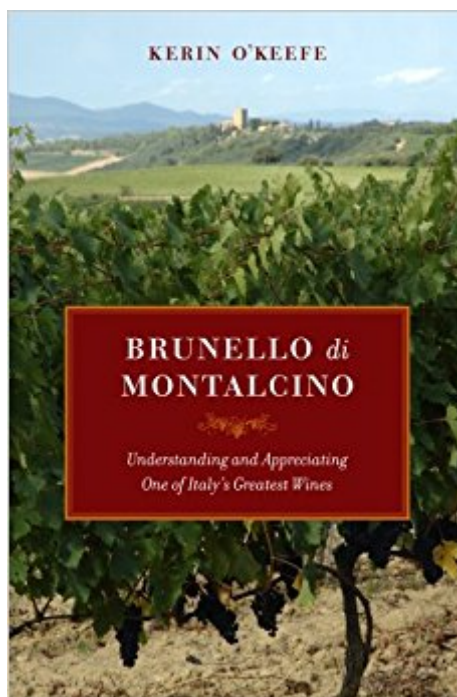




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# Brunello Di Montalcino: Understanding And Appreciating One Of Italy's Greatest Wines



## Synopsis

For fans of Italian wine, few names command the level of respect accorded to Brunello di Montalcino. With their earthy, wild-cherry sensations and full structure yet smooth textures, top Brunellos have the body and finesse of the most prestigious world-class bottlings from Bordeaux, Burgundy and Piedmont. Expert wine writer Kerin O'Keefe has a deep personal knowledge of Tuscany and its extraordinary wine, and her account is both thoroughly researched and readable. Organized as a guided tour through Montalcino's geography, this essential reference also makes sense of Brunello's complicated history, from its rapid rise to the negative and positive effects of the 2008 grape-blending scandal dubbed "Brunellogate." Brunello di Montalcino helps wine lovers maneuver their way among Montalcino's minefield of diversity by breaking the vast commune down into seven distinct subzones, ranging from the highest reaches around the town of Montalcino, which yield austere, elegant wines destined for lengthy aging in cellars; down to the lower plains in the deep south around Sant'Angelo Scalo, home to immediate, muscular Brunellos with higher alcohol and lower acidity; and to all the other fascinating areas that lie between those two geographical extremes. O'Keefe also provides in-depth profiles of 58 carefully chosen wineries, big and small, famous and unknown, who produce excellent Brunellos that best express the quintessential characteristics of both Sangiovese and the various subzones in Montalcino.

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## Customer Reviews

"Kerin O'Keefe's authoritative book on Brunello is in the Broadbent/Coates tradition. ...written in a brisk, informative style. ...we need a guide we can trust; and those once seduced by the delicate complexity of a perfect Brunello could hardly do better than O'Keefe's book", Prof. Tim Crane, Times Literary Supplement"And so it should be: forthright, trenchant, spirited, anything but bland. Would that more wine books were like yours", Michael Edwards, The Finest Wines of Champagne"...it's refreshing to read the work of an author who not only knows her subject in great detail, but one who is opinionated and tells her story in an engaging fashion. ...this book is highly recommended.", Tom Hyland, Learn Italian Wines"Kerin O'Keefe's Brunello di Montalcino is not simply an enjoyable wine book; it's one of the rare wine books that is truly important.", Evan Dawson, Palate Press"...O'Keefe's Brunello di Montalcino is an argument in favor of classicism...it gives the appellation something that it has deserved for some time: a critical voice that writes about Brunello with the affection and focus ordinarily reserved for the likes of Burgundy...", Keith Levenberg, World of Fine Wine"She has an easy, absorbing writing style that's packed with information without being dry and witless. This is a very good read for the enthusiast and a useful one for the wine student.", Sally Easton MW, WineWisdom "...fascinating, well-written take on Brunello di Montalcino, and one of the books of the year", Paul O'Doherty, JancisRobinson.com"An absolutely essential wine guide for the connoisseur wishing to learn about the wine or the wine traveler seeking advice on where to go and which wineries to visit.", International Wine Review"This book is a great gift for that person in your life who simply can't get enough of Italy and its wine, or a wonderful investment if you're planning a trip to Tuscany soon.", Anthony Dias Blue, Blue Lifestyle

