



Written by
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2010 Brunello di Montalcino: a perfect 60-60-60



The beginning of the new year in Italy transforms the sleepy, wintry hills of Tuscany into a hotbed of activity. Traditionally this is the time of the anteprima, when the new vintages are presented - not as cask samples as in the en primeur French model, but these wines are, crucially, already bottled and ready to go on the market. Many wines in Italy, certainly the most prestigious ones, are obliged by law to undergo lengthy ageing, and may be sold only after a certain number of years, as determined by these ageing requirements. Early vintage assessments are as tempting for commentators on Italy as they are everywhere else, but they can be misleading. This was eloquently demonstrated by this year's release of the 2010s, a vintage that at the beginning didn't look special in any way.

This eagerness to pass judgement has resulted in the phenomenon of the ante-anteprima, or a

preview of the anteprima, a kind of exclusive first taste for the (very) happy few, especially in the case of the wonderful 2010s. It was instigated by the Consorzio, Montalcino's official generic wine organisation, a couple of years ago to draw attention to the 2007 vintage, which the Consorzio believed to be outstanding. But these ante-anteprimas (ante-*anteprime*, if you prefer the Italian plural) have begun to meet resistance from some producers who are unwilling to send samples, fearing their wines will not achieve high scores. The fact that the 2010 vintage had already been already classified as 'once in a lifetime' in early December last year during yet another preview, the initiative of a single wine critic [James Suckling] who subsequently showered the region with 100-point scores, gave several more producers the confidence to completely ignore the Consorzio's call for their samples. I go into all this only to explain the glaring absence of some names from my tasting notes below.

Yet, after having tasted some 140 Brunello di Montalcino 2010s last week (at exactly the same time as the rest of the team were wading through Burgundy Week in London, causing a terrible bottleneck for the tasting-note uploading team), I can confirm that that confidence was not misplaced. In Montalcino 2010 is truly an excellent vintage, because the great are fantastic, the good are great and the mediocre good.

At first the 2010 vintage didn't look that promising at all and there was little indication that Montalcino had a great vintage on hand. A cool and very wet spring caused an irregular flowering that was delayed by up to two weeks. A hot July helped the vines catch up. August turned out cool, even if less rainy than in other parts of Italy, but delayed the growing season once more. September proved to be a game-changer with warm, dry days and cool nights speeding up phenolic ripeness, while retaining Sangiovese's all-important freshness. The 2010 season also meant a return to a classic late vintage, compared with ever-earlier and hotter vintages such as 2011, 2009 and 2007. But even in this relatively small wine region the harvest took as much as two weeks to complete, with the warmer parts being harvested at the end of September and the highest, coolest parts in mid October.

With climatic conditions as well as the growing cycle not immediately reflecting a great year, and with several producers as early as July 2010 even doubting whether the vintage was any good at all, Montalcino has, nevertheless, delivered a miracle. One has to go back as far as 2004 to find a comparable vintage that is this outstanding. I initially thought that 2010 showed more similarities with 2006, even if the former is far, far more regular than the latter, but Giampiero Pazzagaglia, technical consultant to the Consorzio of Brunello and, since the enforced departure of Stefano Campatelli, its director in anything but name, pointed out the striking similarities between 2004 and 2010 to me. These he summarised as: '60-60-60'.

According to Pazzagaglia, 2010 was, like 2004, textbook perfect: it behaved exactly as has long been taught in Italy's viticultural colleges. Until climate change, that is. He explained that throughout the cycle there was a near-perfect pace of 60 days between each of the phases, beginning with budbreak in the first week of April, flowering in the first week of June, veraison in the first week of August and the harvest at the beginning of October. He admits that in the last few years this cycle has become much more irregular, because in general climate and therefore growing cycle have become unpredictable. For example, in 2014 a very cold July caused an enormous delay, which at first seemed unrecoverable. Pazzagaglia mentioned 2006 and 2008 as excellent vintages, but much less *accademica*: irregular in growing pattern as well as in the resulting wines and much more difficult to handle than 2010.



I admit that I didn't immediately understand the comparison with 2004 during my first day tasting the 2010s. Certainly, they were wonderful, fresh, perfumed wines, but they seemed to lack a little of 2004's concentration and, crucially, capacity to age. Worryingly, they seemed ready for consumption. As last year, I tasted with my colleague Kerin O'Keefe, who could not hide her disappointment, saying she had expected so much more of the 2010s. Our first impression changed radically on day two when the majority of the wines, and certainly the best ones, showed what makes Brunello so inimitable: elegance, with powerful tannins but no heavy or super-extraction.

Several producers still set their sights on power and concentration, with several wines showing the beginning of singed or stewed fruit, but the fantastic acidity of this vintage prevents the wines from becoming flabby.

This is a vintage in which Sangiovese is allowed to shine. It is a variety that needs a long, even ripening period to produce wines of real breed, tension and ageing capacity. Often in hot vintages, when the vines are not carefully monitored, the result can be very ripe fruit. Yet behind super-ripeness, still considered by some producers as the sign of a great year, Sangiovese's transparency completely disappears and, worse, makes all the wines taste alike. In 2010 the ripeness levels of the grapes for most of the wines I tasted are spot on. This vintage has resulted in roughly two styles: a fragrant, elegant, Burgundian style; and solid, concentrated wines that are firmly tannic yet seldom rough or alcoholic. Both possess plenty of vibrant, tangy acidity; and, as a positive aside, heavy oak handling seems to be becoming more and more a thing of the past. There is plenty for lovers of both powerful and elegant Brunellos. The only problem is that because the vintage has been hyped in certain quarters since last December, and is followed by 2011, which looks a little less even, stocks are not going to last long.

The 2010 growing season has produced many a great wine, and my final impression is that, even if not all wines are great, there are certainly very few duds in this vintage. Or, in other words, it was really difficult for anyone to make bad wines in this vintage. Still the excellence of one terroir over another is evident, and this regularly determines the wine's capacity to age

gracefully. Truly great wine is produced only from truly great terroir. Although I admire the skilful work done by almost everyone in 2010 in Montalcino, one cannot expect each and every one of the 200 or so estates to be of the same breed. It is a fact that Montalcino is unwilling to come to terms with. Imagine if each and every château in the Médoc claimed first-growth status. This would be wholly unthinkable - but this is exactly what is believed in Montalcino. The belief is perhaps necessary to support the large investments still being made in the region, with, even in recession-plagued Italy, new outfits still popping up here.

