

CANALICCHIO DI SOPRA®

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO
2020

WINE  ALIGN
96/100



No riserva was made for 2020 because Francesco Ripaccioli was not sure it was the right thing to do and so it was chance to really concentrate on the Brunello. This means all of Vigna Vecchia Mercatale's fruit was used for the Brunello 2020. Far from an indicator that the vintage was poor but more so a philosophy (and a brand of economics) that speaks to making high quality Brunello Annata. That said it was a vintage of 80 percent production (compared to 2019) and so despite no Riserva this represents an average amount of Brunello. The result is more than the sum of parts, including a bit more Vigna Casaccia and also Montosoli. It is a time to sit back, stay cool and recognize the philanthropy of a wine that is unequivocally Canalicchio di Sopra. "An educational vintage" says Ripaccioli "to explain what Canalicchio di Sopra is, of elegance, opulence and roundness". More so than 2018, not quite the fullness and everything of 2019 and again, a vintage that represents the place. Might it be compared to 2015 – Yes, but actually no. It's just 2020. The acids are better, as is the energy, even while the sweetness is not. Salty too and with more potential. Drink 2026-2033.

- Michael Godel -