"Kerin O'Keefe is undoubtedly the English-speaking world's most passionate advocate of the wines

of Montalcino. Every page of her book reflects her expertise and long experience, and what's more, she's a good writer. How often have we been presented with detailed knowledge wrapped in turgid language? Not here! This is a page-turner if ever a wine book was one." --Nicolas Belfrage M.W., *The Finest Wines of Tuscany and Central Italy: A Regional and Village Guide to the Best Wines and Their Producers*"Kerin O'Keefe's book is the best thing I have read on Brunello di Montalcino--period. The research is the most thorough, and the coverage of the key aspects of the Montalcino situation--origins and history, legislation, zonal variations, producers--is the most complete and rigorous I have encountered anywhere." --Tom Maresca, contributor to *Decanter*, *Wine & Spirits* and *Quarterly Review of Wines*

i wanted to read about Brunello on the plane as my wife and I were on our way to Montalcino. (1) I got an education. Previously, I knew a little, just enough to dangerous-s they say. But, after reading the book, it enabled me to buy some really nice bottles of Brunello that I might have over-looked or just not developed the interest to find. (2) This book could have been drier than even the worst Brunello. Instead, O'Keefe's writing displayed both a lively wit, a depth of the subject, and a love for Brunello. Like Brunello Reserva, it was surprisingly good. Standing in a wine store in both Montalcino and San Quirico, I remembered stories about many of the brands displayed from her book. Her book certainly increased my love of Brunello, and it certainly enriched my trip to Tuscany. In fact, I now own a few bottles of 2010 Brunello that I would not have put the effort into finding had it not been for her book.

I love Brunello, but after reading some of the posted reviews, I was afraid this book would be too technical. I bought it anyway and was pleasantly surprised. Yes it does cover technical subjects, like clones and vinification, but the author writes in a very easy to understand and entertaining style, so I followed everything and learned a lot. The best part was the breakdown of Montalcino into subzones. I've been thrilled by many Brunellos, but disappointed in others and now I know why. I've already tried some of O'Keefe's suggested Brunellos, and have loved them. Highly recommend this book for Brunello fans looking for the best from Montalcino. As a last note, the photos by Paolo Tenti are beautiful and complement the book very well.

If you're well past wine geekdom 101 and want to get serious about a particular region like Brunello Di Montalcino, this is a must read. I already have three "encyclopedia of wine" books that do a decent job of skimming every region on the planet. Lately, I'm preferring to buy and read books that dig more

deeply into a particular region I already love like Burgundy or one I want to know a lot more about. I don't think I'm being a wine snob when I say this book is not for casual wine drinkers unless, perhaps you've traveled the region extensively and accidentally fell in love with this unique expression of the Sangiovese grape. This is a refreshingly honest take on Brunello sans the 100pt scale from the critics. My only beef with this book is I'd like to contact the author with a few questions. Since the book is written with passionate wine geeks in mind, I would have included an email address for follow up questions in the book itself or on the author's website.

I got this book as I was interested in learning more about Brunello wines and read the positive reviews. I'm glad I did as the book is very enjoyable to read and explains the history behind Brunello di Montalcino. This author is very passionate about Brunello and you can feel this passion when reading the book. The classical Brunello style, the Brunellogate scandal, and the beauty of terroir driven Brunello wines is covered in this book. I enjoyed reading the book found it easy to read and had a greater understanding of Montalcino and Brunello after that. The authors recommended Brunello producers and vintages are covered in the book and that alone is worth buying the book for those who want to collect Brunello wines.

Phenomenal. A beautiful explanation of the history of the region, the geology and lay of the land, the producers and potential future challenges for brunello makers. This book is organized in the exact way that you want for a wine book and it delivers on that structure with just enough detail to keep things interesting but not too much to bog you down. Great read for anyone who appreciates Italian wines.

Having been a wine lover for some time, I never realized how complex the great wines are. Kerin gives you a complete education on Brunello di Montalcino, its historical background, how it's made and a description of the top vineyards. If you want to learn about Brunello this book is for you.

Fabulous research and information. I have had many conversations about wine and am excited to incorporate this knowledge with my friends. I also appreciate the research done at individual wineries, which will enable me to choose which ones I would rather visit.

Incredible document on the various regions of the 'Grand Cru' of Sangiovese. You will be introduced to all the vintners of note, with detailed descriptions of the 'house' style. It clearly comes from a long

personal connection to the region and its growers.

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