

# CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA & GRAN SELEZIONE 2015 & 2016

In Tuscany's Sangiovese heartland, in one of the world's most celebrated wine regions, what is it that distinguishes its two highest-quality categories from the rest? **Monty Waldin** explains

Although Chianti Classico DOCG Gran Selezione represents a mere (but rising) 6% of total production in Tuscany's Chianti Classico region, its worth and even its very existence are under scrutiny and still a source of debate. Plenty of notable voices, more in the wine media than the trade, see its creation from early 2014 as a needless additional 'top' tier, an extra layer of complication when wine in general and Italian wine in particular is complicated enough as it is.

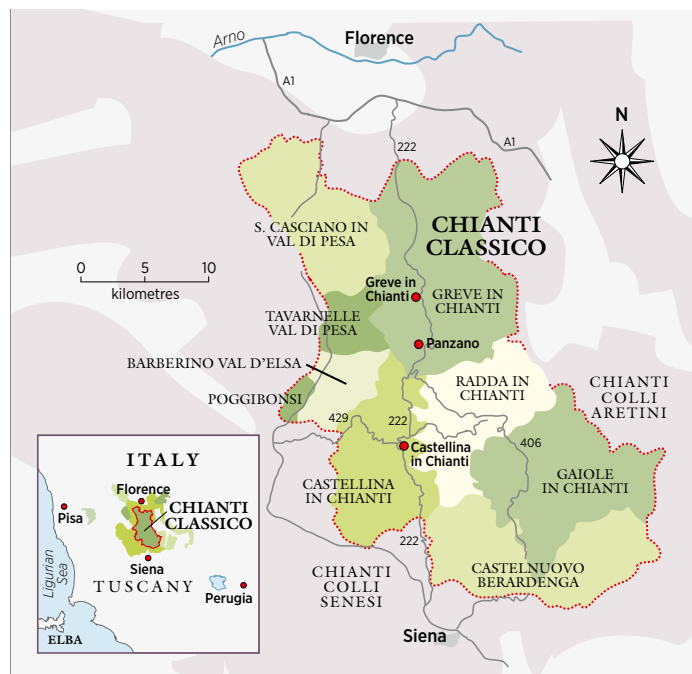
Compared to Chianti Classico DOCG Riserva, Gran Selezione wines have to wait an extra six months (30 as opposed to 24) before going to market, so they have a little bit more bottle age. So far, so sensible, but hardly earth-shattering.

Gran Selezione's trump card, its supporters argue, is that wines must be made solely from grapes 100% grown, fermented and bottled by the producer whose name appears on the label. Wines from rented vines whose grapes are farmed and fermented by the named producer are permitted.

## Positive moves

Chianti Classico and Chianti Classico Riserva, in contrast, can be made from purchased grapes, wine or both; as can Tuscan titans Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and Morellino di Scansano, DOCGs all.

And because oak ageing is optional for all Chianti Classico wines (yes, Italy does have its share of very sensible wine legislation), it means Gran Selezione (or 'Chianti Classico Select', as it would be called in California) is not an oak monster by default.



This is important because the Chianti Classico production zone provides Sangiovese (85%-100% in all Chianti Classico styles) with a perfect playground, offering warm enough conditions for grape sugar (alcohol) ripeness, a long growing season for textural ripeness, and cool nights for full aroma and flavour expression.

Trends for the region as a whole include the continuing shift to organics – about 40% of vineyards are certified organic, compared to less than 10% globally. The pristine, manicured Chianti vineyard is giving way to something scruffier, as native wild plants or sown cover crops are encouraged, to protect soils from erosive torrents of heat or rain.

The gradual waning of importance in blends of showy but heat-sensitive, climate change-averse international varieties such as Merlot is also apparent, as historic names like Canaiolo, Colorino and Malvasia

## CHIANTI CLASSICO: THE FACTS

**Vineyard area** 7,080ha

**Communes** Nine, between

Florence and Siena: Radda in Chianti, Gaiole in Chianti, Greve in Chianti, Castellina in Chianti; parts of Barberino Val d'Elsa, Castelnuovo Berardenga, San Casciano in Val di Pesa, Tavarnelle Val di Pesa and Poggibonsi

**Producers (Chianti Classico DOCG)** 315

**Production (Chianti Classico DOCG)** Some 36m bottles on average annually, 2008-2018 – about four times that of Brunello di Montalcino

not only re-emerge but can assert their valuable bit-part role in wines whose 'conscious uncoupling' from Cabernet and Merlot is underway.

## CHIANTI CLASSICO: KNOW YOUR VINTAGES

**2018** Cool, drizzly season. Grapes battled for light, heat, hydration. Extended, grinding harvest. Mainly short-haul wines.

**2017** Spring frost nipped the buds. Dry weather then shrivelled what grapes remained. Yields 27% down compared to the average, but reasonably balanced wines. Drink 2020-2023.

**2016** Summer sometimes scorching. Cooler spells and pre-harvest rain crucial. Some brilliant, vibrant, sleek, 100%-Sangiovese gems. Wines with even 5% Merlot noticeably weedier. Drink 2020-2030.

**2015** Large crop. Some very hot days, cool nights. Those who avoided roasted grapes made rich, round wines. Long-haul potential. Drink 2020-2035.

**2014** Cool, goose-bump vintage. Cloudy skies. Tightrope viticulture. Umbrellas ubiquitous. Dusty wines indicate compromised fruit. The best show unassuming, crunchy fluidity. Drink.

**2013** Vines were sleepy in spring, sunbathed all summer, then kept their cool into late autumn. Some super wines, bright, and both supple and crunchy. Drink 2020-2028.

Monty Waldin is DWWA Regional Chair for Tuscany and a widely published wine writer and author ➤

# THE VERDICT

This line-up of top-tier Chianti Classico from 2015 and 2016 impressed our judges, who praised the freshness and accessibility of the wines despite the warm vintages. **Amy Wislocki** reports

Two very warm vintages, and an expectation that 2016 would be the better performer of the two. And indeed, the results seem to bear this out. All four Outstanding wines are from 2016, and the lion’s share of the Highly Recommended wines. ‘It’s better, and more consistent,’ observed Aldo Fiordelli, with Monty Waldin agreeing: ‘2016 is a better vintage than 2015 for two reasons. Firstly, because it was actually a better vintage. And secondly, because people learned from the mistakes they had made in 2015 and corrected them in 2016. So it’s a double-whammy of goodness, if you like!’

Andrew Jefford urged wine drinkers not to overlook 2015 though. ‘There was an awful lot to like in this enormous tasting, and the many high scores are testament to the high level of ambition and achievement in these two vintages. And both of them are very good vintages, in different ways. In the end 2016 probably is ahead, but not by a huge margin. What made 2016 stand out was the gorgeous freshness and vivacity of the wines – and we know that freshness is part of the zeitgeist nowadays.’

That freshness can also be affected by the oak ageing, and this still seems to be an issue. ‘Many producers are showing a less heavy-handed approach, but some still seem to be from another

era – all about power and concentration, and dark fruits,’ said Fiordelli.

‘I think Bordeaux has moved away from oak more swiftly and more comprehensively than Tuscany,’ Jefford interjected. ‘Quite often in this tasting, the oak was a hurdle to climb over, which it shouldn’t be. I don’t think any wine needs exaggerated oak in its youth in order to have a successful maturity. I’d like to see less use of new oak, and more use of older oak, earthenware, concrete.’ ‘I think the trend now is towards larger oak,’ said Waldin. ‘But it will take a while to filter through. If producers have paid £500 for a barrel, they need to use it.’

