



TENUTA SAN GUIDO

SASSICAIA 1985



Appellation:	Table wine (Vino da Tavola)
First vintage:	1968
Grape blend:	85 % Cabernet Sauvignon 15 % Cabernet Franc
Soil composition:	The vineyards are planted on plots of land with different and composite morphological characteristics, as well as with a strong presence of limestone. These areas are also rich in rocks and rather rich in clay and are located at an altitude between 100 and 300 meters above sea level, facing West - South/West.
Vine training:	Cordon spur system
Planting density:	Between 3.600 to 5.500 vine stocks/Ha.
Climate:	<p>The climate in the Spring was extremely consistent. Germination in the vineyards and of the individual plants also proved to be very consistent. Favourable weather conditions allowed for optimal flowering. A perfect vegetation cycle, favoured a proper development of the grapes and bunches. Secondary sprouting was not precocious, permitting normal growth control.</p> <p>The summer was very hot, with a good and somewhat hot autumn, in its beginning. We had little rain in the spring, while summer and early autumn were completely dry and hot.</p>
Harvest:	The grapes ripened quickly and the temperature during the vine-harvest was very high (35° - 28° C).
Wine making:	Wine-making was easy because not only was the gathering of the grapes done only during cooler hours, but the fermentation vats in the wine cellars were also cooled. A rather lengthy fermentation took place in 70 and 90 hectoliters stainless steel vats for 14 days. Malic acid content of the grapes was low due to the summer and autumn climate. The high pH then encouraged a rapid malic evolution that terminated within the 10 th of December.
Ageing:	Yugoslavian oak casks and Tronçais casks were used for the ageing. The ratio being 60% of the former, and 40% of the latter, with a smaller percentage of Allier. 65% of the wood was new while the remaining 35% had been used once or twice before. The wine remained in casks for 22 months because of its elevated polyphenolic content, although new wood was also employed.



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Assessments:

- * 100/100 points
James Suckling in the Wine Spectator
No wine has ever been as great as this from Sassicaia, and it is one of the best wines Italy has ever produced. It has an unreal richness and silky texture that exudes class, with currant, mineral and milk chocolate. It's full-bodied and very bright with lots of tannins and a powerful, superrich finish. The wine changes all the time in the glass. A symphony.
(June 1989)

- * 100/100 points
James Suckling
Currants, blackberries, black cherries and licorice. Mint too. So aromatic. Full and silky with a voluptuous style. So thick yet balanced. SO much going on. Layers of everything, just waiting to be discovered. It reminds me of 1959 Latour. There is so much love and sweetness here. This deserves its legendary status. Drink now and forever.
(Non blind at il Cibreo in Florence 30/10/2008)

- * 100/100 points
Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate
I have had this wine in tastings with 1985 and 1986 Bordeaux first-growths and top 1985 California Cabernets. In each tasting the 1985 Sassicaia has not only been my favorite, but the first choice of the majority of the tasters. Unquestionably one of the most compelling and dramatic Cabernet Sauvignons I have ever tasted, it continues to go from strength to strength. The color remains an opaque black/purple, and the huge nose of minerals, licorice, blackcurrants, and smoky oak is persistent and intense. With extraordinary richness, full body, unbelievable concentration, and a moderately tannic, opulent finish, this thrilling wine remains young and largely unevolved. It has at least 20-25 years of longevity.

- * 100/100 points
Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate
I had this wine in a blind tasting - I have had it frequently, and have never failed to give it a perfect rating. At the same time, I have often mis-identified it in blind tastings as the 1986 Mouton-Rothschild. In this tasting, the wine was phenomenal. The color remains an opaque purple. The bouquet is beginning to develop secondary aromas of cedar and truffles to go along with its intense cassis, black-raspberry, blackberry, tarry, toasty personality. Exceptionally dense, concentrated, and full-bodied, this wine possesses layers of concentrated fruit that are beautifully balanced by the wine's sweet tannin and well-integrated acidity. The finish lasts for nearly a minute. A monumental Cabernet Sauvignon, it is one of the greatest wines made this century. Tasting after tasting continues to confirm this wine's surreal level of quality. Despite being 11 years old, it remains youthful. My best guess for when it will reach full maturity is between 2000-2025. What a wine!

- * 99/100 points
Wine Spectator 2009