

Wine Spectator

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8 Impressive Chianti Classico Values

Vibrant Sangioveses from Tuscany up to 92 points, all priced at less than \$30



Il Molino di Grace's vineyards were established more than 350 years ago.

By Bruce Sanderson

Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

This week's selection of Chianti Classicos comes from Tuscany's superb 2016 and 2015 vintages, which both earned ratings of 97 points from Wine Spectator, as well as from the more recent 2018 and 2017 vintages.

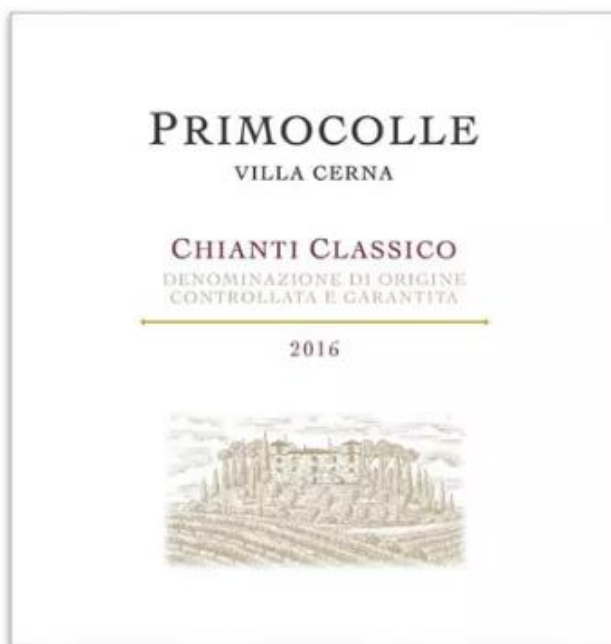
The styles of 2016 and 2015 are significantly different. The 2015s are powerful and densely structured, perfect for long aging. In contrast, Chianti Classico's 2016s show purity and elegance, with vibrant acidity, the result of an ideal harvest season.



CECCHI

TENUTE DELLA
FAMIGLIA CECCHI

More recently, hot, dry weather reduced the region's crop in 2017. The year's best wines come from higher elevations with cooler temperatures. Vineyards with water-retaining clay soils and deep-rooted old vines did well despite the heat. The wines have dense tannins and rustic character, as shown by this week's two highlighted 2017s. For an alternative style, early results among the 2018 Chianti Classicos show bright and fruity reds with immediate appeal.



VILLA CERNA

Chianti Classico Primocolle 2016

Score: 89 | \$18

WS review: Macerated cherry, plum, earth and leather notes converge in this rich and solidly built red. Dense tannins form a layer of support. Though balanced overall, this does not have the length of its peers. Best from 2021 through 2033. 7,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.—*B.S.*