

TENUTA
ARGENTIERA
BOLGHERI

2018

A YEAR IN REVIEW

APRILE

Wine Spectator,
“*Tuscany’s Napa*”
dedicato al territorio
Bolgheri - “a world-class wine region” -
a cura di Bruce Sanderson

L’articolo si apre con la foto in doppia
pagina di uno dei vigneti più suggestivi
di Tenuta Argentiera





APRILE

Wine Spectator,
estratto dell'articolo "Tuscany's Napa",
dedicato al territorio Bolgheri, di Bruce
Sanderson, dove vengono indicati i più
grandi produttori della zona



Argentiera's Federico Zileri

Stephane Dereoncourt, who established Argentiera's medocuous vineyard management and soft-touch winemaking, which includes whole berry fermentations. Once the estate was on its way, Antonio left the partnership.

In 2007, the estate completed construction of a modern winery. It's designed to resemble an old military fort, with commanding views of the sea from its hilltop position.

The winery has released small quantities of three varietal Bolgheri Superiore reds, from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. "It was a message," Zileri says. "To show what Bolgheri can produce in terms of the three main varieties."

Overall, however, Zileri believes the estate's future lies in Cabernet Franc, which he sees as the best interpreter of vintage and terroir. "In some years it is good and other years it is fantastic," he says.

In 2016, Austrian materials mgnistat Stanois Turnauer bought the estate. "By luck and coincidence," he says. Turnauer, 47, had fallen in love with Bolgheri on a family trip years earlier. He shopped for an estate in southern France and elsewhere in Tuscany, but returned to this coastal region.

"I said if I was ever involved in wine, it would be here," he explains. "I was really moved by the beauty of the place, and I was overwhelmed by the quality of the wines."

Podere Sapaio

Founded 1993
Owner Massimo Piccin
Winemaker Alessandro Nannelli
Consultant Carlo Ferrini
Annual production 2,500 cases
Vineyards 62 acres (includes 22 acres outside the appellation in neighboring Bibbona)
Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot

Massimo Piccin grew up near northeastern Italy's Prosecco vineyards and the Adriatic Coast. At 30, he was unhappy working as an engineer in his family's thriving construction company and convinced his father and family friend to invest in wine.

"My goal was to make a wine. I didn't care what wine," says Piccin, now 50. "I found a place my first time in Bolgheri, and I said 'I could live here.'"

In 1999, Piccin bought a farm and farmhouse on the central Bolgheri plain. He met Italian wine critic and journalist Luigi Veronelli (now deceased), who recommended highly regarded Tuscan wine consultant Carlo Ferrini for the project.



Podere Sapaio

farmhouse, the Knaufs constructed a gleaming, state-of-the-art winery and cellar, both entirely underground.

The Knaufs have aimed for elegance, and to achieve it they have divided the estate into 18 parcels for separate ventilations. They also harvest earlier than most of their neighbors. The most complex expressions—especially from gravel-laced soils—go into their Bolgheri Superiore red called Aninone.

Over 20 years, their biggest surprise has been the performance of Petit Verdot, which in warm vintages is used as the dominant component of the estate's Campo alla Sogghia Toscana red.

With the 2017 vintage, the Knaufs sought to up their game by retaining renowned Bordeaux consultant Stephane Dereoncourt, whose clients span the globe from Napa to Lebanon. "We had a good level, but the family wanted to reach an even higher one," explains Gagliardi. "With Stephane, we do an even higher selection in the vineyard, and we pick two to three times. It's another level of precision."

Argentiera

Founded 1999, purchased 2016
Owner Stanislava Turnauer
General manager Federico Zileri
Winemaker Nicola Canata
Consultants Stephane Dereoncourt and Julien Lavenu
Annual production 45,000 cases
Vineyards 355 acres
Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Syrah, Vermentino

Argentiera began as a joint venture between the fashion entrepreneurs of Italy's Fraloni family, who invested, and Piero Antinori, who brought his wine-business savvy. The estate is vast and isolated, 500 acres of vineyards, farmland and woods in southwestern Bolgheri. Its varied soils and microclimates include some of Bolgheri's highest elevation vineyards (650 feet) and some of the closest to the Tyrrhenian Sea.

"For a person like me who was an agronomist, a project like this was a dream," says Federico Zileri, who was hired to develop the estate and run it. Zileri, an Antinori cousin who inherited the historic Castello di Bolgheri estate, also serves as president of the Bolgheri appellation consortium.

