

Agostina Pieri

A New Star Emerges in Montalcino

When Francesco Monaci established this winery, he had no idea of the frenzy his wines would inspire. In only a handful of vintages, his Brunello and Rosso have become some of Montalcino's most sought-after wines. A nephew of *consorzio* president, and famed producer, Giancarlo Pacenti, Francesco had long dreamed of making great wines in the Montalcino area, but was not able to find the perfect vineyard until 1991. The steep Sangiovese vineyard that he finally found, in Castelnuovo dell'Abate, offered the potential to realize his goal.

The seven-hectare vineyard he found is perfectly situated, with a full southern exposure. This allows for incredible ripeness even in the old, low-vigor Sangiovese clones he favors. Grapes are harvested by hand and then strictly sorted to eliminate sub-standard fruit. The fermenta-

tion takes 25-30 days in vat and stainless steel before racking into large Slovenian oak casks and smaller French oak barriques. Only the finest lots are selected for Brunello.



This is one domaine that takes great pride in its Rosso, treating it much like the Brunello. Pieri is the only producer ever to earn *Gambero Rosso's* prestigious

Tre Bicchieri score for a "mere" Rosso di Montalcino. That wine, the 1995, caused a sensation with its amazing concentration and persistence—it easily outpaced most Brunellos and set a new benchmark for the appellation.

And, always looking to push his wines further, Francesco has begun collaborating with Fabrizio Moltard for the 2002 vintage. Together, they aim to enhance the expressive sense of place that a unique vineyard, and unique appellation, can produce.

Rosso di Montalcino

1998 — Again, one of the elite Rossos of the vintage. Top marks from the Italian *Guida dei Sommelier*.

1997 — Most of the crop was destroyed by hail.

1996 — *Gambero Rosso*: "Yet again Agostina Pieri has produced one of the the very best Rossos di Montalcino . . . Two (and a half) Glasses instead of Three."

1995 — *Gambero Rosso*: "*Tre Bicchieri* ... literally wiped the floor with the stiff competition . . . a wine that changes all the rules about making Rosso di Montalcino."

Brunello di Montalcino

1999 — Jancis Robinson: "18.5/20. Tied for #1 '99 Brunello among 65 producers.

1997 — *Wine Spectator*: "94 rating. Takes off in the glass, with masses of fruit and soft, yet fine tannins. Goes on and on."

1995 — *Wine Spectator*: "90 rating. Subtle and refined wine, with serious intensity of dark cherry, berry, and mineral aromas ... Very lively."

1994 — *Gambero Rosso*: "*Due Bicchieri* ... the (debut) Brunello '94 has passed with flying colors, turning out to be one of the best of its year."

AGOSTINA PIERI

Tuscany, Italy

OVERVIEW

Proprietor: Agostina Pieri
Winemaker: Francesco Monaci
Consultant: Fabrizio Moltard

Obsessive about quality, Francesco and his immediate family do all the vineyard work themselves—maximizing the potential of each vine.

VINEYARD INFORMATION

Soils: Galestro and lime-rich clay
Zone: Montalcino (Piancornello)
Fruit source: 10.5 hA vineyard on a gentle, south-facing slope in the southern zone of Montalcino (5.5 hA entitled to Brunello or Rosso, 1.5 hA entitled only to Rosso, and 3.5 hA of Sant'Antimo).

RECENT VINTAGES

2006 – A year that produced beautiful, aromatic reds.
2005 – A relatively “normal” vintage of classic, mid-weight wine.
2004 – Classic vintage. Wines display balance and purity.
2003 – Freakish heat led to atypically approachable wines.
2002 – Rain-plagued vintage. Very little Brunello made.
2001 – Another classic vintage for aging.

ADDITIONAL WINEMAKING NOTES

Vineyard work done all by family. Multiple leaf pickings plus a green harvest.
No fining or filtration.
Fruit is 100% destemmed.

THE WINES

Brunello di Montalcino

Grapes: 100% Sangiovese Grosso
Ave. Yield: 30 hL/hA
Aging: 12 months in French barrique and 12 months in large (4000L)
Production: 1,400 cases

Rosso di Montalcino

Grapes: 100% Sangiovese Grosso
Ave. Yield: 30 hL/hA
Aging: 12 months in French barrique (2nd & 3rd passage)
Production: 1,700 cases

Note: Pieri puts great effort into his Rosso, and remains the only producer to ever earn Gambero Rosso's *tre bicchieri* for a Rosso.