

2013 Mazzei Siepi

The 2013 Siepi is a knockout wine that hits all the sense with just the right level of complexity. The wine is soft, brooding, velvety and long in persistency. It is made with equal parts Merlot and Sangiovese and both grapes bring their best assets to the blend. Sangiovese shows an upfront personality with territory-driven tones of small berry and spice. This grape also offers beautifully fresh acidity. The Merlot component plays a strong background role and adds softness, lushness and richness. This is a new wine that needs a few more years of bottle aging. Otherwise it can be aged or consumed in the near-term.

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- Monica Lerner (October, 2015)

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2011 Mazzei Mix 36

This wine represents a very interesting project spearheaded by the Mazzei family. The 2011 Mix 36 is a super blend of the 36 biotypes of Sangiovese that are farmed over the 600 hectares that make up this estate. In a sense, this wine serves as a measuring stick for a given vintage given that fact you can trace Sangiovese's growing cycle, clone by clone. To avoid confusion with Mazzei's Chianti Classico, the family decided to make this an IGT Toscana wine. Bold fruit tones of blackberry and dried raspberry are followed by blue flower, wet earth and spice.

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2011 Mazzei Philip

The 2011 Philip is a wine with an American spirit. The front label depicts family ancestor Philip Mazzei (1730-1816) but his white wig and demeanor is very reminiscent of the United States founding fathers. The wine is based on Cabernet Sauvignon (with some Cabernet Franc). It offers surprisingly soft and luscious tannins with a bouquet that is enhanced with dark berry and sweet spice. It makes a great choice for near-term enjoyment.

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2012 Mazzei Siepi

A 50-50 blend of Merlot and Sangiovese, the 2012 Siepi is a beautiful wine that bursts open with enormous fruit intensity and purity. Siepi is a unique wine that is characterized by a deep sense of sharpness and focus that brings a very bright quality to the bouquet. This vintage represents the 20th anniversary of this wine (the first vintage produced was 1992) although this special single-vineyard has been in family hands since 1435 (you read that correctly). Older Merlot vines were replanted three years ago.

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2013 Mazzei Chianti Classico Fonterutoli

The 2013 Chianti Classico Fonterutoli is a composite of 90% Sangiovese consisting of the 36 biotypes that the Mazzei family has identified in their vineyards. The rest of the wine is made with Merlot and Malvasia Nera, that is also decided by different clone selections. This Chianti Classico is very beautiful and streamlined with a deep sense of elegance and finesse. The quality of fruit is tonic and bright in this balanced vintage.

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2011 Mazzei Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli

The 2011 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli is a standout wine and I prefer it to the 2012 vintage and the 2010 vintage (that I reviewed twice over the course of a year with divergent scores). Of these wines, this vintage offers the broadest sense of intensity and generosity. The wine is also distinguished by dark fruit and spice that stand tall with clear identities. The best fruit from the estate's various vineyard sites are selected for this wine. This careful selection process makes it possible to dedicate the best fruit to a wine like this despite varying vintage conditions.

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2012 Mazzei Mix 36

Mazzei's 2012 Mix 36 is a very expressive rendition of Sangiovese that shows a level of complexity that would be difficult to achieve if this wine were made with a single clone. There are many, mixed berry tones that range from cherry to blueberry and the wine reveals pretty layers of spice, toasted almond and tobacco. Most of the vines in this experimental vineyard are now 15-years-old. This means they are entering the height of their best production years.

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2012 Mazzei Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli

The 2012 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli is a bit tighter compared to the very generous and forthcoming 2011 vintage. The wine is also slightly thinner in the mouth with pointed aromas of bright cherry, dried blackberry, spice, toasted almond and pressed rose petal. This Gran Selezione reveals bright lines and crisp acidity with a attractive sharpness and focus. This wine will no doubt flesh out further as it spends more time aging in the bottle.

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**2011 Mazzei Chianti Classico Riserva Ser
Lapo**

The 2011 Chianti Classico Riserva Ser Lapo shows balance and harmony with ripe aromas of cherry, forest berry, tobacco and grilled herb. An added bonus are the drying mineral notes of flint and ash that give this wine an extra level of elegance. Those mineral nuances also hold any jammy tones in check. This was a very warm vintage, but the bouquet hardly shows this. The tannins reveal fine texture and a silky nature.

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