



Appellation: TOSCANA ROSSO IGT

Zone: Castelnuovo dell'Abate, Montalcino (province of Siena)

Cru: n/a

Vineyard extension (hectares): 6.3

Blend: 70% Sangiovese selected in Montalcino - 20% Merlot - 10% Cabernet

Vineyard age (year of planting): Sangiovese selected in Montalcino 1975,1989,1998,2000 - Merlot 1975,1990,1998 - Cabernet 1975,1990,1998

Soil Type: Medium textured, calcareous-clayey (lower altitude), clayey-sandy (medium altitude), clayey-marly and skeletal (higher altitude)

Exposure: South-East

Altitude: n/a

Colour: Very intense ruby red with purple reflections

Nose: Intense and complex, notes of blackberry, blueberry and jam, notes of ink and spices

Flavour: Powerful and supple at the same time, evident but soft tannins, juicy cherry, very persistent great freshness good acidity, very lively ending

Serving temperature (°C): 18-20

Match with: Red meat, game, cheese

Average no. bottles/year: 10,000

Alcohol %: n/a

Grape yield per hectare tons: 7

Notes: The continuous and constant experiments of Andrea Cortonesi in the vineyard and in the cellar result in the production of a very particular Tuscan Red. Spontaneous alcoholic and malolactic fermentations.

Vinification and ageing: 55-60% of the Sangiovese grapes are vinified together with the Merlot and Cabernet grapes. Cold maceration with the skins at 10-12 degrees Celsius (the number of days depends on the characteristics of the grapes). Fermentation and maceration with the skins for 20/25 days with pumping over of the must in steel vats with temperature control. Malo-lactic fermentation in steel. Maturation in French oak barriques for 18 months. Finishing in the bottle for 6 months.

Awards: n/a

Estate History

Andrea Cortonesi, owner of Uccelliera, is a person who could be described as "salt of the earth": the only son of a farming family, he has worked in the fields since he was a teenager helping his father. Andrea is not only an extremely talented winemaker, but he is also a fine entrepreneur who managed to purchase in 1986, entirely thanks to his own devices, the initial four hectares of the estate, consisting of an ancient homestead and half a hectare of old vineyards. In the following years more vineyards, standing in different positions in respect to the homestead, were added so to reach the present extension of 6 hectares. To produce Brunello and Rosso by blending vineyards with different exposures and soils is a specific choice so that the character of each vintage and of the terroir can be expressed following a "minimum handling" philosophy. This is pursued through natural vineyard management. Andrea's efforts continue in the cellar (a new cellar has been added to the old one and they are both built underground) where the wines rest at a constant and natural temperature. At present Uccelliera is without any doubt one of the top estates of Montalcino, the Brunello and Rosso are complex, intense extremely supple and drinkable. A small quantity of an IGT/proprietary wine, Rapace (meaning "bird of prey" in line with the name of the estate), a blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet is also produced. In 2006 Andrea started a new project, together with other producers of the area friends of his, with the aim of enhancing the different aspects of the extraordinary terroir of Montalcino, and a Rosso and a Brunello are bottled under the brand-name of "Voliero". The vineyards stand at an altitude of 250-450 meters above sea level with various exposures and the vines are between 10 and 20 years old. These wines are the expression of this terroir and show finesse rather than complexity. The style is traditional: the wine rests in large Slavonian and French oak casks, the Brunello for 30 months and the Rosso for four months. The wines are vinified at the estates of the friends of Andrea's while bottling takes place at Uccelliera. The touch of Andrea is unmistakable in these two lovely wines!

