

**For immediate release**

## **Castello Banfi Named Best Winery of the Year** *Awarded at VinItaly for an Unprecedented Fifth Time*

**Verona, April 10, 2017** – Castello Banfi has been named “Best Winery of the Year - Gran VinItaly 2017” in the first edition of *5Star Wines THE BOOK 2017*.

Published by Veronafiore, and unveiled at VinItaly 2017, *5StarWines THE BOOK* is the first-ever guide created by an international wine exhibition.

More than 2,100 wines from nearly 600 wineries around the world were assessed in rigorous blind tastings judged by an esteemed panel of international wine experts with specific geographic knowledge and comprised of Masters of Wine, Master Sommeliers, sommeliers, and expert wine writers. The panel and tastings were coordinated by Ian D'Agata, Scientific Director of the Vinitaly International Academy; Bernard Burthschy, editor in chief of *Figaro Vin*; Robert Joseph of *Meininger's*; Paolo Basso, Best Sommelier in the World 2013; and Pedro Ballesteros, Torres MW.

To be included in the guide, a wine had to be scored at least 90 points by the panel. The “Best Winery of the Year” required a winery to achieve the highest average score with three wines in at least two different categories. Castello Banfi earned the honor thanks to the cumulative scores of Castello Banfi FloruS 2014 (95 points), Poggio alle Mura 2012 (93), ExcelsuS 2010 (93), Poggio all' Oro 2010 (92), and Cum Laude 2013 (91).

This marks the fifth time that Castello Banfi has been declared the top winery in the world at VinItaly – an unprecedented feat -- and the 15th time that it has been named top winery in Italy. It is also the first winery in the world to receive international recognition for Exceptional Environmental, Ethical and Social Responsibility (ISO 14001 and SA8000) as well as an International Leader in Customer Satisfaction (ISO 9001:2000) by the International Standard Organization.

Solely owned by the Mariani family, the 7,100 acre Castello Banfi estate in Montalcino, Tuscany, comprises a constellation of single vineyards encompassing over three dozen sub-soils. Castello Banfi is renowned for its work pairing noble grape varieties with their optimal terroir, in addition to over three decades of research dedicated to isolating a selection of superior clones of the native Sangiovese grape, designed to produce consistently outstanding Brunello.

Castello Banfi is an important center for regional hospitality and a key player in introducing trade and consumers to Italy's wine culture, welcoming over 80,000 visitors a year. The 12th-century castle at the heart of the estate boasts luxury boutique hotel “Il Borgo,” an enoteca/wine bar, restaurant, balsamic cellars, and a world-class museum dedicated to the relationship between glass and wine.

Castello Banfi wines are imported to the USA by Banfi Vintners, Old Brookville, NY, also owned by the Mariani family and a leading importer since 1919.