

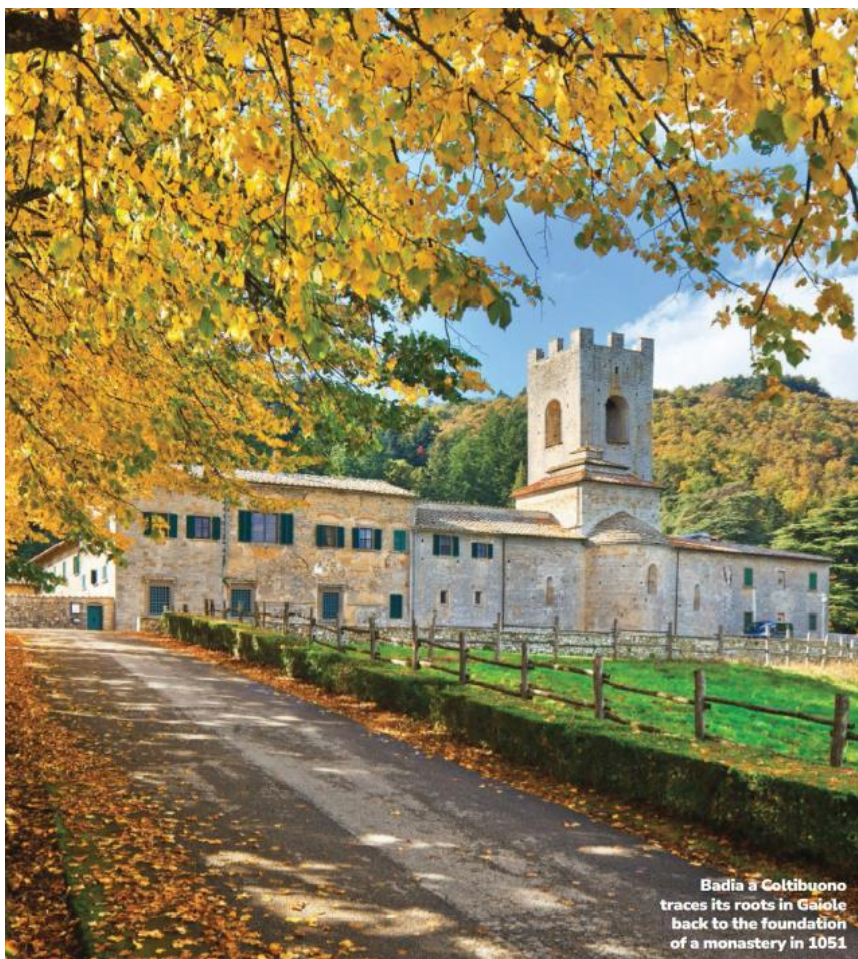
Chianti Classico latest releases

It can be hard to navigate the annual Tuscan Sangiovese releases, which span different vintages and styles. Start here, with our expert's view, and her pick of 30 recommended wines

REPORT & SELECTION MICHAELA MORRIS

Latest-release Chianti Classico: Morris' 30 highlights to buy

Wines shown are bottlings most recently released by producers and are split into three sections according to their style: annata (see p48, 'The 2023 vintage', for an explanation), Riserva and Gran Selezione. They are then listed first by points scored, then alphabetically by producer. UK or US stockists are shown where known – contact your regular specialist merchants for current availability and allocations



Badia a Coltibuono traces its roots in Gaiole back to the foundation of a monastery in 1051

Badia a Coltibuono 2022

92

Made since 1972, Badia a Coltibuono's ambassador bottling remains as true to its style as it does to expression of place. It always includes small but varying proportions of Canaiolo Nero, Ciliegiolo and Colorino. As evocatively scented as ever, the 2022 wafts with strawberry blossom, rose, mint and fennel. The palate is midweight and linear, with a profusion of minerals ricocheting from the red cherry and pomegranate backdrop. Powdery tannins provide a sophisticated backbone that grips securely on the finish without imposing. Organic.

Badia a Coltibuono, Riserva 2020

93

With a library collection that dates back to 1937, Badia a Coltibuono's Riserva is the estate's most historic bottling. Quantities were down in 2020 due in part to hot and dry conditions in the summer, but the wine's signature elegance endures. Demure and pretty, it entices with lilac, thyme blossom and tobacco. There's a sense of weightlessness, though no lack of flavour or density. Lavender-tinged ripe cherry is hemmed in by tight tannins. Classic but not dusty – and certainly not chasing any trends – this may not be the longest-lived edition but it's so appetisingly drinkable now. Organic.