Having said that, the other side of the coin is that climate change has the potential to reshuffle the cards, at least partially, which I think it did in 2010, where lower-lying vineyards that are generally considered too hot may have had an advantage, something that could be even more the case in the much cooler 2014 vintage.

This leads me to my final point, the order of the tasting notes below. Last year I tried to group estates according to their communes, but I met criticism from colleagues as well as from producers, who pointed out that many of them make Brunello from several vineyards spread throughout the appellation, and hence just noting the commune in which the winery is situated would not give any reliable indication of individual styles. Of course I do not argue against that, but the situation is very much the same in Barolo, where estates regularly make intercommunal blends as well as single-vineyard wines.

I felt this criticism was used as an argument against my suggestion that [Alessandro Masnaghetti](#) produce a map of Montalcino. This year I tried to explain to anyone in Montalcino willing to listen that this map is not intended to create a system of crus. But without having a proper map indicating the exact location of wineries, roads, the vineyards and their individual altitude and exposition, Montalcino is unable to explain why its wines are great. Great wine is determined by origin, and origin has a location. It is as simple as that. But I am delighted to say that several producers owning vineyards on one of Montalcino's most famous hills, Montosoli, have found the courage to open the door to geographic clarity and have commissioned a map from Masnaghetti which is just about to be released. Let's hope many in Montalcino are willing to follow this extremely courageous, but really logical, effort soon.

THE WINES

The wines had been assigned a random number by the Consorzio and were therefore tasted under blind conditions. Since the order of wines was random, for clarity's sake I have listed the wines in alphabetical order by producer (sur)name.

The 2010s are followed by a category that is being referred to by the Consorzio as 'Selezione'. Although this is not an official term, as it is in Chianti Classico, it is a kind of 'in-house' indication for wines that are either from single vineyards or are special cuvées, but not Riservas. I would like to point out that in several cases I used + and ++ in the scores to indicate that these wines will probably score higher after a period in the bottle. In 2010, drinking dates are extremely important as many wines are ready now, but will improve.

An article on the Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2009s will follow.

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 2010

- [Abbadia Ardenga 2010 Brunello di Montalcino](#) Maturing mid ruby with orange rim. Refined

cherry fruit with top notes of black tea and powdery tannins and tangy acidity. Really well balanced and already approachable. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020

16

- **Altesino 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange rim. Spicy, sweet and lifted raspberry nose. Intense, aromatic sweet fruit palate that is pulled up on the finish by acidity. Bags of grainy, bittersweet tannins. Genuine if a little old school. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2022
16+
- **Angelini, Val di Suga 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with broad bricky rim. A nose that is firmly in the dried fruit corner and with quite a lot of oak. The sweet, very-ripe fruit is spiked with lively acidity, but it still lacks a little in freshness. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15
- **Poggio Antico 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Sweet fruit nose with hints of leather. Gripping tannins that are backed up by ripe fruit and with a good dose of acidity on the finish. Ends a little astringent, but should improve with a couple of years in the bottle. (WS) Drink 2016-2024
16.5+
- **Poggio Antico, Altero 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with just the beginning of orange tinges. Internationally styled nose of fruit and oak with hints of fruit cake. Easy going on the palate, but much less fruit driven than the nose would have it. Good balance between powdery tannins and zesty acidity, but a little too developed for my liking and perhaps a little simple. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
16
- **Antinori, Pian delle Vigne 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with orange tinges. Pumpernickel and hints of dark fruit. Sweet palate, but the fruit is a little numb. Firm, drying tannins and a little stewed and sweet on the finish. (WS) Drink 2015-2018
15
- **Poggio dell'Aquila 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking ruby with orange rim. Slightly grubby on the nose. Initially a little bitter and herbal on the palate, while the finish shows juicy fruit. A little bit disjointed. (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- **Argiano 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Quite deep, concentrated ruby. Impressive yet austere, savoury fruit nose with hints of graphite and oak. Compact and tightly knit, firm palate, a little sweet but with good potential. (WS) Drink 2015-2026
16.5
- **Armillia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with narrow orange rim. Just the merest hint of ripe candied fruit, but otherwise quite closed. A solid palate rich in tannins and with well-balanced acidity. Dried fruit creeping up on the finish. Solid and a little sweet on the finish. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2028
15.5
- **Banfi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with bright orange rim. Sweet fruit that is a little stewed. Open-knit with a little bit of sappy acidity, but far from complex and with bitter tannins on the finish. (WS) Drink 2015-2018
15
- **Barbi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Maturing mid ruby with narrow bricky rim. Iron and dark fruit on the nose with a hint of Moroccan leather. Fragrant and supple on the palate and with firm grainy tannins on the finish. A true classic. (WS) Drink 2018-2032
17+
- **Bellaria, Assunto 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Lacklustre, impenetrable ruby with narrow orange rim. Really closed and reluctant with hints of dried fruit. The palate is backward, too, even if the solid structure and fruit are in balance. Perhaps not the most refined or complex,

but that might still come with a little age. (WS)Drink 2016-2022

16

- Belpoggio 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange rim. A wine bursting with ripe cherry fruit framed by soft tannins. Almost too approachable and easygoing, but will delight many. (WS)Drink 2015-2020

16

- Biondi Santi, Tenuta Greppo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Intense mid ruby. Very tight and closed yet showing depth of fine-perfumed, earthy cherry. Embryonic Sangiovese palate that is Burgundian in stature and weight. Precise and perfectly balanced. Really sleek and fine and with fine powdery tannins, but not ready by far. (WS) 13.5% Drink 2018-2036

18

- Bottega 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mature-looking mid ruby with brickly rim. Herbal and balsamic nose and a hint of apple peel and pumpernickel. That first sign of oxidation determines the supple palate too. Ends quite dry. (WS) Drink 2015-2020