The tasters also discussed the shift from using international varieties in the blend. ‘There’s an increase in the number of 100%-Sangiovese wines, and a move away from using international grapes,’ said Fiordelli.

Waldin agreed with Fiordelli that native grapes such as Canaiolo and Colorino work much better. ‘I don’t get the theory that Merlot softens the Sangiovese in a Chianti Classico – I find often it’s very weedy, and it doesn’t work for me, even in small percentages. The ancillary grape varieties that are historic in Chianti Classico are much better choices, and work seamlessly. They are far better adapted to the local area.’ Jefford commented on how just 10% or 15% of Merlot or Cabernet in the blend can

## ‘What made 2016 stand out was the vivacity and freshness of the wines’

Andrew Jefford

completely change the expression of the wine. ‘I’m not against those blends *per se*,’ he commented, ‘but you do lose the sense of place. Tuscany is probably the best place for Merlot outside Right Bank Bordeaux, but I’d favour keeping it separate from Sangiovese, which is such a fantastic variety – so protean – that it doesn’t need the Merlot.’

Gran Selezione isn’t a step up from Riserva, agreed the tasters. ‘The only substantive difference is that one of them has to come from estate-grown grapes,’ explained Waldin. ‘Both were outstanding categories, with highs and lows,’ added Jefford. And more highs than lows, judging by the scores. ‘The good examples were beautiful – no angularity, balletic, with depth and definition,’ enthused Waldin. ‘Really drinkable now, and with a long drinking window.’

**THE SCORES**  
201 wines tasted  
**Exceptional** 0  
**Outstanding** 4  
**Highly Recommended** 61  
**Recommended** 123  
**Commended** 13  
**Fair** 0  
**Poor** 0  
**Faulty** 0

**Entry criteria:**  
producers and UK agents were invited to submit their Chianti Classico Riserva and Gran Selezione wines from the 2015 and 2016 vintages, with a maximum of two wines per producer

### THE JUDGES

#### Aldo Fiordelli



Aldo Fiordelli is a certified sommelier since 2003, a widely published Italian journalist, wine writer and author, and a DWWA judge. On the editorial board of L’Espresso restaurant and wine guide, he also writes for *Civiltà del Bere*, Italy’s oldest Italian wine magazine. He became a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne in 2017.

#### Andrew Jefford



Andrew Jefford has been writing about wine since the 1980s, authoring numerous books and winning many awards. He is a contributing editor to *Decanter* magazine, and is one of three Co-Chairs overseeing judging at the *Decanter World Wine Awards*. He lives with his family near Montpellier in France.

#### Monty Waldin



Monty Waldin is a widely published and awarded wine writer, author, broadcaster and consultant with a particular interest in biodynamic, organic and natural wines. A regular contributor to *Decanter* and the DWWA Regional Chair for Tuscany, he hosts the *Italian Wine Podcast* series and publishes [www.chateaumonty.com](http://www.chateaumonty.com).

## OUTSTANDING 95–97pts



### Castello di Ama, San Lorenzo, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016

*Decanter* average score: 95/100pts **Individual judges’ scores:**  
**Aldo Fiordelli** 96 **Andrew Jefford** 95 **Monty Waldin** 95  
£51.50–£55 Millésima, Vinissimo  
From the 25.5ha San Lorenzo vineyard, which, at 466m–525m, was one of the first to be acquired by the company in 1972, after it was founded by a group of friends. Sangiovese, Merlot and Malvasia Nera are vinified separately and combined after malolactic fermentation. The wine is then transferred to barriques, 18% of which are new, for 10 months.

**Aldo Fiordelli** Restrained cherry fruit allied to a chalky minerality, powerful yet elegant on the palate, layered with violet and Earl Grey flavours, followed by velvety and grainy youthful tannins.

**Andrew Jefford** Supple, chocolatey fruits and the scents of sun-warmed wood: gentle, sensual and inviting. Close-textured, deep and gently tannic, with classically austere yet inviting fruits, deftly handled.

**Monty Waldin** Crunchy tannin and slightly powdery red fruit. Well built on the mid-palate with fruit and oak in equal balance.

**Drink** 2020–2025 **Alcohol** 13%



### Riecine, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016

95 AF 95 AJ 95 MW 95  
£29–£30 Alliance Wine, DBM Wines, Goedhuis & Co, Handford, Tanners, The Wine Society  
Established in 1971 by Englishman John Dunkley and his wife Palmina Abbagnano, Riecine released its first Chianti Classico in 1975 – John felt that the addition of permitted Bordeaux varieties had no place in their vineyards. The Sangiovese grapes for this wine come from a vineyard in the Gaiole region, on limestone and clay soils at 450m–500m. After hand-harvesting and sorting, it is fermented in open-top concrete tanks and the wine is aged for 20 months in large oak casks.

**AF** Fresh, floral and full of fruit. Grainy tannins and an almost perfect balance on the palate – amazing fruit concentration. Great complexity of dark cherry, liquorice and earthy notes, with a finish of tobacco.

**AJ** Sweet, warm, beguiling fruits in very primary style: lots of vivid charm and seductive force. Cherry, raspberry and plum with barely a hint of forest here. On the palate, that singingly fruited style makes for a wine of huge charm. Super complexity, too: a wonderful drink.

**MW** Smooth, likeable texture, well balanced with good clarity.

**Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



### Frescobaldi, Tenuta Perano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016

95 AF 95 AJ 95 MW 95  
£29.50–£55 Cellar Door Wines, Exel, Hallgarten Wines, Vinvm  
From Gaiole, with free-draining soils, the land has formed a natural amphitheatre with southwest-facing slopes at 500m. The 2016 vintage produced intensely aromatic, structured wines. After hand-harvesting, the wine was fermented in stainless steel with regular breaking of the cap, before being transferred to Slavonian oak barrels for 24 months.

**AF** Dense on the palate with silky ripe tannins, cherry fruit and a concentration of darker fruit, along with perfectly integrated structure. A great wine, with great potential.

**AJ** Sweet and elegant aromas: fine leather, fresh red fruits, bay leaf, underbrush, a hint of fungi porcini – everything you hope for, quietly expressed. Intense and vibrant: a super wine. More dominated by its acidity than many, but that acidity is singingly bright and packed with fruit flavour. The tannins are like silk rope: smooth yet ample and gathered. Very beautiful and engaging, long, concentrated and intense.

**MW** Clear, precise ripe red fruit, lovely balance and compactness to this.

**Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 14.5%



### Tenuta di Bibbiano, Vigna del Capannino, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016

95 AF 95 AJ 95 MW 95  
£28.50 Exel  
Dating back to 1865, the 30ha property is now run by fifth-generation brothers Tommaso and Federico Marrocchesi Marzi. The 7ha Capannino vineyard is located on southwest-facing slopes of clay schist. Made in selected vintages, this is fermented in cement tanks for about 32 days and then aged for 24 months partly in cement and in French and Slavonian oak barrels, then spending a further six months in bottle.

**AF** Restrained, fresh pomegranate fruit with slightly nutty character, earthy-strawberry depth and minerality. Bright acidity and savoury character, firm and chalky, with natural and integrated freshness.

