

# BRU NELLO

DI MONTALCINO

2018

# Brunello di Montalcino 2018



SANGIOVESE

100%

Brunello di Montalcino is one of the wine glories of modern Italian oenology. DOCG since 1980, it is produced in Tuscany, in an area located about 40 km south of Siena, precisely in the area of Montalcino, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The so-called 'hill' of Montalcino consists of about 24,000 hectares, of which about 3,500 are dedicated to the cultivation of the vines. The variety of Sangiovese (here renamed 'Grosso'), from which Brunello di Montalcino is obtained, is incredibly sensitive to the soils on which it is cultivated. Montalcino, like the Langhe, has a very rare heterogeneity of soils, exposures and altitudes, the basis of the great quality of its wines. Clay, tuff, limestone and marl, from which Galestro and Alberese derive. The latter two are located at the highest altitudes. The high position of the plants, together with a rich mosaic of variables, have determined the peculiarity of Brunello since its origin. The plants in the territory of Montalcino grow at altitudes ranging from 100 to 661 meters above sea level. The cultivation area, for climatic and

soil homogeneity, can be divided into four sub-zones (quadrants), oriented according to the cardinal directions, then northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest, which have cusps in the locality of Poggio Civitella, precisely 661 meters above sea level, then descend into the different territories of competence. The most used training system is the spur cordon. The climate tends to be dry, although there are some inflections of the continental climate. The nearby Monte Amiata helps mitigate weather events of great intensity. In the winery, Brunello di Montalcino is typically created through a blend of different parcels located in different zones of the cultivation area to ensure a wine which is not too homogeneous nor too different from a single cru. Recently, however, many wineries have developed a concept of viticulture that privileges wines obtained from a single vineyard, beyond the average geographical location, and they started interpreting in their own way a concept of 'cru' that will surely represent one of the trends for the future.

Both in winter and spring, 2018 was marked by many intense rains which lasted until June. August and September as well presented rainy days but in a milder way, while July was dry and warm. There were no heat peaks, only the month of July was more constant while September had lower temperatures with interesting temperature ranges. The 2018 vintage, in general, could recall 90s' vintages, or to come to more recent years, the 2008 vintage. Briefly, it was an important harvest for those who dared and risked by bringing the grapes to full maturity and by sacrificing some bunches. It is a vintage with great characteristics of longevity, with a Sangiovese that proved to be very territorial, in short, capable of showing all its complexity. As a result we have wines of beautiful colour, with strong alcoholic content but well balanced by high acidity values, which then result juicy and fresh on the palate. Frank aromas, broad bouquets of scents, while the palate is elegant, with soft and ripe tannins. Complexity, without losing finesse and territoriality.



## Vintage 2018

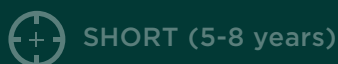
According to the tastings carried out, I can conclude that 2018 is a vintage of great finesse, delicacy and elegance. These wines are taut, vertical, with refined and well-integrated tannins, and this translates into a great pleasure of sip from the very beginning, as well as remarkable ageing abilities.



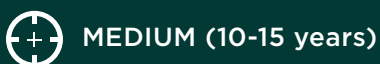
# Brunello di Montalcino 2018

## GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

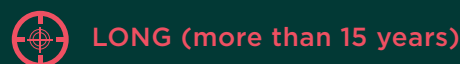
The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.



SHORT (5-8 years)



MEDIUM (10-15 years)



LONG (more than 15 years)

98

### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Montosoli 2018 ALTESINO

*The magnificent modern interpretation of a cru which has been vinified as such since 1975. A Brunello of amazing crispness and elegance, with notes of wild blueberries, touches of clementina and marjoram. Great freshness and juiciness to the palate, with iodine-brackish tannins. Fruity-floral finish.*



98

### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna del Suolo 2018 ARGIANO

*An essential part of Ilcinese history, a wine product of the great zonation work strongly wanted by Bernardino Sani. The nose is faceted, with hints of wild plum, pepper leaf and star anise. Tension and sapidity to the palate, with fruity-official return.*



98

### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018 CAPANNA

*North-eastern side of Montalcino, a historic and glorious winery, that keeps faithful to its interpretations of classic and juicy Brunello. Nose of blueberry, with touches of eucalyptus, orange peel and rhubarb. The mouthfeel is dense-sapid, crisp, with fruity-citrusy return.*