15

- Gianni Brunelli, Le Chiuse di Sotto 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mid ruby with orange rim. Damp earth, liquorice powder and undergrowth underpinned by brooding sweet-sour cherry. Quite tight palate with clinging, firm tannins. Still a little unsettled for the moment. Gripping, tannic finish with lots of fruit and real depth. (WS) 14% Drink 2016-2028

17.5

- Brunelli 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Healthy-looking mid ruby with orange tinges. Properly concentrated sweet cherry nose and lots of concentrated ripe fruit on the palate. Hint of oak and lively rich cherry fruit. Very youthful and concentrated with supporting ripe chewy tannins and a good dose of acidity that adds tension. This needs age. (WS)Drink 2018-2032

17

- Tenuta Buon Tempo, Alta 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Lacklustre mid ruby with orange tinges. A little bit weedy on the nose as if it were much older. Balsamic more than fruity and with tones of mulch. The palate is a little astringent and could do with a little more fruit. A little stingy yet already quite developed. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020

15.5

- Tenuta Buon Tempo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinge. Sweet yet closed on the nose with herbal notes. Concentrated finish but should open up further with an additional year in the bottle. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2022

16

- Camigliano 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with broad orange rim. Sweet, jammy cherry and strawberry fruit picked up by just the right dose of acidity and soft powdery tannins. Not too demanding and ready now. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020

16

- Campi di Fonterenza 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Vivid, savoury nose with hints of leather and stones. Lovely, ripe tangy cherry fruit. Really animating and with a touch of leather on the finish that might become more pronounced in the future, but right now it adds rather than distracts. Lots of grainy tannins balanced by supple fruit. (WS)Drink 2016-2028

17+

- Canalicchio di Franco Pacenti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with narrow brickstone rim. Already showing some development on the nose with the beginning of undergrowth and rusty nails. Rather lightweight palate that could do with a little more fruit to match the big stalky tannins. Ends a little astringent. (WS)14.5% Drink 2015-2018

15

- Canalicchio di Sopra 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with narrow orange rim. Quite

herbal and savoury more than fruity at first, and really closed. Tightly packed fruit palate and richly tannic. A little austere at the moment, yet elegant and with real ageing potential. (WS)15% Drink 2018-2032

17.5

- **Canneta 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Classic Sangiovese nose with cherry and hints of leather. Succulent fruit palate with slightly astringent tannins on the finish. Not hugely long and perhaps just a little bit of a lightweight. (WS) Drink 2012-2020
16
- **Capanna 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Unusually deep ruby. Huge fruit concentration but kept in check by bright acidity. Quite a sweet oak finish, but undoubtedly will integrate more with an additional year in the bottle. (WS) Drink 2016-2024
16
- **Capanne Ricci 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep, maturing ruby with orange tinges. A little bit sweet and stubborn on the nose, but the palate shows plenty of ripe sweet fruit and lots of ripe powdery tannins. Not the most complex, but certainly a good Brunello. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2024
16
- **Caparzo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Orange skin, iron and hints of sweet spice. Lively, succulent, round cherry palate with hints of dried fruit. Lovely mid-palate weight and with chewy tannins on the finish. Ready now and for mid-term ageing. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2022
17
- **Caprili 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange tinges. Perfumed cherry nose with hints of graphite. Juicy fruit palate with slightly astringent tannins. As accessible as a Rosso di Montalcino and a little simple. (WS) 15% Drink 2014-2018
16
- **Castelgiocondo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with narrow orange rim. A nose bursting with fruit cake, baking spice and sour cherry. Not overtly sweet though, but the fruit seems a little overripe while the almost tart acidity manages to add energy. Slightly astringent and tart on the finish, but will improve with a little age. Just not the most complex or refined. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- **Poggio il Castellare 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Almost impenetrable ruby with orange rim. Multi-layered nose of malt, spice and macerated cherry with a hint of lead pencil. Refined, full dark fruit palate with chewy tannins matched by perfect acidity. Very easy to like, if a little tannic for the moment. (WS) Drink 2015-2026
16+
- **Castello Romitorio, Filo di Seta 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange tinges. Balsamic with hints of undergrowth, tobacco leaf and oak on the nose and concentrated on the palate with a ripe and powerful finish. Proper Brunello, if not the most complex. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2024
16.5
- **Castello Romitorio 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. Brooding nose of dark fruit with a hint of cigar box and vanilla. Bold chewy tannins make it a little rustic and dry, while the fruit is fresh and concentrated. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2024
16.5
- **Castiglione del Bosco 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Pale, developed-looking ruby with orange rim. Quite sweet on the nose and ripe and juicy on the palate with a soft, tannic structure. Just a tiny bit sweet and rather simple for a Brunello. Ready now. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15.5

- **Cava d'Onice 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange rim. Nose redolent of gingerbread and sweet dark fruit. Soft and amazingly full, round fruit on the palate. No high-flyer by any means, but has its charms. (WS) Drink 2015-2022
16
- **Celestino Pecci 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated mid ruby with bright orange rim. Austere, peppery nose of cherry, dark earth and graphite. Juicy fruit with the typical Sangiovese tanginess and a spurt of stalky tannins on the finish. Austere yet fragrant and certainly deserves more bottle age. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2024
17+
- **Centolani, Poggio Tondo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Backward and reluctant on the nose and only hinting at earth and bell pepper. Elegant, but just a little too skinny for the big structure. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- **Cerbaia di Fabio Pellegrini 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Hints of cherry and green pea. Sweetly oaked, ripe fruit that is not entirely focused or pure. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15
- **Le Chiuse 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep, concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Iron and a little closed at first. Powerful palate with concentrated-but-backward fruit, yet a perfect balance and elegant mid-weight mouthfeel. Definitely needs age. (WS) Drink 2018-2032
17.5
- **Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with narrow orange rim. Refined balsamic nose and not immediately pushing the fruit button, meaty with a hint of stone. Very classic, with lift. Concentrated yet cool and pretty austere still. Tannic almost like a Barolo but plenty of fruit to back it up, that is not thick or heavy. Elegant palate weight but quite powerful in its tannic structure. But so tannic this needs lots of time. Rainy, grating tannins with a mineral notes. Opens up and becomes more multi-layered with aeration. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2018-2034
17++
- **Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange rim and starting to look mature. A little stewed on the nose with the first signs of oxidation. Perhaps too long in oak? A shame, because there is lovely bright acidity even if the tannins are a little astringent, but the fruit is getting a little tired. (WS) Drink 2015-2018
15
- **Citille di Sopra 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Initially a tiny bit grubby/reductive on the nose. Intense, ripe palate that lacks a little in definition. Rich, bitter tannic finish, but it is all a little too ripe. (WS) 15% Drink 2014-2018
15.5
- **Col d'Orcia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange tinges. Tight, herbal Sangiovese nose and quite soft, round fruit on the palate with a hit of grainy, bitter tannins on the finish. Fragrant finish and just a little rustic. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2022
16.5
- **Col di Lamo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking mid ruby with brickstone rim. Very tight and backward nose. Supple palate but so closed as to be practically numb. Difficult to judge at this stage. Wait. (WS) Drink 2016-2024
15.5
- **Colleceto 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with broad, orange-tinged rim. Very ripe and earthy nose and perhaps not entirely pure. Round fruit palate lacking a little in definition and with slightly bitter tannins. A tiny bit simple. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020
15.5

