THE BUYER
CONNECTING THE PREMIUM ON-TRADE

"Honey, we've just been gifted a 220 hectare estate in Tuscany!" The Tuscan estate of Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona is producing some of the most renowned Brunello and Rosso di Montalcino wines, along with a number of other wines using international varieties. Its top Brunello from the 2015 vintage has just been awarded 100 points by James Suckling and well it might – it's a beauty. At its UK launch winemaker Paolo Bianchini showed off all of his new wines to a select group of wine buyers, alongside those of another classic Brunello vintage, 2010, as well as divulge the incredible-but-true story of how his family came to own this historic estate. "When (my father) Giuseppe discovered about the heritage of the estate he was alone so he called the entire family together and told them 'let's see you all at home' and when he came he was quite

played by Burt Lancaster or Robert De Niro with the countess Elda Ciacci played by none other than Sophia Loren. The film would involve quite a few sunset scenes, naturally, cinematographer Vittorio Storaro capturing perfectly the purple hue as it dances off the plump bunches of Sangiovese that will be used to make the estate's top Brunello di Montalcino. But Ciacci is a real-life character, a countess who in the early Twentieth Century married count Alberto Piccolomini d'Aragona a direct descendant of Pope Pious II and lived in the palace which then became known as the Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona palace. Giuseppe Bianchini was the farmer of the estate who managed the vines, olive trees and the rest of the 220 hectares of this stunning Tuscan property. For years he worked tirelessly keeping the estate running like clockwork, even after the count died. But then on

orange, more so than on the other Brunellos. This is a new release or, as Paolo described it “My new son…growing up.” Ciacci Piccolomini d’Aragona, Brunello Di Montalcino 2010. Russet edges/ bricking; secondary character on nose and palate, woody aromas, touch of incense, mulberry; the palate is evolved and deliciously smooth. Complex flavours of ripe red and black fruits, soy, blood orange twist, Rumptopf cherries. Completely ready to drink, well evolved but could easily keep for another decade. Ciacci Piccolomini d’Aragona, Brunello Di Montalcino Pianrosso 2015. Only made in the very best vintages, this is a very special single vineyard Brunello di Montalcino from Ciacci Piccolomini d’Aragona and is a noticeable step up from the Brunello. Deep ruby-russet in colour; intoxicating aromas of ripe strawberries, dried cherries, liquorice, hint of black cardamom;