

## Monica Larner Oct. 31, 2014 Issue # 215

***“Tolaini is on a tear, making some of the best wines representing the warmer Castelnuovo Berardenga subzone of Chianti Classico. A Grand Selezione has been added to Tolaini’s portfolio of Bordeaux and Tuscany-themed wines.”***

### **2011 Tolaini Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Montebello Vigneto N. 7: 91 pts**

A pure expression of Sangiovese, 2011 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Montebello Vigneto N. 7 struck me as one of the most authentic and territory-driven wines in this new, elite category at the top of the Chianti Classico pyramid. The wine stands out for the true sense of varietal character it presents. Soft cherry and cassis render a delicate side of the bouquet, while spice, grilled herb, smoke and pressed rose hold up the rear. This Grand Selezione offers a simple, streamlined palate with a pretty embroidery of aromatics that change and shift as the wine warms in the glass. It earns points for overall elegance and harmony.

### **2010 Tolaini Picconero: 94 pts**

A compelling blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, the 2010 Picconero Tenuta Montebello packs a powerful punch in terms of density and concentration. This expression is rich and chewy with dark cherry and blackberry as protagonist. Solid supporting roles are played by tobacco, spice and bitter dark chocolate. The 2010 vintage shows a superior sense of finesse and silkiness in the mouth. Picconero can be put aside for long cellar aging.

### **2010 Tolaini IGT Valdisanti: 93 pts**

The 2010 Valdisanti (Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc) is staked tall with bold fruit nuances of dark cherry, blackberry, spice, tobacco and Spanish cedar. Crushed white pepper and grilled herbs also play into the mix. This is a large, extracted wine that glides slowly over the palate, imparting a lingering sense of depth and richness.

### **2010 Tolaini IGT Al Passo: 92 pts**

The 2010 Al Passo is a pretty blend of Sangiovese and a smaller percentage of Merlot from an elegant vintage. The wine is redolent of sweet spice and tobacco with lingering prune and dark cherry. The tobacco theme is strong with dried cigar leaf and ash. The wine is lively in the mouth, with a tight vein of acidity that keeps it from feeling heavy on the palate.