



Colle Santa Mustiola “Poggio ai Chiari” Toscana IGT

Winery: Colle Santa Mustiola
Category: Wine – Still – Red
Grape Variety: Sangiovese, 28 clones
Region: Chiusi/ Toscana/ Italy
Vineyard: Estate
Winery established: 1912
Feature: Practicing organic viticulture
Awards: 3 Bicchieri (2007); 94 Vinous (2009)



Product Information

Soil: Alluvial/ sandy with marine Pliocene deposits and pebbles, NE exposure

Elevation: 300 meters (985 feet)

Age of vines: first planted in 1950 and then replanted in 1990, 10k plants/Ha. 28 massal clones (4 pre-phylloxera) - Selection Massale (aka Massal Selection) is a French wine growing term for the practice of replanting new vineyards with cuttings from exceptional old vines from the same property.

Vinification: Hand-harvest in mid-October. Fermentation: with native yeasts, in controlled temperature stainless steel vats. Maceration: 40 days (20 days w/submerged cap) spontaneous Malolactic. Ageing: +5 years, in French Barriques and Botti (20HL), plus minimum 24 months in bottle.

Yield: 35/40 q/ hectare

Tasting Note: Poggio ai Chiari is a wine that expresses the typical elegance of the great Tuscan Sangiovese, the particular site where the vineyard is located, and the careful vinification practices allow to obtain a fine, elegant wine capable of aging for many years improving and acquiring a bouquet of rare complexity. The typical notes of red fruit are made more complex over time by a series of tertiary aromas such as spices, leather, cinnamon and nutmeg that support a mouth of rare elegance in which the tannic texture expresses a silkiness that is typical only of great red wines from areas highly suited for viticulture as is the area of Santa Mustiola in Chiusi.

Producer Information

Fabio Cenni has dedicated his life's work to Sangiovese, here in the cradle of Etruscan history, Siena province near Chiusi. Pliny the Elder first observed vines and winemaking in Chiusi over 2000 years ago. Once a major center in the Etruscan League, Chiusi is now an important location for historians of many civilizations. Fabio's decades of study have preserved even more than the treasured old vines farmed by his grandfathers--when he began digging a cellar in a hillside, Fabio discovered an Etruscan site himself!

The “Poggio ai Chiari” line reflects the character of the farm, five hectares of organically farmed vineyards planted on the hills. The local word for “hill” is “poggio.” “Chiari” refers to the reflection of the moon on the mirror-like surface of the lake Chiusi. The lake also tempers the climate. The wines have a markedly refined character from the sandy soils--marine Pliocene sediments together with pebbles and clay--and a marked diurnal shift. The wines are fermented with native yeasts and aged for a significant amount of time before Fabio releases them.

Fabio began studying his grandfather's Sangiovese vines, studying and preserving each fascinating clone, when he took over his family's vineyard and cellar in the 1980's. He discovered 28 distinct Sangiovese clones, including four clones represented by pre-phylloxera vines. In the 1990's, he carefully preserved the clones he'd identified by replanting using massal selection. Supported by his long friendship with Luigi Veronelli, Sangiovese became Fabio's abiding passion. After years of agronomical studies, Fabio has not only learned to craft Sangiovese of exceptional elegance and character, he must also be recognized as one of the experts in cultivating this quintessential Tuscan grape.