

EN PRIMEUR FIRENZE 2019: A HISTORIC GATHERING OF PRODUCERS, NEGOCIANTS AND SPECTACULAR WINES The 2015 vintage is a historical year for Brunello di Montalcino that nobody should miss. The wines show impressive precision of vivid fruit, fine tannins and freshness in acidity despite their ripeness and richness which makes them some of the most exciting in years. The 2018 vintage is going to deliver some superlative Super Tuscans, while 2015 is one of the best years ever for Brunello di Montalcino and 2016 another hit for Barolo. These were our overall impressions from the inaugural En Primeur Firenze event, held on September 12, 2019, in Palazzo Capponi, Florence. Since 2016, JamesSuckling.com has published annual reviews of the top Italian wines from barrel. However, this year's tasting was the first of its kind to bring together a select number

over the world as well as from top chateaux through the region's global distribution network. Bordeaux negociants such as Chadronnier are selling more and more non-Bordeaux wines through the La Place de Bordeaux marketplace — from Chateauneuf and Burgundy to wines from California, Chile, Argentina and now Italy. They release new vintages of most of the top wines from outside Bordeaux in early September. "This is a fantastic event," said Pierre Antoine Casteja of Joanne, who attended the event and whose company is Bordeaux's leading negociant. He noted how the wines of Italy (VIK from Chile was also on hand) are increasingly popular among international customers of the Bordeaux wine trade. The 2018 vintage in Tuscany appears to have produced balanced and refined wines along the lines of 2005 or 2008. We tasted close to 100