**AJ** A gorgeously teased, poised aromatic ripeness here: subtle incense spice just hidden behind the refined, perfumed plums; a hint of orange peel. Shapely, fresh, vivid and vigorous: super purity, admirable finesse.

**MW** Nose-tingling peppery notes; the fruit on the palate is slightly faded already, although the wine is by no means drying out.

**Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 15% ➤



## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED 90–94pts



**Tenuta di Nozzole, La Forra, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015**  
94 AF 95 AJ 93 MW 94

£21.28 Tannico  
Alluring smoky spice savoury notes, with elegant fruits shuttling between generosity and austerity; shapely and graceful with a cleansing bitter finish. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14.5%



**Barone Ricasoli, Brolio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016**  
93 AF 92 AJ 94 MW 93

£24–£27 Millésima, The Wine Society  
An articulate and energetic style showing delicious roasted fruit with spicy oak that draws you in. Finely crafted, velvety and refined. **Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 14%



**Caparsa, Doccia a Matteo, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016**  
93 AF 92 AJ 95 MW 93

£42.72 (2015) Italvinus  
A compelling blend of perfumed florals melting into richly textured blackberry, sloe and chocolate. Outstanding wine with a monastic beauty. **Drink** 2020–2030 **Alc** 13.5%



**Cinciano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 93 AF 93 AJ 92 MW 93  
N/A UK [www.cinciano.it](http://www.cinciano.it)

Charming, expressive cherry and liquorice notes; crunchy and lifted with perfectly ripe tannins and a warming toasty finish. **Drink** 2020–2027 **Alc** 14%



**Istine, Le Vigne, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 93 AF 93 AJ 94 MW 93  
£33 (2015) Tannico

An intricacy of apple, pomegranate, cherry and liquorice dancing together with a lively acidity and delicate yet sustained tannins. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14%



**Casa Emma, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 92 AF 92 AJ 92 MW 92  
N/A UK [www.casaemma.it](http://www.casaemma.it)

A wealth of juicy bramble fruit, velvety raspberries and supple, polished leather; well crafted with a savoury oak finish. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14%



**Castelli del Grevepesa, Clemente VII, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 92 AF 94 AJ 91 MW 91

N/A UK [www.castellidelgrevepesa.it](http://www.castellidelgrevepesa.it)  
Pure, lifted and classical with a flavour repertoire of cherries, violets, apples and summer meadows. Generous, firm and textured. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14%



**Castello di Cacchiano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 92 AF 90 AJ 92 MW 94

N/A UK [www.castellodicacchiano.it](http://www.castellodicacchiano.it)  
Inviting dark fruits with a touch of menthol and crushed leaf to freshen; velvety and rich with densely packed tannins. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 15%



**Castello di Gabbiano, Bellezza, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 92 AF 89 AJ 95 MW 92

N/A UK [www.castellogabbiano.it](http://www.castellogabbiano.it)  
Pure class; a complexity of plum and pomegranate laced with acorn and oak copse; creamy, soft, mellow and enchanting. **Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 14%



**Castello di Querceto, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 92 AF 90 AJ 93 MW 93

POA Buckingham Schenk  
Very pure fruits just teasing into ripeness with a splendid lift of pepper and ample, soft-textured tannins. Super wine. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



**Dievole, Novecento, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 92 AF 95 AJ 87 MW 95

£31.11 Astrum Wine Cellars  
Packed with bright, persistent cherry and rhubarb fruit; lively, youthful and fresh with a lovely long, elegant finish. **Drink** 2020–2023 **Alc** 14%



**Fontodi, Vigna del Sorbo, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 92 AF 95 AJ 90 MW 90

£68.99 Lay & Wheeler, Liberty Wines  
A Chianti Classico with outstanding typicity; elegant violet and pomegranate aromas, a gutsy, full palate with polished tannins and a savoury finish. **Drink** 2022–2025 **Alc** 15%

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90–94pts



**Maurizio Alongi, Vigna Barbischio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 92 AF 90 AJ 94 MW 91

£30.25 (2015) Wines with Attitude  
Complex and refined aromas, with dry straw and hay, vellum and calfskin bindings and delicate red orchard fruits; warm stones and dry moss, too. Vibrancy of fruit, minerality and refined tannins. **Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 14%



**Poggio al Sole, Casasilia, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 92 AF 90 AJ 92 MW 95

£30.95 Exel  
Delicate and softly expressed red fruit with an inviting crunchy texture and elegant tannins which harmonise perfectly. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14.5%



**San Felice, Il Grigio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 92 AF 93 AJ 92 MW 91

£17–£21.50 D Byrne & Co, Field & Fawcett, Hangingditch, Highbury Vintners, Hoult, John Hattersley, Millésima, Toscanaccio, WoodWinters  
A warm, sweet melange of red fruit, baking spice and smoky woodland; lush and ripe with a vibrant acid tang. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



**Santo Stefano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 92 AF 91 AJ 91 MW 94

N/A UK [www.fattoriasantostefano.it](http://www.fattoriasantostefano.it)  
Coconut oak melts into a dark cherry intensity; full and dense with an earthy richness and a savoury finish. **Drink** 2021–2027 **Alc** 14%



**Villa La Pagliaia, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 92 AF 90 AJ 93 MW 94

£30 D Byrne & Co  
A serious wine with outstanding concentration; plush bramble, chocolate, liquorice and smoky oak all beautifully melded together. Pure and driven. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Bindi Sergardi, Mocenni 89, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 91 AF 90 AJ 94 MW 90

£41.67 Millésima  
A lovely wine to bask in; mellow sweet-toned fruit, a soft, fleshy texture, ripe tannins and a long, liquorice finish. **Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 15%



**Carus Vini, Gaudio, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 91 AF 89 AJ 90 MW 93

£28 (2015) Tannico  
Fresh and vibrant style, well-sculpted plum and cherry fruit mingling with earthy leaf characters, sleek tannins and a long finish. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Castello di Bossi, Berardo, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 91 AF 91 AJ 90 MW 91

£34.99 Planet of the Grapes, Rare & Organic, Theatre of Wine, Winetraders  
Brimming with soothing, sweet plummy fruit characters then a lush, ample palate and a warming, succulent finish. Delicious. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14.5%



**Castello di Gabbiano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 91 AF 88 AJ 91 MW 95

N/A UK [www.castellogabbiano.it](http://www.castellogabbiano.it)  
A gentle nuanced fragrance of wild flowers and fresh fruit, with a crunchy texture and grainy, softly knitted tannins. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Castello di Radda, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 91 AF 89 AJ 93 MW 90

POA Milton Sandford  
Dappled scents of fresh florals, autumn leaves and lovely tapered fruit with refined tannins on the palate, followed by a long, poised finish. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14.5%



**Castello di Verrazzano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 91 AF 87 AJ 95 MW 90

N/A UK [www.verrazzano.com](http://www.verrazzano.com)  
A truly splendid Chianti Classico showing smooth, polished red fruit, ample leather and oak-leaf complexities and a generous length. **Drink** 2020–2032 **Alc** 14.5%



**Castello di Verrazzano, Sassello, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 91 AF 90 AJ 94 MW 90

N/A UK [www.verrazzano.com](http://www.verrazzano.com)  
An attractive warmth of ripe currants, cherries and plums with firm tannins, fine acidity and an impressive length. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14.5% ➤

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90–94pts



**Cecchi, Valore di Famiglia, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 91 AF 96 AJ 88 MW 89

£20 Vinexus

Packed with shiny pomegranate and cherry fruits, fragrant violet and rose notes; lifted and crisp character with tight-knit, velvety tannins. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 13.5%