98

### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Tenuta Nuova 2018 CASANOVA DI NERI

*South-eastern area of Montalcino. From an innovative wine project, a refined and taut Brunello, one of the symbols of this typology now. Vertical to the nose, with red currant in evidence, then wild mint and chinotto, with touches of peony and blood orange. Crisp-taut drinkability, with salty tannins. Fruity-citrusy return on the finish.*



98

### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018 LE POTAZZINE

*South-western area, from an altitude once considered forbidden for high-quality Brunello. Gigliola and her girls' challenge concerning sustainability both in the vineyard and in the winery. A wine of masterful balance, with cornel to the nose, then pepper leaf, touches of gardenia and eucalyptus. The mouthfeel is juicy-fruity, of excellent persistence.*



97+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO**

*From a plot of vineyard Capanna, one of the most accomplished expressions of the winery led by the CEO Simone Pallesi. Pomegranate notes to the nose, with balsamic nuances of eucalyptus and rhubarb. Brackish-sapid tannins to the palate, fruity-balsamic return.*



97+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna di Pianrosso 2018**  
**CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGONA**

*A certainty of the denomination for Bianchini family's winery, located a few steps from Castelnuovo dell'Abate. Very faceted nose, red currant, then marjoram and iodine touches, such as taggiasche olives. The sip is juicy-brackish, with fruity-official return and very long persistence.*



97+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**FULIGNI**

*Fuligni winery in this version of traditional imprint Brunello, an 'evergreen' at its best. Black currant and juniper to the nose, with hints of pepper leaf on the closure. Brackish and taut tannins to the palate, fruity-official return on the finish.*



97+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**GIODO**

*Ferrini family's great project from Sant'Angelo in Colle, a Brunello characterized by constant excellence. Intense from the nose already, with scents of cranberry, fresh pepper leaf and blood orange peel, with earthy touches. Brackish sip, fruity-citrusy return.*



97+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**IL POGGIONE**

*One of the first wineries to trade Brunello, one of the founding members of the Consortium. A Brunello marked by freshness, pomegranate to the nose, touches of citrus thyme and white pepper. The palate has brackish-sapid tannins, with fruity-official return.*



97+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Podernovi 2018**  
**SAN POLO**

*The 'Single Vineyard' of San Polo, bottled for the first time with 2015 vintage, already on absolute excellence levels. Nice freshness to the nose, blueberry, touches of thyme and black pepper, with nuances of undergrowth and licorice. The sip is brackish, with beautiful persistence.*



TOP 60

97



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Marrucheto 2018

**BANFI**

*From three parcels of Vigna Marrucheto, the product of a long-time territorial research in this case too. Red cherries to the nose, chinotto and licorice touches. The mouthfeel is juicy-sapid, crisp, of nice persistence, with citrusy-fruity return.*



97



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Colombaio 2018

**CAVA D'ONICE**

*North-eastern quadrant of the denomination, where the eonological history of Nannetti family began: black raspberry to the nose, with touches of juniper and undergrowth. The mouthfeel is taut-crisp, with brackish-savoury tannins, nice density and persistence.*



97



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG La Mannella 2018

**CORTONESI**

*A great La Mannella by Cortonesi in this 2018 vintage too, a striking evidence of the accurate job carried out everyday. A Brunello of compactness: black raspberry to the nose, touches of chinotto and rhubarb, then laurel hints, brackish sip, with fruity-citrusy return and long persistence.*



97



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Madonna delle Grazie 2018

**IL MARRONETO**

*This is more of a historic legacy than a vineyard, in Alessandro Mori's breakthrough Brunello. Hints of black currant jam to the nose, with nuances of laurel and white pepper. The mouthfeel is dense-brackish, with return of fruits and sweet spices. Persistent.*



97



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Pelagrilli 2018

**SIRO PACENTI**

*North-eastern area, from a company who made history. A concrete project of sustainability just as substantial as this Brunello, which comes from the youngest vineyards. Marasca cherries to the nose, nuances of eucalyptus and white pepper. The drinkability is dense, crisp, balsamic with fruity-spicy return.*



97



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018

**TALENTI**

*A project born from Pierluigi's boldness, which Riccardo is now transforming into a fixed point of Montalcino. Great finesse in this 2018: red plum, hints of chinotto and rhubarb. Brackish tannins to the palate, with fruity-citrusy return.*



