

Italy, Chianti Classico: Discoveries from Castelnuovo Berardenga

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CHIANTI CLASSICO VALLENUOVA 2018

"The Tolaini 2018 Chianti Classico Vallenuova has a sweet spot of fresh berry fruit and cherry that gives the wine immediate lift and accessibility. That cherry note is followed by plum, spice and tilled earth. Balanced acidity and freshness seal the deal. Pair this with your favorite red sauce on pappardelle and lots of cheese."

CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE MONTEBELLO SETTE 2016

"Set aside some time and a steak Diane recipe (with cream and cognac) for the Tolaini 2016 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Montebello Sette. It is a gorgeous creation showing enormous depth, elegance and textural fiber all at once. The bouquet opens to wild flowers, cassis and blueberries with smoke, tobacco and potting soil. This is a silky and nuanced wine that shows mid-weight intensity and silky tannins on the close."

AL PASSO 2017

"The Tolaini 2017 Al Passo is always an ambitious wine that takes the best of the grapes in its blend: Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Each give freshness, structure and textural fiber. Al Passo opens to dark berry fruit and plum, with spice, tobacco and tilled earth. This is a well-priced wine that promises lots of pairings, especially out of a Tuscan cookbook."

VALDISANTI 2016

"Tolaini makes some of the best wines in Chianti Classico and specifically in the sun-kissed Castelnuovo Berardenga appellation. From a classic vintage, the 2016 Valdisanti is made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc grapes all sourced from the estate's Tenuta San Giovanni vineyard. The wine is absolutely fantastic on all fronts, with rich and soft fruit that hits all those sensorial pleasure points. It offers ample dark fruit, cherry, spice and dried blackberry."

PICCONERO 2016

"This is a beautiful wine from the folks at Tolaini, and one of the finest bottles made by this dynamic estate so far. A blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Picconero Tenuta Montebello shows intensity and fruit-forward style in all directions. The wine is indeed expansive and rich with pressed blackberry, plum and dried rose. There are earthy tones as well and a touch of garden mint. This wine is a true achievement."

LEGIT CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

"...The Tolaini 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Legit plays the role thanks to the legitimate darkness, sultriness and suppleness of the mouthfeel. Dark fruit and blackberry are followed by light spice, earth and tobacco. This is a balanced and fruit-forward red that will jazz up any steak-frites dinner served in a tavern with cigar smoke hanging heavy, if such a thing exists any more. And while it may not be priced perfectly for the walk-up, top-floor Brooklyn set, this wine is definitely "on point."