WEEKLY TASTING REPORT (OCT 5-11): ALL ABOUT THE BRUNELLOS, SCORING HIGH DOWN UNDER AND A KIWI WRAP-UP Tuscany's Eredi Fuligni Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2016 (left) and Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d'Oro Riserva 2016 (right) were the highest rated bottles in the past week's tastings, at 99 points each. This report covering our nearly 600 tastings over the past week contains a number of firsts for the year. The most obvious are the number of ratings for 2016 Brunello di Montalcino Riservas, the new releases from Napa Valley of the highly talked about 2019 vintage, and lots of Australia ratings, including many from Margaret River and Eden Valley. We already know that the 2016 vintage was a great one for Brunello, following the superb 2015. It produced wines that are more structured

Riserva 2016 and Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d'Oro Riserva 2016 . These two wines are ethereal in their presence, with sleek and intense tannins and diverse and complex character. They evolve wonderfully in the glass as you taste them and show incredible depth and focus. Other top wines included San Filippo Brunello di Montalcino Le Lucére Riserva 2016 , Castiglion del Bosco Brunello di Montalcino Millecento Riserva 2016 and La Magia Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2016 . This is your last chance to buy great Brunellos from 2016 with their January release, which we recommend if you love sangiovese from Italy's most popular premium wine appellation. And be warned, the 2017 Brunellos are going to be nothing like the 2016s, at least in most cases. 2017 was a hot and dry grape-growing season, and it