

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s

**The  
WINE  
ADVOCATE®**

**ROBERT PARKER**

*Monte Bernardi*

<b>TZINGANA IGT 1997:</b>	<b>92 pts</b>
<b>SA'ETTA IGT 1997:</b>	<b>90+ pts</b>
<b>CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA 1997:</b>	<b>90 pts</b>

This Tuscan winery has fashioned beautiful wines. It will be hard, even in this top-notch vintage, to find a better Chianti than **Monte Bernardi's 1997 Chianti Classico**. Dense ruby-colored, with fabulous fruit, it unwinds on the palate to reveal expansive, sweet, black cherry and berry flavors intertwined with tobacco, spice-box, and dried herbs. With abundant glycerin and opulent texture, this barrique-aged Chianti is terrific. Drink it over the next 5-6 years.

The proprietary red, the **1997 Sa'etta** vino da tavola is a barrique aged, 100% Sangiovese. The dense ruby/purple color is followed by a voluptuously textured, medium to full-bodied, low acid wine with stunning quantities of red and black fruits. It should drink well for 7-8 years.

The Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc vino da tavola from Monte Bernardi is called Tzingana. While the elegant, spicy, restrained 1996 is very good, the **1997 Tzingana** is undeniably sexy, revealing a dense purple color in addition to a gorgeous display of blackberries, plums, licorice, and toasty new oak. Sweet (because of high glycerin and alcohol), with low acidity, and layers of concentrated fruit, this terrific proprietary red should drink well for a decade.