Concentrated mid-ruby with orange tinged. Taut and cool, red-fruit nose. Lively palate with vibrant, intense red berries with quite a big mouth filling structure. Wonderfully fresh, fragrant with classical tannic grip and an impressively long, concentrated finish. Drink from 2020 to 2035+. (97/100 Greg Sherwood MW)*

*Salicutti’s 2013 Brunello di Montalcino Piaggione shows a brilliant ruby appearance that captures the ambient light. This is a classic expression from Montalcino with seamless aromas of wild flower, cassis, smoky ash and Mediterranean herb. The mouthfeel awards an incredible feeling of linearity, precision and focus. This is a wine of pedigree that promises a long aging evolution ahead. The lucky new owners of this estate have purchased a real gem in the Italian winescape. (95/100 Robert Parker's Wine Advocate)*

**Poggio di Sotto**

few Brunello can match Poggio di Sotto for its sheer excellence, texture, elegance and complexity. Indeed, one could say that about their Rosso, too. Situated right at the southern tip of Montalcino, it is the cooling breezes that tumble down the slopes of the Mont’Amiata that help to create the estate’s calling card of textural softness, suppleness and persistence. Locals were somewhat surprised when Piero Palmucci sold the estate in 2011 (even rumoured to have left all his belongings behind on the day he received his multi-million euro payout, driving off in only the clothes on his back to a new home in Castiglione della Pesaia!). But hardly anything has been changed since: there was no need to fix anything, as nothing was broken...

**Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £695 per 6 IB**

*The 2013 Brunello di Montalcino is downright gorgeous. The wine is inward-looking at the very beginning, but it quickly revs up to deliver soaring intensity and profound elegance. It goes from first to sixth gear in seconds and grabs all your attention and admiration in the process. The bouquet reads like a textbook Sangiovese, with wild berry, rose hip, pressed violets, cola, balsam herb, liquorice and cigar ash. The bouquet underlines the wine’s enormous finesse and pedigree, but the mouthfeel is all about frankness, directness and power. This is a naked and pure Brunello that glows bright with confidence and pride. (97/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)*
Gaja Pieve Santa Restituta

One of Angelo Gaja’s two Tuscan properties, Santa Restituta is on the site of an old church which dates back to the 4th century. As is the family’s style, theirs is a fusion of modern and traditional winemaking. They too own land on the Buonconvento Northern side of Montalcino and some prestigious lands in the South, a stone’s throw from Sesti. The Northern sites normally go into the Brunello di Montalcino with Sugarille and Rennina located around the winery on the Southern side of the town being bottled individually as Crus. These three Brunellos from one of the finest names in Italian wine are impeccably crafted and full of character, finesse and ageability. They perfectly embody the elegance of the 2013 vintage and are absolute must haves for the cellar.

Gaja Pieve Santa Restituta Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £245.00 per 6 IB

A very elegant wine with dark cherry aromas intermingled with dried summer fruits and wild herbs. The vibrant palate has intense bright cherry fruit flavours balanced by seamless tannins and mineral freshness. Complex and refined this wine will be delicious to drink over the next few years but will age well for at least a decade. Drink from 2019. (94+/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Gaja Pieve Santa Restituta Brunello di Montalcino Rennina 2013 @ £555 per 6 IB

With layers of complexity and a delightfully long finish, this really is a beautiful wine that is captivating from the first taste. Rich, ample and intensely aromatic, it has wonderful plush fruit flavours that are tremendously pleasing. While showing real elegance and finesse, this wine will age incredibly well. This really is an Irresistible wine. Drink from 2021. (95/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

The 2013 Brunello di Montalcino Rennina is a dark, plush and succulent red wine with seamless overall integration. Angelo Gaja makes his wines with broad brush strokes that form shapes of perfect harmony and grandeur. He seems less interested in the minutaie, much in the same way an impressionist painter creates a portrait without consideration for the gritty details of reality. Continuing with my art metaphor, I’ll venture to say that this is a big-picture wine that embraces bold fruit, oak spice, acidity and tannin in one overwhelming and warm embrace. I usually score the Sugarille a point or two higher, but this year the Rennina won my heart. (95/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)

Gaja Pieve Santa Restituta Brunello di Montalcino Sugarille 2013 @ £645 per 6 IB

A gorgeous wine showing a great deal of depth and purity. Sweet black fruit of dark cherries and blueberries with beautifully integrated tannins and a hint of white pepper and spice on the finish. Fresh and precise, this wine has lots of energy and is very impressive. It will be delicious in a few years but has plenty of ageing potential. Drink from 2021. (96/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

