

Wine Spectator

12 Elegant Chianti Classicos

New reviews of Italian reds from 2014, 2013 and 2012



Photo by: Courtesy of Barone Ricasoli/Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.

Barone Ricasoli's 2013 Chianti Classico is a prime example of the vintage.

Bruce Sanderson

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

This selection of recent releases from Chianti Classico spans three vintages. In 2014, a rainy, cool summer demanded careful work in the vineyards, a strict selection at harvest and, in many cases, declassifying grapes destined for higher quality labels. The 2013 growing season was typical, not too hot or cold, producing elegant wines with vibrant acidity. The 2012s are more concentrated and tannic.

BARONE RICASOLI Chianti Classico Brolio Riserva 2013 Score: 91 | \$30

A plush mix of black cherry, plum, licorice, tar and tobacco aromas and flavors rides the dense tannins and lively acidity to a long conclusion. Needs a year to settle down. Best from 2018 through 2027. 800 cases imported.—B.S.

CAPRAIA Chianti Classico Riserva 2012 Score: 90 | \$25

Smooth in texture, this red features cherry, plum, leather, licorice and tobacco flavors. Balanced and bright, with a lingering aftertaste of spice, tobacco and tea. Drink now through 2020. 800 cases imported.—B.S.

CASTELLARE DI CASTELLINA Chianti Classico 2014 Score: 89 | \$24

This sleek red displays cherry, raspberry and spice flavors, with vibrant acidity and light tannins for support. Fine length. Drink now. 1,100 cases imported.—B.S.

LAMOLE DI LAMOLE Chianti Classico 2012 Score: 89 | \$19

A beam of pure, sweet cherry and black currant flavors heralds this ripe, juicy red. Quickly turns tannic, but the sweet fruit returns on the lingering aftertaste. Best from 2018 through 2024. 2,100 cases imported.—B.S.

<http://www.winespectator.com/webfeature/show/id/12-Elegant-Chianti-Classicos-53121>

