

**MONTE BERNARDI CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA 2008: 2 stars (out of 3)**

This is 95% Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo, from a vineyard that's lower than the Retromarcia vineyard, and also more steeply sloping. Fermentation is in steel and large casks. Pale almandine ruby with almandine reflections. The bouquet is fresh, and greenish, with slight balsamic accents and warmth mingled with deft spice, and held together by sour berry fruit. On the palate it's medium bodied and quite smooth, with lively sour cherry fruit supported by deft slightly greenish acidity and sweet tannins that flow into a pleasant cherry finish. Quite nice, and will be an excellent food wine.