



CAGGIO

# IPSUS

2020

Jeweled ruby in colour, each step though the palate adds another layer of nuance and enjoyment. Riven through with sage, thyme, rosemary, raspberries, red cherries, black tea, bay, saffron, oyster shell and fine but creamy tannins. Sums up the idea of balanced fruit, tannins and acidity in a way that can sound overly simple but in reality is one of the hardest things to achieve - but you know it when you taste it. Stainless steel fermentation with native yeasts that begin fermentation naturally, aged across a mix of 70% new oak, 20% in 1,500l oak barrels and the final 10% in ceramic vats. Once the blend of different formats takes place, the wine spends another six months in ceramic vats, followed by 14 months in bottle.

## 100 PTS. JANE ANSON

Ipsus 2020 (Chianti Classico Gran Selezione; 100% Sangiovese; for October release; bottled for just over a year; pH 3.39; 13.6% alcohol). A little more serious. Denser. More compact. A wine of incredible power for something so lithe and limpid and, again, viscous and crystalline. There's plunge-pool clarity in the mid-palate. Pristine purity and precision and also great length and focus. So wondrously layered and beautifully pixilated - like a pointillist's brushstrokes. More ample than the 2019 with a broader frame, accentuating the sense of layering. A further sublimation, with the learning curve meeting the sheer quality of the vintage! Juicy and sapid. An utterly beautiful wine fully indicative of the potential of this enticing project.

## 100 PTS. DRINK BUSINESS

Unique aromas of hibiscus, cherries, violets, sandalwood and lychees. Subtle and complex. Full-bodied with very fine tannins that caress your mouth and leave a creamy impression. The tannins melt into the wine. Peach, citrus and cherry character at the end. It's intensely fruity yet extremely refined and poised. A superb Chianti Classico. Gorgeous to drink now, but will be even better from 2027.

## 99 PTS. JAMES SUCKLING

This is a special limited-production project imagined by the Mazzei family in Castellina in Chianti. This noble clan owns some of the area's most promising vineyards, including the legendary, forest-lined Siepi. Not too far away is the spine of a hill that extends over to the Sangiovese vines used to make this wine. The Caggio 2020 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ipsus is engineered to produce fruit brightness, freshness and transparency. The wine succeeds each year I have tasted it (with the first vintage being 2015), but I think special props should be given in a vintage like 2020, which veered toward the warm side of the spectrum. Indeed, Ipsus offers primary fruit first and foremost; however, hints of smoke and light spice also appear. There is cherry versus cumin seed or cassis versus cardamom. The wine shows good fruit weight and length, despite its elegant frame.

## 96 PTS. ROBERT PARKER

The 2020 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ipsus is gorgeous. Cedar, sweet pipe tobacco, mint, dried flowers, spice and blood orange open first in the aromatics. Layered and quite broad, the 2020 exudes class. About 40% of the lots saw submerged-cap maceration, which added a sense of classicism. There is also an element of exoticism that is palpable. Pretty floral and savory overtones reappear on the finish. This such a distinctive wine.

## 94 PTS. VINOUS



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2019

[...] This 2019 is notably different from the superb 2018 (which, re-tasted at the same time, is absolutely flying right now!); the result of vintage as well as a tireless desire to adjust and refine the process. Giovanni explained that the difference was made in September, when the day-night temperatures fluctuated by almost 30°C, giving the fruit 'incredible depth' of flavour.

[...] Richer and darker in character than the 2018, the 2019 is slightly funky and wild, opening with super-fragrant pomegranate and potpourri, with an intense plummy, dark fruit core and silky tannins. It's soft yet vertical and sapid, with a long, creamy finish of savoury depth. Beautiful texture and incredible vibrancy.

98 pts. DECANTER

I love the aromas of cherry, orange peel and sandalwood here. Classy and aromatic. Full-bodied with tight and polished tannins that are precise and centered. It goes on for minutes on the palate. Needs time to open but already beautifully balanced. From 30-year-old vineyards on average. Drink after 2027.

97 pts. JAMES SUCKLING

Shows fine purity and intensity, from the focused cherry, raspberry, underbrush and iron aromas and flavors to the skilled use of new oak for structure, texture and hints of vanilla and toast. Opulent, yet sleek, powerful and stylish, this red is complex and long. Best from 2026 through 2046.

97 pts. WINE SPECTATOR

I have closely followed this wine since its first edition in 2015, and although the brand continues to expand on what is so far a limited track record, this is the best edition made thus far. A special project put forth by the Mazzei family of Castello di Fonterutoli, the Caggio 2019 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ipsus is a very etched and linear wine with an extreme sense of minimalism and definition that I find irresistible. Notes of graphite and pencil shaving are followed by wild fruit, blue flower and melting tannins. The wine is light on its feet. [...] The 2019 vintage is slightly more concentrated compared to 2018, with a darker quality of fruit. Some 4,500 bottles were made.

97 pts. ROBERT PARKER

The 2019 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ipsus is a very pretty wine. Sweet red cherry, kirsch, mint, spice, rose petal, cinnamon and chinato-like herbs all grace this exotic, quirky Sangiovese. Readers should expect a distinctive and unique take on Sangiovese. About 15% of the wine was aged in ceramic rather than oak.

