



## PIAZZA DEL CASTELLO ROSSO TOSCANA 2020/\$15.99



### DESCRIPTION

If Piedmont is the soul of Italian wine, Tuscany is its beating heart—and the wine world has fallen in love. Sangiovese, Italy's most planted grape, has experienced a bit of a roller-coaster ride in production quality over the last century—it's like a Phoenix that has risen from the ashes of jugged swill wines, popular in American restaurants throughout the 1970s, to the incredible expressions of Chianti and Brunello di Montalcino that we know today. Improved clonal selection in Tuscany is partially to thank for the grape's renaissance, as are hillside vineyard sites that take full advantage of the region's warm, direct sunlight.

Tuscany is vast, from coastal Maremma to the hills of Chianti to rocky Montalcino; altogether it hosts 42 DOCs and 11 DOCGs. "Super Tuscans" were originally created, quite deliberately outside DOC guidelines, in order to incorporate international varieties in blends (like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot), have become another Tuscan signature wine, and now run the gamut from everyday blends to high-priced icons like Sassicaia.

And this is undoubtedly red wine country, with 80 percent of Tuscan wine bottled as red, but Trebbiano is the signature white grape and it's worth seeking out the many snappy, refreshing whites that are made from Vermentino and Vernaccia.

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This wine is a blend of 60% Sangiovese, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Merlot which makes it a Super Tuscan.

"Super Tuscan" is a term used to describe red wines from Tuscany that may include non-indigenous grapes, particularly Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Syrah. The creation of super

Tuscan wines resulted from the frustration winemakers had towards a slow bureaucracy in changing Italy's wine law during the 1970s. Winemakers began mixing 'unsanctioned' wine varieties (like Merlot) into their blends to make high-quality wines. The legal system eventually yielded in 1992 with the creation of IGT, a new designation that gave winemakers the ability to be more creative.

## Tasting Notes

### Nose:

An intense red color with a fragrant bouquet of floral and violet notes. The beautiful aromas convey sensations of fullness and complexity.

### Palate:

A note of ripe berries that gives way to chocolate and nuances of dark earthy tones. It is harmoniously rich in structure but bold in the finish.

### Pairing:

Enjoy with roasted meats, rich pastas, or hard cheeses.

## Tuscany I.G.T., Italy