- **Collemattoni 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with bricky rim. A little reductive, sweet-sour nose. Could be brett? Numb fruit on the palate and with firm tannins on the finish. A little unbalanced and hard. (WS) Drink 2015-2018
15
- **La Collina dei Lecci 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Already quite developed-looking ruby with watery orange rim. Herbal nose with notes of baking spice. Really slow to open up. Gentle and only just mid-bodied wine, elegant, but needs more fruit to balance the acidity and firm tannins. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- **Collosorbo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange rim. Dark, slightly stinky nose hinting at dried fruit. Bags of round fruit on the palate and perfectly balanced with grainy tannins and tangy acidity. Seductive. (WS) Drink 2015-2026
17
- **Colombaio 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking mid ruby with orange rim. Stinky nose with hints of sweet undergrowth. Supple and round fruit that lacks a little in expression. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- **La Colombina 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Already mature-looking ruby with orange rim. A bit stinky and herbal on the nose. Rather tough tannins with not enough fruit to buffer this. (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2018
14.5
- **Conti Costanti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Evolved-looking ruby and orange rim. Compact, fragrant and a little earthy and wonderfully structured fruit on the palate. Still very tight and backward and with gutsy tannins. Firm, powerful and totally convincing. (WS) Drink 2018-2034
17+
- **Cordella 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, rich raspberry and cherry with hints of fruit cake and flexing its tannic muscle on a long finish. A richer style of Brunello. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2026
16
- **Corte dei Venti, Quattroventi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with broad watery orange rim. Sweet nose with notes of tobacco and undergrowth and already looking a little mature. Sweet dried fruit palate with refreshing acidity and creamy notes from the oak. Seems to be ageing rapidly. (WS) Drink 2015-2018
15.5
- **Crocedimezzo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with orange rim. Tight cherry note with a hint of leather and iron. Embryonic, energetic cherry fruit with grainy tannins clinging to it. Traditional yet complex, although the leathery note might become more prominent with age... (WS) Drink 2015-2026
17+
- **Fanti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated mid ruby with orange tinges. Dark and a little brooding and with bags of sweet fruit on the palate. Seems ready now, except for the big load of tannins on the finish. (WS) Drink 2015-2024
16
- **Fanti, Quattroventi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with orange rim. Classic slightly balsamic cherry and orange skin nose. Wonderful ripe and seductive fruit and with spiky, bitter tannins that are still a little tough. Mellow oak notes on the finish. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2026
16
- **Fattoi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange tinges. Just a little reductive at first with what looks like a hint of oak. Compact, bright cherry fruit with near-perfect balancing acidity and lots of firm tannins. Elegant palate weight and great length. (WS) Drink 2016-2028

17.5

- Claudia Ferrero 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinges. Creamy nose with hints of oak, but not really showing a lot of fruit. Supple but lacking a proper fruit core. Slightly green tannins on the finish. (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2020

15

- La Fiorita 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mid ruby with orange tinges. Backward and tight on the nose, but with depth and a well-judged note of oak. Lovely concentration of cherry fruit framed by firm, chewy tannins. Still very young. Will undoubtedly gain in complexity with more bottle age. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2017-2026

16.5

- Fornacina 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Dark ruby with narrow orange rim. Just a tiny bit leathery and very closed on the nose, but fluid and sweetly concentrated on the palate. Just a tiny bit astringent and not picture perfect (yet), but worth waiting to see it develop. (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2026

17

- La Fortuna 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange rim. A little weedy on the nose with notes of cold tea leaves. Rather unfocused palate and lacking a little in fruit to match the big chewy tannins. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2018

15

- Fossacolle 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Very deep ruby with narrow orange rim. Proper Brunello nose with hints of sweet ripe fruit and nutmeg. Tightly wound, ripe and brooding on the palate with bags of grainy tannins. Has everything in spades, just not showing it all at this stage. (WS) Drink 2018-2032

17+

- Friggiali 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Just mid ruby with broad orange rim. Pronounced nose of leather and spice. Taut, lively sweet sour cherry with almost salty notes on the finish. Gripping ripe tannins, and very long. Still a little unpolished, but with plenty of potential for further ageing. (WS) Drink 2016-2028

17+

- La Fuga 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mid ruby with broad orange rim. Sappy, earthy cherry nose that is already quite open and forthcoming and with a hint of bell pepper. Supple fruit on the palate too, but the tannins are a little tough on the finish for the moment. Proper Brunello, if not the most complex and a little warm on the finish. (WS) Drink 2015-2024

16.5

- Fuligni 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Maturing ruby with orange tinges. Compact and minerally and firmly closed on the fruit. Same embryonic impression on the palate with supple, ripe fruit and racy acidity on the finish. Bags of ripe, grainy tannins. Amazing length and bite, and really needs age. (WS) 14% Drink 2018-2036

17.5

- La Gerla 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Complex, brooding nose with hints of candied fruit. Lots of ripe, creamy fruit and a little brash and popular, but certainly possesses concentration and plenty of length. (WS) Drink 2015-2020

