



The International Wine Review

September 2015

Report #51: The Best Indigenous Wines of Sicily

A Tenth Anniversary Special Report

The International Wine Review celebrates its tenth year of publication in 2015. To celebrate, we revisit many of the regions we've reported on over the past decade. Our focus in this series of special reports and articles is our favorite producers and their wines.



As we observed in our 2013 report on *The Wines of Sicily*, some of Italy's most exciting wines are today being produced in Sicily's diverse wine growing regions, from Marsala in the west to Mount Etna in the east and the exotic island of Pantelleria located just 60 km east of Tunis¹. Modern family and commercial wineries are making unique, world class wines from grape varieties indigenous to Sicily, like Nero d'Avola, Nerello Mascalese, Frapatto, Grillo, Caricante, Zibibbo, and others. In this article we identify our favorite producers of wines made from these indigenous varieties, and we provide updated reviews of many of their wines. Our recommendations on the best producers are summarized in a table given below.

In this Issue

Introduction	1
The Grapes and Appellations	1
Our Favorite Sicilian Producers	3
Wine Profiles and Tasting Notes	4
Map: Principal Wine Regions of Sicily	8

The Grapes and Appellations

A large number of indigenous varieties are grown in Sicily. However, only a relatively small number are important for premium wine production. Indigenous varieties like Catarratta, Nero d'Avola, and Inzolia are a high percentage of all plantings. Some of Sicily's most interesting indigenous varieties—Nerello Mascalese, Caricante, Frapatto, Pericone, and Zibibbo—are planted in much smaller numbers. For more on the indigenous varieties of Sicily, see our Report #37 *The Wines of Sicily*.

Sicily has numerous appellations. However, only four region-specific appellations are in wide use—Marsala, Pantelleria, Cerasuolo di Vittoria, and Mount Etna. Most

¹ Report # 37 *The Wines of Sicily* was written in collaboration with Joel Butler MW, contributing editor, and Assovini Sicilia.

Previous Wine Reports



i-winereview.com

Issue 1	California Petite Sirah
Issue 2	Red Table Wines of Portugal
Issue 3	Grenache Wines
Issue 4	Syrah
Issue 5	Malbec: Argentina's Magnificent Malbec
Issue 6	The Wines of Southern Italy: From Quantity to Quality
Special Report	Portugal: The Douro Boys and Barca Velha
Issue 7	New Zealand's Exciting Pinot Noirs
Issue 8	The Wines of Ribera del Duero
Issue 9	Champagne
Issue 10	Unoaked Chardonnay: It's More Than Wood
Issue 11	2005 Bordeaux Crus Bourgeois
Issue 12	California Petite Sirah - Syrah Update
Issue 13	The Wines of Rioja: Classical and New Wave
Special Report	Introduction to Sherry
Issue 14	The World of Sparkling Wines and Champagne
Issue 15	Wines of Chianti Classico
Issue 16	Oregon Pinot Noir
Issue 17	Sauvignon of the Loire
Issue 18	Wines of Navarra
Issue 19	Wines of Greece: Assyrtiko and Santorini
Issue 20	The Santa Lucia Highlands
Issue 21	The Chilean Wine Revolution
Issue 22	Grapes and Wines of the Western Loire
Issue 23	Ribera del Duero Revisited
Issue 24	The New Wines of Portugal Double Issue
Issue 25	The Wines of Austria
Issue 26	The Diverse Wines of Argentina Double Issue
Issue 27	Sweet and Dessert Wines of the World
Issue 28	The Wines of Priorat
Issue 29	The Wines of Monterey County
Issue 30	The Wines of South Africa Double Issue
Issue 31	Brunello di Montalcino
Issue 32	The New Wines of Israel
Issue 33	The Wines of Paso Robles
Issue 34	Champagne Revisited
Issue 35	The Wines of Soave
Special Report	South African Chenin Blanc
Issue 36	The Wines of Santa Barbara
Issue 37	The Wines of Sicily
Issue 38	The Wines of Washington State
Issue 39	The World of Grenache
Special Report	The Wines of Montefalco
Issue 40	Rosé Champagne and Sparkling Wine
Special Report	The Exciting Sparkling Wines of South Africa
Issue 41	The Amarones of Valpolicella
Issue 42	The Wines of Catalonia
Issue 43	The Wines of Rioja—A New Look
Issue 44	The Wines of Sonoma County
Issue 45	Virginia Wine Comes of Age
Issue 46	Special Report: The Best of Soave
Issue 47	Special Report: The Best of Tuscany
Issue 48	The Wines of Los Carneros
Issue 49	Special Report: The Best of Spain
Issue 50	The Wines of Chablis

These reports are available online at www.iwinereview.com