At Antinori's urging, Argentiera hired Bordeaux consultant

After studying the soils, Ferrini recommended planting a typical Bolgheri mix dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon for two red wines. From the first vintage in 2004, the estate has produced a chewy, concentrated and approachy red called Sapaio and a more approachable when young version called Valcolico.

From the start, Piccin and Ferrini shopped for additional land, and today have more than tripled the original estate vineyards to provide a more complex mix for their blends. They have replaced some Merlot with Petit Verdot, a key component of both estate wines.

In addition, Piccin bought and replanted 22 acres just north of the Bolgheri appellation, in neighboring Bibbona's red clay soils. He has used the grapes for his flagship Sapaio, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, which he began labeling as Toscana IGT with the 2015 vintage.

"There is a big difference in our vineyards," says Piccin, who has converted the estate to organics. "The Bibbona soils give more structure and the Bolgheri soils more elegance."

Piccin and Ferrini and local winemaker Alessandro Nannelli worked out of a rented warehouse space for 10 years. In the 2015 vintage, they moved into a purchased warehouse in a small industrial park. They ferment on natural yeasts and blend grapes from 25 different parcels in the two wines.

"I don't have a favorite varietal or vineyard, because things really change from vintage to vintage," Piccin says. "I have thought about making a single-varietal wine, but in the end the best expression of our vineyards is the blend."

Campo Alle Comete

Founded 2016 (created as Villa La Pevolerie in 1993)
Owner Feudi di San Gregorio
Estate manager Jeanette Servillo
Consultant Stefano DiBisi
Annual production 12,500 cases
Vineyards 37 acres
Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Petit Verdot, Vermentino



Antonio Capaldo of Campo Alle Comete

Antonio Capaldo worked as an international investment banker before joining his family's Feudi di San Gregorio in the Apennine hills east of Naples in 2009. Capaldo dynamized the winery with a conversion to organics, an expanded portfolio of crus and intensive attention to the vineyards, led by northern Italian agronomist Pierpaolo Sirch, now Feudi's CEO. Capaldo also expanded the estate's holdings across Italy to Puglia, Friuli and Basilicata.

He turned to Bolgheri in 2016.

For Capaldo, 41, now Feudi's chairman, Bolgheri represented a chance to grow Feudi's market outside of Italy. Working in a renowned appellation with diverse soil types, a range of international varieties and few blending restrictions offered "an opportunity to show your capabilities in an area where all the important Italian producers are," he says.

So when he had the chance to buy the distressed Villa La Pevolerie estate from the Guicciardini Spozzi wine family, Capaldo jumped.

"It wasn't abandoned, but the vineyards weren't managed for maximum quality," says Capaldo, who brought in a new team for a vineyard-to-wine production overhaul. The team is also making an about-face in the winemaking, moving toward a fresher, more elegant style.

Campo Alle Comete operates from the previous owners' modern spherical winery, modeled after an Etruscan tomb. The new owners changed the exterior from glass to weathering steel, giving the place the edgy look of a rural spaceship on the Bolgheri plain.

With its Merlot-dominated vineyards on the flatlands around the winery, Campo Alle Comete has started an aggressive program of renting and buying stony hillside slopes for planting more Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc in central and far northern Bolgheri. "With different soils you have more opportunities to make choices," says estate manager Jeanette Servillo.

Today the winery makes a pair of reds, a white from Vermentino and a rosé, but envisions more small-production single-vineyard crus, as Feudi has made elsewhere.

"When we bought it, it needed to be revived," says Capaldo. "Our best work is yet to come."

APRILE

Wine Spectator,
"Building Bolgheri - Seven Producers Showcase the Region's Diversity"
articolo di Robert Camuto, dove Tenuta Argentiera viene indicata come 1 dei 7 produttori da tenere "sott'occhio"

MAGGIO

Wine Spectator online,
“10 overachievers from Tuscany”
a cura di Bruce Sanderson, che
nomina Argentiera Villa Donoratico
2015 uno dei 10 vini per *“good value”*
(92 points)

GENNAIO 2019

James Suckling,
premia Villa Donoratico 2016 nella sua
classifica dei migliori 100 vini sotto \$30



“Black currant, black cherry, wild rosemary and thyme flavors are accented by coffee and spice in this red.”

Vibrant, with a refined structure and a long finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot.

Best from 2020 through 2028.”

