

BERTINGA, TOSCANA IGT (TUSCANY, ITALY) "PUNTA DI ADINE" 2016

(\$119, Massanois): This gorgeous wine comes exclusively from Sangiovese planted in a six-acre vineyard in Gaiole in Chianti that sits at an altitude of about 1,800 feet. The elevation moderates the temperature, especially at night, which allows the grapes to retain more acidity. I suspect that helps explain the great vitality and vibrancy in this wine. Despite its youthfulness, Bertinga's Punta di Adine is very expressive, even at this stage, displaying gorgeous aromatics, bright red fruit notes and an alluring touch of spice. Suave tannins allow you to savor the flavors that burst from the glass. This energetic and explosive wine retains balance as evidenced by a subtle bitterness in the finish. It shows the heights that Sangiovese planted in the right place can achieve.



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BERTINGA, TOSCANA IGT (TUSCANY, ITALY) "VOLTA DI BERTINGA" 2016

(\$169, Massanois): This 100 percent Merlot is equally expressive and explosive as Bertinga's Punta di Adine, just in an entirely different way. While Punta displays red fruit qualities, Volta di Bertinga is all about black fruit complemented by tar-like minerality. It's a wonderful red-black contrast. Though powerful and dense, Volta is not overwrought or overdone. It has an engaging suave texture and enlivening acidity that keeps it fresh and balanced. Its black fruit succulence and minerality was a delight even the next day after sitting opened on the counter. Bertinga is clearly a producer to watch.



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BERTINGA, TOSCANA IGT (TUSCANY, ITALY) 2016

(\$75, Massanois): Located in Gaiole in Chianti in the heart of the Chianti Classico region, Bertinga is a new venture. The 2016s are their first release. After tasting their wines, I have a feeling their success is not beginner's luck. Their 50 or so acres of vineyards are planted exclusively with Sangiovese and Merlot. All their wines carry the IGT Toscana designation. This one, a roughly 50/50 blend of Merlot and Sangiovese, is their standard bearer and carries the name of the estate. It's a broad-shouldered, muscular wine. Yet for all its size, it is by no means overdone nor heavy. It's just youthful and dense. An attractive subtle bitterness in the finish reinforces the mineral, rather than fruity, aspect of the wine. The tannins are fine and well-polished. Plenty of acidity keeps it lively. At this stage it's rather unyielding in contrast to Bertinga's Punta di Adine and Volta di Bertinga. The expressiveness of the other two coupled with the balance of this one indicates to me that the Bertinga just needs time in the cellar.



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