



THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER'S BIMONTHLY GUIDE TO FINE WINE

GEMS FROM TUSCANY'S SPECTACULAR 2006 VINTAGE

BY ANTONIO GALLONI

Le Macchiole	2006	Messorio	98
Le Macchiole	2006	Scrio	92+

Like many estates in Bolgheri, Le Macchiole has some beautiful wines that are coming into the market shortly. I visited the estate at the tail end of the 2006 harvest and already the early buzz in the air was palpable.

The **2006 Messorio** (Merlot) is off the charts. This extraordinary wine possesses a breathtaking combination of super-ripe fruit that has been achieved with remarkable freshness, vibrancy and clarity. There is superb transparency to the wine's fruit, along with a sublime finish that lasts forever. Ideally a few years of cellaring are called for but readers will have a hard time exercising such patience. This profound Messorio from proprietor Cinzia Merli and oenologist Luca d'Attoma left me speechless.

The **2006 Scrio** (Syrah) is a rich, intense wine loaded with ripe dark fruit and plenty of toasted oak. With time in the glass the wine's signature floral, minty notes gradually emerge, yet this remains a vibrant, youthful Scrio in need of serious bottle age to integrate its oak.