

CAGGIANO

At last, the tryst began in Burgundy, Antonio Caggiano, owner of the Caggiano estate, a passionate man powerfully dedicated to wine, took a tasting trip to the Côte d'Or. There his guide turned out to be Luigi Moio, a Neapolitan winemaker (he is now Professor in Oenology at the University of Naples), graduated from Bordeaux, working in Burgundy. It was friendship at first sight, Antonio promising Luigi to build him the finest estate possible if only he would return to Naples to help him. Eventually Luigi accepted, Antonio kept his word - his new cellars the most striking of the whole appellation! - and the adventure began.

Founded in 1990 with the purpose of making the greatest Taurasi possible, and thus reestablishing the remarkable reputation that Taurasi justly enjoyed in the past, when the

appellation was held to be on the par with that of Barolo and Gattinara in producing one of Italy's greatest wines, the Caggiano estate vinified its first grapes in 1994. All the while Antonio grappled with the cyclopic vision of erecting a three leveled cellar entirely hewn from stone (now completed). And from Burgundy he ordered the finest cooperage.

Vineyards from the finest crus that tradition attested to were bought. Plots of land were also bought and planted with selected clones of Aglianico, the famous *Vitis Hellenica*, planted by the Greeks when they colonized southern Italy, whose habitat has since unquestionably become the Taurasi appellation.

Luigi Moio dedicated himself heart and soul, and as the first wines were born and finally released, they revealed the perfect complexity expected only from the grand crus of the wine world!

Luigi Moio and I met at the Vinitaly fair, introduced to each other by the Burgundian tonnelier that we share. We tasted each other's wine - sparred, as it were - met again and again, and visited and revisited Antonio Caggiano and his splendid estate, still caught in the stonemason's grip.

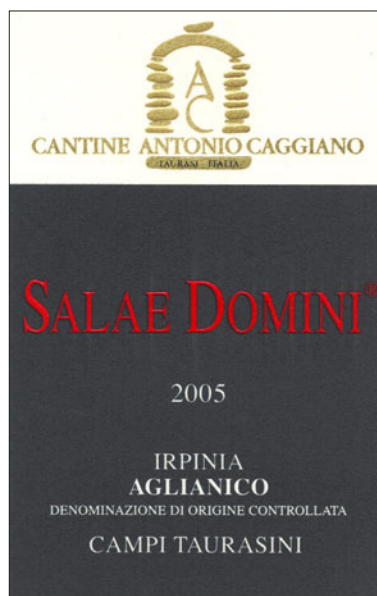
The 1995s and 1996s from the barrel was monumental. The 1994 Taurasi was the finest wine ever to be released in the appellation- of that I was sure!

Besides Taurasi, the estate's range of wines now consists of two Irpinia Aglianico DOC (Salae Domini and Tari), a Fiano di Avellino DOCG (Béchar), a Greco di Tufo DOCG (Devon), an IGT white (Fiagre, a blend of Fiano and of Greco) and a passito (also a blend of Fiano and of Greco). ◇



Tari

Zone: *Taurasi*
 Cru: *Vigneto Costa*
 Varietal: *Aglianico*
 Vineyard Ext.: *7 hectares*
 Average Prod.: *37,000 bottles*



Salae Domini

Zone: *Taurasi*
 Cru: *Vigneto Sala*
 Varietal: *Aglianico*
 Vineyard Ext.: *3 hectares*
 Average Prod.: *10,000 bottles*



Taurasi Vigna Macchia dei Goti

Zone: *Taurasi*
 Cru: *Macchia dei Goti*
 Varietal: *Aglianico*
 Vineyard Ext.: *4 hectares*
 Average Prod.: *14,000 bottles*