The single-vineyard 2013 Brunello di Montalcino Sugarille has a tighter core and a blacker heart compared to the Rennina. This wine is momentarily more difficult to penetrate and comprehend. It makes a more abrupt first impression but then relaxes and reveals more of its character only after it has spent extra time in your company. Then, it becomes suddenly exuberant and loud. This is a dynamic expression of Sangiovese with bold ripe fruit, spice and balsam notes to carry it forward during cellar aging. This vintage offers firmness and strength. (94/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)
Gianni Brunelli

The formidable and passionate Laura Brunelli runs both the estate and the family’s fantastic restaurant in Siena, Le Logge – a must visit if... you can get a booking! With very small land holdings (4.5ha in total) this is truly a handmade labour of love. They have two sites, one on the Northern side of Montalcino (Le Chiuse di Sotto) and one on the Southern side (Podernovone), allowing them to blend the cool elegant style of the North with the power and depth of the South. The results are outstanding with Tim Atkin MW in a recent Bordeaux style classification of the area rating it a ‘second growth’ property belying the estate’s excellent value pricing.

Gianni Brunelli Rosso di Montalcino 2016 @ £95 per 6 IB

The 2016 Rosso di Montalcino exudes conviviality and brightness, elegance and freshness with a truly beautiful quality of Sangiovese fruit that shines through with brilliance. Dark cherry, sweet strawberry and red plum gives the wine immense informal appeal. (91/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Gianni Brunelli Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £255 per 6 IB

The beautiful 2013 Brunello di Montalcino delivers an impressive level of balance, elegance and classical intensity. All those qualities work harmoniously together to form the well-toned personality of this suave, generous wine. The wine walks with a light footprint and nothing about it is too powerful or overdone. Gianni Brunelli has crafted the kind of wine that caresses the palate with impressive complexity, polished tannins, fleshy concentration and a harmonious yet powerful finish.

(94/100 Greg Sherwood MW)
Poggio Antico

Located at an average altitude of approximately 450 meters (1,476 feet) above sea level, the Poggio Antico estate is one of the highest altitude producers of Brunello. The calcareous and rocky soil ensures perfect drainage and is particularly suited for growing high quality grapes necessary for the full-bodied wines of Brunello. About 32.5 hectares of the 200 hectare estate are under vine. Since 1990 Poggio Antico wines have been rated by Wine Spectator 5 times within their "Top 100 Wines of the Year."

Poggio Antico Rosso di Montalcino 2016 @ £115 per 6 IB

As is often the case, Poggio Antico’s 2016 Rosso di Montalcino is terrific. This full-bodied, sumptuously textured wine caresses the palate with layers of sweet dark fruit, smoke, tar, toasted oak, liquorice and aniseed root. It seems to have enough stuffing to age for the medium term, but is probably at its best while the fruit is still vibrant and vital. (91+/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Poggio Antico Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £285.00 IB per 6

The 2013 Brunello di Montalcino is a rich and luscious wine that pulls you in with the first sip. The bouquet is very polished, deep and bright with a wonderful aromatic perfume that spans from red cherry to blackberry and from dark spice and blueberries to grilled herb and liquorice. There’s an impressive sense of harmony on the bouquet combining with a fine modernity and exoticism. The mouthfeel is fleshy, concentrated and crisp with a clear streak of acidity that is so characteristic of Sangiovese in the cooler 2013 vintage. (95+/100 Greg Sherwood MW)
Le Potazzine

Le Potazzine is a high-altitude estate (with organic vineyards at 500 meters above sea level) characterized by Galestro and iron-rich soils. This explains the phenomenal wines produced by this estate even in the hottest years. Throughout the estate’s two decades of winemaking, only four Riservas have been made: 2004, 2006, 2011 and 2015. That configuration of excellent vintages could certainly not be reproduced at an estate located in a warmer microclimate or at a lower elevation. Construction on a new winery was completed in 2012. In 2016, Le Potazzine acquired an additional 6,000 square meters of Brunello vines. Fruit from that site will be ready three years from now.