TOP 60

97

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Colombaiolo 2018****TASSI**

*Finesse, elegance and gustatory juiciness from Vigna Colombaiolo cru in Castelnuovo dell'Abate, now one of the most reliable destinations of the typology. The nose is refined, with notes of red mulberry, touches of gardenia, hints of eucalyptus at first and then mentholated. The palate is brackish-juicy, with fruity-floral return and nice persistence.*



97

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Ugolforte 2018****TENUTA SAN GIORGIO**

*Excellent interpretation of the 2018 vintage by Tenuta San Giorgio, the last winery purchased by ColleMassari Group. We are in the south-eastern area of Montalcino, starting from a raw material of great crispness. Nose with notes of black currant, then laurel lashes and hints of blood orange peel. Brackish tannins on the mouthfeel, with fruity return.*



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****CANALICCHIO DI SOPRA**

*Another refined Brunello from this winery successfully led by Francesco Ripaccioli. North-western side of the 'hill'. To the nose it opens with marasca cherries in alcohol, then nuances of rhubarb and linden. Equally balsamic to the palate, with juicy and dense-crisp tannins. Official return on the closure.*



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG La Casaccia 2018****CANALICCHIO DI SOPRA**

*From the highly vicated vineyard of the same name, a beautiful version of Brunello, typical of the north-eastern area of the denomination. Freshness to the nose, notes of black raspberry, touches of eucalyptus and undergrowth. The palate is juicy-sapid, dense, with return of fruit and undergrowth.*



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****CASANOVA DI NERI**

*Another fundamental label by Casanova di Neri, a compendium of workmanship and territorial vocation. Black raspberry, with balsamic and officinal touches, such as sage, to the nose, than licorice nuances. The mouthfeel is brackish-sapid, with return of officinal herbs and licorice.*



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****LE CHIUSE**

*All the mesmerizing character of one of the most fascinating areas of Montalcino, for this organic wine of refined nose. Touches of red plum, then marjoram, red orange and peony lashings. The mouthfeel is taut-brackish with balsamic finish.*



## TOP 60

96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****MASTROJANNI**

Historic winery, able to renew its own versions of Brunello concerning gustatory freshness. Black raspberry on the nose, touches of thyme and peony, with scents of nutmeg. The mouthfeel has brackish tannins, fruity-floral return and nice gustatory tension. Persistent.



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****RIDOLFI**

A fixed point of Montalcino, a label that manages to keep freshness and balance, as well as quality consistency over time. Red mulberry to the nose, touches of laurel and flowers, such as gardenia, and balsamic sensations of eucalyptus on the closure.



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****TASSI**

Also the 'not cru' label confirms the excellent work carried out by Tassi winery. Once again from the south-eastern area of Montalcino, a Brunello of faceted nose, with aromas of red raspberry, clementina and linden, balsamic finish, on the notes of eucalyptus. The mouthfeel is crisp-taut with brackish tannins. Fruity return on the closure.



96+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****TENUTA LUCE**

The excellent project of Montalcino by Frescobaldi family, definitely aiming to the best possible quality. A very substantial Brunello, with nose of blackberry, floral touches such as iris, with hints of juniper on the closure. The palate is dense, of nice crispness and persistence.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****ALTESINO**

Remarkable this basic version by Altesino as well, which emphasizes all the crispness of raw materials from North-eastern Montalcino. Notes of strawberry tree to the nose, touches of mint and juniper. Balsamic-mentholated return to the palate, then citrus fruits and orange peel. Persistent.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****ARGIANO**

Also in Brunello 'base' all the refinement of the south-west quadrant of the 'hill'. Black cherry on the nose, then balsamic notes of eucalyptus, closing with freshness, on the notes of clementine peel. Thick-taut drink, salty-iodine tannins, with fruity-balsamic return.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Campo del Drago 2018**  
**CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO**

Once again, Vigneto Capanna and shale-rich soils, which give vigour to this label of beautiful intensity. Black currant to the nose, licorice and rhubarb notes, then citrus thyme. The mouthfeel is crisp and juicy, with return of fruit and licorice.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGONA**

The 'basis' of Ciacci Piccolomini house, another excellence of this winery. Great tension to the nose, red currant, nuances of laurel and eucalyptus. Juiciness and tension to the palate, brackish tannins, fruity-balsamic return on the closure.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Poggiarelli 2018**  
**CORTONESI**

