Antinori

A benchmark Super Tuscan, Solaia 2020 radiates richness and precision, delivering layered complexity and extraordinary harmony that already delights but will age beautifully for decades.

Marchesi ANTINORI
26 GENERAZIONI

98 James Suckling

Solaia 2020

Tuscany, Italy

egion and Vineyards

Solaia originates from a **20-hectare vineyard** located at 350-400 meters above sea level within the historic **Tenuta Tignanello estate** in Chianti Classico. Facing southwest, the site benefits from maximum exposure to sunlight, balanced by cool evening breezes that extend the ripening period. The soils are a mix of **Alberese (rocky limestone and clay)** and **Galestro (marl and sandstone)**, which provide excellent drainage and impart mineral structure to the wines.

The vineyard, first planted in the 1970s, has become one of Tuscany's most celebrated terroirs. Since its debut vintage in 1978, Solaia has only been produced in exceptional years, underscoring Antinori's dedication to quality. The estate represents both tradition and innovation, linking six centuries of Antinori family heritage with modern winemaking vision.

Winemaking

The **2020 blend** is composed of **70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Sangiovese, and 15% Cabernet Franc**. Grapes were meticulously hand-harvested, destemmed, and double-sorted before being gently crushed. Fermentation occurred in **60 hL truncated cone-shaped vats**, with careful management of maceration to achieve balance between fruit concentration and tannin refinement.

After racking, **malolactic fermentation** was carried out in French barriques, enhancing roundness and aromatic complexity. Aging followed for approximately **18 months in new French oak**, with each lot matured separately before blending and further barrel refinement. This approach ensures both elegance and power, hallmarks of Solaia's style.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Sangiovese, 15% Cabernet Franc

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby red with vibrant clarity.
- **Aroma:** Exceptional intensity—wild berries (blueberries, raspberries, currants) layered with black cherries and plums; fresh notes of mint, myrtle, lavender, and licorice; completed by cocoa, dried fruit, cloves, and pink pepper.
- **Palate:** Rich and mouth-filling entry that softens into a velvety texture; fine tannins sustain a persistent, elegant finish. Aftertaste echoes mint, licorice, and chocolate, enhancing depth and harmony.

Did you know?

Solaia was first crafted in **1978**, initially from Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc alone. Sangiovese was added in later vintages, giving the wine a uniquely Tuscan identity. It is only produced in select vintages—skipped entirely in years like 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, and 1992—making each release a reflection of exceptional climatic and vineyard conditions.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Bistecca alla Fiorentina:** the wine's depth and tannins complement the succulence of grilled Tuscan steak.
- **Braised lamb shank with rosemary:** savory herbs resonate with mint and myrtle notes in the wine.
- **Wild boar ragù with pappardelle:** robust fruit and spice harmonize with the richness of game and slow-cooked sauce.
- **Aged Parmigiano Reggiano:** umami and nuttiness pair seamlessly with Solaia's complexity and long finish.

98 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 98 Points (2020)

Subtle and beautiful on the nose with currants, flowers and light sage aromas that follow through to a full body with ultra-fine tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Extremely polished and poised.

97 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 97 Points (2020)

Dripping with black currant, blackberry, black cherry, iron and toasty oak flavors, this red is suave and polished. Features flashes of tobacco and wild herbs that add even more detail as this builds to a long, kaleidoscopic finish. Presents civilized tannins that are well-integrated and provide structure. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc.

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Decanter (DCT) : 97 Points (2020)

Baked black fruit, ripe, fragrant and intense on the nose. Bright and sour fruit on the palate, quite a sharp initial tang from the high acidity before rich, sunny, ripe strawberries and raspberries come into play with liquorice, toast and cedar aspects giving the spiced element to the expression and graphite offering minerality. This is a powerful wine no doubt, bordering on too hedonistic at times - a result of the hot and dry summer, it's sensual, rich and flashy but the sense of control and layers of juicy freshness help balance the opulence with refinement. Clearly confident and charismatic, fans of this style will delight with Solaia in 2020. Made by Renzo Cotarella, Stefano Caraneto and Pietro Dogliani. (GH) (7/2023)

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