Antinori

Antinori Guado al Tasso Cont'Ugo 2020 is a bold and expressive single-varietal Merlot from the Bolgheri DOC , crafted to offer a fresh perspective on this celebrated terroir. Combining elegance and complexity, this wine is a testament to the unique character of Bolgheri's vineyards.

Marchesi ANTINORI
26 GENERAZIONI

94 James Suckling

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Merlot

Guado al Tasso Cont' Ugo Bolgheri 2020

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The **Guado al Tasso estate** is located in the **Bolgheri DOC**, a small yet globally renowned appellation on Tuscany's Upper Maremma coast, approximately 100 kilometers southwest of Florence. This region, with its distinctive **"Bolgheri amphitheater"**, is characterized by a plain encircled by gently rolling hills, which creates a natural microclimate ideal for viticulture.

The vineyards for **Cont'Ugo** are situated at altitudes between **45 and 60 meters above sea level**, primarily on **clayey-loam soils of alluvial origin**. These conditions are perfect for nurturing Merlot, offering both depth and aromatic richness. The proximity to the **Mediterranean Sea** ensures mild climatic conditions, with cooling breezes that mitigate summer heat and clear skies during winter, promoting balanced grape ripening. The **2020 growing season** saw a mix of challenges and rewards, including a mild winter, hot and dry summer, and well-timed rains in September, all of which contributed to exceptional fruit quality.

Winemaking

Cont'Ugo 2020 is crafted exclusively from **Merlot**, harvested between **September 3rd and 30th**, based on the ripeness of individual vineyard parcels. The grapes were handpicked and meticulously sorted before undergoing fermentation in **temperature-controlled stainless steel vats**. Fermentation temperatures ranged from **low temperatures** to enhance aromatic freshness to **30 °C (86 °F)** to maximize phenolic extraction and structure.

Following fermentation, the wine underwent **malolactic fermentation** by the end of the year, split between stainless steel tanks and barriques. The finest lots were blended and aged for **12 months in barriques**, with **10% new oak and 90% second-fill barrels**, before being bottled. To ensure harmony and balance, the wine rested in the bottle for an additional **3 months** before its release.

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Marchesi ANTINORI
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Guado al Tasso Cont' Ugo Bolgheri 2020

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Intense ruby red.
- **Aroma**: Vibrant notes of ripe red fruits such as cherries and raspberries, complemented by balsamic hints of Mediterranean scrub and subtle herbaceous nuances.
- **Palate**: A velvety entry leads to a full-bodied palate, with rich, persistent flavors of fruit and herbs. The finish is fruity and delightfully balanced.

Did You Know?

Cont'Ugo was developed to highlight a unique interpretation of Bolgheri's terroir through the lens of **Merlot**, a variety less commonly showcased as a single varietal in the region. Its name, **"Cont'Ugo,"** evokes a personal and distinctive connection to this exceptional wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Porcini mushroom risotto**: The wine's richness complements the earthy flavors and creamy texture of the dish.
- **Beef tenderloin with rosemary potatoes**: Its structure and balsamic notes harmonize with the savory and herbaceous components.
- **Grilled lamb chops with mint sauce**: The wine's fruit and herbal elements pair beautifully with the lamb's tenderness and mint's freshness.
- **Aged Pecorino cheese**: The intense flavors of the cheese are balanced by the wine's freshness and fruity finish.

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)

A fresh, tight and structured merlot with vibrant notes of olives, red plums, cherries, tobacco, orange zest and stones. Medium-bodied with chewy tannins. Lots of energy. 100% merlot. Drink after 2023.

92 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2020)

Spicy and peppery on the nose with new leather and graphite, this wine also offers wildflowers and berries. The palate echoes the nose but reveals more depth, with coffee, earthiness and richer fruit. Firm but flexible tannins and healthy acid provide the contours for a lengthy finish.

Marchesi ANTINORI
26 GENERAZIONI

Guado al Tasso Cont' Ugo Bolgheri 2020

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2020)

The Guado al Tasso 2020 Bolgheri Rosso Cont'Ugo is a pure expression of Merlot that has absorbed the ripeness and softness of this hot vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc have a proven track record in these ever-more frequent warm vintages along the Tuscan coast, but early-ripening Merlot can sometimes come off as too ripe and jammy. This wine walks a fine line, and although it never shows excessive softness, you have to wonder how much further it can be pushed in light of climate change. Dark cherry and blackberry preserves cede to cedar and baking spice. The mouthfeel is round, soft and creamy.