

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 2016

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 estate parcel. Yields are managed tightly through the use of low vigor rootstocks and drastic thinning of clusters.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Merlot

Fermentation: 20 days in concrete/stainless steel

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

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2016 was one of the smoothest years of the past decade. The season passed with no extreme weather conditions at all and the rain seemed to fall when the vines most needed it: abundant in March, normal in May and June, heavy in late July and warm and sunny weather from August to mid-September. The soils were repeatedly worked to balance the heat/humidity relationship in order to make the flowering and berry set stages easier. The growth of the bunches proceeded at a regular pace, the production was excellent and the ripeness perfect.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

99

"The 2016 Messorio presents an absolute textbook rendition of Merlot that can be read and appreciated in terms of the layering and overlapping textures of the wine as it rolls over the palate. [...] This is an incredible wine." - ROBERT PARKER, 5/2019

96

Vinous

96

James Suckling

93

Wine Enthusiast

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