

Unit 15 Wine and Winemaking

* Glossary

Body: a full or substantial quality of flavour in wine

Challenge: to call someone to participate in a competitive situation

Achievement: a thing done successfully

▶ Brunello di Montalcino

Chianti Classico, Vino Nobile and Brunello di Montalcino form part of Tuscany's most prestigious wine denominations. They share the same predominant grape, Sangiovese, and all are produced relatively near each other geographically. However, Chianti Classico and Vino Nobile almost never reach the depth and complexity of Brunello. Brunello is the only one of these three wines that by law must be exclusively made from this native grape. In fact, Brunello and its 'junior partner' Rosso di Montalcino are the only wines in Italy that have to be made exclusively with 100% Sangiovese grapes. This is due to the fact that this grape variety in the Montalcino area is by far the best in Italy.

Brunello's entire production area centres around the comune of Montalcino. Of the 3,500 hectares of vines planted throughout the large territory, 2,100 hectares are registered to Brunello, 510 hectares to Rosso di Montalcino, 50 hectares planted with Moscatello, 450 hectares with Sant'Antimo and the rest planted with IGT (Indicazione geografica tipica) vines.

Top Brunellos have the **body** and finesse of the most prestigious world-class bottling from Bordeaux, Burgundy and Piedmont. Brunello has become the enological symbol of the luxury 'Made in Italy' brand. In a relatively short time, Brunello di Montalcino has managed to **challenge** some of the world's most prestigious and established wines. Given that until 1975 there were only 30 producers who collectively made about 800,000 bottles of Brunello, it has proved to be an incredible **achievement**.

Today there are about 250 growers and 200 bottlers, who annually produce around 8 million bottles of Brunello, with one in every four bottles destined for the US market alone.

(Adapted from: K. O'Keefe, *Brunello di Montalcino: Understanding and Appreciating One of Italy's Greatest Wines*, University of California Press, 2012)





Understanding the text

1. Choose the correct meaning. Remember to check the context.

1. Share means:

a. sostenere

b. prendere parte

c. condividere

2. Reach means:

a. contattare

b. raggiungere

c. estendersi

3. Demand means:

a. richiedere

b. desiderare

c. gradire

4. Challenge means:

a. mettere in dubbio

b. sfidare

c. stimolare

2. Find terms that are associated with the following words.

1., grape

2. partner

3. variety

4. area

5. territory

6. world-class bottling

7. symbol

8. achievement

Writing

3. Form at least six sentences about Brunello di Montalcino using the terms given as well as the verbs and word associations from the previous exercises. Your answers must be related to the text. One has been done as an example.

- Sangiovese
- Chianti Classico
- Vino Nobile
- Rosso di Montalcino
- Comune di Montalcino
- 3,500 hectares / 2,100 hectares
- Bordeaux / Burgundy / Piedmont
- 1975
- 30 producers
- 250 growers
- 200 bottlers

1. **Brunello di Montalcino shares the same grape variety with Vino Nobile and Chianti Classico, Sangiovese.**

2.

3.

4.

5.