

LE MACCHIOLE

Le Macchiole has farmed their vineyards organically since 2002. Hand-harvesting and manual sorting are the norm here; a testament to the estate's steadfast dedication to quality. [Pictured: Le Macchiole's Vignone vineyard in Bolgheri]



Messorio 2017

Toscana IGT, Italy

ESTATE

Le Macchiole can best be defined as the "Boutique Bolgheri." The winery is known for its spectacular single-varietal wines — Syrah, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc farmed with the utmost attention to each bottling's "expression of the land." The winery continues to evolve in both the vineyards and in the cellar to allow the soil characteristics from this estate property to be the defining identity in the wines.

WINE

Messorio, a Merlot monovarietal, is the winery's crown jewel. Its initial vintage was 1994, and since then it has received extraordinary acclaim, including a 100-point score from the Wine Spectator for the 2004 vintage. The name Messorio refers to the ancient Tuscan practice of wheat harvesting, the most important time of the year in the Bolgheri countryside — once it referred to wheat; these days, it is all about grape harvesting.

VINEYARD

The fruit for Messorio is sourced exclusively from the Vignone and Puntone estate parcels. Yields are managed tightly through the use of low vigor rootstocks and drastic thinning of clusters.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Merlot

Fermentation: 25 days in concrete/stainless steel

Aging: 18 months in new oak barrique, 20 months in bottle

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2017 was definitely a dry year, with little rainfall and very low humidity levels. Spring brought above-normal temperatures, leading to a fast budbreak and growth until temperatures dropped slightly in April. Temperatures rose again over the following months and remained steady throughout the whole pre-harvest period. Harvesting was performed ahead of schedule, as compared with the previous year, giving nonetheless surprising results in terms of freshness and elegance.

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"The 2017 Messorio (100% Merlot) is classy and polished to the core. It is also incredibly young and not at all forthcoming. Messorio is a wine that needs a surprising amount of time in bottle to truly shine. I expect that will be the case here as well. Today, the 2017 is all about fruit and density. Time in the cellar should allow for its aromatics to emerge more fully. Overall, though, this is a fairly restrained style, in keeping with the showing of 2017 Bolgheri reds more broadly. All the elements come together so gracefully in this striking wine." - A.G. 12/2020

95+

95

Wine Advocate

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