

2009 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

PLENTY OF EARLY PLEASURE

Nicolas Belfrage MW presents the findings of a tasting that suggests that while this is neither a classic nor a great year, many of the wines are true to their variety and their vintage, and should be seductive in their youth. He was joined at the bench by Bruno Besa and Andrew Jefford

La Gerla

15.5

NB | Medium depth, bright. Nose a bit inexpressive at the moment. Plummy, fruit-salady palate, with everything in place but no great spark. Drink from 2016. | 15.5

BB | Garnet to tawny. Intense, mineral nose with cedarwood, small red fruits, hints of toasted bread, black olives, and white truffles. Medium body, with lush, clean red fruit and very long, gripping finish. Another great, classically crafted Sangiovese that needs food. | 18

AJ | Deep black-red. Ripe and fresh at the same time, as it should be when well-adapted varieties complete a generous season in a serendipitous location. On the palate, by contrast, the handling of the fruit here seems overly artisanal and just a little coarse, though it is a generous mouthful. | 13

BRUNO BESA'S TOP WINES

Fuligni 18.5

Col d'Orcia 18

La Gerla 18

Biondi-Santi Tenuta Greppo 17.5

Camigliano 17.5

Caprioli 17.5

Le Macioche 17

Castello Romitorio 17.5

Tenuta di Sesta 17.5

Talenti 17.5

Baricci 17

Lambardi 17

Tenuta Le Potazzine 16.5