Antinori

Antinori Guado al Tasso Matarocchio 2017 is a masterpiece of Cabernet Franc , representing the pinnacle of winemaking in the prestigious Bolgheri DOC. With its complexity and elegance, it stands as one of the finest examples of this varietal from the Tuscan coast.

Marchesi ANTINORI
26 GENERAZIONI

94 vinous

Guado al Tasso Matarocchio 2017

Tuscany, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The **Guado al Tasso estate** is located in the **Bolgheri DOC**, a renowned appellation on Tuscany's Upper Maremma coast. Known as the **"Bolgheri amphitheater,"** this unique region is characterized by a plain surrounded by gently rolling hills, which create a natural microclimate ideal for viticulture. The nearby **Tyrrhenian Sea** provides consistent breezes, moderating summer heat and reducing the impact of harsh winter conditions.

The **2017 growing season** was challenging yet rewarding, with a dry and mild winter prompting early bud break. While other areas in Tuscany suffered from a late frost in April, Bolgheri's proximity to the sea kept temperatures above freezing, protecting the vines. A hot and dry summer limited vine growth and reduced cluster sizes, but well-timed rains in late August and September allowed for perfect ripening. Among the varietals grown, **Cabernet Franc** thrived under these conditions, achieving remarkable concentration and aromatic complexity without sacrificing freshness. The harvest took place between **September 13th and 21st**, yielding grapes of outstanding quality.

Winemaking

Matarocchio 2017 begins with a meticulous hand harvest, where grapes are carefully selected berry by berry on sorting tables to ensure only the finest fruit is used. After destemming and gentle crushing, the grapes underwent **cold maceration** before alcoholic fermentation, extracting the purest flavors and aromas.

The wine was transferred to **new French oak barriques**, where **malolactic fermentation** was completed. It then aged for **18 months**, with only the best barrels selected for the final blend. Following blending, the wine was aged for an additional **year in the bottle**, allowing it to reach optimal harmony before release. This process reflects Antinori's unwavering commitment to excellence and precision.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Franc

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Rich, intense ruby red.
- **Aroma**: A complex bouquet of **juniper**, **bay leaves**, **Morello cherries**, and **licorice**, offering a clean and pure aromatic profile.
- **Palate**: Despite the vintage's challenging conditions, the wine avoids overripe notes and instead delivers elegance, with exceptionally smooth, silky tannins. Its austere nature highlights its potential for aging and further evolution.

Did You Know?

The name **Matarocchio** is derived from a historic parcel on the Guado al Tasso estate, reserved for producing this single-varietal Cabernet Franc. This wine represents the heights of precision and dedication in Bolgheri winemaking, making it a coveted collectible for wine enthusiasts.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Wellington**: The wine's silky tannins and aromatic complexity complement the richness of this classic dish.
- **Lamb rack with rosemary and garlic**: Its herbal notes harmonize beautifully with the savory flavors of the lamb.
- **Aged Parmigiano Reggiano**: The wine's elegance balances the salty, nutty intensity of the cheese.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: Its earthiness and refined structure enhance the creamy texture and umami flavors.

94 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2017)

A gorgeous, young wine, the 2017 Bolgheri Superiore Matarocchio is rich and sumptuous, with generous dark fruit, chocolate, spice and torrefaction notes. Silky tannins give the 2017 a decidedly nuanced feel to match its mid-weight personality.

97

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2016)

The 2016 Matarocchio is a wine of muscle and brawn that opens to dark thickness and deep layers of black fruit, spice, leather and tar. If you like big and bold, this Tuscan Cabernet Franc will prove quite agile when pairing with coal-fired barbecued T-bone steak. This wine was produced in 2017, but it was not made in 2018 because the variety had a hard time reaching optimal ripeness. This full-bodied wine is absolutely linear and direct in terms of aromas; however, it shows fleshy succulence in terms of mouthfeel. It closes with midnight black notes of dried berry and exotic spice. (ML) (5/2019)

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Decanter (DCT) : 97 Points (2015)

Both the bud burst and flowering were early as compared with the preceding year. The summer season initially saw an important rise in temperature, which was then rebalanced during the second half of the month of August. The harvest took place during the final ten days of September, relatively early. A warm powerful vintage without the dryness of 2012 and with great potential. Matarocchio is crimson and super-restrained with straw, clove and oaky aromas on the nose, well balanced with fresh leather, fine herbal aromas, bramble fruit and savoury character in depth. It shows an austere palate; full, firm and chalky yet ripe, however it flows with the grace of the best Cabernet Franc.

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