

# Kerin O'Keefe



**Three Decades of Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello Pianrosso** A riveting, age-worthy Brunello with class, energy and longevity. On the 30th of August, Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona held its first vertical of the firm's iconic Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso exclusively for [kerinokeefe.com](http://kerinokeefe.com), from 1993 to the soon-to-be-released 2019. It was a moving, memorable tasting and showed the dedication of the Bianchini family and the great vocation of the village of Castelnuovo dell'Abate. I was extremely impressed by the wines. Despite the different vintages, including the last two decades of challenging years, the product of climate change, the estate's classically crafted Brunellos all showed a family resemblance. They have body, structure and elegance that beautifully encapsulate the gentle hand of Paolo Bianchini and since 2015 also his son Alex and their

estate makes classically crafted, mesmerizing Brunellos. The property extends over 220ha including nearly 60ha of vineyards, 43 of which are dedicated to Sangiovese. Set in an open valley among rolling vine-covered hills and olives groves, it also boasts a breathtaking view of Mont Amiata. Vineyards here benefit from the southwest exposures, constant breezes and a mild micro-climate. Run by brother and sister team Paolo and Lucia Bianchini, the firm has long made some of my top scoring wines from the denomination. Paolo, who follows the vineyards and the cellars and Lucia, who runs the administrative side of the company, are joined by Paolo's children Alex and Ester. Alex works with Paolo on the production side and in the vineyards while Ester is in charge of public relations and marketing. The firm, which has been certified organic in the vineyards starting

pressed rose petal, menthol and new leather. It's also delicious, delivering dried cherry, licorice, tobacco and nutmeg wrapped up in smooth, tightly-woven tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it bright and balanced. Drink through 2036 Abv: 14% Kerin O'Keefe October 2023 ©kerinokeefe.com 95 Ciacchi Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso 2003 This was the surprise of the vertical. Nothing cooked or tired about this full-bodied beauty despite the scorching vintage that heralded the beginning of climate change. It's velvety, enveloping and shockingly fresh, with sensations of ripe cherry, pipe tobacco, flint and forest floor as well as licorice, orange zest and hints of carob. Drink through 2028. Abv: 14.5% Kerin O'Keefe October 2023 ©kerinokeefe.com 95 Ciacchi Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso 2004 The 2004 Pianrosso wows with aromas of

Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso 2018 The impressive 2018 Pianrosso opens with classic aromas of new leather, underbrush, baking spice and mint. On the full-bodied, elegantly structured palate, enveloping, velvety tannins accompany dried cherry, raspberry compote, spiced cranberry, truffle and vanilla before a pipe tobacco close. Fresh acidity provides excellent balance. Drink 2025–2038. A superb wine. Abv: 14.5% Kerin O'Keefe October 2023 ©kerinokeefe.com 100 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso 2019 Boasting great depth and extreme elegance, the drop-dead gorgeous Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Pianrosso delivers crushed raspberry, succulent Morello cherry, star anise and crushed mint flavors while aromas of eucalyptus, wild rose, new leather and forest floor continuously lift out of the glass. It's a 1/1