Barone Ricasoli

The Barone Ricasoli Casalferro is a sophisticated single-varietal Merlot that represents the power and elegance of Tuscany.

BARONE
RICASOLI

Casalferro 2019

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The **Casalferro** is sourced from three vineyards in the Chianti region of **Tuscany**: **Vigna Casalferro**, **Vigna Pecchierino**, and **Vigna Sodacci**. These vineyards are located between **400 and 500 meters above sea level**, offering Merlot grapes the ideal climate and exposure. Vigna Casalferro and Vigna Sodacci have southern exposures, contributing to the ripeness and richness of the fruit, while Vigna Pecchierino faces northwest, which maintains balance and acidity. The soils vary from **arenarie (sand and rock)** to **alberese (limestone)**, providing a mineral structure that complements the grape's natural softness.

The vineyards are meticulously managed, with **high planting densities** of 5,500-6,600 vines per hectare, and use a **spurred cordon training system**. This combination of altitude, soil diversity, and careful vine management allows for a Merlot that is complex and reflective of its unique terroir.

Winemaking

The Merlot grapes for Casalferro are hand-harvested and undergo fermentation at a controlled temperature between **24°C and 27°C**, ensuring a smooth extraction process. The wine is left in contact with the skins for **14-18 days**, allowing for an optimal balance of tannins and color. The long maceration adds depth and concentration, while controlled temperatures preserve the grape's fresh, aromatic qualities.

Aging takes place over 21 months in a mix of **tonneaux and barriques**, with 30% of the barrels being new oak, and the remainder of second and third passage. This approach integrates subtle oak influences without overwhelming the Merlot's fruit character. The result is a wine with a layered structure, showcasing refined tannins, and a smooth, polished finish.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Merlot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby red, indicating concentration and richness.
- **Aroma**: Complex aromas of ripe plum, dark cherry, and blackberry, with subtle hints of spice, tobacco, and cedar from the oak.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and balanced, with silky tannins and flavors of dark fruit, chocolate, and a touch of minerality. The finish is long and elegant, with well-integrated oak.

Did You Know?

The **Casalferro vineyard** dates back centuries, yet since 1993 has been dedicated solely to Merlot, marking a commitment by **Barone Ricasoli** to explore the depth and elegance of single-varietal expressions in Tuscany.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Bistecca alla Fiorentina**: Complements the wine's bold structure and enhances its savory notes.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: The earthy flavors of mushrooms align beautifully with the wine's rich, dark fruit and mineral undertones.
- **Aged Pecorino cheese**: The cheese's nutty, savory notes enhance the wine's depth and smooth tannins.
- **Lamb stew with rosemary**: The wine's complexity and subtle spice are an excellent match for the herbaceous flavors of lamb.

98 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 98 Points (2019)

Super aromas of fresh violets, black olives, crushed raspberries and blackberries. Hints of dried flowers, too. Full-bodied, yet compact and polished, with superbly crafted tannins that compress the palate, giving it a fine-velvet texture. Tight and focused. Most precise and sophisticated Casalferro ever. This needs at least three or four years to show what it has, but great potential. Best from 2026.

94

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2019)

The Barone Ricasoli 2019 Casalferro flaunts its potential in a classic vintage. Made with all Merlot, the wine's DNA is shaped by the variety, but territory also plays a huge role in this presentation. You know you are drinking a wine from Tuscany thanks to a delicate flutter of aromas that includes wild cherry, purple fruits, violet and spice. This wine lends an Italian personality to a French grape.

93 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2019)

A rich, dark expression of Merlot, this red walks the line between austerity and generosity, the latter gaining ground as this builds to the fine finish. Dense, with the tight texture working in tandem with black cherry, blackberry, iron and spice flavors. Best from 2025 through 2038. 750 cases made, 150 cases imported.