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TASTING OVERVIEW OF TENUTA SAN LEONARDO

Tenuta San Leonardo is the property of Marchese Carlo Guerrieri Gonzaga. His family has owned this land in the Trentino area for centuries, but it was only in 1982 that Marchese Carlo decided to create a new wine. Richer in his experience gained at Tenuta San Guido during the first experiments, which led to the creation of Sassicaia, and with the help of the oenologist Giacomo Tacchis, he matured his best Cabernet based wines of 1982 in new French oak barrels. He knew success immediate and the first trial, 1982 Cabernet, is still showing well today.

In 1983, the way in which the vineyards was cared for changed and the vinification was adapted in order to make a wine suitable for longer maturing in barrel. From this moment, the story of San Leonardo really takes off.

The first great vintage was that of 1985, followed by the stunning 1988 and 1990 proved to be an excellent vintage too. Tacchis accompanied the team until 2000 and then Carlo Petrini joined San Leonardo as consulting winemaker. The style of the wine changed slightly to become more pronouncedly fruit driven and to show silkier tannins. However, the goal remains that of making one of the fine Italian wines with the best ageing potential. Meanwhile, Anselmo Guerrieri Gonzaga joined the winery and today is responsible for the wines and thereby continuing the tremendous story of achievement in the Vallagarina area, situated in the southern part of the Trentino.

1982 SAN LEONARDO

The colour is brick red with orange hue. The nose shows first signs of slight oxidation, but the wine is still pleasant with aromas of dried fruit, figs and prunes as well as roasted chestnuts. On the palate elegant with an almost sweet finish. 88

1983 SAN LEONARDO

A garnet red colour with brick red hue is characterizing this vintage. The nose is very elegant, still displaying fruit reminiscent of dark berries, black cherries and plums. In the background mild spices and a touch of roasted flavour. A well balanced wine on the palate with silky tannins and elegant fruit in the finish. Has reached full maturity now and is pleasant to drink. 90

1985 SAN LEONARDO

The first great vintage of San Leonardo is still pure pleasure. The colour is garnet red. The nose displays a wide array of fragrances reminiscent of mulberries and blueberries, a touch of blackcurrant and almost roasted sweet red peppers. On the palate a velvety mouthfeel with ripe tannins, still juicy fruit and excellent length are convincing. 93

1986 SAN LEONARDO

Garnet red colour with brick red hue. Nose with elegant aromas of vanilla and ripe cherry, well matured character with a touch of balmy notes. Tannins ripe and well integrated on the palate, structuring a well balanced wine with good length. 91

1987 SAN LEONARDO

Fine and ethereal summarise this vintage. The garnet red colour is slightly lighter. The nose is discreet, but persistent with elegant fruit and a touch of mild spices. Balmy character both in the nose and on the palate.

A wine with elegant aromas on the palate and a well structured medium length. 88

1988 SAN LEONARDO

Still lively garnet red colour with purple red hue. The nose is complex and rich but elegant. Aroma reminiscent of cedar wood, a touch of ripe, red peppers with notes of blackberries in the background. A wine displaying toasted aromas as well as mild spices. On the palate rich, but elegant with well balanced tannins and complex flavours. Well structured with excellent length, a fine example of this terroir. 93

1990 SAN LEONARDO

One of my favourite wines of the tasting and which illustrates the huge potential of the San Leonardo terroir. Dark garnet red colour with violet hue. Opulent

character with rich fragrances reminiscent of dark chocolate, vanilla, ripe plums and blackberries. Still closed after opening the bottle, the wine takes advantage from some oxygen for displaying complex aromas and a touch of minerality. On the palate the rich character continues, a touch of sweetness balances the tannin structure. A complex wine with excellent length. 95

1991 SAN LEONARDO

A great classic style with garnet red colour and slightly brick red hue. The nose displays complex aromas reminiscent of Havana tobacco, cedar wood, mild spices and a touch of dark chocolate in the background. The fruit is still present, reminiscent of rather dried figs and plums. On the palate this wine has a multilayered flavour profile with spicy and mineral overtones and a very delicate expression of fruit. A very elegant San Leonardo with well balanced and matured character on a pleasant finish. 89

