

Castello Banfi

A distinguished expression of Sangiovese , this Brunello from Poggio alle Mura embodies the unique microclimate and ancient soils that shape its powerful yet graceful character.

95 WineEnthusiast



Alcohol :14,60 %

Composition: 100% Sangiovese

Poggio alle Mura 2018

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

Located in the heart of southern Tuscany, Montalcino is renowned for its sun-drenched hills and temperate Mediterranean climate, offering perfect conditions for Sangiovese to express its noblest character. The vineyards of Castello Banfi, particularly those surrounding Poggio alle Mura, benefit from **rich continental soils** composed of reddish clays, rocks, and pebbles, promoting excellent drainage and encouraging deep root systems. The area's slopes and significant diurnal temperature variations during the ripening season allow for **optimal phenolic development**, crucial for building the wine's intense aromatics and firm structure.

The estate's zonation studies, begun in the 1980s, identified these parcels as ideally suited to Sangiovese, emphasizing clones that deliver concentrated fruit and refined tannins. This meticulous vineyard selection ensures each vintage reflects the singular personality of its terroir. The result is a wine that mirrors both the warmth of Montalcino's summer and the finesse shaped by its autumnal breezes, delivering a balance of power and elegance that defines Poggio alle Mura.

Winemaking

Poggio alle Mura is produced exclusively from Sangiovese grapes derived from estate-selected clones, a result of decades of dedicated research and selection since 1982. The careful vineyard work is complemented by a modern vinification approach. Fermentation occurs in hybrid tanks combining stainless steel and French oak, allowing precise temperature control (25-30 °C), which preserves the fruit's aromatic intensity and encourages gentle extraction of tannins.

The aging regimen further enhances the wine's complexity: approximately **40% matures in large French oak casks (60-90 hl)**, while the remaining 60% rests in **350-liter French oak barriques**, both for a minimum of two years. This combination imparts subtle oak nuances and rounds out the tannic structure without overshadowing the purity of the fruit. After aging, the wine undergoes additional bottle maturation, ensuring it is released at a stage where its integrated flavors and graceful power can be fully appreciated.

Poggio alle Mura 2018

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep, intense ruby red.
- **Aroma**: Vibrant notes of black currant and wild blackberry blend seamlessly with delicate hints of rhubarb, myrtle, white pepper, and juniper.
- **Palate**: A robust, full-bodied structure with silky, well-integrated tannins. Layers of dark fruit and spicy nuances lead to a long, persistent finish, showing both concentration and finesse.

Did you know?

Castello Banfi began its clonal selection project in 1982, identifying and refining the best Sangiovese expressions for Brunello. Poggio alle Mura was the first label to showcase this research, making it a **pioneering example of vineyard-specific Sangiovese selection** in Montalcino.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Bistecca alla Fiorentina**: The rich marbling and charred crust complement the wine's bold tannins and dark fruit core.
- **Braised wild boar ragù**: The gamey depth harmonizes with the earthy and spicy elements of the Brunello.
- **Aged Pecorino Toscano**: Its intense umami and saltiness highlight the wine's elegant acidity and persistent finish.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto**: The creamy texture and umami richness enhance the wine's aromatic complexity and balance.

95 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2018)

The nose is primarily herbaceous and minty, but fleeting streaks of astringent fruit and iron-rich soil add depth. The cherries and strawberries turn juicy and swell on the palate, but a welcome kick of heat and frenzied tannins and acid maintain order.

94

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2018)

The 2018 Brunello di Montalcino Poggio alle Mura (with 51,200 bottles made) shows balance and ripeness with a good combination of cherry, wild plum, blue flower, tobacco and sweet earth. The outlier is the 15% alcohol content. The wine is generous in texture and scope, yet it ultimately feels light and accessible to the palate. The tannins are well managed, but the wine's ample fruit weight feels supple and rich.

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2018)

This is a savory and mineral expression with aromas of dried and sour cherries, bark, tomato leaf and iodine. Crushed stones and sea shells, too. Full body with firm, chewy tannins. Some austerity but focused and linear at the end. Needs some time to soften and open. Try after 2025.