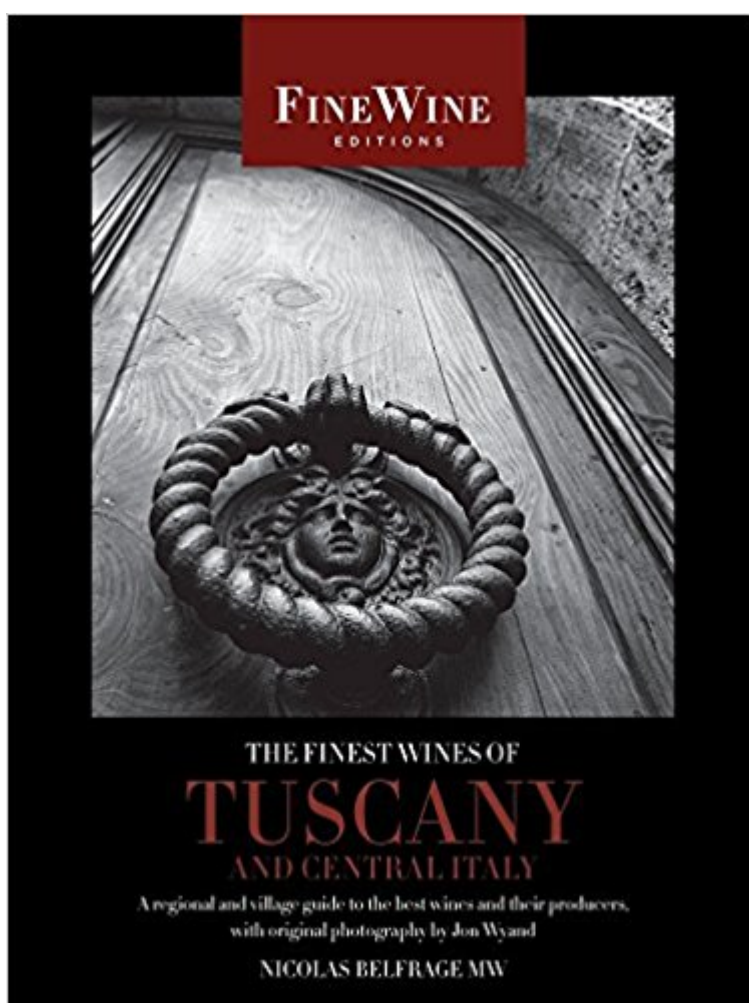


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# The Finest Wines Of Tuscany And Central Italy: A Regional And Village Guide To The Best Wines And Their Producers (The World's Finest Wines)



## Synopsis

The wines of Tuscany were famous long before Leonardo da Vinci described them as ‘bottled sunshine,’ and they are at the forefront of the remarkable renaissance of Italian wine over the past 30 years. In this groundbreaking new book, Nicolas Belfrage shares his insider’s knowledge acquired as a specialist wine trader and writer. Mindful of the region’s fascinating past, Belfrage brings its story up to date, discussing such subjects as geology and geography, grape varieties, and the latest research into Sangiovese, the variety used in the top wines of Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. He also clarifies the regulatory framework and follows the recent controversial developments in viticulture and winemaking, including the rise of the Super-Tuscans and the ongoing ‘Brunellogate’ scandal that broke in 2008. At the heart of the book are in-depth, illustrated profiles of more than 90 of the most interesting producers, large and small, with insightful notes on the essential character of their finest wines. The author also offers a comprehensive review of vintages and selects his top 100 wines in ten different categories, while wines of special quality or value are indicated throughout.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

‘Straightforward yet refreshingly opinionated.’ (New York Times 2009-11-18) ‘Any serious Italophile needs this book.’ A Best Book of 2009 (Wine & Spirits Magazine 2009-12-15) ‘An excellent introduction to Tuscany’s viticultural renaissance.’ (Pittsburgh Tribune Review

2011-02-02)

Nicolas Belfrage MW has worked with Italian wine, either in the trade or as a writer, since the early 1970s and qualified as a Master of Wine in 1980, the first American to achieve this honor. He is the author of *Barolo to Valpollicella: The Wines of Northern Italy* and *Brunello to Zibibbo: Tuscany, Central and Southern Italy*.

A visit to a well stocked wine seller, and especially a visit to a wine seller in Tuscany, will present the buyer with a constellation of Italian DOC (Denominazione di origine controllata) and DOCG (Denominazione di origine controllata garantita) wines. The identities of the makers and wineries may remain rather mysterious even when you have found types and wineries that you like and continue to seek out on the shelf. "The Finest Wines of Tuscany and Central Italy: A Regional and Village Guide" profiles some of the leading personalities involved in modern Tuscan wine making. It helps a wine consumer to better put a name, face, place, location and personal back-story on the pleasures delivered from each maker's bottles. The Italian wine industry has gone through significant changes and rapid evolution over the past thirty years. Once a producer of mostly bulk table wines, Italy has in the last thirty years moved to the forefront of top quality wine production. The post-war generation brought better technology, more formal training and new techniques to the traditional methods of Italian wine making. Many of the people featured in this book are from families that have owned vineyards in Tuscany for generations. But many of them are also recent arrivals to owning vineyards and wineries. All the stories are fascinating, the book design is handsome, the photos are wonderful. Very much recommended for the lover of Tuscan wines.

To be clear, this is a guide to the history and present practice of winemaking in Tuscany and surrounding areas, and of the major wine estates in the area. The author is a Master of Wine, and he does offer opinions on some of the wines (many of them older vintages you can't buy) of each of the producers he covers. But this is not a guide listing hundreds of wines with descriptions and ratings; for that look elsewhere. This is a great overview of how Central Italy became the important international force in wine it is today, and the people who have made it so. It also discusses the different regions of Central Italy, which grapes thrive where, how winemaking differs between them, and what to expect from the wines. I had planned to sample this book for selective information. Instead, I was drawn in and just read it through. If your interest in Italian wine goes beyond what to buy for dinner or order in a restaurant, this is a terrific book. It far exceeded the expectations I had

when I ordered it. Best enjoyed with a good glass of wine!

I was drawn to this book after reading the comment by Nicolas Belfrage on the back cover of *Brunello di Montalcino: Understanding and Appreciating One of Italy's Greatest Wines*. After enjoying so much the book on Brunello I wanted to broaden my knowledge to the rest of Tuscan wines. Nicolas Belfrage does an excellent job (I already gave 5 stars to *Brunello to Zibibbo: The Wines of Tuscany, Central and Southern Italy* so that's not a surprise), but I did not know about this newer book. The only regret is that the book is too short for such an important area. It would have been probably better to deal with Tuscany alone and leave Central Italy out. But even with those limitations the book deserves 5 stars as it is so much better than other books on Italian wine, usually too superficial and full of mistakes.

A well written and informative book keeping up the standard of the series. Just what I needed without being either over-long and over the top, or equally too short. Clear descriptions of region and the wines it has to offer. Keep up the good work.

I bought this book for my son-in-law and he absolutely loves it. He has been studying wines for a couple of years now and is happy to have this book in his collection.

Full Depth on A Limited Number of Wineries. Not a comprehensive review of all wineries, such as Coates tomb on Burgundy or Brooks missive in Bordeaux. But nicely focused on Tuscany.

Great book.

Good book

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