

Ten Wines That Age Gracefully

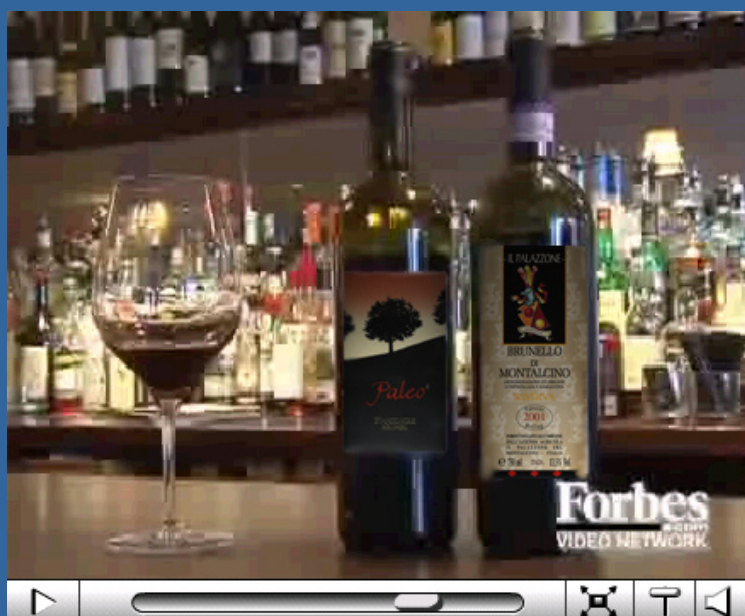
To find some good gift wines (\$100 and under) with aging potential, we turned to Shelley Lindgren, part owner and wine director of A16 Restaurant in San Francisco.

Lindgren focused on two types of wines from Tuscany: Brunello di Montalcino and so-called Super Tuscans, which are wines produced in Tuscany, but made from or blended with grape varieties that are grown in--but not native to--the area. Typically, super Tuscans contain one or more of the classic Bordeaux varieties (such as cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc), either exclusively or blended in some proportion with sangiovese.

Lindgren's top two picks, featured in the below video, are the Il Palazzone Brunello di Montalcino 2003, which comes from a vineyard owned by Time Warner Chairman Richard Parsons, and Le Macchiole Paleo Rosso 2000, a super Tuscan made only of the cabernet franc grape.

Il Palazzone Brunello di Montalcino 2003 shows classic Brunello characteristics, such as good balance of fruit and earthy, mushroomy flavors. The wine is a little higher in alcohol due to the hot vintage, but it's still balanced, and is drinking well now. It'll also mellow out a little as it ages over the next seven to 10 years.

Le Macchiole Paleo Rosso 2000 is made of 100% Cabernet Franc, a variety that's usually known for its green, vegetal flavors in cooler years. But in 2000, the Paleo Rosso is a rich, dense, fruity wine with a balance of acidity and tannins. It's already starting to show some age, but will continue developing for five to 10 more years.



“Brunello is 100% Sangiovese. 2003 was a very well vintage in Italy, but this wine is a little riper and this makes the wine higher in alcohol”.

-Shelley Lindgren

“Paleo Rosso 2000 is made of 100% Cabernet Franc, but in a more modern version. It is excellently made wine, with a very long finish and you can taste dusty earth and rich red fruits”.

-Shelley Lindgren