Castello di Ama

Castello di Ama L'Apparita 2019 is a Tuscan icon, celebrated as the first single-varietal Merlot in Italy, delivering unmatched elegance, depth, and finesse.

CASTELLO DI AMA

L'Apparita 2020

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The **L'Apparita vineyard**, located within the Castello di Ama estate in **Gaiole in Chianti**, Tuscany, sits at an elevation of **490 meters (1,608 feet)** above sea level. This high-altitude vineyard is known for its **calcareous clay soils**, ideal for cultivating Merlot.

Originally planted in **1975** with Canaiolo and Malvasia Bianca, the vineyard was replanted in **1982** with Merlot using **clone 342**, one of the finest clones for producing high-quality Merlot. The vineyard employs an **open lyre training system**, enhancing sun exposure and airflow, which contribute to the grapes' ripeness and complexity.

Winemaking

L'Apparita 2019 is crafted entirely from **100% Merlot**, harvested manually from **September 5th to October 10th**, ensuring only the ripest and most balanced fruit. Fermentation is carried out using **indigenous yeasts** in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks, with fermentation temperatures ranging from **30–33°C (86–91°F)**.

The wine undergoes **28 days of maceration** with manual pump-overs, followed by malolactic fermentation in stainless steel tanks. Aging takes place over **14 months in 50% new French oak barrels**, with the balance in two-year-old barrels. This approach enhances the wine's complexity without overpowering its vibrant fruit profile.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep purple-red with violet highlights, impenetrable in its richness.
- **Aroma**: A refined bouquet of **blackberry**, **red cherry**, and **lavender**, layered with hints of **mint**, **sage**, **clove**, and fresh leather.
- **Palate**: Rich and elegant, with layers of **black fruit**, **juicy acidity**, and silky, gentle tannins. The finish is long and nuanced, revealing lingering notes of dark chocolate and mineral undertones.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Merlot

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Did You Know?

L'Apparita was the first pure Merlot produced in Tuscany, setting a benchmark for single-varietal Merlot wines in Italy. The vineyard's unique combination of altitude, calcareous clay soils, and open lyre training system ensures exceptional ripeness and balance, making it one of the most sought-after wines for collectors.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Wellington**: The wine's refined structure and rich flavors complement the dish's savory and flaky complexity.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: The earthiness of the mushrooms harmonizes with the wine's dark fruit and herbal notes.
- **Duck breast with cherry reduction**: Its vibrant acidity and dark fruit mirror the tartness and richness of the dish.
- **Aged Pecorino Toscano**: The wine's elegance and minerality balance the cheese's nutty and salty profile.

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2019)

One of the stars of Italian enology, this iconic wine is Merlot in name but Tuscan in spirit. The L'Apparita is a gorgeous wine and one that brings an enormous sense of excitement and energy to those who drink it. Its texture is soft and rich, yet the tannins are gentle and round. There is plenty of substance and structure here, however, with seamless layers of black fruit, cherry, sweet spice and tobacco. The wine's complexity is enhanced by elegant mineral tones and a subtle, menthol-like signature. Temperature control and careful pump-overs are executed, and great care is taken during harvest to avoid any overripe berries. Cool, calcareous soils with many stones serve to insulate the roots and lock in freshness. The secret of this wine is magic of site, exposure and geology. This is another collectors' edition of L'Apparita.

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 98 Points (2019)

The 2019 L'Apparita is incredibly powerful in this vintage. Huge searing tannins wrap around a core of dark-fleshed fruit. Incense, tobacco, chocolate, mocha, lavender and spice open, but only reluctantly. Whereas most 2019s in the Ama range are quite inviting at this stage, L'Apparita is a wine for the cellar. In other words, the 2019 is a tight, backward Apparita that demands patience.Rating:98+

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2019)

Enticing aromas of blackberries and violets with some fresh black olives. Fresh violets as well. Full-bodied and very rich and layered with velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Lingering flavors of dark chocolate in the finish. Powerful merlot here. Drink after 2026.