16

- Grazia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Dark fruit that seems already a little oxidative. Should be drunk now. (WS) Drink 2015-2020

15

- Il Grappolo-Fortius, Il Grappolo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with a narrow, orange rim. Slightly musty on the nose. Vibrant cherry fruit with a hint of tar indicating rash development. Super fresh yet tannic, but just a little too musty on the finish to convince. Two samples tasted. (WS) Drink 2015-2020

15.5

- Innocenti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinges. Earthy cherry with leather notes. That leather affects the palate too. Bags of powdery, dry tannins. Ends rather tough. (WS) Drink 2015-2018

15

- La Serena 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Impenetrable dark mature ruby with narrow orange rim. Very savoury and meaty with an undertow of sweet dark fruit. Intense cherry and perfumed sweet-raspberry palate. Quite a rich style and with bags of chewy tannins that need time to integrate, but the whole is certainly impressive. (WS) Drink 2016-2026

16.5

- Lambardi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Impenetrable dark ruby! Earthy nose with a hint of dried fruit and bags of ripe fruit and rather sturdy tannins on the palate. Good dose of acidity too. A little rustic but certainly can age a little. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2024

16

- Lazzaretti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mature mid ruby with brickstone rim. Already developed yet multi-layered nose with notes of blood and dried cherry. Compact, concentrated cherry fruit with muscular tannins on the palate. Packs a real punch. (WS) Drink 2015-2028

17

- La Lecciaia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Quite developed-looking ruby with orange rim. Lifted, fresh and appealing. Pretty perfect Sangiovese nose with hints of orange skin as well as a hint of tar suggesting speedy development. Lovely austere cherry palate. Elegant and with marked acidity. (WS) Drink 2015-2026

16.5

- Lisini 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Intense nose of herb liqueur and hints of Moroccan leather. Lots of ripe fruit and fine but firm tannins on the palate and ready now. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2022

16.5

- Loacker, Corte Pavone 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Unusually dark, youthful ruby. There is a little of that fruit cake and baking spice on the nose indicating very ripe fruit, while the palate is youthful, vibrant and concentrated and with a hint of vanilla. Bold, modern style with plenty of ripe tannins. (WS) Drink 2016-2030

17

- Le Macioche 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Lifted, raspberry sweet/sour nose and a little wild. Cherry and raspberry on the palate. Long, chewy and tangy finish, but still needs to find its form. (WS) Drink 2016-2028

17

- Madonna Nera 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinges. Just a tiny bit reductive on the nose with notes of iron and spice. Slick orange and cherry palate with muscular tannins on a long, juicy finish. Ready now. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2022

16

- La Magia, Ciliegio 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Youthful-looking, concentrated ruby. At first a little weedy and unfocused on the nose. The palate is a little sweet and lacks in genuine fruit expression. Joyless. (WS) Drink 2015-2017

15

- La Magia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. A little farmyard/sweaty and sweet on the nose and sweet and a little numb on the palate. Seems a little old fashioned, with stalky tannins on the finish. Hard work. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2019

15

- La Manella 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Developed-looking mid ruby with orange rim. Lifted, bright fruit nose. Completely closed on the palate and with a slightly tough finish. Difficult to

see where this is going at this moment. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2022

15.5

- **Marchesato degli Aleramici 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with broad orange tinged rim. Elegant yet a little weedy and with smoky notes on the palate. The fruit fails to make a proper impact on the finish. (WS) 13.5% Drink 2015-2020

15.5

- **Il Marroneto 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange tinges. Almost exotically perfumed nose with hints of cherry. Fragrant sweet/sour cherry with a firm dose of tannins. Elegant palate weight and long and juicy and still a little tight. Elegance is key. Long and refined yet powerful. (WS) Drink 2015-2036

17.5+

- **Mastrojanni 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with brickstone rim. At first slightly reductive, then hints of dried fruit, red fruit and tobacco. Austere but with a full-bodied mouthfeel and serious tannins. Great balance, genuine style, potent yet not brutal. (WS) Drink 2016-2030

17+

- **Mocali 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Maturing, medium-deep ruby with orange rim. Compact and complex nose of leafy red ripe fruit and a touch of hot iron and tobacco leaf. Refined, concentrated fruit and finely tuned with racy acidity and stalky tannins. Still quite austere, but the fruit is certainly there and will improve in the bottle. (WS) 14% Drink 2016-2030

16.5

- **Carlo Molinari, Le Fonti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange rim. Rather tight and closed with hints of sweet-sour cherry and iron. Compact and tightly knit palate with a touch of cream. Slightly bitter tannins, yet with proper depth and length on the finish. A little unwilling to show it all at the moment, but promising. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2024

16+

- **Molino di Sant'Antimo, Varco 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated, mature-looking ruby with orange tinges. Quite closed and only hinting at dried fruit and cool, dark earth. Sweet fruit palate charged with slightly astringent tannins. May improve, but not the most complex at this stage. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2018

15.5

- **Molino di Sant'Antimo, Paolus 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark, mature looking ruby with orange rim. Balsamic, sweet and open-knit nose but more closed and pulled together on the palate. The marked acidity is a proper match for the rich, but backward, tannic fruit. Not nearly open, yet lingering. (WS) Drink 2016-2030

16+

- **Musico 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Very pale ruby with orange tinges. Just a little old-school with tobacco leaf and herbal character on the nose making it look older than it is. Juicy palate that doesn't exactly pile it high and with grainy tannins on the finish. Could do with a little more concentration. Seems ready now. (WS) Drink 2015-2020

15.5

- **Máté 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange tinges. Earthy cherry with hints of spice. Complex palate of sour cherry and notes of dried fruit with lovely tanginess and chewy tannins on the finish. (WS) 15% Drink 2014-2022

17

- **Silvio Nardi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Healthy-looking mid ruby with orange tinges. Iron and earth and hints of candied peel. Not a lot of fruit expression on the palate (yet) and a little creaminess from the oak. Very solid and with firm tannins covering the fruit. (WS) Drink 2018-2036

