

Buongiorno a tutti,

Finally some beautiful sunny days are here, so why not talk vino!

Val d'Orcia is a wide and beautiful countryside in southern Tuscany, close to the border with Umbria and on the slopes of Mount Amiata, stretching along the agricultural hinterland of Siena. It takes its name from the *Orcia* river that runs along and is a protected park where the absolute protagonist is stunning nature. It is no coincidence that one of the most photographed spots is the famous Val d'Orcia cypress trees near San Quirico d'Orcia.

Crete Senesi, the clay hills eroded by time that form the characteristic calanchi (gullies) and biancane, bare and rugged, low rounded reliefs with an unquestionable, almost lunar charm, also stand out in the Val d'Orcia. Its typical medieval Tuscan villages such as *Pienza, Montalcino, Castiglione d'Orcia and San Quirico d'Orcia* are perfect destinations to dive into the soul of the place, while savoring its well-known food and wine specialities.

The Val d'Orcia still preserves its system of settlements, the medieval villages of Tuscany, which still attract tourists from all over the world. Made up of mainly castles and fortresses, they developed in the year 1000-1100 around the Via Francigena, the great road connecting France and northern Italy with Rome.

Places such as Montalcino, San Quirico and Castiglione were crucial to the cultural and urban development of the valley, as was also Pienza, the birthplace of Enea Silvio Piccolomini, the future Pope Pius II.

Pienza is considered the Ideal City of the Renaissance and it was Piccolomini who directed the town's urban planning choices in the 15th century.

Since 2004, the incredible landscape of the Val d'Orcia has been a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. A treasure to be protected and enhanced because of the excellent state of conservation of the landscape, thanks to the human interventions that have preserved it. According to UNESCO, the Val d'Orcia Park is a perfect combination of art and landscape, geographical space and ecosystem, an expression of wonderful natural features and historical evidence. A landscape that is at times hard and soft, characterised by the lava deposits of the extinct volcanoes of Radicofani and the

Amiata, enhanced by the medieval villages, scenic roads and landscapes of the Val d'Orcia.

The UNESCO site also includes Pienza.

Today's Wine spotlight is on **Le Cupole** by **Tenuta di Trinoro**.

Tenuta di Trinoro is considered one of the most iconic wines produced in Italy today. The estate, planted on virgin soil following the vision of founder and winemaker Andrea Franchetti, is planted solely with Bordelais grapes, with a strong preponderance of Cabernet Franc. The isolated estate occupies an area of about 200 hectares, of which 24 are planted with vines. It is located in the Val d'Orcia, between 450 and 600 meters above sea level, where the eroded rock of the mountain gives way to the limestone and clay of an ancient sea floor. These Super Tuscan wines are unique in their area, expressing the particular conditions of this elevated, inland valley.

The “Second Vin” of Tenuta di Trinoro, *Le Cupole* was first produced in 1995. It is a blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot, with percentages varying with each vintage. Fermented in stainless steel and aged in one to three year old barriques and cement, *Le Cupole* is velvety and approachable. This wine hits the palate with exuberance, full of fleshy, bright fruit, extracted tannins, and rich color. With the new arrival we also got some large formats and I wanted to put out a fun offer for anyone interested.

Le Cupole has always been Andrea's (the artist) palette, with all the colors being the varietals and each vintage crafted a bit differently based on the harvest and the different expression of the wine he wanted to create. Many vintages have gone by since the original 1995, the vines have gotten older and the wine has gotten deeper, more concentrated and focused but still with great elegance on the palate.

2022 proved to be another excellent vintage but not without challenges (see below for the year's info), that resulted in a wine of extreme generosity, dark small-berried fruit flavors, depth and with quite extensive aging potential ahead of itself.

With that, also some great reviews from major publications are available:

- **94pt James Suckling**
- **94pt Robert Parker**
- **92pt Antonio Galloni Vinous**

On the remaining cases we decided to offer a special pricing and also, for any case purchased the account will receive a raffle ticket.

By the end of the month (when all cases are sold) we will raffle a magnum bottle of the magical "Palazzi" (100% Merlot) by Trinoro (\$440 value).