94 pts. ANTONIO GALLONI VINOUS

17.5 pts. JANCIS ROBINSON



CAGGIO

# IPSUS

2018

2018 saw the introduction of ceramic vessels in the winery, along with the addition of another large cask. The 16 micro-vinifications this year took place completely in stainless steel using wild yeasts, then matured for 22 months in tonneaux (80% new) and 15hl barrels. It then spent eight months in ceramic (rather than the cement used in previous vintages) before bottling. This 2018 brilliantly combines the darker fruit of 2016 with the mega-freshness of 2015, finishing it off with super-fine tannins. Creamy, earthy and chocolatey notes are lifted by a balsamic waft, overlaid with ripe, sapid red and black cherries, a touch of black tea and a long, sweet, pure cherry and wild strawberry finish. Superb.

99 pts. DECANTER

Very perfumed with roses and other flowers. Spanish cedar, too. Medium-bodied with creamy and fine yet round tannins that go on for minutes. Super-fine texture. Juicy fruit. Succulent and so beautiful. Hard not to drink now. In fact, do. But it will age beautifully, too. Vineyards of 30 years or more. Drink or hold.

97 pts. JAMES SUCKLING

Hitting the market now, the Caggio 2018 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ipsus unfolds slowly in the glass to reveal dark fruit, cassis, spice, cured leather and pressed blue flowers. There is a touch of something exotic like a bay leaf or a hint of toasted cumin. The finish is silky and very smooth, and this wine is longer in terms of mouthfeel and more finely polished compared to the 2016 vintage that I tasted at the same time. Compared to 2016, this 2018 edition is aged for a slightly shorter time in tonneaux. It sees two months less of oak and a bit more time in cement vat. Also, the percentage of new wood was reduced from 100% to 80%. Fermentation is spontaneous with no added yeasts and submerged cap.

96+ pts. Monica Larner, ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

Broad and autumnal on the nose. Very soft tannins and still delicate. Lightly animal with the flavours still integrating. Energetic and a hint of smoke. Long.

17+ pts. JANCIS ROBINSON

98 pts. DOCTOR WINE



CAGGIO

# IPSUS

2016

*“Best Chianti Classico ever,”*  
*Wine Spectator*

Super perfumed, gorgeous aromas of blackberries, mushrooms and bark with dried flowers and crushed stones. Pine needles and flowers, too. Full-bodied and linear, very tight and long. So polished and intense. Great length. Superb. From the heart of Castellina in Chianti. Try after 2025, but already showing incredible clarity and focus.

98 pts. JAMES SUCKLING

Lots of red cherry is accompanied by a whiff of wood smoke and dried green tea, followed by similar flavours on the palate. The acidity is vibrant and crunchy, the fine-grained tannins still firm. A pure expression of Sangiovese; an elegant wine.

98 pts. DECANter

The fruit element is pure, evoking black currant and black cherry, matched to a savory side that delivers wild rosemary, iron, tobacco and eucalyptus notes. It's all tied together by vibrant acidity and refined tannins. A compelling marriage of power and finesse. Best from 2023 through 2042. 300 cases made, 60 cases imported.

97 pts. WINE SPECTATOR

The 2016 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Ipsus is the second vintage from the Mazzei family's Caggio property in Castellina. Soaring aromatics immediately announce a Sangiovese of real distinction and class. There is something wild and alluring about Ipsus that is hard to describe. It is at once incredibly polished and yet also quite assertive. Crushed flowers, cherry, pomegranate, blood orange, star anise and cinnamon add layers of exoticism as the 2016 opens in the glass. The 2016 is deep, full of character and incredibly persistent. If there is anything missing, it is a touch of freshness. Perhaps 32 months of aging (24 in tonneaux and 8 in cement) is a bit too much. Time will ultimately tell. This ambitious new wine from Mazzei is certainly going to be fascinating to follow.

95 pts. ANTONIO GALLONI VINOUS

98 pts. FALSTAFF

98 pts. DOCTOR WINE

95 pts. CHANDRA KURT'S WEIN SELLER JOURNAL



C A G G I O

# IPSUS

2 0 1 5

This is a fantastic new Chianti Classico from the Mazzei family, from a small estate near Castellina in Chianti.

Shows so many perfumes of cherries, strawberries, violets, spices and dried oranges that follow through to a full yet tight and very agile palate. Supple. Intense yet very fine tannins. Extremely long and polished. Drinkable, but better in 2021.

98 pts. JAMES SUCKLING

This red exhibits black cherry, raspberry, blueberry and mineral aromas and flavors. Dense and concentrated, yet supple and fluid, with a civilized swath of tannins and vibrant acidity backing the complex flavors. Long aftertaste. A terrific debut of a new single-vineyard Sangiovese from the Mazzei family. Drink now through 2038. 200 cases made, 30 cases imported.

96 pts. Bruce Sanderson, WINE SPECTATOR

The 2015 Ipsus, 100% Sangiovese, is compelling, not to mention a fabulous debut. A very traditional fermentation of three weeks on the skins, with post-fermentation maceration, and then aging in cask yields a decidedly old-school inspired wine with tons of structure, aromatic intensity and depth.

Rose petal, mint, blood orange and sweet tobacco give the 2015 striking layers of nuance.

This is such a gorgeous and inviting wine, and a tremendous first effort.

96 pts. Monica Lerner, ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

99 pts. LUCA GARDINI

98+ pts. MARKUS DEL MONEGO

94+ pts. ANTONIO GALLONI