Le Potazzine Gorelli Rosso di Montalcino 2016 @ £115 per 6 IB

The 2016 Rosso di Montalcino opens to a darkly saturated colour with ripe aromas of black fruit and cherry. The bouquet is characterized by sweet and soft fruit flavours that give the wine an easy flow and an informal disposition. Pair this pretty Sangiovese with ravioli stuffed with spinach and ricotta cheese. That fresh acidity keeps the palate clean and ready for the next delicious bite. (89/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate; 90/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Le Potazzine Gorelli Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £285 per 6 IB

The 2013 Brunello di Montalcino walks a very fine line between elegance and finesse. Those may seem like two analogous terms, but this wine teaches you that they are not. The bouquet offers tonic and buoyant tones of wild berry, blueberry, dried herb and licorice. Each is elegant in its own right, but together they form a nuanced and finessed whole. Le Potazzine does very nicely in the hot vintages, but it delivers unexpected surprises, like this wine, in the cooler ones. (96/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Le Potazzine Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2011 @ £685 per 6 IB

The ladies of Le Potazzine have broken with the pack. They are betting on this Riserva from the warm 2011 vintage over everything else (including vintages held in higher esteem by appellation authorities). The 2011 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva is indeed a sure bet if you are looking for a Brunello that will knock your socks off. This is a sharp, precise and extremely defined Sangiovese. This is an inspired wine with a mere 3,200 bottles produced. The bouquet is slow and steady but also very effective as it comes into full focus. Red cherry, blackberry, cassis, balsam herb and spice all merge seamlessly on the nose. The mouthfeel is polished and long. You can count it in many long minutes. (97+/100 Greg Sherwood MW; 97/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)
Valdicava

The Valdicava estate dates back to 1953 when Bramante Abbruzzese was offered the opportunity to return to the property in Montalcino where his ancestors were sharecroppers centuries before. From that time, Abbruzzese started the family vision to cultivate Sangiovese Grosso and to eventually bottle under the family name. In 1967 Bramante founded the Consorzio di Brunello. The Valdicava property lies on a high plane close to Montalcino. Wines from this area have as their signature characteristics a great balance between body and perfume. Valdicava is the actual name of the valley in which the greatest single-vineyard wines of Brunello are produced. In the middle of this valley sits the grand Madonna del Piano vineyard along with the Valdicava estate. In 1987, the grandson of Bramante, Vincenzo Abbruzzese began to work in the vineyards and the cellar and has since transformed Valdicava into one of the most collectible and sought-after Brunello di Montalcino in existence today. All Valdicava grapes are organically grown and no chemical pesticides or fertilizers are used in the vineyards.

Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino 2012 @ £325 per 6 IB

Valdicava represents its own school within the greater Brunello philosophy. This estate (under proprietor Vincenzo Abbruzzese) crafts contemporary and modern wines with noticeable density and ever-present aromatic intensity. The 2012 Brunello di Montalcino reveals a dark and inky appearance with bright ruby highlights that break through the background darkness with brilliance. The nose is generous and robust with dark cherry fruit, plum, Indian spice, mocha and espresso bean. These elements are stitched together with seamless transitions. Despite that grand approach, Sangiovese's prickly and often nervous personality shines through nonetheless. The variety adds delicate berry nuances and bright acidity that give this wine profound depth. This is a very well-made wine that promises a long aging future. (96/100 James Suckling)

Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £385 per 6 IB

Valdicava’s 2013 Brunello di Montalcino is a beautifully saturated expression that opens to a dark garnet appearance and a soothing, velvety texture. The bouquet is packed tight with dark berry nuances, starting with ripe cherry and extending to black fruit tones of fresh prune and plum. The wine's strongest cards are its texture, structure and its power. This is a cool vintage that produced very fine and accessible wines. This expression, however, shows a very different personality with ample volume and long staying power. (95/100 Greg Sherwood MW; 94/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)
Altesino

Altesino is a leader in various important innovations in the production of Sangiovese from Montalcino, causing it to stand out and become a reference point for the entire territory. Some of the positive contributions putting Montalcino on the world map were the introduction of the “Cru” (Montosoli) concept in 1975, the first experiments with barriques in 1979, the production in 1977 of the first Grappa from a winery and the first Futures (purchasing wine before its release) for Brunello 1985. Over the last forty years an intense relationship has been developed with the land and the Altesino philosophy has always been to produce high quality wines that convey this history.

