

Azienda Agricola PIAGGIA

Tuscany

Carmignano is where I learned to make wine as a teenager. It stands to reason that I have a soft spot for it. It is also an underdog, an appellation always neglected when discussing fine Tuscan wines. And my heart has always rebelled against this injustice, for Carmignano can clearly compete with the very finest appellations in Tuscany. The Ambra estate, for instance, whose wines I have been representing since the 1983 vintage, has now a cult following of connoisseurs throughout the world. When Mauro Vannucci, owner of Piaggia contacted me to propose a collaboration, I was all for it, but seeing Mauro's limited experience, I insisted that he use the services of Alberto Antonini, a good friend and extremely talented winemaker.

Piaggia's total vineyard extension is fifteen hectares. The total production is approximately 60,000 bottles which translates into very low yields. Thus the wine's generous concentration, and the owner's determination to release only Riserva status wines.

The cellars are brand new and built into the side of a hill in order to achieve an ideal temperature for correctly aging the wines. The fermentation tanks are small (40 hectolitres), short and squat: the "chapeau" is therefore thin, easing the process of punching down and allowing a gentle extraction with no pumping over required. After a three week average maceration-fermentation, the wine undergoes malolactic and aging in 100% new small oak.

The results have been immediate. Piaggia's wines easily rival the best of Tuscany, placing this tiny estate in the forefront of quality from inception. Piaggia's Carmignano displays all the characteristics attributed to fine wine, including that ineffable nobility of expression that is the prerogative of great terroir.

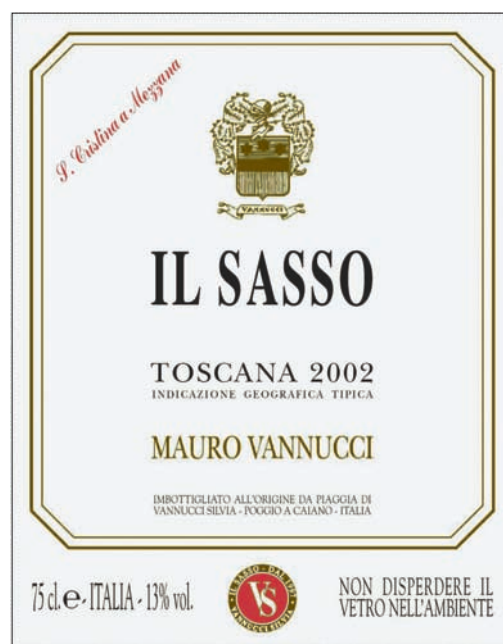
A non DOC wine, Il Sasso, obtained from the same varietals of

Carmignano, was released with the 1999 vintage in 2002.



Carmignano Riserva Piaggia

Zone: *Carmignano*
Cru: *S. Cristina a Mezzana*
Varietal: *Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot*
Vineyard Ext.: *15 hectares*
Average Prod.: *30,000 bottles*



Il Sasso

Zone: *Carmignano*
Cru: *S. Cristina a Mezzana, Il Sasso*
Varietal: *Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot*
Average Prod.: *10,000 bottles*