16

- **Poggio Nardone 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with bricky rim. Stalky/reductive and

not showing a lot of fruit on the nose, yet succulent and supple on the palate, but with some tough, bitter tannins on the finish. (WS)14% Drink 2016-2022

15.5

- **Padelletti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Glowing mid ruby with orange tinges. Very tight with brooding cherry, blood orange and cocoa dusting and a touch of smoke. A little backward on the palate too, with bags of tannins, yet elegant and taut. Traditional, well-grafted and plain delicious. (WS)14.5% Drink 2016-2032
17++
- **Podere Paganico 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Developed-looking ruby with orange rim. Open-knit, ripe nose with loads of spice. The palate is tighter and with firm tannins. Good focus and balance and can be approached now. (WS)14.5% Drink 2015-2022
16+
- **Palazzo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Very deep, developing ruby with narrow, orange rim. Classic iron and cherry nose, but the fruit is quite ripe and sweet, as if it had been harvested rather late. Firm tannins give it much-needed focus, but overall a little underwhelming. (WS)Drink 2015-2022
15.5
- **Il Palazzone 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Lively cherry and vanilla nose. Sweet oak and fruit, really modernist but it all comes together beautifully on the finish in a near-perfect balance. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2026
17+
- **Il Paradiso di Frassina 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Only hints of spice and dried fruit yet complex. Very closed and compact and embryonic on the palate with a big, but not rough structure. Elegant palate weight and finely tuned balance. Just very closed at the moment. (WS)Drink 2016-2032
17+
- **Paradisone Colle degli Angeli 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange rim. Tobacco leaves and a little herbal and a hint of leather. Seems a little stewed too. Not too complex but with brisk acidity and lots of chewy tannins. The nose lets it down a little. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2014-2022
15
- **Pian delle Querci 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with orange rim. Sweet nose of dark fruit and hints of fruit cake. Easygoing and supple, ripe, tangy fruit with slightly drying tannins on the finish, but appealing all the same. (WS)Drink 2015-2020
16
- **Piancornello 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. A nose determined by dried fruit hints and perhaps a little green at the same time. Youthful palate with lots of refreshing acidity and firm tannins. Interesting wine, if a little old school and in need of a little more age. (WS)14.5% Drink 2016-2032
16
- **Piccini, Villa al Cortile 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with orange rim. Exotically perfumed nose with a hint of leather. Slightly drying tannins framing bags of sweet fruit. Chewy, tangy finish with rustic, leathery notes. (WS)14% Drink 2015-2022
15.5
- **Agostina Pieri 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Youthful-looking mid ruby. Grubby nose, but could just be reductive. Very compact and unwilling to open up. Brisk acidity on the palate but the tannins are just a little too astringent and the finish is rather bitter to completely convince at this stage. (WS)Drink 2016-2020
15.5
- **Pietranera 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with broad, watery, orange rim. Just a tiny

bit weedy with notes of tobacco leafy at first. Stewed tea-leaves. Sweet and round fruit that could do with a little more structure and definition. Simple. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2018
15

- **Pietroso 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Healthy, concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Tea leaves and dried fruit and a hint of oak. Supple and sweet with good acidity and firm, grainy tannins. Perhaps just a little too popular for my taste. (WS) Drink 2015-2026
16.5
- **Pinino 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange tinges. Supple, juicy fruit with soft tannins and a long fruit finish. Perhaps just a little simple for a Brunello. (WS) Drink 2015-2022
16
- **Il Poggione 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Just a tiny bit dusty and reductive on the nose and what looks like a hint of oak. Succulent fresh fruit with a proper bite of tannins on the finish. Seductive and juicy and already hard to resist. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2026
17.5
- **Le Potazzine 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Palish ruby. Fine fragrant strawberry nose. Supple and elegant and with wonderful succulence and style and fine, grainy tannins on the finish. (WS) Drink 2015-2032
17.5
- **Querce Bettina 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange rim. Youthful, lifted cherry and raspberry fruit with chewy tannins. Really lifted bright raspberry fruit finish and elegant palate weight. Can be approached now. (WS) Drink 2015-2026
17
- **Casa Raia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Cask sample. Youthful mid ruby. Sweet bright spicy red fruit with top notes of candied peel. Lovely sweet fruit shot through by tangy acidity. Unpolished and genuine. (WS) Drink 2017-2028
17+
- **Renieri 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange rim. Backward, spicy nose. Youthful, concentrated fruit with lots of chewy tannins. Seductive and likeable and ready now. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020
16
- **Ridolfi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with orange tinges. A little bit weedy and vegetal on the nose. Sweet fruit palate that lacks focus and with a rather medicinal note on the finish. (WS) Drink 2015-2017
14.5
- **Ruffino, Greppone Mazzi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature mid ruby with broad orange rim. Balsamic, savoury cherry nose but otherwise pretty much closed. Very backward on the palate too. A true slow burner, but the balance seems right. (WS) Drink 2016-2024
16
- **Salicutti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with bright orange-tinged rim. Savoury, stony nose with hints of cherry. A little reluctant yet impressively concentrated on the palate. Quite a full style with big but lovely grainy tannins, which are a perfect match for the fruit. Really too young but impressive in its build. (WS) Drink 2016-2030
17+
- **San Carlo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange rim. Ripe fruit that lacks a little in complexity and interest. Dull. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2017
14.5
- **San Giacomo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Beautiful mid ruby with orange tinges. Tight, spicy nose with iron notes. Supple, dense cherry palate with muscular, bitter tannins that really pulls it up. (WS) 14% Drink 2016-2028

16

- **San Giorgio, Ugolforte 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking mid ruby with broad orange rim. Classic nose of iron, orange peel, cherry and with a stony edge. Feather-light, elegant mouthfeel and Burgundian in style. Quite austere for the moment yet has length and complexity. Perhaps a little atypical and not for those looking for a bolder style of Brunello. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2028

17

- **San Polo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange rim. Sweetly spiced oak and succulent sweet fruit pulled together by firm, chewy tannins and tangy acidity. Complete if a little sweet on the finish and in need of more age to lose its youthful sweetness. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2028

17

- **Sanlorenzo, Bramante 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark ruby with orange tinges. Exotic dry nose with notes of cumin powder and hints of leather. The finish is in the grip of dry tannins. This could do with more fruit. (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2018

