



Brunello di Montalcino

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Brunello di Montalcino

Tasting Agenda

- 6:00 to 6:45 Taste the wine and post your votes.
 - 6:45 to 7:00 Discussion of Brunello led by Steve Smith.
 - 7:00 Sharp Voting closes.
 - 7:00 to 7:05 Comments on Brunello from David Gandara.
 - 7:05 to 7:10 Announcement of the Tasting Results.
 - 7:10 to ? Discussion of the wines.
 - ? Until 8:00 Social time (if needed).
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- For voting go to CellarSocietySF.org and choose “Members Only”.
 - The password is “xxxxxx”.
 - The wines are all 2015 Brunello di Montalcino from \$35 to \$50.

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What is Brunello?

- Red wine from the village of Montalcino, Tuscany, Central Italy.
- 100% Sangiovese similar to Chianti.
- The clone in Montalcino is “Sangiovese Grosso” which is called “Brunello”.
- Relatively high acid and food friendly like Chianti.
- In good vintages it is impeccably well balanced and can be drunk young or aged for many years.
- Traditionally one of the top 3 red wines from Italy:
 - Barbaresco: *“The Queen of wines.”*
 - Barolo: *“The King of wines.”*
 - Brunello: *“The wine of Kings.”*

Italian Wine Law

- Unlike the US, and similar to other European countries, Italy has strict laws about what terms can be used on the label.
- DOC
- DOCG
- Riserva

How is Brunello made?

What is the difference between Brunello and Chianti?

What is the Quality Price Ratio (QPR) for Brunello?

- \$35 - \$40: Higher quality than Barbaresco or Barolo or Bordeaux.
- \$40 - \$80: Better QPR than the others?
- \$80 - \$120: Better QPR than the others?
- \$120 & up: Poorer QPR than the others?

How do I Age Brunello?

- Buy several bottles of the same wine so when the wine peaks you will still have 1 or 2 bottles to enjoy.
- Buy a wine that gets lots of reviews on Cellar Tracker so you can benefit from other peoples' experiences with the wine. Don't start drinking the wine until a majority of the reviewers say that the wine is approaching its peak.
- Or, buy at least 8 bottles of the same wine and taste one every year starting about 5 years after the vintage. Use your judgement to determine when to start drinking bottles based on the complexity of the wine.
- Most Brunellos will stay at their peak for at least a few years.

Buying Brunello