

MONTECALVI

Montecalvi's proprietary "Super-Tuscan" wine is testimony of one man's singular vision and passion.

Umbrian born Renzo Bolli made his fortune in England, as a computer-marketing expert, where he met, then married, his wife Bernadette. As an expatriate, he dreamed of returning home and producing a "first-growth" Italian wine.

In 1988, to Bernadette's initial horror ("You've planted our money into the ground!" she fretted), he decided to do exactly that, purchasing choice property just north of the town of Greve in Chianti. Determined to produce wines of great personality, in 1990 he enlisted the assistance of a young agronomist and oenologist, who had just set out on his own, named Stefano Chioccioli. Montecalvi was the first winery to turn to the assistance this now famous enologist. Together they introduced the most up-to-date technical knowledge and infrastructure to the vineyard and winery. Since the 1991 harvest there has been steady growth to a quality standard of producing no more than one bottle of wine per vinestock. Renzo and Bernadette's daughter, Jackie O'Byrne, continues to work with her husband Daniel O'Byrne since Renzo's death in 1997. From 2003 vintage they follow personally all the production phases.

The estate covers 10 hectares [25 acres] of which 3 hectares are vineyards. (7.4 acres).

There are 3 vineyards, all of them terraced at an altitude of about 300 meters asl. They are trained with the Guyot pruning system with a charge of 6 buds/vine.

a) **VV - Vieille Vigne** - of just under 1 (less than 2.47 acres). It was planted 1932. It has a density of 6000 vines/hectare [2430 vines/acre]. Varieties planted: 95% Sangiovese & 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Total production: 2,500 bottles.

b) **San Piero** of about 0.60 hectares. It was planted in 2001 by Jacqueline Bolli & Daniel O'Byrne at a density of 7000 vines per hectare. [2839 vines/acre]. Varieties planted: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon & 5% Alicante Bouschet. Total production: 1,700 bottles.

c) **Montecalvi** of 1.2 hectares. This was the main original vineyard planted by Renzo Bolli in 1991 with, at that time new, **Sangiovese R23 clone**. Varieties planted: 95 Sangiovese & 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot & Syrah.

6,500 plants per hectare. - Total production: 6,000 bottles.

In 2007 were planted a 0.5 hectares; the first harvest is expected by 2011.

The grapes are cultivated to achieve intense concentration and maturation. The vines are green pruned systematically to obtain a harvest of less than 2.2 lbs/vinestock. Only 400 grams per plant for the San Piero. The grapes are monitored daily and are harvested only when the polyphenols and sugar both reach full maturation.

The wine undergoes alcoholic fermentation in 15-30 hl. (396-792 gal.) tanks.



The British educated Jackie Bolli O'Byrne and the San Franciscan lawyer Daniel O'Byrne