LUGLIO

Wine Spectator buying guide,
Argentiera Poggio ai Ginepri 2015
93 pts, “Smart Buys”

OTTOBRE

Wine Spectator con Tuscany
Tasting Report,
Bruce Sanderson classifica
Poggio ai Ginepri 2015 al primo
posto della *Top Values* categoria
Big Reds

DICEMBRE

Wine Spectator,
annuncia i “100 *Top Values*” per
2018, premiando Poggio ai Ginepri
2015 nella categoria “*Big Reds*”
dove Argentiera si classifica in prima
posizione, ed è l’unico vino italiano nei
Top 20 *Big Reds*



SETTEMBRE

James Suckling conferma la cantina tra le “rising stars” non solo di Bolgheri ma anche di Toscana, assegnando:

- 99 pts. ad Argentiera DOC Bolgheri Superiore 2015
- 95 pts. a Villa Donoratico DOC Bolgheri 2016
- 92 pts. a Poggio ai Ginepri DOC Bolgheri 2016



OTTOBRE

Wine Spectator, assegna:

- 95 pts. a Argentiera DOC Bolgheri Superiore 2015
- 92 pts. a Villa Donoratico DOC Bolgheri 2015
- 93 pts. a Poggio ai Ginepri DOC Bolgheri 2015



16 ARGENTIERA BOLGHERI SUPERIORE 2015

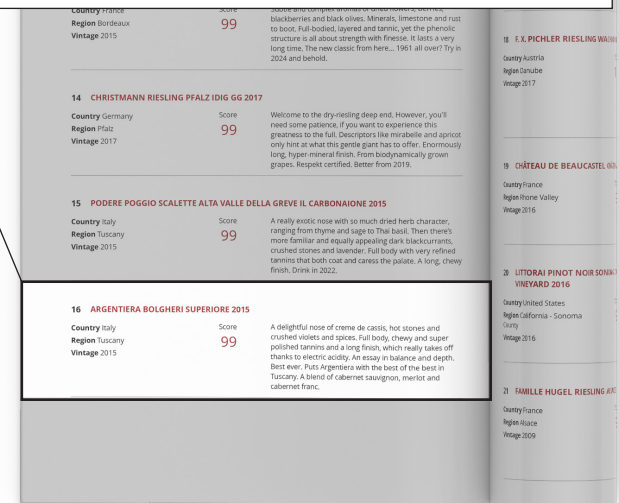
Country Italy
Region Tuscany
Vintage 2015

Score
99

A delightful nose of creme de cassis, hot stones and crushed violets and spices. Full body, chewy and super polished tannins and a long finish, which really takes off thanks to electric acidity. An essay in balance and depth. Best ever. Puts Argentiera with the best of the best in Tuscany. A blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc.

NOVEMBRE

**James Suckling's
Top 100 Wines of 2018,**
Argentiera Bolgheri Superiore 2015
guadagna il **16esimo posto** della
classifica, che include nelle prime 20
posizioni solo 4 vini italiani



NOVEMBRE

Falstaff,
la più importante rivista
enogastronomica in lingua tedesca,
assegna 97 pts. ad Argentiera Bolgheri
Superiore 2015





DICEMBRE

Vinum,
Top of Toscana 2019:
Bolgheri und Bolgheri Superiore
l'importante rivista specializzata
assegna 17,5/20 pts. ad Argentiera
Bolgheri Superiore 2015

DICEMBRE

100 Best Italian Wines of the Year, sabato 1 dicembre a Pechino, James Suckling annuncia il secondo posto di Argentiera Bolgheri Superiore 2015 dei tanto attesi *100 Best Italian Wines of the Year*, chiamandolo “un saggio di equilibrio e profondità”

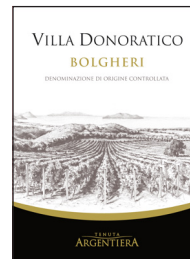


ALTRI PREMI



Argentiera DOC Bolgheri Superiore 2015

- Guida Oro, I Vini di Veronelli 2019:
96/100 - Super 3 Stelle
- Doctor Wine 2018 - Daniele Cernilli:
95/100 Punti
- Vinitaly International Wine Award:
5 Stelle



Villa Donoratico DOC Bolgheri 2016

- Doctor Wine 2018 - Daniele Cernilli:
91/100 Punti



Poggio ai Ginepri DOC Bolgheri 2015

- Doctor Wine 2018 - Daniele Cernilli:
91/100 Punti
- Robert Parker - Wine Advocate:
89/100 Punti
- Wine Spectator - May 2018:
93/100 Punti

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