**Il Molino di Grace, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016**

91 AF 95 AJ 91 MW 88

£25.81 Mondial Wine

Dense and concentrated with appealing red fruit and a dusting of vanilla oak, supported by a sustained red apple acidity. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Il Palagio di Panzano, Le Bambole, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 91 AF 92 AJ 91 MW 89

N/A UK [www.palagiodipanzano.com](http://www.palagiodipanzano.com)

A winning combination of sweet, voluptuous fruit and warming, nutty toast characters; mouthfilling and round with crunchy ripe tannins. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14%



**Le Filigare, Lorenzo, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 91 AF 90 AJ 92 MW 91

N/A UK [www.lefiglare.it](http://www.lefiglare.it)

A brooding, dark enticement of sumptuous plum, damson and raspberry fruit with lavish earthy spice notes and a long, toasty finish. **Drink** 2020–2027 **Alc** 14.5%

‘The good wines were beautiful: no angularity, balletic, with depth and definition’ **Monty Waldin**



**Luiano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 91 AF 90 AJ 93 MW 91

N/A UK [www.luiano.it](http://www.luiano.it)

Pure, deep and searching with multiple layers of bramble fruit, pomegranate, cherry and complex herbal notes; full, round and complete. **Drink** 2020–2027 **Alc** 14%



**Marchesi Antinori, Tenuta Tignanello Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 91 AF 94 AJ 89 MW 89

£37.13 The Drink Shop

Opulent sweet red fruits with lots of appealing toasty vanilla oak. Concentrated and silky with a sappy, juicy texture. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14%



**Monteraponi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 91 AF 95 AJ 85 MW 92

£33 Justerini & Brooks

Intense smoky woodland characters infused with liquorice and vibrant cranberries; ripe with velvety tannins and a long, refreshing finish. Delicious. **Drink** 2020–2021 **Alc** 13.5%



**Poggio Torselli, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 91 AF 90 AJ 93 MW 91

N/A UK [www.poggiotorselli.it](http://www.poggiotorselli.it)

Has ample, sweet rich plum fruits and succulent mellow cherries supported by sleek, restrained oak and silky soft tannins. Lush and full. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 15%



**Savignola, Paolina, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015**

91 AF 91 AJ 90 MW 91

N/A UK [www.savignolapaolina.it](http://www.savignolapaolina.it)

Glowing cherry fruit and enticing savoury characters with a lovely creamy, smooth texture and a compact, firm structure. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14%



**Villa Calcinaia, Vigna La Fornace, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 91 AF 88 AJ 91 MW 93

N/A UK [www.conticapponi.it](http://www.conticapponi.it)

Blueberry rich Sangiovese character with plenty of bright jammy cherries, a nip of crushed thyme and a generous tannic core. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14.5%



**Viticcio, Prunaio, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015**

91 AF 87 AJ 92 MW 93

£48.50 Castelnau Wine Agencies

Energetic plum and cherry lead the charge and are melded nicely with soft, sweet spice notes and stylish tannins. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14%

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90–94pts



**Borgo la Stella, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016**

90 AF 92 AJ 89 MW 88

N/A UK [www.borgolastella.com](http://www.borgolastella.com)

Primary and pure style with plentiful cherries, plums and violets and underlying creamy oak, along with velvety tannins and an elegant finish. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 13.5%



**Castelli del Grevepesa, Castello di Bibbione, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 90 AJ 91 MW 88

N/A UK [www.castellidelgrevepesa.it](http://www.castellidelgrevepesa.it)

Lots of aromatic lift with bright fruits and earthy tones; supple and poised with well-crafted tannins and a lovely freshness throughout. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



**Castello di Albola, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016**

90 AF 90 AJ 87 MW 92

£27.10 Zonin UK

Fresh violets, plush dark fruits and a dollop of spice; firm and full with a crisp acidity and ripe tannins. **Drink** 2020–2022 **Alc** 13.5%



**Castello di Ama, Vigneto Bellavista, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 90 AF 86 AJ 93 MW 92

£193.48–£220 Cru, Vinissimo

An intrigue of exotic dark berries and pomegranate with fragrant tobacco notes. Juicy and succulent, with a silky, supple texture. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 13%

‘There’s an increase in 100%-Sangiovese wines, a move away from international grapes’ **Aldo Fiordelli**



**Castello La Leccia, Bruciagna, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 90 AF 86 AJ 94 MW 91

N/A UK [www.castellolalectia.com](http://www.castellolalectia.com)

Indulgent dark plummy fruit with lots of mushroomy, umami richness; lush and mouthfilling with a sensuous underbelly of tannin. **Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 15%



**Cinciano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 90 AF 86 AJ 91 MW 94

N/A UK [www.cinciano.it](http://www.cinciano.it)

A forthright style, packed with succulent sweet plums and notes of soft tobacco; glossy and velvety with a glycerol richness. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Famiglia Losi, Querciavalle, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 90 AF 92 AJ 87 MW 90

£19.97 Jascots

Crunchy cherries, toast and liquorice give way to a waxy, rounded texture, chalky ripe tannins and a rustic finish. **Drink** 2020–2023 **Alc** 14%



**Fattoria di Corsignano, L'Imperatrice, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 90 AF 90 AJ 90 MW 89

N/A UK [www.tenutacorsignano.it](http://www.tenutacorsignano.it)

Welcoming and expressive, with charming bright cherry fruits teased towards ripeness and a warmth of smoky woodland characters. **Drink** 2021–2026 **Alc** 14%



**Gagliole, Gallule, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016**

90 AF 90 AJ 88 MW 92

POA Curated Wines

Bountiful red fruits with warming toasty notes; a bold, open and oaky style with a juicy, tangy core. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14.5%



**Geografico, Contessa di Radda, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015**

90 AF 90 AJ 90 MW 90

£24.25 Club Vini

An ultra-modern style with lavish sweet-contoured plum fruit underpinned by soft Indian spices, sensitive oak and succulent tannins. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14%



**Il Palagio di Panzano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015**

90 AF 92 AJ 88 MW 90

N/A UK [www.palagiodipanzano.com](http://www.palagiodipanzano.com)

Punchy cherry kernel and floral notes intermingle with smoky woodland characters; velvety with firm, rounded tannins and a savoury finish. **Drink** 2020–2022 **Alc** 14% ➤



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90–94pts



**La Sala, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 90 AJ 90 MW 90  
£22 Howard Ripley  
Richly upholstered with opulent cassis fruit; a heady and generous palate with firm tannins and attractively melded oak. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14.5%



**Livernano Casalvento, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 90 AF 89 AJ 91 MW 89  
N/A UK [www.livernano.it](http://www.livernano.it)  
Deep, lush and mouthfilling with earthy savoury notes and lively fruit characters; sleek with fine chalky tannins. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Mangiacane, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 90 AF 88 AJ 93 MW 90  
N/A UK [www.mangiacane.com](http://www.mangiacane.com)  
Voluptuous plums, cherries, cigar leaf and creamy oak. Smooth and refined with malleable tannins and a rich-fruit finish. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14.5%



**Mazzei, Castello di Fonterutoli Ser Lapo, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 91 AJ 88 MW 90  
£22–£26 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Connolly's, Portland Wine, Whole Foods Market  
Agreeable sour cherry fruit and a marked, lovely peppery spice; textured and tangy with ripe tannins and an enduring acidity. **Drink** 2020–2021 **Alc** 13.5%



