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## La Staffa “Mai Sentito” Verdicchio Pet Nat

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**Winery:** La Staffa

**Category:** Wine – Sparkling - White

**Grape Variety:** 80% Verdicchio, 20% Trebbiano

**Region:** Staffolo/ Marche/ Italy

**Vineyard:** Estate

**Winery established:** 1994

**Feature:** Certified organic



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### Product Information

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**Soil:** clay/limestone soil very rich in calcium carbonate

**Elevation:** 396 meters (1,300 feet)

**Age of vines:** young Verdicchio, Trebbiano planted in 1975

**Vinification:** Harvest starts earlier than for their regular still wine to keep the alcohol lower. Grapes are picked into small boxes, pressed immediately. Fermentation at controlled temperature in steel for 20 days, stop on fine lees for 4 months and fermentation in bottles. Refinement at least 6 months in the botte before its release.

**Tasting Note:** Straw yellow color. In the nose intense fruit with yellow fruit, yeasts, bacon and wild fennel. On the palate dry, very fresh, with hints of citrus

**Production:** 10,000 bottles/year

**Alc:** 11.5 %

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### Producer Information

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Riccardo Baldi was quite young when he devoted himself to his family’s old vineyards, which they had previously farmed to make wine for their own consumption. He introduced biodynamic methods, working with indigenous yeast, aging in concrete tanks, and vinifying each vineyard area separately to discover the secrets of each small site. Among other successes, this careful attention recently led Riccardo to release an extraordinary new single vineyard Riserva known as Selva di Sotto.

The elegance of wines coming from a certain place can function as prophet for naturalistic discoveries that serve to explain its particularity after the fact. In this case, a recent analysis found that the plate of rock under Riccardo’s vineyards was once flipped “upside down” in an ancient geological shift. That means his soil is actually much older than the land surrounding it. It also contains the region’s highest concentration of calcium carbonate.

La Staffa is set apart by elevation as well as geology. The small village of Staffolo is known as “the balcony” of the Esino, with vineyards arranged in panoramic views on the hillsides above the river valley. The Castelli di Jesi area is defined, along with its historic castles, by fresh wines born in crisp mountain air stirred with the winds from the Adriatic Sea. Riccardo’s are the highest elevation vineyards in Staffolo, and his grapes retain their acidity as they ripen by virtue of wide diurnal shift.

For its versatility, age worthiness, and expressive character, Verdicchio is increasingly recognized as one of Italy’s greatest white grapes. (Its versatility is on strong display here, with a fresh Classico Superiore, two delicious--and completely distinct--single vineyard Riservas, as well as a Pet Nat!) If Verdicchio itself is a rising star, Riccardo Baldi is a fitting steward for the grape. The grape’s potential, Riccardo’s old vines, the singularity of this soil, the soaring elevation and Riccardo’s devotion led to his 2018 Vinalty award as the best winemaker in Le Marche.