

MONTE BERNARDI CHIANTI CLASSICO 2004: 2 stars (out of 3)

Fairly deep black cherry ruby with black reflections and cherry rim. The bouquet is brambly, with spice -- nutmeg and some cardamom -- mingled with red berry fruit and greenish vegetal overtones; quite pleasant in a fairly traditional key. On the palate it's medium bodied and quite deft, with pleasing slightly sour cherry fruit supported by brambly tannins whose spice continues at length, gaining bitterness as the fruit fades. Pleasant in a tomboyish traditional key, and will drink quite well with succulent grilled meats, including lamb chops and other fattier cuts. If you like the style the bottle will go quite fast.