For many aspects, a sort of 'draft' of La Mannella, to prove once again the great potential of the house territory. Nose with notes of red raspberry, woth touches of white pepper and rosehip. The mouthfeel is brackish-iodine, juicy, with fruity-spicy return.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**GORELLI**

The long-awaited and desired debut in the Brunello typology for the master of Rosso di Montalcino. In a version of great compactness, it comes as a confirmation of the vocation. From the north-eastern area of Montalcino and a raw material rich in tension, notes of black currant to the nose, touches of laurel and licorice, then orange peel and mint. The sip is brackish-sapid, dense and taut.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**IL MARRONETO**

All the richness of Il Marroneto's raw materials in this flawless version of Brunello. Blueberry jam to the nose, then touches of cinnamon, carob and marjoram. Sapid-spicy tannins to the palate and fruity return on the closure.



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Schiena d'Asino 2018**  
**MASTROJANNI**

A historic vineyard for Mastrojanni, with plant almost 50 years old. The nose is complex and faceted, with hints of bramble, balsamic touches and orange zest. The mouthfeel has brackish-sapid tannins and fruity-citrusy return on the closure.



TOP 60

96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Le Lucère 2018****SAN FILIPPO**

*Le Lucère, the usual expression of substance proper of San Filippo's wines, in a vintage that shows a nice opulence. Notes of Vignola cherries to the nose, touches of rhubarb and undergrowth, with finish of wild mint. Brackish-sapid tannins to the mouthfeel, with return of fruit and undergrowth.*



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****SAN LORENZO**

*From the north-western area of the denomination, a beautiful sustainable project, of less than 20 years history but of flawless craftsmanship. Blueberry sensations to the nose, notes of carob and peony, with touches of orange zest. Brackish tannins to the palate, nice tension and fruity return.*



96

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****SAN POLO**

*South-eastern area of the denomination. Allegrini family's project, that's still relatively young but confirmed to the highest quality levels, like this 2018 vintage. Pomegranate to the nose, with touches of wild mint and juniper. The mouthfeel is marked by crispness, with brackish tannins and fruity-mentholated return.*



95+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****COL D'ORCIA**

*Another essential firm of Montalcino territory, in this Brunello of flawless balance. Hints of red cherries to the nose, nutmeg and eucalyptus. Savoury tannins to the palate, taut and crisp, juicy and of long persistence.*



95+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****POGGIO DI SOTTO**

*Raw materials of great vigour for another milestone of this typology. Blueberry jam to the nose, with touches of wild myrtle and wild sage on the finish. The mouthfeel is crisp-dense, with brackish-iodine tannins and fruity return on the closure.*



95+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018****SAN GUGLIELMO**

*A young winery, which made its debut 'only' in 2016, but with an accomplished project already, signed Martini family: from the north-western area of Montalcino, 400 meters above sea level, a complete Brunello, with notes of red currant, with touches of chinotto and iris. The mouthfeel is taut-crisp, with saline tannins, and fruity-citrusy return on the closure.*



TOP 60

95+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vecchie Vigne 2018**  
**SIRO PACENTI**

North-eastern area, from a company who made history. A concrete project of sustainability just as substantial as this Brunello, which comes from the youngest vineyards. Marasca cherries to the nose, nuances of eucalyptus and white pepper. The drinkability is dense, crisp, balsamic with fruity-spicy return.



95+

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**TENUTA DI SESTA**

The splendid estate of Giovanni Ciacci in Castelnuovo dell'Abate area, south-western part of Montalcino. A refined Brunello, red currant scents to the nose, then citrus thyme and Mediterranean scrub hints. The mouthfeel is fresh too, with iodine-brackish tannins.



95

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Poggio alle Mura 2018**  
**BANFI**

The summary of the 30-year zonation work by Banfi in an opulent wine of great complexity. Wild plum to the nose, touches of mint, then blood orange zest. Brackish-crisp mouthfeel, with mentholated and citrusy return, and long persistence.



95

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**FATTORIA DEI BARBI**

From a winery run with the unmistakable 'humanistic' style of Stefano Cinelli Colombini, the heritage of the typology, a Brunello rich in sapidity. Pomegranate to the nose, with touches of laurel and rhubarb, density and tension to the mouthfeel, brackish-saline tannins and great persistence.



95

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**LISINI**

Sant'Angelo in Colle area, a wine of excellent juiciness that well expresses Lisini's great craftsmanship. Dogwood notes, then chinotto and juniper. The palate has brackish-sapid tannins, nice citrusy-officinal nuances and fruity return.



