
La Staffa “Mai Sentito!” Verdicchio Pet Nat (Marche IGT Bianco Frizzante)

Winery: La Staffa
Category: Wine – Sparkling - White
Grape Variety: 80% Verdicchio, 20% Trebbiano
Region: Staffolo/ Marche/ Italy
Vineyard: From the hilly and foothills Castellaretta area in Staffolo
Winery established: 1994
Feature: Certified organic
Awards: 92 Wine Enthusiast, 90 Italian Wine Report



Product Information

Soil: clay/limestone soil very rich in calcium carbonate
Elevation: 442 meters (1,450 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. Spontaneous fermentation starts in stainless steel. The wine will be bottled when there is still a little bit of sugar left to ferment. The fermentation will finish within two to seven weeks. During this step the wine remains in refinement in the cellar, with the bottles horizontal to favor the contact between the wine and its lees. Refinement 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; great persistence and very balanced.
Production: 10,000 bottles/year
Alc: 11.5 %

Producer Information

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 Vinitaly award as the best winemaker in Le Marche.