

96_{pts}

Podere Forte 2011 Petrucci

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

The 2011 Petrucci is one of the stars of the vintage. Sweet spices, cinnamon, crushed flowers and racy red berries inform this super-sexy, racy, layered Sangiovese. Seamless and voluptuous in the style of the year, the 2011 caresses the palate from start to finish. This is another drop-dead gorgeous wine endowed with stunning textural beauty and pure personality.

Drinking window: 2016 - 2026

— Antonio Galloni, August 2013

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This wine was featured in "[In a Tuscan State of Mind \(August 2013\)](#)" ([/articles/in-a-tuscan-state-of-mind-aug-2013](#))

Release price

\$130.00

Importer

A.I. Selections, Astoria, NY, tel. (718) 777-2243 - aiselections.com

Producer

Podere Forte

Producer commentary

This is a spectacular set of new releases from Podere Forte. The 2011s are ripe, sensual wines that capture the essence of a radiant vintage with late season heat, while the 2010s are firmer, more structured wines. 'Fortune favors the bold,' says proprietor Pasquale Forte. That pretty much sums it up. Forte is part of a group of Italian businessmen that define the entrepreneurial spirit of Italy's northern provinces. His industrial company, Eldor Corporation is a global leader in the manufacturing of motor components for the automobile industry. That same drive informs the wines at this sprawling estate in the Val d'Orcia where Forte plans on spending more of his time as his three sons assume greater roles within Eldor. Forte has spared no expense in what is one of the most beautiful estates and well thought out wineries I have ever seen anywhere in the world. The

attention to detail in the vineyards is impressive, while the cellar is impeccably clean, something that is quite rare in Tuscany. I have long admired these wines, but the 2010s are simply off the charts. I also tasted a number of experimental wines with Forte and long-time winemaker Christian Cattaneo, including the 2007 methode Champenoise Blanc de Noirs Asya (from Podere Forte) and the 2008 Aglianico del Vulture, from Forte's vineyards in Basilicata. Both wines have never been released, but are impeccable, to say the least. Forte continues to snap up property in an effort to revitalize the surrounding area. His informal restaurant Perilla in Rocca d'Orcia is fabulous, while a Relais & Chateau hotel is in the development stages. Needless to say, it will be interesting to see how things play out in the coming years, but there is little question Pasquale Forte is a visionary and that the region is incredibly fortunate he has chosen to invest his money and, more importantly, his time, here rather than somewhere else. That much is obvious. Readers who can find the 2010s should absolutely not hesitate.

91 pts

Podere Forte 2011 Petruccino

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

The estate's 2011 Petruccino is high-class juice. A rich, deep wine with no hard edges, the 2011 bursts from the glass with layers of racy, hugely expressive red berries, rose petals and cinnamon. All the elements are in the right place. This is a decidedly juicy, fruit-driven style of Sangiovese, but it works. And beautifully. Petruccino is the estate's young vine Sangiovese.

Drinking window: 2015 - 2025

— Antonio Galloni, August 2013

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Podere Forte 2011 Guardiavigna

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

The 2011 Guardiavigna wraps around the palate with intensely aromatic dark fruit, spice, mocha and espresso notes. Soft, voluptuous and deeply expressive, the 2011 beautifully captures the personality of the year. With time in the glass, the wine becomes more and more expressive. In 2011 the Cabernet Franc is up to 60%, which is part of what gives the wine its aromatic nuance. The rest of the blend is 25% Merlot and 15% Petit Verdot.

Drinking window: 2015 - 2019

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Podere Forte 2010 Guardiavigna

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

Podere Forte's 2010 Guardiavigna is every bit as outstanding as the Petrucci. Naturally, the flavor profile is darker and richer, but the finesse, minerality and intensity are very much those of 2010. Savory herbs, leather, tobacco and underbrush are some of the many notes that inform the explosive, structured finish. My advice, buy the 2011 to drink now and the 2010 to cellar. This is a fabulous effort. In 2010 Guardiavigna is a 50% Cabernet Franc, 38% Merlot and 12% Petit Verdot.

Drinking window: 2016 - 2030

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97 pts**Podere Forte 2010 Petrucci****Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy**

One of the unquestioned stars of the vintage, the 2010 Petrucci is simply stunning. Today, the 2010 is understandably quite young and structured, but the wine's finesse is impossible to miss. Dark cherries, savory herbs, licorice, mint and fennel form a mosaic of nearly indescribable beauty. Mid weight and gracious, yet deep and utterly vivid in the glass, the 2010 Petrucci is breathtaking in its beauty. It is also one of the finest wines I have ever tasted at Podere Forte. An eternal finish rounds things out in style. Wow!

Drinking window: 2016 - 2030

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93 pts**Podere Forte 2010 Petruccino****Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy**

The 2010 Petruccino dazzles from start to finish. Black cherries, plums, cloves, violets and licorice jump from the glass in a vibrant, striking wine of the highest level. Sweet floral and balsamic notes captivate the senses as the 2010 continues to open up in the glass. What a wine!

Drinking window: 2015 - 2025

— **Antonio Galloni, August 2013**

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Podere Forte 2009 Guardiavigna

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

Dark red cherries, plums, smoke, tobacco and licorice wrap around the palate in the 2009 Guardiavigna. Firm tannins support layers of voluptuous, resonant fruit in a dark, brooding, full-bodied wine loaded with intensity, breadth and pure pedigree. The 2009 still needs time to fully absorb its oak, but it is shaping up to be magnificent. In 2009, Guardiavigna is 50% Cabernet Franc, 46% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot.

Drinking window: 2014 - 2029

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Podere Forte 2009 Petrucci

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

A rich, voluptuous wine, the 2009 Petrucci is just about to enter the early part of a drinking window that will stretch out another 15-20 years. Layers of juicy, layered dark fruit explode as the 2009 Petrucci shows off its rich, broad shouldered personality. Savory herbs, tobacco and mint add complexity on the full-bodied, inviting finish. Today the 2009 is much showier and more expressive than it was last year.

Drinking window: 2014 - 2024

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Podere Forte 2001 Guardiavigna

Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy

The 2001 Guardiavigna tastes like a wine made yesterday. Still deeply colored and intense, the 2001 literally explodes from the glass with head-spinning array of deeply spiced, exotic dark red fruit. Menthol, lavender, rosemary and sage all add complexity on the huge, towering finish. In 2001, the blend was 60% Sangiovese and the rest Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. The personality of the wine is dominated by the French varieties. Since then, the estate has eliminated Sangiovese from Guardiavigna in order to differentiate the wines a little bit more. This early effort from Podere Forte is simply tremendous. Readers still lucky enough to own it can look forward to another decade of pure pleasure.

Drinking window: 2013 - 2023

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90 pts**Podere Forte 2001 Petrucci****Castiglione D'orcia, Tuscany, Italy**

The estate's 2001 Petrucci (Sangiovese) is striking. Like the Guardiavigna, it remains quite youthful. Interestingly, the Petrucci is a little bit more marked by new oak than the Guardiavigna, probably a combination of the more delicate nature of Sangiovese and the use of barrels from a particular cooper the estate no longer works with. Ripe, silky tannins support racy red-toned fruit, spice and floral notes. The faintest signs of tertiary notes have begun to appear, suggesting the 2001 is best enjoyed over the next handful of years.

Drinking window: 2013 - 2021

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