15.5

- **Sassodisole 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep, youthful-looking ruby. Brooding, dusty nose with a hint of leather. Concentrated palate that is still a little backward and with firm, gripping tannins. Rustic style. (WS) Drink 2015-2028

15.5

- **Scopetone 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Pale ruby with orange rim. Developed nose of undergrowth and tobacco leaf. Quite lightweight palate lacking the concentration of a proper Brunello. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020

15.5

- **Sesta 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Just mid ruby with orange tinges. Balsamic nose with lots of undergrowth. Supple palate, but the finish is a little bit too short of fruit to truly convince. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2020

15.5

- **Sesta di Sopra 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with the beginning of orange. Backward nose with a tiny hint of spice. Lavish fruit and solidly build, yet not heavy, and with plenty of bite. Can be enjoyed now. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2026

16.5

- **Sesti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Developed-looking mid ruby with orange rim. A little stalky and closed on the nose and bags of sweet strawberry fruit on the palate, perfectly balanced by racy acidity and chewy tannins. Fantastic tactile tannic finish with cherry and orange-skin notes. (WS) Drink 2015-2030

17.5

- **Talenti 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep ruby with orange tinges. Tight nose hinting at cherry and orange skin and herbs. Youthful sweet fruit underpinned with equal doses of firm tannins and juicy acidity. Already approachable. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2022

17+

- **Tassi-Franci, Tassi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with orange tinges. Tight nose with a hint of stones. Very round, ripe fruit followed by austere tannins. A tiny bit simple and rustic, better to drink this now. (WS) 15.5% Drink 2015-2018

15.5

- **Terralsole 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Pale ruby with broad orange rim. Savoury, minerally nose that is a little closed on the fruit. Elegant, transparent palate, almost burgundian in style and with cherry and hints of dried fruit. Muscular tannins that never overwhelm the fruit. Distinct and original. (WS) Drink 2018-2030

17.5

- **Terre Nere 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking ruby with broad orange rim. A little reductive on the nose and quite sweet and ripe on the palate and a rich, tannic finish with plenty of ripe fruit. (WS) Drink 2014-2022
16
- **Tiezzi, Poggio Cerrino 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** *This is a vineyard that was planted by just putting the branches directly in the ground and hence on its own roots.* Youthful ruby with orange tinges. Very closed on the nose but with real purity behind it. Fresh, sweet raspberries tightly packed with compact tannins. Unpolished yet transparent. Long and a little cool, with lots of pure fruit sweetness that suggests a lot of ageing will be needed. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2018-2032
17+
- **La Torre 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking ruby with broad orange rim. Balsamic nose with hints of incense and dried fruit. Reluctant on the palate and doesn't show proper fruit. Old school. Perhaps too long in wood? (WS) Drink 2015-2018
15
- **Uccelliera 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Evolved-looking ruby with narrow orange rim. Nose shows dried fruit at first but with aeration opens up. Generous cherry palate with real crunch and tanginess. Bold, earthy and delicious. (WS) Drink 2016-2030
17+
- **Il Valentiano, Campo di Marzo 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Healthy mid ruby with orange-tinged rim. Tiny bit earthy/musty on the nose. Concentrated, tangy cherry with gripping tannic support. Just a tiny bit bitter on the finish, but will improve with an additional year in the bottle. (WS) Drink 2015-2026
15.5
- **La Velona 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mid ruby with bright orange rim. Herbal nose shot through with baking spice. Balsamic palate that has great balance, but the fruit seems already quite developed. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- **Verbena 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Deep, almost impenetrable ruby with narrow orange rim. At first soft oak wrapping up the sweet fruit on the nose and suggesting something quite rich on the palate. A good mouthful of fruit with sappy acidity and creamy oak on a tannic finish. Seductive and can be enjoyed now. Certainly cleverly made. (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2026
16.5
- **La Vigna 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Dark and mature looking ruby. Balsamic and savoury rather than fruity on the nose and fleshy, sweet fruit on the palate, but by the same token you could also accuse it of lacking a bit in freshness and pure fruit flavours. (WS) Drink 2015-2020
15
- **Villa Le Prata 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Mature-looking and just mid ruby. Firm nose with a hint of leather. Ripe fruit but the tannins are a little tough and astringent. Biting finish. (WS) 15% 15% Drink 2016-2022
15.5
- **Villa Poggio Salvi, Pomona 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Healthy looking, mid ruby with the beginning of orange tinges. Hints of baking spice. Elegant strawberry fruit palate with rather tart acidity for the moment. Needs more age. (WS) Drink 2016-2024
16+
- **Villa Poggio Salvi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino** Youthful mid ruby. Quite pure raspberry and cherry fruit nose with a hint of leather. Looks like this has a touch of Brett, but adds rather than distracts from the fruit. Lovely tangy finish with chewy tannins. It just remains to be seen how it will develop in the bottle. (WS) Drink 2016-2030
17+

- Villa i Cipressi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mid ruby with orange tinges. Closed and reluctant on the nose and with a firm tannic palate with plenty of fruit to back it up. (WS) 14% Drink 2015-2024
16.5
- Vitanza, Tradizione 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange rim. Earthy nose with a hint of leather and quite closed on the nose. Gripping tannins framing earthy raspberry and cherry fruit with brooding depth. A little rustic, but satisfying (WS) 13.5% Drink 2016-2026
16
- Vitanza, Andretta 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange rim. Spice and fruit cake and a hint of Moroccan leather on the nose. Quite sweet and just a little stewed while the bold tannins are a little too prominent at this stage. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2018
15.5
- Voliero 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mid ruby with bricky rim. Savoury nose but really holding back. There is the beginning of red fruit and liquorice. Same closed character on the palate yet there is great balance and suppleness as well as concentration and muscle on the finish. Archetypal Brunello, if not the most complex (yet). (WS) 15% Drink 2016-2028
16

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO SELEZIONE 2010

See above for an explanation of 'Selezione'.

