

Highlights From Bolgheri

Bolgheri is a young wine region and its pioneering wineries remain among the quality leaders. Below are brief profiles of significant producers, presented in order of the years they were founded, oldest to youngest. Notable vintages of their wines are featured, accompanied by official *Wine Spectator* scores, release prices and, where available, average current auction prices.—Bruce Sanderson

Tenuta San Guido

Founded: 1968

Mario Incisa della Rocchetta's successful quest to make a Bordeaux-style red at his Tenuta San Guido proved that Bolgheri had great *terroir* and inspired others, leading to what is today the Bolgheri DOC. Sassicaia, the signature bottling, has had its own appellation, Bolgheri-Sassicaia DOC, since 2013; 85 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 15 percent Cabernet Franc, it is the most Bordeaux-like of the region's red blends. The 1985, which I tasted non-blind in November 2017 from magnum at the winery, is one of the greatest wines yet made from Bolgheri.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Vino da Tavola-Tuscany Sassicaia 1978	95	\$NA	\$666
Vino da Tavola-Tuscany Sassicaia 1985	99	\$48	\$1,845
Vino da Tavola-Tuscany Sassicaia 1988	98	\$50	\$451
Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 1998	95	\$160	\$252
Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 2011	95	\$235	\$155
Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 2013	95	\$235	\$133

Grattamacco

Founded: 1977

Piermario Meletti Cavallari was inspired by Sassicaia, but he took a different approach, at first blending equal parts Sangiovese with Cabernet Sauvignon; since the 1995 vintage, the blend is 65 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 percent Merlot and 15 percent Sangiovese. Grattamacco's hillside vineyards lend a more Tuscan and Mediterranean character to its wines. The winemaking is traditional: Fermentation occurs in oak vats, followed by a long maceration on the skins in stainless steel, then aging in barrel.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Vino da Tavola-Tuscany Red 1990	93	\$NA	\$NA



Albiera Antinori at her family's Tenuta Guado al Tasso

Bolgheri Superiore 1997	93	\$60	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore 2010	94	\$105	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore 2013	94	\$108	\$NA
Bolgheri 2015	92	\$30	\$NA

Ornellaia

Founded: 1981

Lodovico Antinori was an early believer in Bolgheri. He enlisted André Tchelistcheff, and later Michel Rolland, to produce a Bordeaux blend that quickly received critical acclaim. At first, the wine relied heavily on Cabernet Sauvignon, with Merlot and Cabernet Franc in subordinate roles. The percentage of Merlot increased with the 1997 vintage, and in 2003, Petit Verdot was added. The current vintage, 2014, is almost equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot (together 66 percent of the blend), with 20 percent Petit Verdot and the remainder Cabernet Franc. Ornellaia 1998 was *Wine Spectator's* Wine of the Year in 2001.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Vino da Tavola-Tuscany Ornellaia 1988	93	\$49	\$236
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore Ornellaia 1998	96	\$110	\$213
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore Ornellaia 2007	97	\$200	\$174
Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore 2013	93	\$240	\$122

Masseto

Founded: 1981

Masseto grew out of Ornellaia to become Italy's greatest Merlot and one of the world's great wines. Made from a dedicated vineyard since 1987, Masseto has been an independent brand since 2009; a new winery devoted to the bottling should be ready for the 2018 vintage. Ornellaia became a Bolgheri Superiore after DOC revisions in 1994, but Masseto continues to carry the IGT designation.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Toscana Masseto 1998	97	\$200	\$698
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Toscana Masseto 2001	100	\$250	\$1,181
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Toscana Masseto 2008	93	\$500	\$615
Masseto Toscana 2013	96	\$700	\$589

Le Macchiole

Founded: 1983

Le Macchiole focuses on 100 percent varietal wines. Its Messorio rivals Masseto as Italy's best Merlot, while the Scio (Syrah) and Paleo (Cabernet Franc) are excellent expressions of those grapes speaking through the Bolgheri *terroir*. Le Macchiole's style is purity and finesse, and owner Cinzia Merli seems to make more refined wines each vintage. A Bolgheri red blend (mostly Merlot, with Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah) and the Toscana Paleo white (now 75 percent Chardonnay with Sauvignon Blanc) round out the range.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Toscana Messorio 1997	97	\$85	\$262
Toscana Messorio 2004	100	\$250	\$194
Toscana Messorio 2013	96	\$225	\$NA
Toscana Paleo 2011	94	\$110	\$80
Toscana Scrio 2013	94	\$180	\$NA

Michele Satta

Founded: 1983

Michele Satta is a believer in Sangiovese, and his wines emphasize the grape more than any other producer in Bolgheri. His Cavaliere is pure Sangiovese. Piastraia is one-quarter each Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sangiovese and Syrah; the I Castagni is half Cabernet Sauvignon, 40 percent Syrah and 10 percent Teroldego. Like Grattamacco, the Satta wines are strongly Tuscan and Mediterranean in style. The more recent vintages emphasize finesse over power.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Toscana Cavaliere 2004	94	\$75	\$NA
Toscana Cavaliere 2015	92	\$74	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore I Castagni 2007	92	\$120	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore I Castagni 2013	93	\$118	\$NA
Bolgheri Piastraia 2007	93	\$45	\$NA

Guado al Tasso

Founded: 1990

The largest estate in Bolgheri, Guado al Tasso is owned by the Piero Antinori family. Its Guado al Tasso Bolgheri Superiore is the flagship red, supplemented with two pure varietal reds: Matarocchio Toscana (100 percent Cabernet Franc) and Count'Ugo Bolgheri (100 percent Merlot). A Bolgheri DOC blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah is called Il Bruciato, and the range is rounded out with a Vermentino and the Scalabrone rosé.

