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## Climate

A dry year mitigated by the light sea breezes typical of the zone. A careful selection of the grape bunches and a harvest which aimed at conserving acidity and fragrance during the picking led to the production of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon of structure and balance.

## Vinification

The grapes were selected during picking operations and then brought to the cellar where, after destemming and pressing, they went into stainless steel tanks. The must macerated on its skins for 4-5 days at temperatures between 46° and 50° Fahrenheit (8-10° centigrade) in order to bring out to the maximum extent their varietal character and to maintain the integrity of their fruit. With the beginning of fermentation, temperatures were allowed to rise to 77° Fahrenheit (25° centigrade). During the fifteen day period of skin contact, the grape skins were regularly moistened in operations aimed at extracting only the noblest elements of the grapes. After being run off its skins, the wine went back into stainless tanks where, by the end of the year, it completed its malolactic fermentation. A year of aging in oak barrels preceded bottling and a period of bottle aging preceded commercial release.

## Historical Data

The Fattoria Le Mortelle estate is located in the heart of the Tuscan Maremma just a few kilometers away from the town of Castiglione Pescaia in an extraordinary and fascinating position both in terms of its natural setting and the history of the area which surrounds it. The Antinori family has always been present in the zone. A property act of 1863 mentions, among other possessions, Poggio Franco, one of the highest quality vineyard plots of the estate, along with other landed parcels. Since 1999, the family has worked both on the vineyards and on new cellars, convinced that this part of Tuscany, already gaining much visibility in the overall Italian viticultural picture, had a very important potential for quality wine. And that here it was possible to express, at a high level, both the characteristics of the terroir and the grape varieties to be cultivated. The estate extends over some 675 acres (270 hectares), 432 of which (175 hectares) are planted to vines Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, along with the more recently planted white varieties (Vermentino, Ansonica, and Viognier) and a small percentage of Carménère. The soil, of medium consistence, sandy and loamy, has a composition principally of clay and silica and, in certain zones, is rather stony as well.



## Tasting Notes

A wine intensely red in color with a nose characterized by intense aromas of ripe red berry fruit fused with spices, white pepper, mint, and woodland notes. The palate is velvety and savory with a vibrant finish and abundant fruit on the aftertaste.