**Mazzei, Castello di Fonterutoli, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 90 AF 91 AJ 90 MW 88  
£49–£56.50 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Davy's, Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Waitrose Cellar  
Comfortingly rich aromatics of smoky dark cherry and liquorice. Broad-shouldered and intense with refined tannins and a savoury finish. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14.5%



**Montefioralle, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 89 AJ 92 MW 90  
N/A UK [www.montefioralle.wine](http://www.montefioralle.wine)  
A deeply engaging range of fruit flavours and forest allusions with a wonderfully teased ripeness and lingering balance. **Drink** 2020–2028 **Alc** 14.5%



**Nittardi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 92 AJ 91 MW 88  
£42 ABS Wine Agencies  
An exuberant and generous style with dusty sweet plum and prune flavours; lush and rich with velvety tannins. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Principe Corsini Villa Le Corti, Zac, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 90 AF 90 AJ 87 MW 92  
£71.75 Astrum Wine Cellars  
Vivid fresh flowers and lively fruits with warming soft contours, firm, austere tannins and a ripe, juicy finish. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 15%



**Proprieta Gatteschi, Podere Ciona, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 90 AF 92 AJ 88 MW 90  
N/A UK [www.podere-ciona.com](http://www.podere-ciona.com)  
Effortlessly drinkable with charming iris and violet floral notes and a gentle, earthy liquorice character. Smooth and elegant. **Drink** 2020–2023 **Alc** 13%



**Renzo Maraini, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 90 AF 88 AJ 92 MW 90  
N/A UK [www.renzomaraini.it](http://www.renzomaraini.it)  
Plenty of rich, truffley black fruits melting into a smoky countryside complexity, ample soft tannins and a seasoning of new oak. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%



**Rocca delle Macie, Famiglia Zingarelli, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 91 AJ 94 MW 86  
£20 JN Wine  
A gorgeously evolved style, packed with leafy tobacco and library furnishings. Firm and solid, with a delicious succulence running through it. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 14.5%



**Tenuta Cappellina, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 90 AF 93 AJ 89 MW 89  
N/A UK [www.tenutacappellina.com](http://www.tenutacappellina.com)  
Beautifully concentrated brambly fruit and liquorice with layers of smoky complexity and a light dusting of nicely melded oak. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 14%

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90–94pts



**Vignamaggio, Gherardino, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 90 AF 89 AJ 88 MW 93  
£23 Corney & Barrow  
Sweetly refined blueberry and bright cherry fruits along with underlying savoury notes of wild hedgerow and a lovely rustic freshness. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14.5%



**Vigneti La Selvanella, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 90 AF 89 AJ 90 MW 90  
£17 Vinissimo  
An ambitious style, with ripe raspberry jam, damson and sour cherry. Densely structured with grainy tannins and a glycerol richness. **Drink** 2021–2026 **Alc** 14.5%



**Volpaia, Coltassala, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 90 AF 91 AJ 86 MW 93  
£32.99 Adnams, Lay & Wheeler  
Rounded and ample with polished velvety tannins, layers of concentrated red plum, cola and oaky graphite and a savoury finish. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 14.5%

RECOMMENDED 86–89pts

Wine	Score	AF	AJ	MW	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Banfi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	86	93	89	Svelte and smooth with generous layers of cherry and plum interspersed with fine, dusty tannins.	13.5%	2020–2027	£22.99	The Drink Shop
Barone Ricasoli, Castello di Brolio, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	89	88	89	Early-season plum and fresh cherry with an ashy edge and shapely tannins.	14%	2020–2025	£40–£43.33	Hedonism, Millésima, Roberts & Speight, Waitrose
Brancaia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	87	92	89	A smooth operator with sumptuous roasted fruits and well-knitted tannins weaved into the whole.	15%	2020–2028	£27	Italvinus
Cafaggio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	88	90	88	Light cranberry fruit with a smattering of potpourri, and an attractive, evolved, earthy palate.	14%	2020–2024	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.cafaggio.wine">www.cafaggio.wine</a>
Capannelle, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	87	91	90	A glowing warmth of red fruits: full-bodied, accessible and soft style with a mellow finish.	13.5%	2020–2025	£31.19	Top Selection
Caparsino, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	85	90	91	Subtle floral notes and youthful fruit with focused tannins and a mouthwatering salty core.	14%	2021–2026	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.caparsa.it">www.caparsa.it</a>
Castagnoli, Terrazze, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	91	84	91	Tangy cherry cola and rose aromas, with bright acidity on the palate and a vibrant, zingy finish.	14.5%	2020–2023	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.castagnoliwine.com">www.castagnoliwine.com</a>
Castello di Lucignano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	86	93	87	Arresting, pure aromas of plum and pomegranate, with a leathery complexity and a plush, rich texture.	15%	2020–2026	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.castellodilucignano.it">www.castellodilucignano.it</a>
Castello di Querceto, Il Picchio, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	91	88	89	An alliance of cherry menthol and liquorice with full, chalky tannins and a fleshy texture.	13.5%	2020–2025	POA	Buckingham Schenk
Castello di Radda, Vigna Il Corno, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	90	90	88	A relaxed, mellow style showing rich cherries and plums and a robust, savoury earthiness.	15%	2020–2025	POA	Milton Sandford
Castello La Leccia, Giuliano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	87	92	88	Impressively layered, showing opulent fruit intermingled with a generous core of bold oak.	15%	2020–2026	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.castellolaieccia.com">www.castellolaieccia.com</a>
Castello Monterminaldi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	94	84	90	Roasted character, red fruits with a bright, vibrant concentration and fiercely firm tannins.	13.5%	2020–2023	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.monterminaldi.it">www.monterminaldi.it</a>
Castello Vicchiomaggio, Agostino Petri, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	87	89	90	A developed style: compact, ripe plum fruit and a velvety richness. Lively, mouthfilling and accessible. Generous and drinkable.	14%	2020–2024	£22.49	Hallgarten Wines, Strictly Wine
Famiglia Castellani, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	93	89	86	A shapely blend of pomegranate, apple and savoury, smoky woodland characters; sleek and smooth.	13%	2020–2025	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.castelwine.com">www.castelwine.com</a>
Fattoria Casaloste, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	91	89	88	Plush cassis and juicy plums with super-ripe, velvety tannins and a moreish, toasty finish.	14.5%	2020–2025	£28.95	Jeroboams
Fattoria della Aiola, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	90	88	88	Lifted raspberry and cherry fruit with a graceful, supple structure and an attractive finish.	13.5%	2020–2025	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.aiolawines.com">www.aiolawines.com</a>
Fattoria di Corsignano, L'Imperatore, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	90	88	90	Still young, showing well-defined cherry fruit, intense concentration and a minty finish.	14%	2020–2024	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.tenutacorsignano.it">www.tenutacorsignano.it</a>
Fattoria di Ruppiano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	93	89	86	Liberaly flavoured with raspberry, redcurrant and a sweet tobaco warmth; tight-knit and firm.	14.5%	2020–2024	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.alessandroberselli.com">www.alessandroberselli.com</a>
Fattoria Ormanni, Borro del Diavolo, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	88	87	91	Grippy oak characters supported by plentiful raspberry jam and plum fruit, and an appealing texture.	15%	2020–2023	£27.99	Butlers Wine Cellar, NY Wines of Cambridge, Old Chapel Cellars, Vindependents, WoodWinters

