

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]



Paleo Bianco 2021

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

First produced in tiny quantities for a local restaurant in 1991, Paleo Bianco today is a silky, mineral-driven blend of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc with loads of savory Mediterranean character.

VINEYARD

The fruit for Paleo Bianco is sourced from the Casa Nuova vineyard, which was planted in 2009 and the Ulivino vineyard, which was planted in 2016. The training system is single guyot and yields are notably restricted.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 70% Chardonnay, 30% Sauvignon Blanc

Fermentation: 10 days in neutral barrels (225, 300 and 500 liter)

Aging: 8 months (20% in new oak barriques and tonneaux, 70% in second, third and fourth passage barriques and tonneaux, 20% steel tank.)

Alcohol: 13%

VINTAGE

The year began with a rainy winter that saw higher than average temperatures, which brought about a slow start to pruning. Temperatures rose slightly in spring, causing rapid budding of both Chardonnay and Merlot, which in turn exposed those two varieties to a higher risk of frost damage at the beginning of April, when temperatures dropped to near freezing overnight for two consecutive nights. Thankfully, there was no evident damage as a result. Thanks to the water reserves accumulated during the winter rains, the rising temperatures during the second half of April brought about a rapid vegetative growth and constant development of the vine shoots, which continued through the entire month of May. The summer had a classic, positive start, with a slight delay of flowering, fruit set, and veraison due to the spring frost; the season ended with a very dry period that continued through all of harvest.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

The 2021 Paleo Bianco offers fresh acidity, creamy citrus and plenty of sharp mineral definition. [...] almost salty aromas emerge so gracefully. - M.L. 7/2022

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95

Wine Enthusiast

92

James Suckling

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