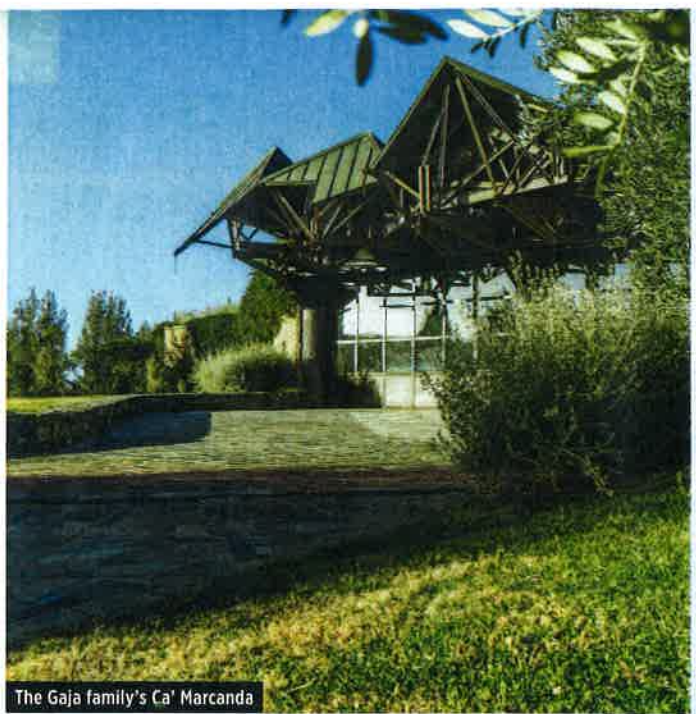
WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Bolgheri Superiore Guado al Tasso Tenuta Belvedere 1997	96	\$52	\$110
Bolgheri Superiore Guado al Tasso 2012	95	\$102	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore Guado al Tasso 2013	94	\$125	\$NA
Bolgheri Tenuta Guado al Tasso Cont'Ugo 2015	93	\$60	\$NA
Bolgheri Tenuta Guado al Tasso Il Bruciato 2015	92	\$31	\$NA

Ca' Marcanda

Founded: 1996

Angelo Gaja came to Bolgheri in 1996. He planted Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Syrah in different parcels on his Bolgheri estate according to the soil type and composition. The flagship Camarcanda initially was based on Merlot, but recent vintages rely mainly on Cabernet Sauvignon. Magari comes from different parcels on the estate; it is mostly Cabernet Franc, with Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Promis, a broader blend that includes vineyards in Bibbona, is roughly half Merlot, with Syrah and Sangiovese.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Bolgheri Camarcanda 2007	93	\$160	\$NA
Bolgheri Camarcanda 2010	95	\$170	\$NA
Bolgheri Camarcanda 2013	95	\$145	\$NA
Bolgheri Magari 2015	92	\$65	\$NA
Toscana Promis 2015	91	\$49	\$NA



The Gaja family's Ca' Marcanda

Podere Sapaio

Founded: 1999

Massimo Piccin makes two cuvées: Sapaio and Volpola. Since the 2009 harvest, Sapaio is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (70 percent), Petit Verdot (20 percent) and Cabernet Franc. Volpola, a more approachable style, relies on the same percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon as Sapaio, with equal parts Merlot and Petit Verdot. Consulting enologist Carlo Ferrini has advised Piccin from the debut 2004 vintage. From 2015, Sapaio will include grapes from neighboring Bibbona in the blend and therefore indicate Toscana IGT on the label rather than Bolgheri Superiore DOC.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Bolgheri Superiore 2004	95	\$66	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore 2009	94	\$80	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore 2013	92	\$75	\$NA
Bolgheri Volpola 2012	93	\$35	\$NA
Bolgheri Volpola 2015	92	\$35	\$NA

Poggio al Tesoro

Founded: 2001

The Allegrini family, vintners from the Veneto, founded Poggio al Tesoro in 2001. Since then, they have planted vineyards in Felciaino and Le Grottine, above the Strada Bolgherese, and Le Sondaia, at the northern end of the DOC. From Bolgheri, Dedicato a Walter is 100 percent Cabernet Franc; Sondaia blends Cabernet Sauvignon (65 percent), Merlot (25 percent) and Cabernet Franc. The top reds offer plenty of ripe fruit, muscular textures and elements of herbs and Mediterranean vegetation. The most recent plantings have been in Bibbona: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Viognier.

WINE	SCORE	RELEASE PRICE	CURRENT PRICE
Bolgheri Superiore Dedicato a Walter 2011	94	\$99	\$NA
Bolgheri Sondaia 2008	93	\$35	\$NA
Bolgheri Superiore Sondaia 2013	92	\$55	\$NA
Vermentino Toscana Solosole 2015	90	\$23	\$NA