

BEL COLLE

Bel Colle ("Beautiful Hill"), is a medium to small size winery producing 15,000 cases of wine a year. It is located in the township of Verduno, in the heart of the wine growing region of Piedmont.

Located in the famous Barolo region of Piedmont, Verduno is a short distance south of the Tanaro river. To the north of the Tanaro lies the Roero district, famous for the white Arneis wines. Bel Colle thus has immediate access to vineyards in both regions, and they take advantage of this to produce both Roero and Alba wines. Verduno is 1 km from La Morra, 8 km (5 miles) from Barolo and 18 km (11 miles) from Alba. Alba is the capital of the Langhe region, whose hills rise southeast of the Tanaro River. Verduno is characterized by gentle undulating slopes with northwest and southwest exposure, and is 190 to 406 meters above sea level.

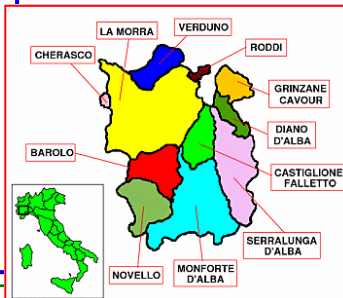
Bel Colle was founded in 1978. The winery is near the vineyards that belonged to King Charles Albert of Savoy, King of Piedmont between 1821 and 1848. The owners of the Bel Colle winery are Franco Pontiglione, the family of his former brother - they own one of the most important industrial tile producing companies in Europe - and his brother-in-law, Giuseppe Priola. Bel Colle estate has a total of 12 hectares (30 acres) of vineyards.

For the production of its extensive range of wines, which include Piedmont's premier red wine, Barolo, and such rarities as Pelaverga and Arneis, the Bel Colle winery draws on the output of its own vineyards as well as grapes provided under long-term contract by growers in nearby vineyards.

Paolo Torchio, a 1964 graduate of the Enological School of Alba has been Winemaker and Director of the winery since 1986, after many years of experience in the Alba region.



The area surrounding Verduno is also known for a unique wine called PELAVERGA made with Pelaverga grapes. It seems that this vine was transplanted in Verduno from the town of Saluzzo (20 miles due west) in the second half of the 1700's by Father Sebastiano Valfré. Bel Colle is the most important producer of this rare wine which is characterized by a rich peppery flavor.



The General Manager and Winemaker Paolo Torchio.

