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2010 BRUNELLO: RICH, MASTERFUL, COMPLEX, AND DEEPLY REWARDING

Much-hyped they may have been, but **Nicolas Belfrage** MW was very impressed by the latest releases from Brunello di Montalcino. **Bruno Besa** and **Andrew Jefford** also enthusiastically endorse the high praise for a great, potentially epoch-defining, vintage

La Gerla
(14.5% ABV) **17.5**

NB | Deep, still with a ruby-tinted rim. Fruity/vegetal (in a positive sense) nose of some complexity. In the mouth, the elevated acidity lifts the fruit, which vies with the slightly firm tannins for supremacy. Has length and concentration. | **17**

BB | Deep garnet to tawny, pink rim. Wonderfully spicy nose, with mature yet fresh small red fruits, cedarwood, and oriental spices. Compact, medium-bodied palate, with an agile character that is inviting and perfect for classic, rich Tuscan main courses. Great tannins and a long, layered finish. A classic Brunello of the highest standard. | **19**

AJ | Deep, limpid red-black. Articulate and faintly mentholated, but with enticing poised ripeness and secondary fruit development, too: warm, roasty berries. A slight touch of reduction quickly disappears. Smooth, pure, fine-lined, with tannins of less massiveness than many of its peers and truly high-quality, tapered, finely drawn fruits (plum, sloe, and elder). Very chic and stylish Brunello, but no one would be disappointed by the length and tenacity of the wine. Another outstanding effort. | **17**



BRUNO BESA'S VERDICT

My overall opinion of the wines of Montalcino has gradually and, I'm happy to say, radically changed over the past 20 years. I used to find far too many rustic, heavy-handed, and almost vulgar wines being made around this venerated southern Tuscan town. Having begun to change my mind over the past two decades, it was after sampling these 2010s that I was finally completely converted to these wonderfully complex and pure Sangiovese-based wines.

It is the simultaneous drinkability and ageworthiness that, for me, make the 2010 vintage so outstanding. It has helped to produce wines of beautiful transparency and complexity, which can be consumed today, as well as over many years to come, combining great finesse, character, and elegance. They really are an absolute pleasure to drink.

TOP WINES

- Mastrojanni **19.5**
- Donatella Cinelli Colombine Prime Donne **19**
- La Gerla **19**
- Le Macioche **19**
- Caprili **18.5**
- Tenute Silvio Nardi **18.5**
- Frescobaldi/Castelgiocondo **18.5**
- Sesti **18.5**
- Sassetti Livio Pertimali **18.5**
- Camigliano **18.5**