

Azienda Agricola

Tuscany

PALAZZINA - LE MACIOCHE

A discovery of my brother, Iano, this tiny estate promises to build itself a very swift and sound reputation.

When I first visited, I was immediately struck by the quality of the cellars, custom designed by the owner, Mr Mazzocchi (an engineer), to accomodate the finest equipment in the most rational and quality oriented fashion, the aging section fully underground. Before tasting I wished to visit the vineyards, and found them in excellent order, clusters strewn on the ground between the neat rows, vestigies of a generous grape thinning. With seven acres, it didn't take long to see.

I tasted four vintages of Brunello from the barrels, three from the bottle; and two Rosso di Montalcino, straight from the bottle. Instantly I was reminded of my first steps as an amateur winetaster, when many of the great, and so called great, wines were still affordable to a student, and often I had indulged in the pleasure of Biondi-Santi's wines prior to the Seventies, when Giulio Gambelli, that king of Tuscan winemakers still made wines there, and made the estate what it was. A similar purity and rigour, the very same classic feel. The effortless strength, the grip without the bite; stage presence free of the bombast; alcohol that cooled rather than burned and flavours that did not tire with age. Fine wines indeed! Wines that awaken the imagination; that one wishes to age, sure to discover ever new nuances. And the rare, reassuring imprint of terroir, as vintage after vintage proved itself blood brother to the previous.

A lovely precious find.



Brunello di Montalcino

Zone: *Montalcino*
Cru: *Le Macioche*
Varietal: *Sangiovese 100%*
Vineyard Ext.: *3 hectares*
Average Prod.: *8,000 bottles*



Rosso di Montalcino

Zone: *Montalcino*
Cru: *Le Macioche*
Varietal: *Sangiovese 100%*
Vineyard Ext.: *3 hectares*
Average Prod.: *8,000 bottles*