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Annate

ARGENTIERA

BOLGHERI SUPERIORE
D.O.C.

2019

Merlot 50% / Cabernet Sauvignon 44% / Cabernet Franc 6%

The year began with a generally mild winter and not excessively rainy days; however, the month of January recorded a sharp drop in temperatures. March was undoubtedly dry, presenting little rain, and was rather hot: this anticipated the restart of vegetative growth which, however, has not been hastened thanks to a mild and quite rainy month of April. In general, the spring rains and the somewhat anomalously cool temperatures in May strongly delayed flowering and fruit set: this brought the plants to a perfect vegetative balance that has been needed to face the summer. The season was dry, but it has seen some rain that created enough water reserve and accompanied the veraison, avoiding the risks of water stress on the plants. The hot and dry weather in September guaranteed a slow and long maturation; the plants with exceptional productive balance have managed to perfectly ripen their bunches, which revealed excellent quality on average. Harvest began on September 6 with the Merlot grapes from the “Villa Donoratico” area, and it ended with the Cabernet Sauvignon harvested between the end of September and October 9. The wines reveal sweetness and great structure; all the varieties showed a rather marked acidity that makes this a well-balanced wine that immediately reveals its excellence.



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AMBASSADORS

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2018

Merlot 50% / Cabernet Sauvignon 44% / Cabernet Franc 6%

The year began with a generally mild winter and heavy rain. In February came the cold, with days recorded as low as -6°C , a rare occasion for the Bolgheri area. In spring, budding in April was delayed but without cause for alarm. Plentiful rains in May and June (178 mm) compromised the defense mechanisms of the plant in an already fragile phase: here, timeliness in the vineyard and the welcome exposure to sea winds were fundamental in the health of the vineyards in order not to compromise production. Summer was dry as usual, although average temperatures were lower than in recent years, peaking in the first week of August. Veraison was a bit slow, especially for certain varieties such as Cabernet Franc. The abundant spring rains guaranteed a long, slow maturation leading up to a sunny September that allowed us to arrive at the right maturation in each microzone. Harvest began on September 5th with the first parcels of Merlot, followed by Vermentino on the morning of September 18th. The end of September brought in the fresh and ventilated parcels of “Argentiera and Ginestre” Merlot, followed by Cabernet Franc. Harvested concluded with Cabernet Sauvignon, harvested between the final days of September and October 5th.



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After an extremely mild and dry winter, the vine's shoots emerged about 10 days earlier than the historical norm, followed by an abrupt slowing of growth due to a week with very low temperatures. A total absence of rain continued throughout the spring, a favorable situation for health and vegetative development. Water stress began to be worrisome during the summer, given the total absence of rain. On the most sensitive soils, the drought was feared to provoke blockage of the plants - a dire phenomena which was countered by careful monitoring and attention in the vineyards. Torrid temperatures continued through August, consistently soaring above 30°C, which led to an early harvest of various parcels of Merlot. Fortunately, September began with a rainfall of 30mm, followed by another of 40mm, ensure maturation for Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon without excessive concentration of sugars. Harvest ended with a parcel of Cabernet Sauvignon next to the cellar on September 26th, 10 days ahead of 2016. The production was 15% less than average, but the quality is very good with wines that seem to have absorbed the summer heat without suffering imbalance.



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2016

Cabernet Sauvignon 50% / Merlot 40% / Cabernet Franc 10%

A rather mild winter, with sufficient rains. Budbreak came early, and springtime was characterized by humidity. With the arrival of summer - warm, bright, and particularly dry - the growing period was slowed, favoring a thickening of the skins around the grapes, an accumulation of tannins and a rapid maturation of the seeds. In the Bolgheri area, the warm, dry temperatures extended through September, with a period of abundant rain that helped the Merlot and Cabernet Franc from the highest vineyards to produce grapes with an exalted richness and maturity. Today, the 2016 vintage - particularly dense and balanced - enters into the echelons of the decade's greatest vintages, along with 2010, 2012 and 2015.



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2015

Cabernet Sauvignon 50% / Merlot 40% / Cabernet Franc 10%

The 2015 will be remembered as one of the best harvests in Argentiera.

The winter of 2015 was not too cold, with plenty of rainfall, which however fell on only a few days. A mild spring came early, bringing temperatures within the seasonal average and weak, sporadic rainfall. The summer began on the same dry note, with particularly high average temperatures in June and July. Temperatures in August were in line with the average for the season, but abundant rainfall allowed the harvest to begin at the usual time of year. Cabernet Franc was harvested on September 18th, Cabernet Sauvignon on the 23rd.



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