

# CANTINE DEL NOTAIO

**A**glianico is the great varietal of southern Italy. I personally refer to it as the "Nebbiolo of the South". Only Aglianico is capable of rivalling Nebbiolo, yielding among the greatest wines of Italy and the world. Moreover, its grandeur much resembles that of Nebbiolo, with its power coupled to a finesse so extreme that it approaches tenderness. Again, like Nebbiolo, Aglianico will produce masterpieces only in a few, very specific, soils and microclimates: in the appellation of Taurasi, in the Campania region; and - as in the case of Cantine del Notaio - in Basilicata's appellation of Aglianico del Vulture. Both high altitude appellations - 550-650 meters above sea level - and both characterized by black volcanic soils.

In Taurasi I have been researching for years, and have the honor of working with two exceptional

domaines, already producing world class wines. Until recently, however, never having found a wine there worthy of the Aglianico grape, the Vulture had always puzzled and frustrated me. Then Angelo Valentino, the most capable cellar master of Taurasi's Caggiano estate, presented me a barrel sample of what was to become the Cru Aglianico del Vulture of Cantine del Notaio. Luigi Moio, the remarkable winemaker at Caggiano had supervised the production and Angelo (he no longer consults for this estate) had cared after it. The wine was a revelation. I had tasted the first great Aglianico del Vulture and I was overcome with excitement and joy.

Gerardo Giuratrabocchetti, owner of Cantine del Notaio, had a vision, born of a childhood memory, and cradled ever since: to bring his grandfather's vineyards to fruition. After thirty years he "proudly recovered his

roots", as he puts it, recuperating his grandfather's heritage and making it "the center of his life".

Thanks to Luigi Moio, and to his own punctilious integrity, Gerardo starts with a bang. Both his 1998s - first vintage made - sing with audacity, unfolding the absolute beauty for the Aglianico grape, and reconfirming the renaissance of southern Italy's wines!

These are not fashionable wines. They do not muscle their way into your attention; nor do they overwhelm you with opulence. They very simply manifest the superb elegance of thoroughbreds, the effortless stage presence of a dancer, the perfect pitch of the finest musician.

Gerardo now also produces an unusual barrique aged rosé, Il Rogito, and a sweet dessert wine, l'Autentica.



**AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE**  
Denominazione di Origine Controllata

## La Firma

### Aglianico del Vulture

Zone: *Aglianico del Vulture D.O.C.*  
Cru: *Maschito, Ripa Candida, Ginestra, Barile, Rionero in Vulture*

Varietal: *Aglianico*  
Vineyard Ext.: *23 hectares*  
Average Prod.: *40,000 bottles*

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## Il Repertorio

### Aglianico del Vulture

Zone: *Aglianico del Vulture D.O.C.*  
Cru: *Maschito, Ripa Candida, Ginestra, Barile, Rionero in Vulture*

Varietal: *Aglianico*  
Vineyard Ext.: *23 hectares*  
Average Prod.: *30-35,000 btl*