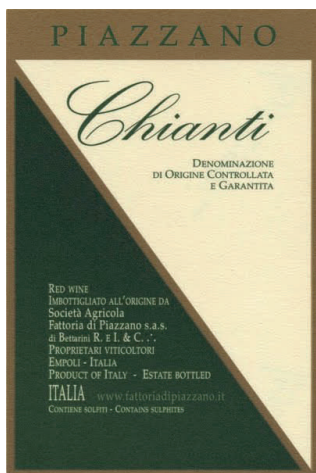


Fattoria di PIAZZANO

Empoli

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Italy

TUSCANY
Chianti

OVERVIEW

This is the first estate of the Empoli area to produce a Chianti (among other wines) that is unequivocally worthy of note. So fine are the wines of this estate that they easily rival many very well known—and much more expensive—cousins from the Chianti Classico appellation. Grapes have been cultivated on Riccardo Bettarini's property since at least the mid-300's A.D., a testament to the uniquely favorable grape-growing conditions of this site. Not only are Piazzano's 60 acres different from his neighbors, but even within his own property, there are such widely varying soil types (thanks in no small part to the geological fault-line running through the estate), that Bettarini vinifies every plot separately to isolate and highlight each terroir's identity. He then blends together the most felicitous vats to create two cuvées. The richest lots are devoted to the Rio Camerata, a sensational Chianti that rivals any Chianti Classico selling for twice the price. The rest is allotted to a splendidly hearty, everyday Chianti that should be quaffed with abandon. Any wine deemed unworthy is simply sold off on the bulk market. Piazzano also makes one of the finest Vini Santo around—thanks to the heavy reliance upon the maple-toned San Colombano variety that is left to dry on the vine—as opposed to traditional straw mats (upon which the Trebbiano and Malvasia meet their raisin-er). It must be tasted to be believed, and its price is also, as with the Chiantis, surprisingly attractive.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Heavy cover crops and aggressive green harvesting
- Grapes are de-stemmed and gently macerated over 2-3 week period before fermentation.
- Riserva is aged in barrique; Vin Santo is in 50L chestnut, oak, and cherry casks for 4 years, topped-off with the ancient reserves discovered when the Bettarinis purchased the property.

WINES

Piazzano IGT Ventoso

A fresh, fruity, easy-to-drink “mini-Chianti” comprised of a mixture dominated by Sangiovese and Canaiolo.

Piazzano Chianti

Piazzano's basic Chianti is a charismatic, sinewy wine with greater dark-fruit richness than is usually found in Chianti for twice the price.

Piazzano Chianti Rio Camerata

This wine is named for a small river that runs through the vineyards is a big, blooming Chianti with brambly, cherry fruit and a halo of with floral intensity.

Piazzano Vin Santo Bianco dell'Empolese DOC

A spectacular Vin Santo that never sheds its elegance and pedigree. Still, it's a bold wine, dominated by spices and candied orange peel.

ACCOLADES

The **Piazzano 2009 Chianti** is a fresh, vinous red with surprising richness, concentration and sheer mouthfilling dark fruit at this level. Ideally, this big, juicy Chianti is best enjoyed over the next year or two. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2012.

Antonio Galloni, *The Wine Advocate*, #191

Varieties:

White: San Colombano, Trebbiano, Malvasia

Red: Sangiovese, Canaiolo, Colorino

Total Acreage: about 59 acres

Average Production: around 5,500 cases