Altesino Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £199 per 6 IB

The 2013 Brunello di Montalcino is absolutely unique in terms of its aromatic display. To me, the nose is particularly beautiful because I have a preference for balsamic notes of cola, mint or medicinal herb (that may not be to everyone’s liking). You get those in spades here. These aromas are often more prominent in cooler vintages like 2013 in the Brunello appellation. In this case, they resemble intense eucalyptus. There is subtle fruit at the back, with wild berry and plum. The mouthfeel here is absolutely silky, fresh and streamlined. It is stitched finely together like lace. I am curious to see how a wine like this ages and whether the aromas hold tight or eventually fall flat. I would suggest a slightly shorter drinking window. But for now, this is my kind of Brunello. Bottoms up! (95/100 Greg Sherwood MW; 94+/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)

Altesino Brunello di Montalcino Montosoli 2013 @ £345 per 6 IB

This celebrated single-vineyard wine follows through with many of the attractive themes presented in the base Brunello, only you get more robust intensity and power here. The 2013 Brunello di Montalcino Montosoli is slightly more angular and edgy. You don’t get the same immediate silkiness that you find in the non-vineyard-specific alternative. This wine plays up its structure with firm tannins and solid building blocks of red fruit and spice. There is a sweet note of clove or cinnamon on the close. A real block buster. (95/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate; 98/100 James Suckling)

Altesino Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2012 @ £365 per 6 IB

Sporting a medium dark colour, the 2012 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva is the most robust and powerful wine among these new releases from Altesino. More than its Riserva status (that requires an extra year of aging compared to base Brunello), that richness is a result of the dry and hot 2012 growing season. You really feel the tightness, blackness and the alcohol of the fruit here. There is a note of cherry sweetness on the close. Thankfully, there is also a delicious natural acidity to bring the wine back to centre and balance. A bit of a beast. (93+/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate; 95/100 Greg Sherwood MW)
Biondi Santi Tenuta Il Greppo

Biondi Santi remains a beacon for traditionally made Rosso and Brunello di Montalcino. The Greppo vineyards of the Biondi Santi family date back to the 1800s. Clemente Santi, nephew of Giorgio Santi, was the first to create red wines suitable for ageing, and his oenological techniques learnt through agriculture, chemistry and science were far more advanced than his peers. Clemente’s knowledge was passed on to his nephew Ferruccio Biondi Santi, who skilfully continued to run the Greppo estate, and managed to keep production running after the First World War. In 1932 he was described as ‘the inventor of Brunello’. The estate has been passed down through the family to this day, and is currently managed by Franco Biondi Santi, along with the help of his two children, Jacopo and Alessandra, who will eventually take on the business themselves. Brunello del Greppo now has twenty five hectares dedicated to its production, and the traditional agronomy and cellaring practises are still used to give this grape its character and quality.

Biondi Santi Brunello di Montalcino Annata 2012 @ £545 per 6 IB

It’s always such a pleasure and an honour to be in front of a bottle of Biondi Santi. These wines deliver a sense of history and tradition that puts them into a very elite group of Italian icons. The 2012 Brunello di Montalcino Annata shows a medium garnet colour with pretty ruby highlights. The bouquet emits dark fruit, cassis, balsam herb, tar and cola. This vintage shows the classic aromas that are associated with the venerated Il Greppo estate, but there is a little less focus and sharpness here compared to a great vintage like 2010. Instead, this wine is more veiled and opaque in terms of its aromatic presentation. The mouthfeel is leaner and you don’t get the same chiselled acidic determination in this 2012 vintage. You’ll need to wait a few years more before it begins to show its potential. Following rigorous tradition, this wine is aged in large Slovenian oak casks for three years. (94+/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Caprili

Caprili Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £155 per 6 IB

Caprili’s 2013 Brunello di Montalcino is endowed with serious depth. Juicy and expressive, the 2013 offers up plums, black cherries, tobacco, smoke and licorice nuances. The balance of fruit, tannin and acidity is simply terrific. I imagine the 2013 will be even better in another year or two, but it is already pretty delicious. (93/100 Greg Sherwood MW; 91/100 Decanter Magazine)
Il Marroneto

Alessandro Mori’s new releases are sought out by collectors the world over, especially his single vineyard Madonna delle Grazie of which merely 5,000 bottles are produced. Alessandro knows his vineyards intimately and understands how to coax the best out of this venerable varietal in the cellar producing wines of great purity and suppleness. The wines leapt to their current prominence when The Wine Advocate’s Italy critic Monica Larner scored the 2010 Madonna delle Grazie 100 points. The 2013 vintage in Montalcino signals a return of a more classic style as temperatures during the growing season were cooler than 2011 and 2012. Alessandro almost always harvests later than many of his neighbours, a tactic that paid particular dividends in excellent 2013 vintage.

Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £245 per 6 IB

Lustrous mid-ruby with orange tinges. Fresh cherry nose with hints of herbs. Juicy sweet cherry palate with lots of powdery tannins. Medium-bodied, supple, complex and long. (95/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Il Marroneto’s 2013 Brunello di Montalcino is a beautiful wine and one that invites you to partake in a long evening of good food and even better company. This is a deeply convivial expression of Sangiovese that offers just a glimmer of much-needed informality and cosiness to guarantee comfort. But make no mistake, this Brunello reminds you of its pedigree and precision as well. The bouquet opens to white cherry, fragrant rose blossom and violets. The finish is smooth and pliable, with graceful endnotes of smoke and crushed mineral. (94/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)

Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie 2013 @ £645 per 6 IB

Deep ruby. Pure, brooding and concentrated on the nose and with a touch of leather. Intense yet poised and with inherent richness of fruit and beautiful, coating tannins. Concentrated and with great balance and length, but really monolithic for the moment. (97/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Sangiovese-whisperer Alessandro Mori has delivered another superstar wine with the 2013 Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie. The bouquet is detailed and fine with bright accents of fragrant red rose, red currant, cola, licorice, grilled herb and crushed white peppercorn. The bouquet is loose, light and buoyant, with a smooth and natural progression of building aromas. The mouthfeel, however, is direct, important and determined. It’s that playful juxtaposition between the wine’s soft side and its stern side that makes this such an interesting and sensational wine to drink. Only 5,993 bottles were produced, and that’s the bad news. (97/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)
**Lisini**

One of Montalcino’s oldest estates, dating back to the time of the Medicis, Lisini is known more recently as one of the founding fathers of the Brunello di Montalcino Consorzio of the 1960s. The Clementi-Lisini family, at the 154-hectare property near Sant’Angelo in Colle (of which 20 hectares are under vine), make a thoroughly traditional range that builds on ancient Eocene sand, clay and iron-rich soils – wines that were first bottled in 1967. Oenologist Filippo Paoletti stands guard over the estate’s pre- eminent position.

**Lisini Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £199 per 6 IB**

Forceful and opulent, showcasing the best of the unique Lisini terroir. Aromas of graphite, wild strawberry, black cherry, warm spice and savoury top notes are backed by a rose-petal bouquet. The palate is sublime, mineral laden freshness is propelled by a plump fruit core with cleansing and ceramic tannins, offering enjoyment now and showcasing the long life ahead of this wine. (93+/100 Greg Sherwood MW)

Lisini’s 2013 Brunello di Montalcino opens to a delightful appearance that sees shades of garnet and dark ruby blend into one. The bouquet is sprightly and buoyant, thanks to a pretty ensemble of wild berry, liquorice and grilled herb aromas. Those are mixed with heavier background tones of spice and leather. There is also a noticeable floral note of wild rose and dried jasmine. This is a silky and smooth Brunello with a hint of fresh acidity on the close. (93/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)

**Casanova di Neri**

Founded in 1971 by Giovanni Neri who, with his great vision and passion, understood the huge potential of wine in the Montalcino territory. The estate was passed on to his son Giacomo in 1991. The production started in the Eastern part of Montalcino and was extended later in other areas. First came the Cerretalto vineyard, a unique terroir in a natural amphitheatre over the Asso river in which the old vines produced a Sangiovese different from the others, with small bunches of well distanced grapes, from which a selective variety was grown that was used in other vineyards particularly in Tenuta Nuova. The first Brunello harvest was 1978. This was followed by Cerretalto 1981, Rosso di Montalcino 1982, and Tenuta Nuova 1993.

Tenuta Nuova is a pioneering and visionary vineyard project embodying the belief and passion of Casanova di Neri. Tenuta Nuova means new property; Tenuta Nuova is a place where nobody planted Sangiovese before; Tenuta Nuova is the will of Casanova di Neri to produce a powerful yet drinkable Brunello with a high ageing potential. The project began with the study of varied local micro-climates and their optimal exposures. Through a cautious and passionate research Casanova di Neri has used the most sophisticated scientific investigations to determine the clones, rootstocks, cultivation practices, plant density per hectare and every possible particular to obtain excellent Sangiovese grapes.

