



Above: Fattoria Le Pupille lies in Grosseto, which Baudains says has 'enormous potential' for wines of every style

varietals, which will favour Syrah and Cabernet Franc, the latter potentially a future signature wine of Bolgheri. But Livorno is not only about Bolgheri. The fast developing area which stretches from Suvereto along the valley of the river Cornia to the coast at Piombino has just been granted two separate DOCGs, one for Suvereto itself and the other for the smaller area nearer the coast which will produce Val di Cornia Rosso. Considerably larger than Bolgheri, with excellent soil and climate for structured long-lived reds, these are DOCGs which are destined to shine. Merlot is the star, Cabernet Sauvignon is not far behind, and Sangiovese has to prove itself.

Other names to look for include: Castello di Bolgheri, Campo al Fico, Guado al Tasso, Poggio al Tesoro, Tenuta Argentiera, Petra, Rubbia del Colle, Bulichella, and Guado del Re.

Grosseto

The Maremma is moving away from the leathery, alcoholic Mediterranean style of the past towards wines with greater definition, finer tannins and more fruit. It is also rediscovering native varieties. Emblematic of the trend is the Vallerana Alta from Antonio Camillo at Poggio Argentiera, arguably Italy's best Ciliegiolo (see box, right). On a bigger scale, a further example is the rapid rise, in size and quality of the Sangiovese-based Montecucco DOC. Estates like Collemassari, Montecucco and Salustri turn out wines which challenge the very best Sangioveses in the region. The province of Grosseto is the biggest on the coast and the one with the most extensive areas of hills suitable for wine growing. It can do quantity and quality, native and international varieties. The potential is enormous for everything from great-value everyday Morellino di Scansano to cult wines such as the Castellare-Rothschild joint-venture Rocca di Frassinello. It has established DOC/Gs and in the Maremma IGT a far more meaningful 'SuperTuscan' label than the generic 'Toscana' in use in other parts of the region.

Other names to look for include: Poggio Foco, Fattoria Le Pupille, Moris Farms, Fattoria di Magliano, Ampeleia, Sassotondo, Poggio Verrano, and Castello di Potentino. **D**

Richard Baudains is a Regional co-Chair for Italy at the Decanter World Wine Awards

Baudains' top 10 coastal Tuscans

Collemassari, Lombrone Sangiovese Riserva, Montecucco 2007 ★★★★★ 19

N/A UK www.collemassari.it

Elegant wild berry nose with eucalypt, camphor and a touch of damp leaves in the background. Lovely definition and great complexity. Long, fresh, silky palate with fine, ripe tannins and grippy concentration on the finish. Superb. **Drink:** 2012–2020. **Alc:** N/A



Poggio Argentiera, Vallerana Alta, Maremma Toscana 2009 ★★★★★

19pts/20
£22.49 (2008) **Les Caves de Pyrène**

Elegant plum and red cherry on the nose and a palate of finesse and depth with lovely suppleness and a mouthwatering, savoury

finish. 100% old-vine Ciliegiolo.

Drink: 2012–2015. **Alcohol:** 13.5%

Guado al Melo, Jassarte, Toscana 2007 ★★★★★ 18.5

POA **Allivini**

Nose of great personality with pomegranate mixed in with the herbs and mountain berries. Medium body with suave tannins but also very good underlying structure. Delicate oak and juicy freshness. A wine of verve and complexity. **Drink:** 2012–2017. **Alc:** 13.5%



Poggio Argentiera, Capatosta, Morellino di Scansano Riserva 2009 ★★★★★ 18.5

POA **Les Caves de Pyrène**

Still a little unformed on the nose, but with authentic, traditional Sangiovese riserva aromas of violets and sweet spice. Intense, dry, still a bit rigid on the

palate but with bags of energy and very good potential for the future.

Drink: 2013–2019. **Alc:** 14%

Caiarossa, Toscana 2007 ★★★★★ 18

POA **Decorum Vintners**

Complex and very personal nose, with lots of floral aromas, aniseed, hummus and a touch of smokiness. Very open and broad on the palate, with ripe tannins and perhaps a slightly overweight finish, but impresses for sheer force of character. **Drink:**

2012–2017. **Alc:** 14.5%

Monteverro, Tinata, Toscana 2008 ★★★★★ 18

POA **Decorum Vintners**

Compact on the nose with distinct southern Rhône floral-herby character. Dense, with great tannic spread on the palate but also a freshness which balances the alcohol. Big, solid finish, captivating, friendly monster of a wine. **Drink:** 2012–2015. **Alc:** 15.5%



Ornellaia, Le Serre Nere, Bolgheri 2009 ★★★★★

£35.17–£39 Armit, Fine & Rare, **Secret Cellar**

Rich, ripe fruit, dark flowers, a touch of liquorice and classy oak on the nose. Serious palate with lots of volume, firm underlying Cabernet structure and very refined finish.

Combines force and drinkability.

Drink: 2012–2019. **Alc:** 14.5%

Podere San Cristoforo, Carandello Sangiovese, Maremma Toscana 2011 ★★★★★ 18

N/A UK www.poderesan Cristoforo.it

Classic red cherry aromas and a hint of vanilla and white pepper. Pure, juicy fruit with a fleshy mid-palate and lively tangy finish. Deceptively simple at first taste, opens rich and concentrated.

Drink: 2012–2015. **Alc:** 13%



Ginori Lisci, Macchione Lupo, Montescudaio 2008 ★★★★★ 17.5

N/A UK www.marchesiginorilisci.it

Sweet, ripe Cabernet fruit on the nose with a distinctive smokiness and tangy mineral quality that returns on the palate. Soft tannins, plum fruit and a savoury finish. **Drink:** 2012–2015. **Alc:** 14%

Nittardi, Ad Astra, Maremma Toscana 2008 ★★★★★ 17

£18.99 **Cockburn & Campbell**

Cassis and plums on the nose with a touch of white chocolate. Juicy, medium bodied freshness on the palate, good oak integration and development towards a lightly spiced finish. Drinking now but will improve. **Drink:** 2012–2015. **Alc:** 13.5%

For full details of UK stockists, see page 46