2022 Tenuta di Trinoro 'Le Cupole' - 17cs available

Ciro Pirone



THE VINTAGE:

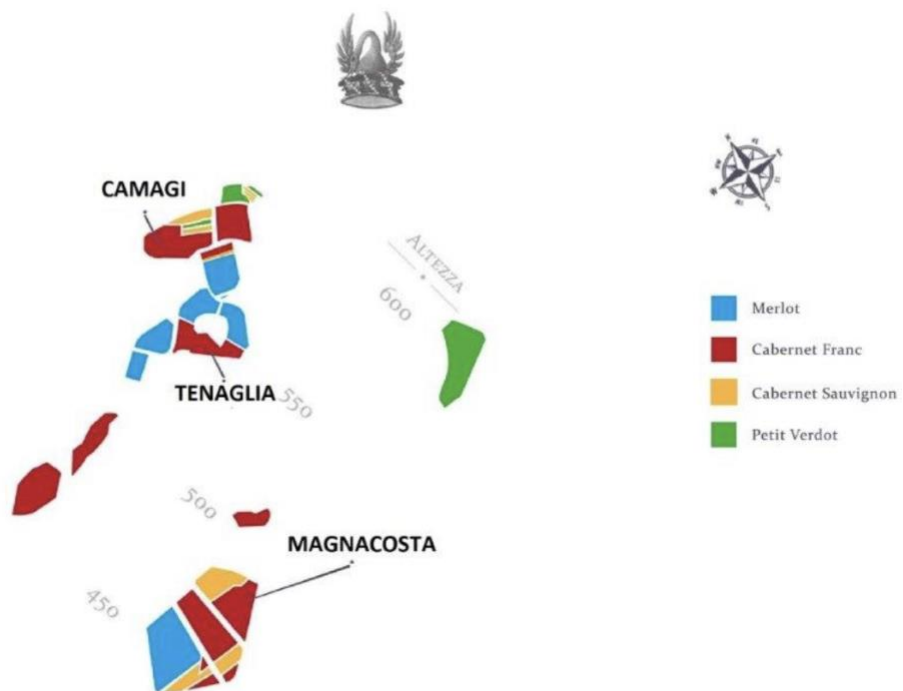
Work in the vineyard was meticulous, particularly in managing the foliage – a necessary practice also for the selection of the bunches which followed. In fact, all vineyards were relieved of excess weight, not so much to seek concentration as to help the plant bring its few bunches to ripeness, given the scarce water resources.

At a first glance picking seemed to be anticipated compared to previous harvests, but it then slowed down due to continuous rainfalls: the amount of water normally spread out over several months was concentrated in a few heavy downpours in September.

