

Fattoria di LUCIGNANO

Tuscany

The fine microclimate and unique soil characteristics surrounding the medieval town of Lucignano, only a mile outside the western border of the Chianti Classico, make it without a doubt the finest cru of the Chianti Colli Fiorentini appellation.

Of all the estates I have selected in Tuscany, Lucignano is the most consistent in quality, achieving remarkable results even in the least favourable vintages. Its soils, moreover, (totally unlike those of the Chianti Classico), seem to be responsible for the unusual resilience of the complementary Canaiolo varietal grown there, the quality of which I have never seen equalled elsewhere, and whose relatively abundant presence in Lucignano's Chianti certainly contributes to its unerring fine quality.

Under these auspices, Niccolò Guicciardini (after his father, Count Lodovico, passed away in 2003), together with oenologist Federico Staderini, perpetuate the reputation that has made the wines of Lucignano among the most sought after products of the Florentine hillsides. Since 1988 (when I decided to add the Estate to my selections), Lucignano cultivates only the finest vineyards, having rented out the ones that they no longer felt were up to the quality they required. The Chianti from this estate is a remarkably fine, fruity and soft wine gifted with a notable bouquet, floral and berry-like, it is unlike any other Chianti I have encountered in this underrated appellation - a sign of the unique characteristics of its cru. Significantly enough, Count Guicciardini was piqued at having to call his wine Chianti - in his, and history's, opinion, a ridiculous misnomer which appellation laws have fostered upon it. There was a time, before the advent of mass media, when the cru of Lucignano

was as well known and sought after as the best of the Chianti Classico. Those were the days!

With its appealingly reasonable price it is my answer to the overwhelming output and encroaching presence of cheap and cheaply made wines that have invaded the markets of the world.

In 2009 a Vin Santo del Chianti (1998 vintage!) was released. ◇



Chianti Colli Fiorentini

Zone: *Chianti Colli Fiorentini, Chianti*
Cru: *Lucignano*
Varietal: *Sangiovese, Canaiolo*
Vineyard Ext.: *32 hectares (all in the Chianti Colli Fiorentini DOCG appellation)*
Average Prod.: *140,000 bottles*