95

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018**  
**PIAN DELLE VIGNE**

A wonderful version of one of the great classics of the denomination, signed Antinori. Refined scents of red mulberry to the nose, eucalyptus, touches of officinal herbs and laurel. The palate is crisp-taut, with brackish tannins and return of fruity-officinal nuances.



TOP 60

95



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Soccorso 2018

TIEZZI

A parcel that made history of this typology, from an equally iconic winery. Great concentration of fruit in this 2018 vintage, notes of blackberries to the nose, touches of fresh pepper leaf, then laurel and iris. Brackish-taut to the palate, officinal return on the finish.



94+



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018

BEATESCA

This Brunello rich in sapidity and tension comes from the north-eastern quadrant of the denomination. Red currant to the nose, touches of laurel and wild mint, with hints of bergamot. The palate shows off brackish tannins and fruity-official return.



94+



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG La Pieve 2018

LA GERLA

Raw material of great crispness for this new gem, result of Sergio Rossi's vision. Notes of red plum to the nose, touches of undergrowth and wild mint, closure of rhubarb. The mouthfeel is juicy and taut, with brackish-sapid tannins, return of mentholated notes on the finish.



94+



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018

PODERE SCOPETONE

The great project of Loredana Tanganelli and Antonio Brandi, starting from organically run vineyards, which leads to this Brunello 2018 vintage of remarkable balance. The nose has notes of pomegranate, then eucalyptus and hints of clementina zest. The palate is brackish-sapid, juicy and fruity.



94+



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Chiuso del Lupo 2018

POGGIO LANDI

A small parcel located in the north-eastern quadrant of the denomination. A great and distinct Brunello, marasca cherries to the nose, then rhubarb and white pepper. The mouthfeel has brackish tannins and fruity-spicy return.



94+



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Sorgente 2018

SALICUTTI

From the first certified organic project in Montalcino, another classic of the denomination. Marasca cherry to the nose, touches of nutmeg and blood orange. The mouthfeel has sweet spices in the attack, fruity return and brackish-sapid tannins.



TOP 60

94



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Paesaggio Inatteso 2018

**CAMIGLIANO**

*From a long-established firm, a strongly sustainable project, this Brunello of magnetic nose. Raspberry, with gardenia and marjoram nuances, citrusy touches of chinotto. The palate is taut and dense, with iodine tannins and return of fruity-floral scents on the finish.*



94



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna La Casa 2018

**CAPARZO**

*The other great classic from Montosoli cru, that celebrates its 40th anniversary from the first placing on the market this year. Red currant to the nose, touches of wild sage and licorice. The palate is brackish-dense, of great persistence.*



94



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018

**COLLEMATTONI**

*Great artistry balance in this Brunello from Marcello Bucci's winery. We are in the south-western zone of the denomination. A wine marked by elegance and cleanliness, red mulberry to the nose, with touches of cloves and ginger, with notes of orange peel on the finish. The palate is brackish, with small red fruits return.*



94



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018

**FRANCO PACENTI**

*From Canalicchio area, another winery of great history in this Brunello version of nice drinkability. Black raspberry notes to the nose, with a touch of citrus thyme and nuances of peony. The mouthfeel is taut and juicy, sapid, with fruity-citrusy return.*



94



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Vigna Loreto 2018

**MASTROJANNI**

*Pebbly and tuff soils for this successful reading of Brunello. Raspberry jam to the nose, with officinal touches of marjoram and citrus thyme, then iris nuances. Brackish tannins to the palate, officinal-floral return.*



94



### Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2018

**ROBERTO CIPRESSO**

*Roberto, aka the 'flying winemaker', in his project from Montalcino of excellent consistency. Great raw materials and excellent work in the winery. Black mulberry to the nose, touches of white pepper, licorice and rhubarb. The mouthfeel is iodine-brackish, with return of fruits and sweet spices.*



94

**Brunello di Montalcino DOCG Greppone Mazzi 2018****RUFFINO**

*In Ruffino's multifaceted project, Greppone Mazzi estate has historically played a central role since 1979, like this Brunello which opens on notes of black raspberry, hiprose and chinotto. The palate, instead, is brackish-sapid, with fruity-citrusy return.*





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OCTOBER 2022

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO  
2018  
WINE RANKING BY  
**LUCA GARDINI**  
**THE WINE KILLER**

TASTING PERIOD  
**OCTOBER 2022**

