

VERTICAL TASTING REPORT: CAIAROSSA TOSCANA

January 7th, 2015

Caiarossa has been making unique wines since the early 2000s, but it wasn't until Dutch entrepreneur Eric Albada Jelgersma bought the estate in 2004 that it started making world-class bottles. The businessman also owns Bordeaux's Château Giscours and Château du Tertre.

Located in Val di Cecina on the Tuscan coast, the vineyard covers 16 hectares, where a total of 11 grape varieties are planted. According to the winery, each grape is planted based on the soil type that suits it best. All are biodynamically grown. The area is about a half an hour's drive north from the legendary region of Bolgheri, home of such top wines as Sassicaia and Masseto, but a little farther inland.

The winery has two major labels of reds – Pergolaia and its eponymous Caiarossa – with the second being the predominant one.

The top wine of Caiarossa is indeed a 2009 Caiarossa Toscana, a fascinating blend of eight grape varieties namely, sangiovese, cabernet franc, merlot, cabernet sauvignon, alicante, petit verdot, syrah and mourvedre. Made from biodynamically grown grapes, the 2009 is the best ever, with fabulous depth of fruit and refined structure. It was immediately **hailed** by the winery's director and enologist Dominique Genot as "one of the best vintages" that it has ever made.

I think of the wines of Caiarossa as one of my "go-to" Tuscan reds because of their drinkability and complexity. And I love that they are made from biodynamic grapes as well.

In this vertical tasting report, we selected five vintages from 2006 to 2010. Each is scored more than 90 points. And expect to see even greater wines in the future from this superb wine property.

Below are the wines; click for tasting notes and scores:



CAIAROSSA TOSCANA TASTING NOTE

Score
93

A clean, refined red with cedar, strawberry skin and dried citrus fruit. Full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. Better after 2015.

Country Italy
Region Tuscany
Vintage 2006
Date February 18th, 2014

CAIAROSSA TOSCANA TASTING NOTE

Score
92

Lots of oak on the palate, with chocolate and spices. Coffee too. Full body, with velvety tannins and a fruity finish. A little bitter from the wood. But should soften nicely with bottle age. A blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Syrah, and Alicante. Best after 2012.

Country Italy
Region Tuscany
Vintage 2007
Date August 4th, 2011

CAIAROSSA TOSCANA TASTING NOTE

Score
93

Beautiful perfumes of roses and other flowers with dark fruits. Full body, with velvety tannins and a long, intense finish. Round and mouthfilling yet so balanced and gorgeous. Drink or hold.

Country Italy
Region Tuscany
Vintage 2008
Date June 7th, 2013

CAIAROSSA TOSCANA TASTING NOTE

Score
95

Best ever from here. This is a wine that is sexy and caressing with polished and very fine tannins. Full body, with cool and bright fruit and a long currant, mint and mineral aftertaste. Very fine indeed. A blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Petit Verdot, and Syrah.

Country Italy
Region Tuscany
Vintage 2009
Date August 29th, 2012

CAIAROSSA TOSCANA TASTING NOTE

Score
94

A full-bodied red with so much ripe berry and plum fruit that it verges on jammy, yet it turns out velvety and delicious. Will improve with age. A blend of cabernet franc, merlot, sangiovese, cabernet sauvignon, petit verdot, syrah, and alicante. Made from biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

Country Italy
Region Tuscany
Vintage 2010
Date September 4th, 2013

