

# The Power of Tuscany

Italy's premier region delivers a wealth of great wines, with the 2017 vintage capping a run of excellent harvests **BY BRUCE SANDERSON**

(...)

The Fontodi Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello (95, \$149), Masseto Toscana (95, \$814), Podere Poggio Scalette Alta Valle della Greve Il Carbonaione (95, \$67), Tenuta di Trinoro Toscana Campo di Tenaglia (95, \$110) and Tenuta San Guido Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia (\$245) are the other classic-rated reds from 2017.

Masseto's Heinz describes the 2017 season as hot and dry in the spring and summer, with cool nights that saved the vintage, unlike 2009 and 2003. "The average temperatures during the harvest were identical in '17, '18 and '19," he says. "But what happened before was different." The drought resulted in small berries with thick skins—"the lowest berry weights I have seen in my entire career."

It was necessary to achieve ripe tannins, which meant not picking too early. Many had finished the harvest in Bolgheri by mid-September, but the second half of the month was cooler. Heinz

and his team finished picking at the end of September. "It was a vintage you had to read properly," he adds. "You couldn't make any mistakes, because it was not a forgiving vintage." The Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore 2017 (94, \$170) is another success for the vintage.

At Tenuta San Guido, estate director Carlo Paoli upped the percentage of Cabernet Franc slightly, from 10% to 17%–18%, due to its "fabulous ripening." Only the oldest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc vines (32- to 48-years-old) were designated to Sassicaia. Fermentation was cooler, the maceration time shorter by about three to five days and the maturation in barrels was 19 months instead of 24. These decisions preserved the freshness and avoided the dry tannins that are the downside of the 2017 harvest.

**D**espite many top wines costing upward of \$100, Tuscany also shines when it comes to value. One of the best places to look for affordability is Chianti Classico, a denomination that offers terrific quality, yet whose prices have not caught up with those of its neighbors in Montalcino and Bolgheri.

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## BRUCE SANDERSON'S RECOMMENDED WINES FROM TUSCANY

More than 675 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at [WineSpectator.com/TuscanyAlpha103120](http://WineSpectator.com/TuscanyAlpha103120). WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

### TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE	WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>ANTINORI</b> Toscana Solaia 2016	98	\$340	<b>CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA</b> Chianti Classico Coltassala Gran Selezione 2016	95	\$80
<b>CARNASCIALE</b> Toscana Il Caberlot 2016 (1.5L)	97	\$275	<b>CECCHI</b> Chianti Classico Valore di Famiglia Gran Selezione 2016	95	\$65
<b>CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA</b> Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	97	\$40	<b>COLLE BERETO</b> Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	95	\$45
<b>LE CHIUSE</b> Brunello di Montalcino Diecianni Riserva 2010	97	\$180	<b>DEI</b> Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Bossona Riserva 2015	95	\$65
<b>CASTELLO DEI RAMPOLLA</b> Toscana d'Alceo 2015	96	\$225	<b>DIEVOLE</b> Bolgheri Superiore Tenuta Meraviglia Maestro di Cava 2016	95	\$80
<b>CASTELLO DI AMA</b> Chianti Classico Vigneto Bellavista Gran Selezione 2016	96	\$230	<b>FATTORIA DI FELSINA</b> Chianti Classico Rancia Riserva 2016	95	\$60
<b>CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA</b> Chianti Classico Il Puro Gran Selezione 2015	96	\$215	<b>FONTODI</b> Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello 2017	95	\$149
<b>IPSUS</b> Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	96	\$395	<b>IL MOLINO DI GRACE</b> Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	95	\$33
<b>LE MACCHIOLE</b> Toscana Messorio 2016	96	\$225	<b>LIVIO SASSETTI</b> Brunello di Montalcino Dieci Pertimali 2007	95	\$200
<b>QUERCIABELLA</b> Toscana Camartina 2015	96	\$137	<b>MASSETO</b> Toscana 2017	95	\$814
<b>ANTINORI</b> Toscana Solaia 2017	95	\$340	<b>MONTERAPONI</b> Chianti Classico Il Campitello Riserva 2016	95	\$78
<b>BARONE RICASOLI</b> Chianti Classico Roncicone Gran Selezione 2015	95	\$85	<b>PODERE POGGIO SCALETTE</b> Alta Valle della Greve Il Carbonaione 2017	95	\$67
<b>CASTELLO DEI RAMPOLLA</b> Toscana Sammarco 2015	95	\$99	<b>ROCCA DELLE MACIE</b> Chianti Classico Sergioveto Riserva 2015	95	\$53
<b>CASTELLO DI AMA</b> Chianti Classico San Lorenzo Gran Selezione 2016	95	\$60	<b>TENUTA DI TRINORO</b> Toscana Campo di Tenaglia 2017	95	\$110
<b>CASTELLO DI AMA</b> Chianti Classico Vigneto La Casuccia Gran Selezione 2016	95	\$230	<b>TENUTA SAN GUIDO</b> Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 2017	95	\$245
<b>CASTELLO DI MONSANTO</b> Chianti Classico Il Poggio Gran Selezione 2015	95	\$70	<b>TENUTA SETTE PONTI</b> Toscana Vigna dell Impero 2016	95	\$115
			<b>TOLAINI</b> Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana Legit 2016	95	\$45
			<b>TUA RITA</b> Toscana Redigaffi 2016	95	\$300
			<b>VECCHIE TERRE DI MONTEFILI</b> Toscana Anfiteatro 2016	95	\$120