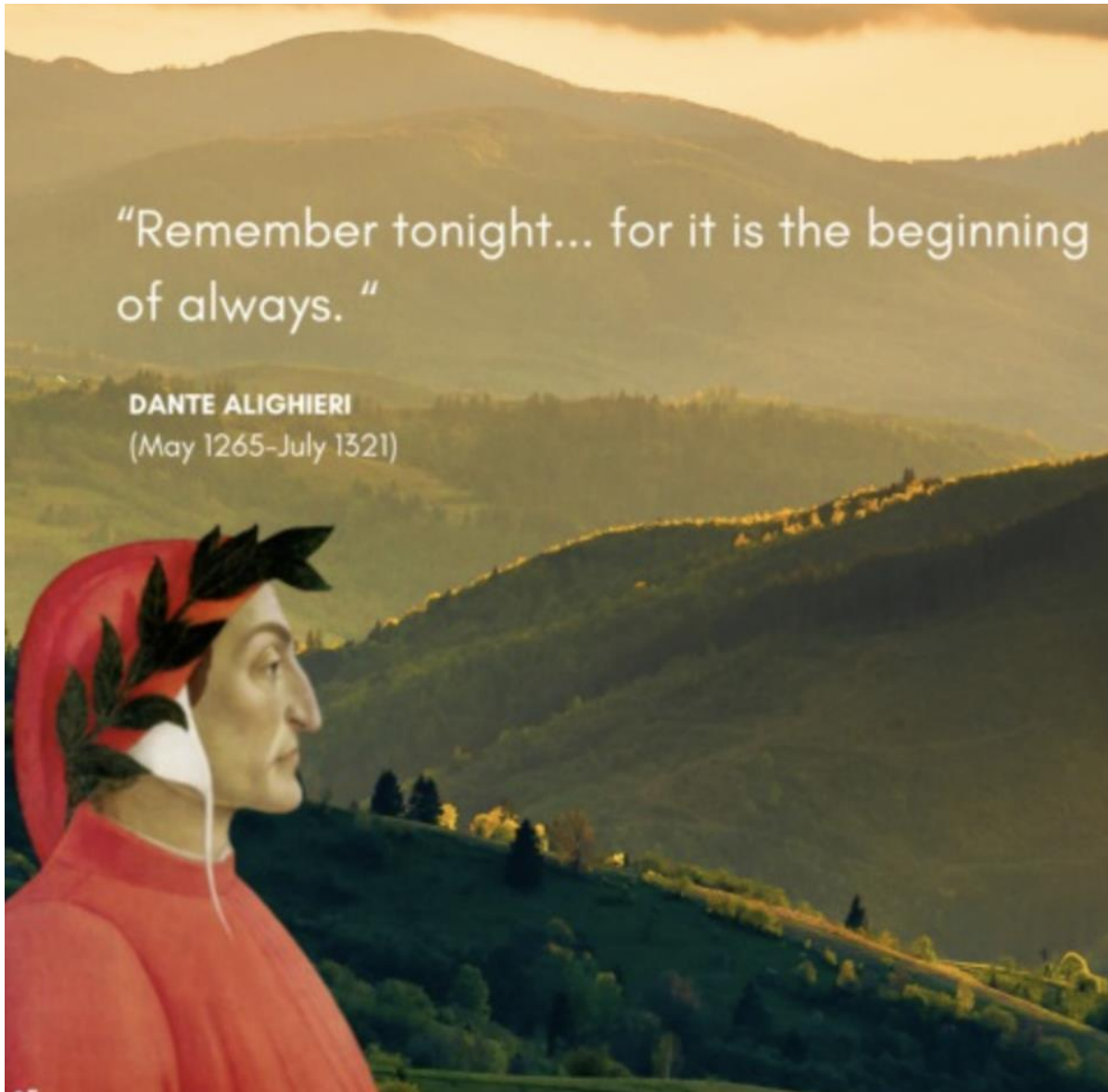
The climate during the last ripening phase of the grapes distinctly influenced this vintage with vertical wines showing freshness and bold bouquets with crisp fruity notes. The Merlot was brought to the cellar at the end of September, followed by the Cabernet Franc. The later-ripening Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot reached an incredible maturity, surprisingly achieved already in early October. As always, picking was managed with a radical parcelization of our vineyards, bringing 50 separate parcels into the cellar – all hand harvested.

Fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks for 10-15 days at controlled temperatures. The parcels spent 8 months in 225-liter barriques of different ages, then blending was carried out in concrete tanks where the wine refined for another 12 months.

After the waxing moon of February 2023, the 2022 parcels were tasted and the blends of Tenuta di Trinoro and Le Cupole were decided. For Le Cupole 2022 we settled on a luminous and balanced blend of mostly Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The percentages, even in this arid vintage, remain very similar to the previous harvest with 57% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 6% Petit Verdot.



Placed under a mountain, Tenuta di Trinoro has a mosaic of soils. The vines, densely planted, are more than twenty years old and, with their extended root system, they have become able to render a distinct taste from every terrain of the estate. 23 hectares are under vine, planted between 400 and 620 meters on southwestern facing slopes. Cabernet Franc and Merlot dominate the plantings, with small parcels of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot on the perimeter.



Just as Dante Alighieri (il sommo poeta) said!



The Val d'Orcia is just as wonderful in the winter when snow covered, as much as in the typical summer days. Uniquely, conditions in this part of Tuscany are much less Mediterranean and tend to shift to more Continental like, due to its inland positioning and in parts, quite high elevations.