

G A B B A S

Gabbas Estate lies in "Barbagia," the heart of Sardinia, where the slopes of the Oliena hills descend northwest into a valley near the provincial capital of Nuoro. The vineyards are situated in the Locoe Valley, between Oliena and Orgosolo. Although this region has a rich agricultural history dating back to the Roman Empire, it is not until the second half of the 1800 that we hear of wines produced in the Oliena subzone. Our property, which has been in our family for generations, extends over 35 hectares (86 acres), 18.5 (46 acres) of which are vineyards. The estate is blessed the Mediterranean sunlight, by fertile soil in a microclimate greatly favoring ripe grape growth. Of medium consistency, the decomposed granite soil has good water retention even during droughts and arid Sardinian summers. The climate of this zone is influenced by its proximity to the surrounding mountain hills, and by the breezy temperatures which come from the sea, just over 30 miles away. This means that the day and night temperatures in the vineyards differ considerably. Not only does this microclimate ensure ideal grape acidity, it supports an ecosystem that reduces the need for antiparasite treatments. Production never exceeds 2-2.5 tons per acre.

The Cannonau grape (thought to be a clone of Grenache) is the most noteworthy grape grown in eastern Sardinia. The grape most likely arrived here during the period of Spanish rule (from the 15th - 17th centuries) and since that time has been associated with big, powerful, deeply structured wines, the best from our subzone of Oliena.

At the Giuseppe Gabbas estate, we strive to craft fine wines with native and "foreign" grapes. Great attention is given to the vineyards. When I started to work actively in our property in 1974, I found old vineyards planted in 1945-1950 (head-trained = "alberello" training system=small tree) and others trellised in 1966-67. We still have few acres planted in 1984-1986, but soon they will be uprooted to make space to new vineyards part of a REPLANTING PROJECT started in 1992. One vineyard of 5 hectares (12.4 acres) was planted in 1992-1993 with a density of 5,600 vines per hectare (2,265 per acre) and trellised applying the spur cordon and Guyot training system. An additional vineyard of the same acreage was planted in 1999. The most recent works date back to 2004 & 2005. We have almost completed a total renovation of our property that I think can be compared to a well manicured garden.

Sardinia is an island with a "dramatic" sun, a unique luminescent sky, stunning colors and wines with great intensity; they are the mirror of our island.

Giuseppe Gabbas

