



SASSICAIA
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TENUTA SAN GUIDO

Tenuta San Guido New Releases February 2020

Armit Wines is excited to announce the release of one of the most iconic wineries in our portfolio: Tenuta San Guido and the new vintage of Sassicaia.

Rightly regarded as one of Italy's top estates, rivaling the first growths of Bordeaux, Tenuta San Guido spearheaded the relatively recent renaissance of Italian wines. When in the 1940s the Marchese Mario Incisa della Rocchetta and his wife Clarice della Gherardesca settled on Tenuta San Guido on the Tyrrhenian coast, he started experimenting with several French grape varieties. For years the Marchese dreamt of creating a "thoroughbred" wine inspired by Bordeaux.

The similarity of the terroir, the stony, gravelly soil of the estate convinced him that Cabernet Sauvignon would thrive. From 1948 to 1967, Sassicaia remained a strictly private affair – produced and consumed by the Marchese, his family and guests.

During the 60s, the Marchese Mario Incisa was urged by his loved ones to release this revolutionary wine, by the Italian standards of the time, to the market. In 1968, Sassicaia was finally released for the world to enjoy.

The Marchese Niccolò and his daughter Priscilla are now driving Tenuta San Guido's wines to new, exciting heights, continuing the innovative legacy of Marchese Mario.

The Estate

Tenuta San Guido is clearly divided into three main parts, with the wine occupying just a tiny fraction of the whole estate. The Razza Dormello-Olgiata thoroughbred studfarm and the Bird Sanctuary Padule di Bolgheri complete the array of activities that are carried out at this agricultural estate.

Stretching for 13 km from the sea to the hills near the medieval hamlet of Bolgheri, the vineyards of Tenuta San Guido cover no more than 90 hectares of the total estate. The specific parcels chosen to cultivate the vines vary in altitude, aspect and soil composition, adding to the overall complexity of the wines of Tenuta San Guido. Sassicaia has the honour to have been given its own DOC, the DOC Bolgheri Sassicaia, the first, and so far, only case in Italy of a DOC contained in one estate.

The estate yields are kept very low, 55-60 quintals per hectare, guaranteeing pristine grapes that will give life to elegant, age worthy wines.



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Tenuta San Guido

Sassicaia



TENUTA SAN GUIDO

		Price per case in bond
Sassicaia 2017	6 bottles	£850.00

Hailed a curvy, racy beauty from Antonio Galloni and a fascinating wine from Monica Lerner, Sassicaia 2017 is one of the most anticipated releases of the year. Sassicaia 2017 is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Cabernet Franc. In her preview assessment of the wine, Lerner describes incredibly well the tension existing from vintner and vintage and how, like in this case, the vintner comes out on top. Far from an easy vintage, 2017 has the merit to emphasise how incredibly special Tenuta San Guido's terroir and how skilled the winemaking team are. Despite sustained temperatures throughout the growing season and summer and very little rainfall, Sassicaia 2017 has retained remarkable purity, elegance and precision.

Another vintage-specific adjustment made in 2017 was shorter overall maceration times in steel tanks. However, pump-overs and délestages were almost doubled in order to introduce more oxygen to the yeasts during fermentations at lower temperatures. (...) This process champions the cool-temperature fermentations that are a hallmark of Tenuta San Guido, despite the heat of the vintage. This puts more emphasis on aromatic elegance and minerality, rather than mouthfeel texture or creaminess per se. (...) The 2017 Sassicaia was expertly built to withstand a long aging future, yet only time will tell if the beauty of the bouquet will evolve at the same pace. This fascinating wine magically captures the hallmarks of cool-temperature winemaking in one of the hottest vintages in recent years. Vintners, not vintage, won this round."

Monica Lerner, 94 Points, The Wine Advocate

"Vintners with experience such as that amassed at Tenuta San Guido knew exactly how to handle the tricky 2017 growing season. Fruit was harvested early to avoid any jammy sensations, and a strict selection process was employed in order to preserve the best clusters. This Sassicaia represents 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc, with most of the fruit coming from the Tenuta's historic vineyards Castiglioncello, Quercione and Doccino. These plots are all located on the back hill of Bolgheri at slightly higher elevations where they enjoy cooler night-time temperatures. Old vines also have a deeper root system that is key to braving dry and hot summers. You can absolutely taste those choices here thanks to the wine's aromatic profile that offers more variety-driven green highlights of wild berry, forest floor and bramble than I would have expected. With time, as the wine takes on more air in the glass, you get a hint of summer plum or cherry cough drop, and this, to my surprise, is the only subtle reminder of the hot vintage encountered..."





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Tenuta San Guido Guidalberto and Le Difese

		Price per case in bond
Guidalberto 2018	6 bottles	£150.00

An impressive release that speaks volume of the pedigree of Tenuta San Guido's wines. Guidalberto is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. A voluptuous nose charged with blackcurrant, black cherries, damson notes is rained in by mineral, almost balsamic hints of black olive, mint, tomato leaf and fresh black pepper. The exuberant nose of youth shouldn't distract from the assertive and confident backbone that is clearly evident when the wine had time to open up in the glass. With every vintage Guidalberto is becoming more and more on its own, exhibiting all the purity and elegance typical of Sassicaia with a touch of vibrant irreverence.

		Price per case in bond
Le Difese 2018	6 bottles	£80.00

The third wine of the estate and one that was produced since 2003, Le Difese is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Sangiovese. Fermentation takes place in stainless steel vats and it is then aged for 12 months in French and American oak barrels and for a further three months in the bottle. The younger addition to the range of Tenuta San Guido is a wine that is distinguished by generous fruit, lively freshness and joyous drinkability.

2018 is a firecracker of a release, marked by an open, aromatic nose redolent of red cherries, wild strawberries, thyme and dried flowers. A mineral, lively freshness frames a joyful, supple palate that burst with juicy notes of red summer berries, red apple skin and blood orange. A lovely, charming wine that is as enchanting as it is drinkable.



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