

1997 Bacio Divino

Varietal Content: 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Sangiovese, 8% Petite Sirah, 9% Merlot

Alcohol: 14.1%

Tasting Notes:

This classic vintage, with its extended summer, produced a wine with longevity and worthy of many years of cellar aging. It boasts black fruit flavors, intermixed with a cavalcade of subtle nutty and vanilla oak flavors. The pure Cabernet marries perfectly with the more acidic and strawberry Sangiovese and is buttressed by the dark Petit Sirah. This is a beautifully balanced and exotic blend.

Reviews:

The Wine Advocate June 2000 Rating 90

This intriguing as well as innovative blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Sangiovese, 8 % Petit Sirah, and 9% Merlot is again an outstanding effort. Already evolved and delicious, the dark ruby/plum color is followed by aromas of new saddle leather, black raspberries, plum liqueur, cherries, and toasty, smoky new oak. Medium to full-bodied, with sweet tannin, an open-knit, fleshy texture, and low acidity, this California "super Tuscan look-alike" can be drunk now and over the next decade.

The Insiders' Wine Line Oct 2000 Rating 92

The 1997 has a perfumed bouquet of black pit fruits, licorice, blackberries, chocolate, coffee, allspice and vanilla with hints of violets. The flavors of cherries, plum, berries spice, toast and underbrush spice are very rich and complex followed by a long, fruity finish.

The Wine Enthusiast Nov 2000 Rating 90

Plum aromas are pounded home with notes of meat and menthol. When you next hear the word "opaque", think of this. But the body is surprisingly svelte, and the flavors emphasize red fruit. Some tannins are manifested on the finish, which shows licorice and buttery oak.

The Wine Spectator Aug 31, 2000 Rating 91

Lots of personality, with elegant, polished cherry, cola, wild berry and spicy notes and a long, intricate aftertaste. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Petit Sirah and Merlot.

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