RECOMMENDED (Continued) 86–89pts

Wine	Score	AF	AJ	MW	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Fattoria Poggerino, Bugialla, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	87	90	90	Concentrated, liqueur-like berries and currants; solid with crunchy tannins and a typical Chianti acidity.	15%	2020-2025	£31.95	Lea & Sandeman
Felsina Berardenga, Colonia, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	91	85	91	Aromas of ripe, dark fruit and violet notes with thick, chunky tannins and a juicy texture.	14%	2020-2023	£99.99	Liberty Wines
Il Cellese, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	89	88	90	Gratifyingly fresh cassis and pomegranate aromas with a vanilla sheen and a smoky woodland depth.	14%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.ilcellese.it
La Castellina, Squarcialupi, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	92	85	91	Very elegant violet and rose, a herbaceous edge and lots of vibrant fresh fruit.	14.5%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.lacastellina.it
La Madonnina, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	91	85	90	Voluminous currants and cherries; very energetic and lively with a bold, generous structure.	13.5%	2020-2024	£17.64	Colombier Wines
Le Fonti di Panzano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	89	87	90	Buttery oak and subtle sour-cherry flavours, lovely smooth, oaky tannins.	14.5%	2020-2022	N/A UK	www.fattorialefonti.com
Le Fonti di Panzano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	92	84	92	Perfectly ripe rhubarb fruit with notes of woodland and toast and youthful, grainy tannins.	15%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.fattorialefonti.com
Le Regge, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	86	90	91	A flowery style, with lots of lively fresh fruit. Very pure and well preserved.	14%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.leregge.it
Livernano Casalvento, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	91	87	90	Sumptuous, rich dark fruit layered with violets, truffles and liquorice; fleshy and concentrated.	14.5%	2021-2026	N/A UK	www.livernano.it
Lornano, Le Bandite, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	90	88	89	Unctuous sweet black-fruit juiciness offset by firm tannins and a precise, tight structure.	15%	2020-2025	£28.35	Humble Grape
Marchesi Antinori, Badia a Passignano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	91	85	91	Raspberry jam and youthful red cherries on a bed of vanilla oak, accompanied by ripe tannins.	13.5%	2020-2023	£40	Harrods, Lay & Wheeler
Poggio Torselli, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	87	88	91	Brooding dark plums with notes of balsamic – compact and resonant of an old-vine style	14.5%	2021-2026	N/A UK	www.poggiotorselli.it
Pomona, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	88	90	89	Appetising red fruit and toast with a lanolin texture and soft, supple finish.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.fattoriapomona.it
Querceto di Castellina, Sei, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	89	92	86	90	Vivid and rich style with smoky woodland depth, an oaky sheen and a savouriness on the finish.	14.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.quercetodicastellina.com
Querciabella, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	87	91	88	Sweet-toned, ample and bramble, plum and raspberry fruit with notes of honey and toast.	14.5%	2020-2026	POA	Armit, Lay & Wheeler
Setriolo, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	89	92	85	90	Sour-cherry and cola aromas with polished ripe tannins and a round, contoured acidity.	14.5%	2020-2022	N/A UK	www.setriolo.com
Tenuta di Arceno, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	88	89	89	Vigorous fruit purity with a fresh acidity, austere tannins and a liquorice finish.	14.5%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.tenutadiarceno.com
Terra di Seta, Assai, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	90	89	89	Plummy with red-cherry notes and a smoky complexity, this is earthy, juicy and long.	15%	2021-2026	£40	Kedem Europe
Terreno, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	91	85	90	Affable cranberry and cherry-kernel notes, along with ripe, melted tannins and a lively acidity.	14%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.terreno.se
Tolaini, Vigna Montebello Sette, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	88	92	88	Vivid cherries and plums with a savoury backbone of peppery tobacco; part seductive, part austere.	14.5%	2020-2027	£33.96	Eurowines
Villa Montepaldi, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	89	87	91	90	A bouquet of flowers, pretty red cherries, fragrant tobacco leaves and mace; crunchy and fleshy.	15%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.villamontepaldi.it
Volpaia, Castello di Volpaia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	89	90	82	95	Slender, well-constructed raspberry fruit with liquorice notes and grainy, oaky tannins.	13.5%	2020-2022	£24-£26	Lay & Wheeler, The Wine Society
Antico Borgo di Sugame, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	87	89	89	Subtle sour-cherry fruit, lots of new oak and a rustic, savoury dustiness.	14%	2020-2026	N/A UK	www.borgo-di-sugame.com
Badia a Coltibuono, Cultus Boni, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	85	90	89	An aromatic mingling of ripe dark cherries, plums and bay leaves; youthful, fragrant and understated.	14.5%	2020-2025	£36	Berry Bros & Rudd, Dunell's
Casa Emma, Vignaparco, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	86	90	89	Vivid Sangiovese red cherries with a savoury edge and a generous, warming finish.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.casaemma.it
Casale dello Sparviero, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	88	88	89	Friendly red fruits and florals; earthy and warming with a rich, toasty finish.	14.5%	2020-2024	£18.50	Christopher Keiller
Casale dello Sparviero, Paronza, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	88	87	89	88	Enticingly ripe blueberries and aromatic blossom with firm tannins and a smoky finish.	14.5%	2020-2023	£23.95	Christopher Keiller

