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Climate

The 2015 vintage was characterized by a winter of average coldness and by a spring which was both dry and mild. Both the bud burst and the flowering were in advance compared to the preceding year. The summer season, initially, saw an important increase in temperatures, which then returned to a better balance during the second half of the month of August. September, dry and sunny, assisted in bringing the final phase of the ripening process to completion in a gradual and total fashion. The harvest took place during the final ten days of September, and the crop was characterized by supple tannins and an exceptional integrity of fruit.

Vinification

The crop was picked by hand and, after a careful berry by berry selection process, the grapes were given a soft pressing and a cold pre-fermentation maceration of the skins on the must; the fermentation itself then followed. The wine went into new 60 gallons French oak barrels, where it went through a complete malolactic fermentation and aged for a period of 18 months. At the end of the aging period, but only after careful tasting process, the finest barrels were chosen and assembled for the production of the wine. Matarocchio then reposed for a further twelve months in bottle before commercial release.

Historical Data

The Guado al Tasso estate is located in the small but prestigious Bolgheri DOC, on the coast of upper Maremma, about one hundred kilometers southwest from Florence. This appellation has a relatively recent history, DOC Bolgheri was approved in 1995 and since then it has become an internationally recognized reference point for the Italian and international winemaking arena. The estate covers an area of about 320 hectares (790 acres) planted with vines, set in a beautiful plain encircled by rolling hillsides known as the "Bolgheri Amphitheatre" due to its particular shape. The vineyards are planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Vermentino. There is also a small presence of Grenache, Petit Verdot, Viognier and Sémillon. The nearby sea provides a mild climate with constant breezes that mitigate summer heat and alleviate harsh winter weather, maintaining a clear sky and a high level of sunlight exposure.



Tasting Notes

The 2015 Matarocchio is a very intense ruby red in color. The nose offers an unusually important complexity with hints of mint which fuse with notes of peppery chocolate, plums, and toasted coffee. The palate is full, enveloping, and long with tannins which are both silky and vibrant. The finish and aftertaste offer, once again, mint and dark chocolate. An exceptionally complete wine with a great aging potential, an authentic high level expression of pure Cabernet Franc.

Awards

James Suckling 97/100 USA **Antonio Galloni** 97+/100 USA **Wine Advocate** 96/100 USA