

FATTORIA DI FALTOGNANO

“Much happiness comes to men who have the fortune to be born where wine is good”, wrote Leonardo da Vinci of his hometown (His surname means “from Vinci”). He may well have made this statement tasting the wine of Roberto Comparini’s ancestors, the Comparini Bardzky family, whose ownership of this estate dates back to around 1,000 AD.

The winery of Fattoria di Faltognano sits high up on the slopes of the Monte Albano, between Florence and Pisa, surrounded by its many olive groves and looking down on the town of Vinci and the Arno River valley. On clear days, one can see Pisa, Livorno and the Tyrrhenian Sea. During WWII, German officers occupied the Faltognano villa to take advantage of this view for surveillance purposes. The vineyards lie downhill from the winery, closer to the town of Vinci, where the sandstone and calcareous soil of the slopes blends with the sandy clay of the lower Arno plain. The uniqueness of the Faltognano property lies in the continuity of its ownership and traditions. The vines and olive trees have been grafted and replanted, generation after generation, from the estate’s own stock and by the estates own workers, whose families have also lived here for generations. They can therefore be considered uniquely acclimated to the microclimate of Faltognano. Wine has been made here for centuries, but never bottled until Roberto Comparini decided it was time to let the world know the uniqueness of his property through his olive oil and wines. To this end, many important changes were made in the vineyards (the density from 3,000 vines per hectare, considerably dense for old plantings, was and is moved to as high as 5,000 vines per hectare) and in the cellar acquiring technologically up to dated equipment.

Fattoria di Faltognano has 18,000 olive trees covering 62 hectares (155 acres). Up until a few years ago the estate had its own mill for the olives, but the difficulty of finding properly trained manpower, a major problem in the Tuscan countryside, forced the owners to dismantle it. Now, under the direction of Roberto Bardzky Comparini, who is striving to make the products of Faltognano known beyond the Montalbano region, a new, modern mill will start to “frangere” the olives of Faltognano in October 2005..

Below: The historic villa of Faltognano, which during the Second World War, was inhabited by the Germans to take advantage of the view it offered of the entire valley of the Arno River. It is now used as a part-time residence by members of the Bardzky family, but is very well maintained.



Above: The view from the Fattoria di Faltognano is absolutely breath-taking! This photograph looks down to the bottom of the mountain, at the historic, medieval village of Vinci, within whose commune the great artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was born.