Castello Banfi

An icon of elegance and depth, Castello Banfi Poggio all'Oro Riserva 2016 seduces with its intricate aromas, firm structure, and remarkable capacity to age gracefully.

97 James Suckling

Poggio all'Oro Riserva 2016

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The Poggio all'Oro Riserva is crafted in Montalcino, one of Italy's most storied wine regions, celebrated globally for producing some of the most prestigious Sangiovese-based wines. The estate vineyards sit on a large plateau, defined by **well-draining soils rich in brown clay silt, pebbles, and calcareous stones**, creating an ideal environment for Sangiovese to express its full character. The Mediterranean climate here, marked by warm, sunny days and cooler nights, ensures optimal ripening while preserving vibrant acidity.

The 2016 vintage benefitted from a mild winter followed by a hot, dry summer with excellent diurnal shifts, allowing grapes to achieve perfect phenolic maturity. Careful vineyard management, meticulous green harvesting, and selective picking guarantee that only the finest berries reach the winery. **This focus on precision viticulture is key to crafting a Riserva with depth, concentration, and age-worthiness**, making it a true ambassador for Montalcino's terroir.

Winemaking

Produced exclusively in exceptional years, Poggio all'Oro Riserva is made entirely from Sangiovese Grosso, the local clone renowned for its structure and elegance. Following harvest, fermentation takes place in hybrid French oak and stainless-steel Horizon tanks at controlled temperatures of 25-30 °C. This approach preserves aromatic purity while enhancing extraction of color and tannins.

The wine matures for a prolonged period, with **80% aged in French oak barriques and 20% in larger Slavonian oak casks**, resulting in a sophisticated integration of oak nuances. The careful aging process, extending over several years, imparts complexity and silkiness, while refining the robust tannic backbone. This combination of traditional and innovative techniques underscores Castello Banfi's dedication to both heritage and precision winemaking.

Alcohol :15,50 %

Composition: 100% Sangiovese

Poggio all'Oro Riserva 2016

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Intense ruby red with garnet reflections, indicating concentration and development.
- **Aroma**: A captivating bouquet of blackberry jam, ripe cherry, tobacco leaf, cocoa, and subtle balsamic notes, offering layers of sweetness and depth.
- **Palate**: Powerful yet balanced, with an imposing structure supported by lively acidity and velvety tannins. Rich flavors of dark berries, sweet spice, and a touch of earthy minerality culminate in a long, elegant finish.

Did you know?

Poggio all'Oro, meaning "Golden Knoll," refers to a special single vineyard parcel considered among the estate's finest. The Riserva is only produced in vintages deemed outstanding, underlining its exclusivity and the estate's commitment to exceptional quality. **A testament to Banfi's pioneering role in bringing Brunello to the world stage**, it is a wine designed to evolve beautifully over decades.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Aged Florentine steak**: The rich marbling and smoky char of the steak mirror the wine's bold structure and deep fruit.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto**: Earthy flavors echo the subtle forest and balsamic notes in the wine.
- **Roasted wild boar**: Game meats bring out the wine's robust character and complement its spicy undertones.
- **Aged Pecorino Toscano**: The sharp, salty cheese highlights the wine's acidity and balances its tannins.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2016)

Perfumed with flowers, dark fruits and orange peel on the nose. Full-bodied with firm and integrated tannins that are chewy yet polished and focused. Turns muscular and toned at the end. Better after 2024.

96

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2016)

Here is Castello Banfi's top-shelf wine from an iconic vintage. The 2016 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Poggio all'Oro shows a dark ruby or garnet appearance. The wine is impeccably balanced, aromatic and powerful all at the same time. The bouquet presents etched aromas of wild berry fruit and cherry, and there is a good amount of earth, wild rose and grilled herb. The wine is broad and long-lasting on the palate (with 15.5% alcohol) for safekeeping in your cellar. Rating: </>96+

Poggio all'Oro Riserva 2016

Decanter (DCT) : 95 Points (2016)

Banfi was rewarded for waiting out the 100 millimetres of rain that fell mid-September, harvesting ripe, healthy grapes at the end of the month. With the 2016, the estate has deftly balanced the solid, substantial structure of the Poggio all'Oro site with generosity of fruit and depth of expression. Fresh plum and black cherry gain intrigue from coffee, violet, wet soil and cinnamon notes. A concentrated, dense Brunello that carries its proportions effortlessly, this is a credit to the ongoing work at Banfi. Ageing is in 80% large French oak casks and 20% barriques.