

2016 Mazzei Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli

The Mazzei family was one of the first and most enthusiastic advocates of the Gran Selezione movement. Their 2016 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Castello Fonterutoli is a crowning achievement for this storied Chianti Classico winery. From an iconic vintage, this blend of 92% Sangiovese and 8% Malvasia Nera, aged in new and neutral oak for 20 months, shows sharp and delineated lines. Black fruit, plum and cherry intermingle with spice, tobacco and tilled earth. The wine shows zest and energy at its core. An ample 67,000 bottles were made.

- Monica Larner (September, 2019)

2016 Mazzei Concerto di Fonterutoli

The 2016 Concerto di Fonterutoli is 80% Sangiovese and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 225-liter French oak for 18 months. The Cabernet Sauvignon element comes through nicely with dark fruit, spice and some grilled herb. The grape gives the wine a heavier and more concentrated center of gravity. However, the soul and style of the wine is driven by the freshness and delicate aromas of the Sangiovese. Production is 37,000 bottles.

- Monica Larner (September, 2019)

2016 Mazzei Mix 36

I am always fascinated by this wine, made with a blend of 36 biotypes of Sangiovese from an experimental plot at the Fonterutoli property. The 2016 Mix 36 (with 8,000 bottles produced) shows classic Sangiovese lines with wild berry, cassis, smoke, tar and moist earth. There are delicate floral notes with wild rose and pressed violets that show with greater intensity in this balanced vintage. The wine ages in 500-liter barrels for 18 months.

- Monica Larner (September, 2019)

2016 Mazzei Chianti Classico Riserva Ser Lapo

Here's a terrific wine, at a reasonable price point, that gives you an authentic albeit contemporary taste of Tuscany. The 2016 Chianti Classico Riserva Ser Lapo (made with 90% Sangiovese and 10% other red varieties including Merlot) reflects the best qualities of this classic vintage with sharp lines, good freshness and delineated contours. The wine shows a tight core of black fruit surrounded by softer layers of spice and smoke at the edges. Some 175,000 bottles were made.

- Monica Larner (September, 2019)