

2021 Bruni Maremma Toscana Poggio d'Elsa- Maremma, Italy

From Tuscany's Maremma region, a slice of western Tuscany that gets all of the brilliant "Tuscan sun" that makes Chianti so famous plus cooling breezes from the nearby sea. It's sometimes called the "California of Italy" because while Sangiovese (the main grape of Chianti and Brunello) is great here, so is Napa Valley's Cabernet Sauvignon. Here, the Bruni's blend equal parts Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon and aged about 30% of the wine in French oak casks. The name of Poggio d'Elsa is given "in onore della nostra mamma Elsa," in honor of their mother, Elsa Bruni. To this day, Elsa remains the true heart and soul of the estate. This wine is made with 50% Sangiovese and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. This super-Tuscan red blend shows notable density, gorgeous depth and richness, with soft tannins. Wet stone, fennel, wild herbs, grill smoke, strawberries and cherries all come together on the nose of this wine. A fruit-forward palate offers more red berries offset by crushed stones and herbaceousness. It's loaded with black cherry, plum, and black currant fruit aromas and flavors with a hint of cedar and tobacco for complexity. Juicy like Chianti, rich Cabernet Sauvignon. 90 PTS WE

Pairings: Pairs well with appetizers, all meat dishes and game.

2018Villadoria Bricco Magno Langhe Nebbiolo-Langhe, Piedmont, Italy

The enchanting and rolling hills of Piedmont are the source of some of the country's longestlived and most sought-after red wines. Nebbiolo is named exactly for the arrival of this preharvest fog (called "nebbia" in Italian), which prolongs cluster hang time and allows full phenolic balance and ripeness. Harvest of Nebbiolo is last among Piedmont's wine varieties, occurring sometime in October. Villadoria, a winery deeply-rooted in tradition is building a bridge to the future. Over the years, the Lanzavecchia family, winemakers for four generations, has witnessed the evolution of an area which has its most precious treasure in wine. Daniele Lanzavecchia turned over the winemaking to his daughter Paola. Her wines are the "new bridge" as they are softer, more elegant with integrated tannins while upholding the "iron fist inside a velvet glove" tradition of what makes Piedmont wines prestigious. This wine is ruby red in color with garnet highlights. On the nose it has violet, rose, vanilla and cocoa aromas. In the mouth it is warm, full-bodied, velvety, rounded and long lasting, with an all-encompassing, harmonious finish. Pronounced but well rounded, its woody note is due to ageing. 90 PTS JS

<u>Pairings:</u> Slow braised meats, including ragu and braised beef are excellent pairings. This wine can also be paired with burgers .