

Antinori

A Toscana IGT crafted only in exceptional vintages, Solaia 2021 offers complexity and depth: blackcurrant, blackberry, cocoa and licorice balanced by vibrancy and finesse.

Marchesi ANTINORI
26 GENERAZIONI



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Sangiovese, 9% Cabernet Franc

Solaia 2021

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

Solaia is produced from a **20-hectare vineyard** within the Tenuta Tignanello estate, located between 350 and 400 meters above sea level. Its **southwest exposure** ensures long sunlight hours and steady ripening, while cool nights preserve aromatic freshness. The soils are stony and composed of **Alberese (hard limestone)** and **Galestro (calcareous marl and clay schist)**, lending structure, minerality, and tension to the wines.

This vineyard, established in the 1970s, has become one of Tuscany's most celebrated crus. First produced in **1978**, Solaia is only bottled in the finest vintages, and has been withheld entirely in challenging years such as 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, and 1992. Over time, the blend evolved from an initial Cabernet base to include Sangiovese, giving the wine both international elegance and a distinctly Tuscan identity.

Winemaking

The 2021 vintage benefitted from a **long, balanced growing season**. Grapes were hand-harvested, destemmed, and carefully sorted before being delicately crushed. Fermentation took place in **60 hL truncated cone-shaped tanks**, with meticulous maceration to balance fruit intensity and refined tannins.

Malolactic fermentation was completed in barriques, enhancing smoothness and aromatic complexity. The wine was then aged for **approximately 16 months in new French oak barrels**, with individual lots matured separately before blending and further barrel aging. This approach emphasizes both richness and finesse, hallmarks of Solaia's style.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Intense ruby red with violet reflections.
- **Aroma:** Blackcurrant, blackberry, and purple plum; lifted by mint, myrtle, white pepper, cocoa powder, licorice, and powdered sugar.
- **Palate:** Rich, vibrant, and structured; silky tannins support a lengthy, elegant finish, with lingering flavors of dark chocolate and spice.

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Did you know?

Solaia is always produced in very limited quantities and **only in outstanding vintages**. It was originally born as a companion wine to Tignanello, yet it quickly gained its own iconic status. Today, Solaia stands as one of the most internationally acclaimed wines of Italy, often described as a perfect meeting of **Tuscan soul and Bordeaux-inspired refinement**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Bistecca alla Fiorentina:** the wine's power and tannic structure perfectly match grilled Tuscan steak.
- **Roast lamb with rosemary and garlic:** herbal accents echo the wine's aromatic freshness.
- **Wild boar stew:** the richness of game harmonizes with dark fruit, licorice and cocoa notes.
- **Aged Parmigiano Reggiano:** umami and nuttiness resonate with Solaia's length and depth.

100 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 100 Points (2021)

Antinori's 2021 Solaia is another wine that captures all of the potential I sensed when I tasted it some months ago. More than anything else, the 2021 is a fine example of the style Antinori favors these days, an approach that favors finesse more than opulence. Dark plum, mocha, licorice, chocolate, spice, lavender and menthol build effortlessly in the glass. Oak and tannin are impeccably balanced. The 2021 spent 18 months in wood, three months in once-used barrels during the malolactic fermentation and then 15 months in 100% new barrels for the rest of its aging.

98 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 98 Points (2021)

A deep, dense red, drenched with blackberry, pomegranate, plum and sweet spice flavors. Iron, tobacco and wild herb elements peek through as this plays out on the finish under a strong grip of tannins. Shows terrific balance and length now, yet this should only improve after a few more years in the bottle. Superb. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2027 through 2047.

97

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2021)

All said and done, the Marchesi Antinori 2021 Solaia is a monument to perfect winemaking. This coiffed supermodel does not show a single hair follicle out of place. However, it doesn't quite have the same sex appeal of the Tignanello. In my conversations with Estate Manager Renzo Cotarella during this tasting, it was expressed this way: "Tignanello is unexpected. Solaia is expected." Whereas Tignanello is a wine of vertical lift and energy, Solaia is a wine of lasting power. The wine offers generous depth and layering with soft tannins and some of the spicy pink peppercorn you get from the 9% Cabernet Franc (added to 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Sangiovese). The finish is extremely velvety and soft, but I notice that the flavors seem to become sweeter and riper the longer this wine stays in the glass. This newest release will hit the market in September.