- Abbadia Ardenga, Vigna Piaggia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinges. Earth and hot stones on the nose but pretty backwards otherwise. Powerful rich fruit knit together by muscular tannins. (WS) Drink 2016-2030
16
- Canalicchio di Sopra, Riserva 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Maturing, brilliant ruby with orange rim. Refined and focused with a hint of cocoa, fine oak and cherry. Wonderful sappy fruit with bags of tannin, a little tough now but you can see this coming together with bottle age. Great focus and real class. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2020-2040
17.5
- Altesino 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with narrow orange rim. Ripe, lifted fruit with hints of smoky oak. The nose puts you on the wrong foot, because the palate is youthful and lifted with fragrant raspberry. Elegant mid-weight feel to it, but sure pulls all the stops with a long concentrated fruit finish with bite on the end. Needs age! (WS) Drink 2018-2034
17.5
- Banfi, Poggio alle Mura 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Very heavy bottle! Dark ruby with orange tinges. Oak notes on the nose, but otherwise pretty much locked up. Super-concentrated fruit palate, which steers clear of being heavy, but only just. The tangy finish is loaded with rather tough tannins, but they may mellow out with time. (WS) Drink 2016-2030
16
- Barbi, Vigna del Fiore 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep maturing ruby with bricky rim. Earthy, minerally Sangiovese nose with a hint of iron and a polished cherry palate that is holding back a little. Firm tannins make for a really tactile, animating finish. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2034
17+
- Caparzo, La Casa 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated, youthful ruby with orange tinges. Soft spicy nose but unwilling to show it all for the moment. Intense, ripe strawberry fruit palate framed by powdery tannins. Could do with a little bit more freshness, but certainly is impressively concentrated without going over the top. (WS) 14% Drink 2016-2030
16

- Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona, Vigna di Pianrosso 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with narrow orange rim. Concentrated yet cool and still pretty austere. Impressive concentration of ripe fruit held perfectly in balance by rich, almost Barolo-like, tactile tannins on the finish. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2018-2034
17.5
- Donatella Cinelli Colombini, Prime Donne 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Very dark ruby with narrow orange rim. Rather stalky and savoury on the nose with a hint of leather. Impressive mouthful of fruit pulled together by firm tannins. Quite a powerful style of Brunello. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2016-2032
17
- Citille di Sopra, Vigna Poggio Ronconi 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Lacklustre mid ruby with bricky rim. A little grubby on the nose with meaty notes. Savoury palate with very shy fruit that makes the tannins look rather tough at this stage. Huge alcohol. (WS) 15.5% Drink 2015-2020
15.5
- La Lecciaia, Vigna Manapetra 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Maturing mid ruby with orange tinges. A little muddled on the nose with savoury notes of herbs and a hint of parmesan. The palate gives a clearer message of ripe, juicy fruit with quite a big charge of tannins on the finish. Perhaps a little rustic, but delivers. Would improve with further bottle ageing. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2017-2025
16
- La Manella, I Poggiarelli 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. Reductive, savoury and a little sweaty on the nose. Soft rich palate that lacks a little in vigour and energy. A little dull. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2015-2020
15
- Il Marroneto, Madonna delle Grazie 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinges. Very closed and compact balsamic nose but the depth is enormous. Beautiful build-up of complex flavours on the palate and loads of polished tannins on a long finish. Powerful, yet elegant. A fist in a silk glove. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2018-2038
17.5+
- Mastrojanni, Vigna Loreto 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep ruby with orange tinges. Faintly earthy nose with hints of gingerbread. A little backward on the palate, but the balance is neatly struck between intense fruit, tangy acidity and compact tannins. (WS) Drink 2018-2038
17+
- Mocali, Vigna delle Raunate 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Savoury nose with hints of raspberries and browning apple. A little sparkle on the attack seems to indicate a (partial) re-fermentation in the bottle! A shame, as there is tangy cherry and raspberry fruit, but the tannins are tough and dry. (WS) 14% Drink ??-??
14
- Silvio Nardi, Poggio Doria 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Youthful ruby with orange tinges. A little reluctant on the nose and lots of ripe, polished fruit with a good dose of chewy tannins on the palate. Quite approachable already, at least for the moment. (WS) Drink 2016-2030
17
- Silvio Nardi, Manachiara 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange rim. Hints of cherry and bacon on the nose and tightly woven sweet fruit on the palate with a hint of oak. I get the feeling this wine was meant to impress and it does: intense and ripe and a thoroughly modernist approach yet convinces. Can be approached now but should gain in complexity. (WS) Drink 2016-2036
17
- Tassi, Franci 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Concentrated ruby with orange rim. Interesting,

savoury nose with hints of cherry and dried fruit. Opulent ripe cherry fruit on the palate. Mouth-filling concentration and soft acidity and bittersweet, slightly astringent tannins on a peppery finish. Not entirely knit together (yet). (WS) 15% Drink 2015-2022

15.5

- Terralsole, Vigna Fonte Lattaia 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Mid ruby with broad orange rim. Complex balsamic nose with a hint of cardamom, but doesn't look like this comes from oak. Supple and sleek and with polished, firm tannins on the finish. Would love to see this with more age. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2018-2036
17+
- Terralsole, Vigna Pian Bossolino 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Just mid ruby with bricky rim. Perfumed cherry nose with notes of garden herbs and a hint of cardamom. Lots of ripe fruit on the palate matched by rich, grainy tannins. Not ready by far and something for Barolo lovers. Long and complex finish with lots to chew on. (WS) 14.5% Drink 2018-2038
17.5
- Tiezzi, Vigna Soccorso 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Single vineyard planted 'ad alberello', or bush-trained vines. Concentrated ruby with orange tinges. A finer, more concentrated version of the Poggio Cerrino with a fine spicy, smoky edge to the concentrated cool raspberry and cherry fruit. Intense and with fine firm tannins. Fluid ripe palate with a firm core of tannins. Honest and with energetic acidity. Really deserves ageing, but already delicious (WS) 14% Drink 2018-2036
17.5
- Villa i Cipressi, Zebras 2010 Brunello di Montalcino Deep youthful ruby with only the beginning of orange tinges. Multi-layered fruit-cake nose with a hint of oak. Dense fruit flavours that demand time but there is tangy acidity on the finish to keep it supple. (WS) Drink 2016-2034
17