

Tenuta delle
**TERRE
NERE**
Randazzo



Marco de Grazia



Etna blowing its stack—as long as the lava flows west, everything'll be just fine...for the vineyards at least.



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Italy

SICILY
Etna

OVERVIEW

As you climb the steep, terraced slopes of the eastern side of Mt. Etna, it becomes quite a feat to control the itch your feet have to carry you screaming from this live volcano. However, the breathtaking vista of Calabria and the Ionian Sea drives all fear from your mind, and your imagination easily wanders back through the millennia to the earliest workers of these ancient vineyards that fell into obscurity through the ages. They remain something of a vinous backwater, but slowly, as is always true with such things, their fame increases. Importer Marco de Grazia was in the vanguard of those beating the drum for Etna and its precious native varieties, because—one has to wonder—why are they still grown there if they can't produce good wine? Well, as anyone can taste, these grapes yield *world class* wines. De Grazia purchased some 22 hectares of prime real estate and proceeded to put into practice all that he had learned over years of cajoling Piedmontese winemakers to take a page from the inspirational wines and *vignerons* of Burgundy. The general Burgundian approach—which emphasizes clarity and sense of place above all else—results in wines that are purely and uniquely *Sicilian*.

Varieties:

White: Carricante, Catarratto, Grecanico, Inzolia

Red: Nerello Mascalese, Nerello Cappuccio

Total Acreage:

54 acres

Average Production:

11,000 cases

WINES

Etna Bianco

A succulent, graceful yet voluptuously fruit-oriented old-vine white made of 4 native varieties.

Etna Bianco *Cuvée della Vigne Niche*

Nuanced and seductive, the fathomless character of this cask-aged 100% Carricante retains a smoky minerality through a creamy stone fruit elegance with obvious class and breeding.

Etna Rosato

An ebullient, fragrant, red-fruited rosé that is incredibly complex and has a beatifically pale color that the Pre-Raphaelites would've envied. Vines range in age from 40-140 years.

Etna Rosso

Shows off Etna's charms with cocky bravura: dark red fruit dances about with purity and finesse, as suggestive as a good red Bourgogne, but more exotic and *definitely* a better value.

Etna Rosso *Calderara Sottana*

A floating, floral perfume dominates this wine's aroma and finish, while its flavors are brightly adorned with ethereal red and blue fruits, rooted to a firm underpinning of density.

Etna Rosso *Guardiola*

De Grazia's highest altitude cru, the Guardiola is muscular-yet-lithe, has a svelte mouthfeel and a concentrated, high-beam, floral, complex expression dominated by red cherries.

Etna Rosso *Santo Spirito*

Though not particularly ecclesiastical, this empyrean cuvée is a broad-shouldered and soulful wine that is as plenary as any wine could be, suggesting the a first-rate Vosne-Romanée.

Etna Rosso *Feudo di Mezzo "Il Quadro delle Rose"*

A moody, brooding, and richly appointed wine, this red-blooded cuvée's black fruits are wound with a tannic forcefulness which ameliorates with cellar time. An eye-opening experience, thanks to the concentrated display of the grand potential of Etna.

Etna Rosso *Prephylloxera "La Vigna di Don Peppino"*

140-year-old vines—that's right!—from a single hectare within the Calderara Sottana yield this wine that behaves much like power-oriented Burgundy. Extraordinary complexities that range from obvious to furtive dovetail throughout, continually unfolding with aeration (or better, in the cellar) in this magical, mystical wine.

ACCOLADES

Proprietor Marc de Grazia is one of the pioneers of the Etna. Not only was he among the first producers to recognize the value of these once-forgotten, ancient *terroirs*, he also was the first producer to bring attention to the specific qualities of these vineyards by bottling single-parcel Nerellos that have become reference-point wines for the Etna.

Antonio Galloni, *The Wine Advocate*, #189