

Il Carnasciale

A Gloriously Singular Tuscan Icon

Until 2005, one Tuscan wine had existed in name only for American wine lovers.

Bottled exclusively in magnum, only two *enotecas* (out of a thousand or more) in Tuscany get any, and restaurant allocations are limited to a handful of top European restaurants. Members of Florence's elite Teatro del Sale were allocated *one magnum* per year, a privilege handed down from generation to generation. And, in 2005, we were fortunate to be named the first US agent for the estate.

A UNIQUE CLONE

The wine is Il Caberlot, and its fascinating story doesn't end with its scarcity and desirability. It, and its second label Carnasciale, are the only wines in the world made from a mysterious clone discovered four decades ago near Verona. Named "Caberlot," the grape has characteristics of both Cabernet and Merlot—hence its name.

Caberlot's discoverer—agronomist Remigio Bordini—has allowed the vine to be planted just one place outside his nursery: at Wolf and Bettina Rogosky's Tuscan estate, Il Carnasciale. The vineyard lies atop a rocky, south-facing bluff that towers above Tuscany's Arno river. Famed enologist Vittorio Fiore discovered this providential site in 1986.

To limit yields, Fiore advised the Rogoskys to plant at a then-revolu-



tionary 10,000 vines per hectare, and to prune to a mere five clusters per plant. As if to presage Il Caberlot's future, the Rogoskys buried a bottle of Sassicaia under the first vine.

THE WINES

From the first vintage, 1988, Il Caberlot has been a huge cult wine in Europe, its scarcity driven by nature and the vineyard's size of less than an acre. Wolf Rogosky passed away in 1996, but Bettina has carried on the work with her son Mortiz and her winemaker, Peter Schilling. With time, more vines have been planted, but produc-

tion remains miniscule. The wine is still bottled by hand, and is held for two years before release. Bettina Rogosky hand-numbers each label. A second wine, made from younger

vines and named "Carnasciale," was introduced in 2000.

Il Caberlot

Il Caberlot boasts an extraordinary perfume, sleek texture and great elegance. Boasting nuances of Graves, Pomerol, and Il Carnasciale's unique *terroir*, it ranks among the planet's most singular wines.

Carnasciale

Carnasciale is a perfect example of a second wine. It mirrors its sibling perfectly, on a slightly smaller scale. And, as vine age has increased, the stature of this wine has grown with it.

“*Over the years Il Carnasciale has acquired cult status among readers who crave the finest Tuscany has to offer, and rightly so. These are some of the most unique wines from Italy.*”
Antonio Galloni in The Wine Advocate

