

# FONTALEONI

S. Gimignano

**V**ernaccia di San Gimignano is the only Tuscan white wine with a historical identity and, at its best, with a wonderful and lively personality. Its reputation dating back to the Middle Ages, the wine's ebullience was duly noted by Michelangelo who with perceptive poetical flight described it as wine that "kisses, bites, stings and caresses", perfectly capturing its delicate yet sinewy character.

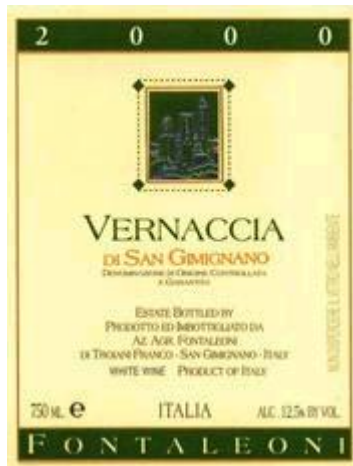
Fontaleoni is a very small estate whose vineyards lie on prevalently tufaceous soil at the ideal altitude of 200 meters above sea level. The average age of the vines is still youngish, but the yields are kept scrupulously low, particularly in the Casanuova vineyard, from whose grapes comes the estate's outstanding single-vineyard Vernaccia.

To be perfectly honest, Vernaccia is still rather mysterious varietal whose clonal identity is far from being understood. Fontaleoni has been able to distinguish six different ones in its five hectares, and there are probably others. *Selection massale* is being performed at Fontaleoni, empirically rather than scientifically, as clearly better clones are not difficult to spot. A characteristic, however, common to all Vernaccia grapes is their delicate nature and very very fragile skins that break easily when reaching full ripeness. Thus, the importance of both harvest care and cellar equipment such as piston pumps and soft presses to guard the

integrity of the grapes and their delicate aromatics.

Fontaleoni's care in the vineyard and cellar competence, supervised

Tuscany



by winemaker Paolo Caciorgna, turned the estate's first bottling of the 1994 vintage into a sensation, the single vineyard winning first place and the regular Vernaccia second in the Vernaccia Consortiums blind tasting of all 1994s produced! Customer response has been just as enthusiastic and, frankly, the wines can only get better as the vines gain in age and the estate gathers more experience.

Fontaleoni also makes a Chianti Colli Senesi and a Rosso di San Gimignano, La Cerrata, a blend of 60% Sangiovese and 40% Merlot.

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### Vernaccia di San Gimignano

Zone: *San Gimignano*

Varietal: *Vernaccia*

Vineyard Ext.: *6 hectares*

Average Prod.: *50,000 bottles*

### Vernaccia San Gimignano

#### "Casanuova"

Zone: *San Gimignano*

Cru: *Casanuova*

Varietal: *90% Vernaccia, 10%*

*Chardonnay*

Vineyard Ext.: *2 hectares*

Average Prod.: *12,000 bottles*

### Chianti Colli Senesi

