

# 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 2019

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

2019 was a vintage with slow and very long ripening and with no excessive heat peaks. The spring season was fluctuating, characterized by a particularly cold climate in the last two weeks of March, with a steady increase in temperatures throughout the month of April, which contributed to a slow and gradual sprout development. In May, low temperatures, and a substantial increase in rainfall, led to a sharp slowdown in the plants' vegetative development. A particularly hot and dry climate at the beginning of June, combined with the heavy rains of the previous month, contributed to a flourishing shoot development on the plants resulting in clusters that required repeated and targeted green management intervention for the entire summer period. The harvest period started the fourth week of August and then continued with the Merlot grapes between the first and third week of September.

## Wine & Spirits

98

"Messorio took my breath away and lingered in my thoughts for days. The wine unfolds slowly, opening on dark plum and blackberry flavors that are drawn out by warm spice notes. Scents of violet and lavender emerge as the flavors continue to build and deepen, quivering with energy and tensile acidity. There's a Zen quality to this wine in its quiet confidence and superb balance, showing so much finesse and detail that it is tempting to indulge in it now, but I'd love to taste it in ten years, and again in twenty.." - S.J 4/23

97+

Wine Advocate

97

Wine Spectator

97

Vinous

97

James Suckling

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