RECOMMENDED (Continued) 86–89pts

Wine	Score	AF	AJ	MW	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Castellinuzza, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	84	89	92	Opulent floral characters intermingled with intense cherries; smooth and lively with a toasty finish.	13.5%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.castellinuzza.it
Castello di Meleto, Vigna Casi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	90	86	88	Beguiling red cherries and raspberry yoghurt with grainy tannins and an attractive liquorice finish.	13.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.castellomeletoshop.it
Castelvecchi, Lodolaio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	89	86	88	Super-ripe, Porty and jammy cassis notes with lush, velvety tannins.	14%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.chianticastelvecchi.it
Cecchi, Villa Rosa, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	88	87	89	87	Well-rounded, concentrated fruit with sweet, toasty vanilla flavours. Warming and harmonious.	14%	2020-2025	£25	Vinexus
Dievole, Vigna di Sessina, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	87	88	88	Charming red fruits and smoky hints with rustic tannins and crisp acidity.	14%	2020-2025	POA	Astrum Wine Cellars
Fattoria di Petroio, Poggio ai Grilli, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	91	84	88	Savoury leather and smoky raisin characters with a melted acidity and a liquorice finish.	13.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.fattoriapetroio.com
I Sodi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	89	88	88	A mix of summer fruit, smoky oak and woodland characters; crunchy with a minty finish.	14.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.agrisodi.com
Il Colombaio di Cencio, Massi del Colombaio, Classico Riserva 2016	88	93	82	89	Full of lifted cherry character, a lick of spice and crisp acidity.	13.5%	2020-2021	N/A UK	www.ilcolombaiodicencio.com
Il Poggiolino, Le Balze, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	87	90	87	A classic style here, with lovely intricate fruit and a creamy, oaky palate, liquorice tannins.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.ilpoggiolino.com
La Castellina, Squarcialupi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	89	85	89	Fragrant vanilla oak and peppery spice; crunchy, juicy and bold palate with ripe tannins.	14%	2020-2021	N/A UK	www.lacastellina.it
La Madonnina, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	88	87	91	86	A purity of bramble fruits and lush cherries; concentrated and complex with plenty of ageing potential.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.triaccavini.eu
La Sala, Il Torriano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	83	88	92	Sweet, warm scents of bilberry, black cherry and plum with a touch of mocha.	15%	2020-2025	£45	Howard Ripley
Lamole di Lamole, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	91	86	88	A burst of fresh pomegranate fruit with underlying cherry flavours; rich, with ample tannins.	14%	2020-2023	£18	Alivini
Le Cinciole, Aluigi, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	89	86	90	A fresh and crunchy style with lots of lively fruit and floral character.	14%	2020-2020	N/A UK	www.lecinciole.it
Monsanto, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	86	89	89	Generous cherries and raspberries with lots of smoky oak; deep and well constituted.	15%	2020-2022	N/A UK	www.castellodimonsanto.it
Poggio Bonelli, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	88	85	90	Well-defined, typical cherry flavours with hints of toffee carried through by ample tannins.	14%	2020-2023	£22.95	Bianca Trading
Pomona, Bandini Villa Pomona, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	90	85	90	Packed with juicy redcurrant fruit, and violet and rose florals – a bright and easy-drinking style.	14%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.fattoriapomona.it
Quercia al Poggio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	91	86	88	Tertiary woodland and autumn-leaf notes with a raisined sweetness, and a leathery texture on the palate.	13.5%	2020-2024	£39	FortyFive10°
Rietine, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	89	90	85	Powerful and evolving notes of coffee, dried prunes and tobacco; lush, close-textured and full.	14%	2020-2026	N/A UK	www.rietine.com
Rignana, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	85	91	87	Refined herbaceous characters with perfumed fruit, smooth tannins and soft acidity. Nicely developed.	14.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.rignana.it
Rocca delle Macie, Sergio Zingarelli, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	88	90	85	Exuberant prune and ripe plum character with a fine spine of fruity acidity and sustained tannins.	14.5%	2020-2025	£59.99 (2014)	JN Wine
Rocca di Montegrossi, San Marcellino, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	86	89	88	Violet, damson and nicely mingled oak; lavish, rich and mouthfilling with a savoury finish.	15%	2020-2025	POA	Lay & Wheeler
San Giorgio a Lapi, Bandecca, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	86	86	92	Fresh menthol and bright cherry aromas, with lots of plump, juicy character on the palate.	15%	2020-2023	£21.60 (2014)	Gerrard Seel
San Leonino, Monsenese, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	90	90	84	Perfumed florals, crunchy red fruits and rhubarb crumble characters on a sappy, crunchy palate.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.sanleonino.it
San Leonino, Salivolpe, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	90	86	87	Peppery liquorice and lifted strawberry notes; succulent and meaty with a savoury finish.	13.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.sanleonino.it
Santo Stefano, Drugo, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	87	89	89	Rustic ripe raspberries, dried prunes with a warming sweetness and a whisper of coffee.	14.5%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.fattoriasantostefano.it
Savignola, 360°, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	88	86	87	90	Weighty and meaty with a bounty of ripe fruit and firm, thick tannins.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.savignolapaolina.it



RECOMMENDED (Continued) 86–89pts

Wine	Score	AF	AJ	MW	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Tenuta Casenuove, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	87	89	89	Hedonistic, truffley Merlot characters with bags of dark Sangiovese fruit; smooth and engaging.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.tenuta-casenuove.com
Tenuta di Nozzole, Giovanni Folonari, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	89	86	90	Tobacco and forest floor notes merge with restrained red cherry fruit. Firm, yet velvety.	14.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.tenutefolonari.com
Tenuta di Vignole, Campicaia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	86	89	89	Bold, bright cassis and blueberries with a herbaceous streak of green tea. Concentrated and youthful.	15%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.nistri.it
Tenuta di Lilliano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	88	93	84	A nourishing complexity of currant, pomegranate, herbs and woodland characters. Ample and juicy.	14.5%	2020-2030	£31.75	Ellis Wines
Terra di Seta, Guardo Giro, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	88	87	89	88	Warm plum and currant fruit with a creamy, waxy concentration; rich and full.	15%	2021-2025	N/A UK	www.terradiseta.it
Terre di Perseto, Albóre, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	88	90	87	88	Subdued liquorice aromas lead to a burst of chewy red cherries on the youthful palate.	14%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.terrediperseto.com
Villa Trasqua, Nerento, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	88	89	87	89	Glossy red cherry aromas with a tight-knit structure and austere tannins.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.villatrasqua.it
Azienda Uggiano, Prestige, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	86	86	88	Spicy dark cherries with youthful tannins and a long toasty finish.	13.5%	2020-2024	£11.95-£13	Kwoff, ND John, NY Wines of Cambridge, Toscanaccio
Badia a Coltibuono, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	87	85	88	Focused florals, inviting red cherry menthol notes and melt-in-the-mouth fruity tannins.	14%	2020-2024	£34	Berry Bros & Rudd
Banfi, Fonte Alla Selva, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	85	90	86	An athletic style with plenty of vigorous red cherry fruit on nose and palate; fresh, with firm tannins.	14%	2020-2025	£25	Millésima
Castello della Paneretta, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	90	85	87	An abundance of Italian herbs with sappy raspberry fruit flavours and an earthy, mineral finish.	13.5%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.castellodellapaneretta.com
Castello di Albola, Santa Caterina, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	87	90	82	89	Discreet cherry fruit with a floral touch; tangy, light and soft.	14%	2020-2021	£38.40	Zonin UK
Castello Vicchionaggio, La Prima, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	87	89	86	87	A loose knit of earthy fruit characters combined with a leathery maturity and silky tannins.	14%	2020-2024	£44	Hallgarten Wines, Strictly Wine
Colle Bereto, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	87	86	89	86	Accessible and warming plums, prunes and soft oak with a glycerol richness.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.collebereto.it
Colle Bereto, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	85	91	86	Highly aromatic floral, tea-leaf and lush, sweet blue-fruit characters. Super-drinkable.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.collebereto.it
Conte Guicciardini, Belvedere Campóli, Classico Riserva 2015	87	87	85	90	Richly fruited with assertive floral notes, crunchy tannins and a touch of sweetness.	14.5%	2020-2022	N/A UK	www.guicciardini1199.it
Conte Guicciardini, Belvedere Campóli, Il Tabernacolo, Gran Selezione 2015	87	86	91	84	Forthcoming black cherry fruit infused with crushed pepper spice and woodland notes.	14.5%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.guicciardini1199.it
Fattoria di Petroio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	87	89	85	88	Nicely evolved with elegant savoury characters and red bramble fruits. Soft and smooth.	15%	2020-2021	N/A UK	www.fattoriapetroio.com
Fattoria di Valiano, 6.38, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	87	85	87	89	An amenable, open style with lush red fruit and firm tannins.	14%	2020-2025	£26.65	Tannico
Fattoria Montecchio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	89	84	89	Velvety cherry fruit and dusty wild herbs with a bitter, savoury finish.	13.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.fattoriamontecchio.com
Fèlsina Berardenga, Rancia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	90	85	86	Smoky red fruits with Earl Grey tea and earthy characters. Enjoyable.	14%	2020-2024	£42-£43.33	Liberty Wines, Millésima, The Wine Society
Frescobaldi, Tenuta Perano, Rialzi, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	90	85	87	Restrained pomegranate and cherry-kernel freshness with bright acidity and friendly tannins.	14.5%	2020-2024	POA	Hallgarten Wines
Guidi 1929, San Giorgio allo Spadaio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	87	87	87	Rich, sweet fruit with a lush, soft texture and an underlying freshness.	13.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.guidi1929.com
Il Molino di Grace, Il Margone, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	87	87	86	Expressive rose-petal and spice notes with ample depth and shapely tannins.	14.5%	2020-2024	£37.42	Mondial Wine
Le Miccine, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	87	85	89	Aromatic florals and wild herbs encased in an explosive, ripe fruit bomb.	13.5%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.lemiccine.com
Machiavelli, Vigna di Fontalle, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	83	90	88	Lush ripe damsons and prunes layered with dark chocolate; mellow, enticing.	14.5%	2021-2026	£15.80	Christopher Piper
Monte Bernardi, Sa’ Etta, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	84	90	88	A graceful blend of lively plums, cassis and bay leaf with a fruity acid crunch.	13.5%	2020-2024	£38	Berry Bros & Rudd, Dunell's, Fortnum & Mason, Vinoteca

