



vinous

Brunello di Montalcino, Sesta di Sopra

Brunello di Montalcino 2016

The dark and alluring bouquet of the 2016 Brunello di Montalcino really keeps you at the edge of the glass, where notes of tobacco and dried flowers give way to ripe black cherries, plums, and hints of cloves. It's velvety in texture, yet there's a lift of minerals and acids here that maintains a wonderful balance. Concentrated red/black berries accumulate, coating the palate in primary fruit under an air of purple inner florals. its tannic heft sneaks up on you, previously masked by the 2016's youthful intensity. There's so much going on here and so much more to come after five to ten years of cellaring. Drinking windows: 2026-2040

94

Brunello di Montalcino 2016, Riserva

The 2016 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva grumbles up from the glass, inward and poised. With coaxing, a dusty mix of plums, black currants and crushed stone evolves. This fleshes out across the palate with unexpected lift and grace, as waves of red and black berries cascade across its salty mineral core. A saturation of grippy tannin takes control through the finale, clenching the 2016's fruit, as hints of almond and rose taper off. While structured for the long haul, I'm simply not finding the depth that I expect from a Riserva. Drinking windows: 2024-2034

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Brunello di Montalcino 2017

The 2017 Brunello di Montalcino keeps you coming back to the glass over and over again to take in its seductive bouquet of crushed sour cherries, spiced blood orange, minty herbs and hints of sweet smoke. It's silky yet lifted in feel, energized by brisk acids that carry the mineral-tinged red berry fruits effortlessly across the palate. A twang of tart blackberries mixes with citrus zest through the moderately structured and classically dry finale. Sesta di Sopra did a wonderful job finding balance from the 2017 vintage. Give this a short stay in the cellar for maximum effect. Drinking windows: 2024-2027

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Brunello di Montalcino 2018

The 2018 Brunello di Montalcino wafts up with a dusty and incredibly pretty mix of red plums, dried roses, worn leather and a lifting hint of camphor. This is soft and supple on the palate, elegant and seamless in feel, with violet-tinged red fruits underscored by saline-minerals and spice. It fishes potent, long and structured, leaving a primary concentration to mingle, with youthfully grippy tannins that create a chewy sensation through the finale. Drinking windows: 2025-2031

93

Brunello di Montalcino 2018, Magistra

The 2018 Brunello di Montalcino Magistra opens like an old cedar treasure box on the nose. Within, a mix of musky dried flowers, cloves, cardamom and red currants can all be found. This is like pure silk being draped across the palate, with a core of dark red fruits and savory spices that saturate under an air of rosy inner florals. The 2018 clamps down hard with fine-grained tannins through the finish, leaving nuances of licorice and dried cherries to fade. The Magistra is certainly one of the more structured wines of the vintage, and possesses the balance for a long and steady evolution. However, it's dusty and dried out bouquet gives me pause. This was tasted from two separate bottles with identical results. Drinking windows: 2024-2033

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