**Casanova di Neri Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova 2013 @ £415 per 6 IB**

Casanova di Neri’s 2013 Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova is celebrating its 20th anniversary (1993-2013), and a special gold-label edition of the wine was made to commemorate this important milestone. I tasted the white label for this review. This is a bold and expressive Brunello that displays tightly knit aromas of Morello cherry, spice, leather and balsam herb that are the building blocks of the most beautiful Brunellos that come to mind. The Casanova di Neri house style implies a modern and sophisticated approach for sure. But the inner spirit and texture of Sangiovese is so fine and polished in its natural state that it hardly matters. The personality of the grape shines through with a loud and confident voice. (97/100 Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate)
Carparzo

Established in 1970, Caparzo is one of Montalcino's 30 historic wineries, and is amongst those that contributed to the fame of Brunello di Montalcino. Purchased by the current owner Elisabetta Gnudi Angelini in 1998 after a period of dilapidation, she was determined to grow, improve and develop this estate back to its former glory. Investment in the vineyard, modernisation in the winery and the help of winemaker Massimo Bracalente have all ensured that Caparzo is now enjoying a comeback as a top Brunello producer. The Caparzo estate covers 200 hectares, 90 hectares are vineyards and 9 are designated for Brunello, distributed throughout different hillsides in the DOCG, ranging from 220 to 300 metres above sea level. Owning vineyards in Caparzo, La Casa, La Caduta, Il Cassero and San Piero Caselle, which constitute almost all of Montalcino's best areas, is most certainly one of Caparzo’s strong points. This selection of the best vineyards, allows Caparzo to draw the best fruit from every vintage.

Carparzo Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £185 per 6 IB

Carparzo ‘La Casa’ Brunello di Montalcino 2013 @ £335 per 6 IB

The 5-hectare La Casa Vineyard is located on the Montosoli Hill, at an elevation of 275 meters, and enjoys a south east exposure. The Montosoli Hill is not large, but its slightly greater elevation shields it from both mists and spring frosts, and yields grapes of incontrovertible quality. The terrain is schisty-clayey, of a sort locally known as Galestro, and is well drained. The vineyard enjoys excellent sunshine, an important factor for this sector of the northern part of the Montalcino Appellation. Bright ruby, tending towards garnet with age. The bouquet is penetrating, ample, and extremely complex, with wild berry fruit, spice, liquorice and vanilla.

Contact Greg Sherwood MW or James Handford MW to discuss your portfolio requirements.

Call 020 7589 6113 or email greg@handford.net
**Brunello di Montalcino 2013 and Riserva 2012**

“A Vintage of Extreme Elegance and Harmony”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wines</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sesti Rosso di Montalcino 2016</td>
<td>£110 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesti Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£275 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesti Phenomena Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2012</td>
<td>£385 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salicutti Piaggione Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£295 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poggio di Sotto Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£695 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaja Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£245 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaja Rennina Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£555 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaja Sugarille Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£645 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gianni Brunelli Rosso di Montalcino 2016</td>
<td>£95 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gianni Brunelli Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£255 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poggio Antico Rosso di Montalcino 2016</td>
<td>£115 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poggio Antico Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£285 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Potazzine Rosso di Montalcino 2016</td>
<td>£115 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Potazzine Gorelli Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£285 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Pottazine Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2011</td>
<td>£685 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino 2012</td>
<td>£325 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£385 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altesino Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£199 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altesino Montosoli Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£345 per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>Price per 6 IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altesino Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2012</td>
<td>£365</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biondi Santi Il Greppo Brunello di Montalcino 2012</td>
<td>£545</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caprili Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie 2013</td>
<td>£645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisini Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casanova di Neri Tenuta Nuova Brunello 2013</td>
<td>£415</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brizio Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carparzo Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£185</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carparzo La Casa Brunello di Montalcino 2013</td>
<td>£335</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All wines offered subject to availability and subject to Handford Wines standard En-Primeur Terms & Conditions of sale. Many wines are subject to allocation.

Buyers accept that the actual value of the wine could change between purchase and delivery.

Wines will be shipped to arrive Under Bond UK Spring/Autumn 2018.

Free onward delivery or transfer (IB) for orders over £500.

Name
Address
Contact No.
Email

Please tick if you would like email offers for:
- [ ] Wine Offers
- [ ] Under Bond Fine Wine Offers
- [ ] Tastings & Events