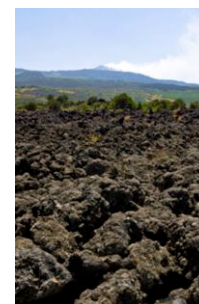


Il Cantante

WorldWide Cellars Imports

Il Cantante - Mount Etna, Sicily - www.ilcantante.com

Salvo Foti's greatest Etnean project yet? Who can say. Yet the wines of Il Cantante - luscious, elegant, beautiful, mysterious - certainly have a place in that conversation. Mount Etna is Europe's highest active volcano, and is home to some of the most exciting wines to explode into the international marketplace. Il Cantante's hectares on Mount Etna produce about 15,000 bottles of wine, with an additional 12,000 bottles of Nero d'Avola being produced with grapes purchased from friends in Pachino. The estate's fruit is farmed in the traditional Etnean way, that is to say organically with no systemic chemicals, either fertilizer or pesticides. Soils, derived from ancient volcanic eruptions, are black, sandy, and richly mineral. Grape vines are trained in Albarello (Gobelet) and are planted 9,000 plants to the hectare, with traditional Chestnut stakes for support; varietals are co-planted and co-fermented. Climate on Etna is harsh - with very warm day-time temperatures dropping as much as 30 degrees during the summer, and cold, snowy winters. Il Cantante's four primary vineyards are called Pagano (Northern and Eastern exposition at 750 meters), Cosentino (very close to Pagano, also 750 meters with Northern and Eastern exposition), Puntalazzo (at 800 meters, SE exposition), and Gabri (1200 meters, producing grapes for the Etna Bianco, orientation North). No irrigation is practiced and most of the grapevines are planted on natural rootstock. The wines vinified in the traditional way in open-top fermenters using frequent pigeage, more or less depending upon the vintage. Elevation is in a combination of Barrique and Tonneaux, 225 and 500 liter. The wines are never fined nor filtered. Everything from work in the vineyards, to harvest and vinification, is done entirely by hand.



Etna Bianco IGT

Site: Grown in the Gabri vineyard, at about 1200 meters above sea level - orientation is North. Black, sandy, mineral-laden soils. Vineyard is about 2 hectares and vines average 40 years in age. **Grapes:** Carricante, Minnella, and Grecanico are interspersed, co-planted varietals. **Vinification:** Fermented in Barrique and Tonneaux, native yeasts. There is no need to refrigerate the fermenting must as the temperatures are quite cool by October. **Elevage:** After 1 year in barrique on the fine lees, the wine is bottled without fining or filtration. **Notes:** About 3,000 bottles produced. Il Cantante means "The Singer" which hints at the ownership of the winery: Mick Hucknall, lead singer of Simply Red.

Note: _____



Etna Rosso DOC

Site: Grown in the Pagano and Cosentino vineyards, in the village of Castiglione di Sicilia are at about 750 meters above sea level. Black, sandy, mineral-laden soils. **Grapes:** Nerello Mascalese and Merello Cappuccio are interspersed, co-planted varietals, vines averaging over 100 years old, harvested in mid- to late-October. **Vinification:** "Traditional" vinification in open-topped fermenters, with regular punchdowns, native yeasts. There is no need to refrigerate the fermenting must as the temperatures are quite cool by October. Typical maceration is about 15 days. **Elevage:** Etna Rosso is matured for 2 years in a combination of Barrique and 500L Tonneaux, mainly seasoned, with a slow malolactic fermentation occurring in over the cold winter. Further elevage for 3, 4, or even 5 years in the bottle! **Notes:** About 12,000 bottles produced. Il Cantante means "The Singer" which hints at the ownership of the winery: Mick Hucknall, lead singer of Simply Red.

Note: _____



Nero d'Avola IGT

Site: Vineyards of calcareous clay in Pachino, in Southeastern Sicily, averaging just 30 meters above sea level, planted to about 7,000 plants per Ha; vine training is traditional Albarello; harvesting is entirely by hand. **Grapes:** 100% Nero d'Avola. **Vinification:** Fermented in Barrique and Tonneaux. **Elevage:** 1 year in barrique. **Notes:** About 12,000 bottles produced. Il Cantante means "The Singer" which hints at the ownership of the winery: Mick Hucknall, lead singer of Simply Red.

Note: _____



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