RECOMMENDED (Continued) 86–89pts

Wine	Score	AF	AJ	MW	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Monterotondo, Seretina, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	87	85	90	87	Understated, soft and earthy fruit notes with gentle texture and mouthwatering acidity.	14%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.agriturismomonterotondo.net
Podere Capaccia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	87	85	89	88	Deeply peppery and spicy with an explosion of fresh, sweet plums. Soft and beguiling.	13.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.poderecapaccia.com
Ruffino, Ronitorio di Santedame, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	87	87	88	86	Alluring cherry and plums with a discreet sweetness and a shapely, rounded palate structure.	14.5%	2020-2024	£75	Alivini
San Felice, Il Grigio, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	89	85	86	A flamboyant style awash with damsons, brambles and raspberries, and a peppery, liquorice finish.	13.5%	2020-2021	£31-£34	D Byrne & Co, Field & Fawcett, Hangingditch, Highbury Vintners, Hoult, John Hattersley, Millésima, Toscanaccio
Stefano Farina, Le Bocce, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	87	87	84	89	Lively plum and blackcurrant fruits with a smoky, oaky graphite character.	13.5%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.stefanofarinawines.com
Tenuta di Lilliano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	87	89	84	88	Bubbling with plum, rhubarb and cherry fruit and a minty fresh vibrancy.	14.5%	2020-2023	£35.20	Ellis Wines
Vignamaggio, Monna Lisa, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016	87	90	84	87	Youthful herb and red cherry tones with ripe tannins and a liquorice finish.	15%	2020-2022	£32	Corney & Barrow
Villa Calcinaia, Vigna Bastignano, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	87	85	88	87	Very concentrated damson, sloe and plum fruit with a vanilla-oak warmth.	15%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.conticapponi.it
Villa Trasqua, Fanatico, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	87	88	90	83	Wild red fruits with notes of incense and toast; firm, rounded finish.	14%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.villatrasqua.it
Viticcio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	87	87	87	88	A core of dark red fruit, with savoury characters and a coffee finish.	14%	2020-2024	£32.50	Castelnaud Wine Agencies
Bindi Sergardi, Calidonia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	86	87	82	89	Decadent sweet cherry fruit aromas; warming with firm, chalky tannins.	14%	2020-2022	£25	Millésima
Carpineto, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	86	84	87	88	Traditional style, rustic leather and earthy cherry notes with plenty of texture.	13.5%	2021-2025	£22.49	Great Wines Direct, Hallgarten Wines
Casa Sola, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	86	84	88	86	Sound red fruits, lively and vigorous with a touch of sweetness.	14%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.fattoriacasola.com
Castello di Meleto, Vigna Poggiarso, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	86	89	84	86	Ample raspberry and apple flavours with lots of crunchy tannins.	13.5%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.castellomeletoshop.it
Cerbaia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	86	85	90	83	Fruit cake and Earl Grey tea with ripe tannins and lavish oak.	15%	2020-2025	N/A UK	www.aziendacerbaia.com
Famiglia Castellani, Campomaggio, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015	86	89	82	87	Lots of smoky complexity and incense with refined oaky tannins.	13%	2020	£ 18.95	Great Western Wine
Fattoria Casaloste, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	86	85	87	87	Attractive plum fruit with lashings of generous oak on the palate.	15%	2021-2026	£39.95	Jeroboams
Fattoria Montecchio, Pasquino, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	86	88	82	89	Dried rose petal and raspberry fruit aromas with a broad, sweet palate.	14.5%	2020-2024	N/A UK	www.fattoriamontecchio.com
Il Colombaio di Cencio, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	86	88	82	89	A savoury style with soft fruit and subtle liquorice notes.	14%	2020-2022	N/A UK	www.ilcolombaiodicencio.com
Le Miccine, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	86	82	88	89	Morello cherry jam and lively plums; a very juicy style.	14%	2020-2025	POA	WoodWinters
Principe Corsini Villa Le Corti, Don Tommaso, Gran Selezione 2016	86	89	80	88	Crunchy red cherries with a smoky character and bright acidity.	14%	2020	£38.25	Astrum Wine Cellars
Renzo Marinai, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016	86	89	84	85	Potent, rich red plums and apples with sweet spice; chunky and full.	13.5%	2020-2024	£26.16	Goedhuis & Co
Ruffino, Riserva Ducale Oro, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015	86	90	82	87	Intense liquorice, pepper, cherry and tar with firm grainy tannins.	14.5%	2020-2025	£55	Alivini

COMMENDED 83-85pts

■ **Luiano, Ottantuno, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2016** 85, 14.5%, 2020-2023, N/A UK [www.bibbiano.com](#) ■ **Villa Montepaldi, Tagliafune, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 85, 14%, 2020-2023, N/A UK [www.villamontepaldi.it](#) ■ **Borgo la Stella, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 84, 13%, 2020-2022, N/A UK [www.borgolastella.com](#) ■ **Lamole di Lamole, Vigneto di Campolungo, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 84, 14%, 2020-2022, £30 Alivini ■ **Mangiacane, Z District, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 84, 15%, 2020-2025, N/A UK [www.](#)

■ **Tenuta di Bibbiano, Bibbiano, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 85, 14.5%, 2020-2023, N/A UK [www.bibbiano.com](#) ■ **Villa Montepaldi, Tagliafune, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 85, 14%, 2020-2023, N/A UK [www.villamontepaldi.it](#) ■ **Borgo la Stella, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 84, 13%, 2020-2022, N/A UK [www.borgolastella.com](#) ■ **Lamole di Lamole, Vigneto di Campolungo, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 84, 14%, 2020-2022, £30 Alivini ■ **Mangiacane, Z District, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 84, 15%, 2020-2025, N/A UK [www.](#)

[mangiacane.com](#) ■ **Carpineto, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 83, 14%, 2020-2024, POA Hallgarten Wines ■ **Castelvecchi, Madonnino, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015** 83, 14%, 2020-2025, N/A UK [www.chianticastelvecchi.it](#) ■ **Terrabianca, Croce, Chianti Classico Riserva 2016** 83, 13.5%, 2020-2022, N/A UK [www.arillointerrabianca.com](#) ■ **Villa La Pagliaia, Chianti Classico Riserva 2015** 83, 13.5%, 2020-2023, £14-18 ND John, The Jolly Vintner