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# 13 Tuscan Summer Sippers

New reviews of vibrant reds and fresh whites from Italy's storied region



Photo by: Bruno Bruchi

Montenidoli champions the local white grape Vernaccia.

**Bruce Sanderson**

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*Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.*

This group of Tuscan values, all under \$30, offers a tour of the region, beginning in the hills of Chianti Classico and its surrounding appellations. From there, it's a short ride to the towers of San Gimignano and its local specialty, Vernaccia. The two examples from Montenidoli are superb.

Moving to the coast, another Tuscan white, Vermentino, offers its charms. Inland, but still influenced by the sea, there is Rosso di Montalcino, a good introduction to the wines of that area. Roughly 25 miles farther inland lies the picturesque hilltop town of Montepulciano, where Vino Nobile wines are made. The whites are ideal for summer sipping; the reds hearty enough for what's on the grill.

**CASTELLO DI MONSANTO Chianti Classico Riserva 2014** *Score: 91 | \$25*

An elegant red, full of black currant, cherry, spice and herb flavors. Elegant and taut, in the traditional style, with fine complexity and a long finish. Best from 2018 through 2028. 19,500 cases made.—*B.S.*

**IL POGGIONE Rosso di Montalcino 2015** *Score: 91 | \$27*

Bright, delicate and vibrant, with berry and floral flavors. Accents of earth, tobacco and spice add interest as they linger on the finish. Well-rounded and long. Drink now through 2023. 12,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**AVIGNONESI Vino Nobile di Montepulciano 2014** *Score: 90 | \$28*

A light, elegant style, delivering cherry, iron, leather and earth flavors in a balanced profile.

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Clean and lively, with a lingering aftertaste of leather, earth and almond. Drink now through 2023. 4,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**MARCHESI DE' FRESCOBALDI Vermentino Toscana Ammiraglia Massovivo 2016** *Score: 90 / \$20*

This is round, evoking white peach, melon and straw flavors, with a hint of grapefruit. Beautifully balanced, fresh and easy to cozy up to. A light mineral accent graces the finish. Drink now. 900 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**MONTENIDOLI Vernaccia di San Gimignano Fiore 2014** *Score: 90 / \$27*

Round and juicy, this white offers notes of yellow flowers and peach, with a hint of grapefruit peel. Though lush, this retains good acidity, leaving a mouthwatering finish. Drink now. 1,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**MONTENIDOLI Vernaccia di San Gimignano Tradizionale 2014** *Score: 90 / \$22*

Complex and smooth, this white displays roasted almond, earth, wax and chamomile aromas, gathering a savory character as this plays out on the finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,600 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**SELVAPIANA Chianti Rufina 2015** *Score: 90 / \$20*

Pure cherry aromas and flavors are enhanced by a smoky element in this juicy, round red. Hints of earth and mineral add interest on the finish. Drink now through 2023. 7,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**NOZZOLE Chardonnay Toscana Le Bruniche 2016** *Score: 89 / \$17*

A floral version, this evokes rose and lily notes, along with apricot, grapefruit and spice flavors. Delicate yet persistent on the finish, where the floral accents linger. Drink now through 2020. 2,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**ROCCA DELLE MACIÈ Chianti Classico Famiglia Zingarelli 2015** *Score: 88 / \$16*

A light-bodied, fruity style, sporting cherry, strawberry and floral notes. Firms up on the finish, yet this remains an easygoing red, with moderate length. Drink now. 80,833 cases made.—*B.S.*

**ROCCA DELLE MACIÈ Vermentino Maremma Toscana Campomaccione 2016** *Score: 88 / \$15*

A rich style, yet lively, sporting peach, floral and pine flavors, with a saline, mineral accent, lingering on the mouthwatering aftertaste. Drink now. 6,000 cases made.—*B.S.*

**SALCHETO Chianti Colli Senesi 2016** *Score: 88 / \$14*

Packed with strawberry and cherry flavors, this is light, exuberant and well-structured. Fine balance and a mouthwatering finish complete the profile. Sangiovese, Canaiolo and Mammolo. Drink now through 2023. 2,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**SAN FELICE Chianti Classico 2014** *Score: 88 / \$17*

A core of cherry is framed by tobacco, earth and subtle mineral notes in this linear red. Balanced and tense, with moderate length. Drink now through 2023. 7,700 cases imported.—*B.S.*

**VECCHIA CANTINA DI MONTEPULCIANO Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Incanto 2014** *Score: 88 / \$15*

Bright cherry fruit is enhanced by flavors of wild herbs, leather and mineral in this juicy red. Balanced and moderately firm. Drink now through 2023. 5,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*