1993 SAN LEONARDO

A garnet red colour but still a slightly purplish hue characterizes this vintage and displays remaining touch of freshness. The nose is quite complex with aromas reminiscent of elegant dark berry fruit, especially mulberries and elderberries, a touch of ripe red peppers, mild spices and wonderful toasting. With some oxygen slightly floral notes are opening up in the background. On the palate this San Leonardo displays freshness with elegant acidity, perfectly well integrated and ripe tannins, quite opulent taste and complex aromatic flavours. 90

1994 SAN LEONARDO

The typical, mature garnet red colour gives a first impression of this balanced wine. The fruit is quite complex with aromas reminiscent of ripe dark berries, a touch of quinces, enhanced by mild spices and slightly mineral overtones. In the background, the typical fragrance of ripe, red peppers contributes to the wine's complexity. On the palate there is a very convincing structure, complex character and good length. A wine with depth and elegance. 90

1995 SAN LEONARDO

Garnet red in colour, this wine displays a huge array of fruit aromas, such as ripe black cherries, dark berries, juicy figs, complemented by a touch of honey, toasted notes and ripe, red peppers in the background. On the palate this vintage shows a rich, almost opulent character with a touch of sweetness, ripe fruit and mild spices. A vintage with length and complexity, which creates a very appetizing style. 95

1996 SAN LEONARDO

A garnet red colour with a slightly violet hue introduces this 1996 vintage. On the nose this wine is very convincing with intense and rich fruit, aromas reminiscent of blackberries, mulberries as well as mild spices, a touch of vanilla and a slightly peppery character. Aromas of ripe red peppers are in the background. On the palate 1996 is rich and opulent, with excellent length and concentrated depth, still maintaining the classic and elegant approach of San Leonardo. 94

1997 SAN LEONARDO

One of the greatest San Leonardo ever. The dark garnet red colour with slightly purple tinges proves the freshness of this vintage. The nose is rich and elegant with multilayered fragrances reminiscent of elderberries and mulberries with slightly smoky components and elegant toasting aromas. Sweet, ripe red pepper aromas in the background as well as a slightly peppery spiciness. On the palate this wine is juicy and rich with perfectly well developed flavours, complex character, finely carved tannins and great extracts. A well balanced wine with depth and great length attesting real class. 98

1999 SAN LEONARDO

Deep garnet red in colour with a slightly purple red hue. 1999 is a vintage of pure pleasure. Juicy fruit reminiscent of spicy blackcurrant, ripe plums, sweet cherries, candied berries as well as ripe red peppers, dark chocolate, mild vanilla and elegant toasting. On the palate this wine has very elegant acidity, perfectly balanced tannins and displays great length with fruit and mild spices. 94

2000 SAN LEONARDO

The millennium wine with typicity. Deep purple colour with garnet red hue. The nose is very typical with elegant notes of ripe, red peppers, intense fruit reminiscent of elderberries, plums, blackberries and mild spices. Seems slightly "greener" than 2001. On the palate well balanced acidity and tannic structure, juicy fruit and intense minerality. Good length with complex character. 94

2001 SAN LEONARDO

This is a fine example, slightly reminiscent of a Margaux style wine. Needs time to open up, but presents extremely well when decanted. Touches of ripe red peppers, roasted aromas, coffee, vanilla and caramel, in the background tobacco and cedar wood. On the palate smooth, with well integrated, strong tannins, freshness and length. A complex wine with potential for a great future. 95

2003 SAN LEONARDO

The extraordinary 2003 vintage presents itself with a purple red colour and slightly brick red hue. A wine of pure pleasure, smooth character and quite complex nose of ripe fruit. Plums, a touch of cherries and raspberries, showing discreet hints of red peppers in the background. On the palate opulent and spicy, persistent in the finish and, surprisingly, showing finesse for a rather difficult and hot year. Great length and opulent mouthfeel. 94

2004 SAN LEONARDO

Intense purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Nose with aromas reminiscent of fresh ground white pepper, red peppers, balance with juicy fruit. Blackcurrant, blackberries and mulberries. On the palate opulent, persistent and well structured with depth and length. A wine with class and excellent potential. 96

2005 SAN LEONARDO

Dark purple red with violet hue presents this vintage. The nose is complex with plenty of sweet fruit, cherries, blackberries and ripe red peppers. Toasted aromas, oaky spiciness, vanilla and mild spices with an almost smoky touch. On the palate finely grained tannins, excellent length and fine acidity. Length and depth. Challenging 2004 as the best wine produced and presented up to now. 96

