



SOLAIA

Classification

Toscana IGT

Vintage

2021

Grape variety

77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Sangiovese, 9% Cabernet Franc

Climate

The 2021 vintage from Chianti Classico will be remembered for a long slow-paced season: a vintage that promises power and finesse.

Temperatures during the winter months were not excessively cold and were accompanied by rain showers that lasted up until the end of March. The beginning of spring triggered early bud break, but cool, dry weather in April slowed down the vines' vegetative cycle. May and June followed normal weather patterns, not too hot with scattered precipitation that guaranteed excellent flowering and fruit set of all grape varieties in the Solaia vineyard. Overall, summer was hot and dry, especially during August but towards the end of the month, occasional rainfall provided ideal conditions for the vines to begin the ripening phase.

September and October were picture perfect: sunny skies, no heat spikes, refreshing breezes and cool nighttime temperatures that allowed the grapes to gradually progress to peak ripeness.

Overall, the 2021 vintage is considered to be one of the best vintages ever. Harvesting operations, occurred slightly later than average, began during the final days of September for Cabernet Franc and Sangiovese and were completed on October 21st with Cabernet Sauvignon.

Total annual rainfall: 707.8 mm (278.6 inch)

Average temperature April 1st – October 21st: 19.2 °C (66.6 °F)

Rainfall April 1st – October 21st: 251.6 mm (99 inch)

Vinification and aging

The utmost care and attention were given both in the vineyards during harvesting operations and in the cellar. Grapes were destemmed, meticulously selected on sorting tables, delicately crushed then transferred by gravity flow into vats. It was imperative that only the finest berries reached the 60 HI truncated cone shaped fermentation tanks. During fermentation and maceration on the skins, it was essential to maintain the right balance between fruity compounds and quality of the tannins to best express the softness, fragrance, identity, and character of Solaia. Immediately after racking, malolactic fermentation began in barriques, enhancing the complexity and pleasantness of the wine. Aging took place in new French oak barrels for approximately 16 months. The various lots were aged separately then blended and reintroduced into barrels to complete the aging process.



Notes from the Enologist

“One of the best vintages ever in Solaia’s history, thanks to a near-perfect growing season in terms of weather conditions, slow-paced during the most important phases that gave the wine complexity and elegance. Solaia 2021 already offers an outstanding expression of flavors and shows all signs of a long and promising period of aging in the bottle.”

Historical data

The Solaia vineyard extends over an area of approximately 20 hectares (49 acres) at an altitude between 350 and 400 meters above sea level (1148-1312 feet), facing south-west, on calcareous rocky soils rich in Alberese (rocky, clay and limestone) and Galestro (marl of limestone and sandstone) located on the *Tenuta Tignanello* estate. The Antinori family produced this wine for the first time with the 1978 vintage. Original grape variety ratios were 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc. This same blend was replicated in 1979 while for the following vintages 20% Sangiovese was added and some other adjustments were made to the ratio of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, until its final blend emerged. Solaia is only made in exceptional vintages and was not produced in 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984 and 1992.

Alcohol content

14% by Vol.

Tasting notes

Intensely ruby red in color with violet hues, Solaia 2021’s nose is remarkably complex: intense notes of small dark ripe fruit especially black currants, blackberries and purple plums that follow through to fresh hints of mint, white musk, myrtle and spicy notes of white pepper. Sweet aromas of powdered sugar, cocoa powder and licorice are seamlessly integrated. Entry on the palate is rich, enticing, vibrant with an excellent and well-balanced structure. Silky tannins accompany a lengthy finish defined by a persistent aftertaste with hints of dark chocolate.