Appellation: D.O.C. Bolgheri Sassicaia
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 for older vineyards and 6.200 vine stocks/Ha for newer vineyards.
Climate: The climate was excellent for the entire year. Between late autumn and early winter, we had very rigid temperatures that favoured the vegetative arrest of the plants. From mid-winter to late spring the rainfalls were incessant, combined with temperatures slightly below seasonal average. The bud pushing, as well as the following phenology phases up to the flowering, started with little delay. The summer season was very good, with sunshine and temperatures above the seasonal average. Between late July and late August, the temperatures were higher than seasonal average but, thanks to the presence of water in the soil and to the accumulation of winter and autumn rainfalls, we did not have problems in terms of water. The difference in temperature between day and night was excellent ensuring a good phenological ripeness of the grapes.
Harvest: As a result of the favorable climatic conditions, the harvest was carried out regularly, beginning in early September and ending in the first week of October.
Wine making: The primary fermentation took place in temperature controlled stainless steel vats at a temperature of 30° - 31° C. The maceration of the skins lasted 15 days for both the Cabernet Sauvignon and the Cabernet Franc, with a combination of pumping over and délestage. The malolactic or secondary fermentation also took place in the steel vats.
Ageing: The wine is aged for 24 months in French oak barriques and a few more months in the bottle before being released on the market.
Assessments:

★ 99/100 points  Daniele Cernilli on www.doctorwine.it  
From Cabernet Sauvignon grapes with small amounts of Cabernet Franc. It has an intense and bright ruby color, with good concentration. The bouquet is already complex, fruity notes of blueberry are obvious, as are leather and spice, with hints of graphite in the background. The palate is taut, elegant, with fine tannins, barely perceptible, comparable to those of the great Pauillac wines, but with a greater smoothness and an envelopment that leads to a subtle finish which is also very long. I guess that it will reach perfection in only a few more years in the bottle, from five to thirty.  
(27/8/2012)

★ 98 /100 points  James Suckling on Hong Kong Tatler  
This is fantastic. Intense and super long on the palate. It’s ultra complex yet subtle with so much going on, with a beautiful balance and tension. It is full and powerful with a big juicy character that goes on for minutes. It’s also muscular, yet covered with pretty fruit. Hard not to drink right now, but it should be even better in 2016.  
(http://hk.asiatatler.com/columnists/james-suckling/new-vintages-of-sassicaia)  
(17/8/2012)

★ 93/100 points  Wine Spectator  
(15/10/2012)

★ 94/100 points  Guida “I Vini di Veronelli” 2013

★ 94/100 points  Antonio Galloni on Wine Advocate  
The 2009 Sassicaia is unusually big, rich and opulent. Layers of fruit saturate the palate as the 2009 explodes from the glass with a heady melange of dark berries, plums, menthol, licorice and new leather. This is an especially racy Sassicaia. The wine needs at least a few years in bottle to drop some of its baby fat. Despite its huge fruit, the 2009 is also pretty closed down and not anywhere close to being ready to show off its pedigree. Sassicaia is arguably Italy’s most famous wine, so it’s always great when it lives up to its reputation.  
(30/6/2012)

★ 3/3 glasses  Guida del Gambero Rosso “Vini d’Italia” 2013  
Rosso dell’Anno 2013 (Red wine of the year 2013)  
... the version presented this year is the kind to break the bank. Sassicaia '09 is just perfect. And every word can only seem unnecessary and restrictive in front of the magnificence of the wine. Complex nose, broad and multifaceted, crisp fruit, herbs and roots, berries, iodine. Tannin and acidity, bursting, structured and elegant, sinuous, a chiaroscuro that shows itself and retracts in a wonderful game of seduction. As we said, it is perfection. And for us this is the Red wine of the Year.  
(19/10/2012)