

SILVANO STROLOGO

The Cònero Mountain is the only significant peak along the Italian side of the Adriatic from Trieste all the down until the Gargano promontory. At 572 meters (1,877 feet), it creates a unique microclimate mixing the cool mountain airs with a more temperate maritime climate. The mountain itself is a national park, and thus there are no vines on its slopes, but those growing in the nearby areas have thrived through the years, making particularly good red wines from the Montepulciano vine that is bottled as the Rosso Cònero DOC.

To the southwest and inland lies the town of Camerano, and it is on these south-facing slopes that Silvano Strologo's 18 hectares (45 acres) of vineyard lie. Silvano's father planted the first vines on this property in 1964, and sold the wine he made from them in bulk or demijohns to local clientele. When Silvano took over the winery a few years ago, he was dissatisfied with making bulk wine and decided to invest heavily in the vineyards and winery in order to begin producing premium, estate bottled wine. To this end he enlisted the services of the up-and-coming enologist Giancarlo Soverchia, who assisted him in arranging his small, but state-of-the-art cellar and in replanting his vineyards to a much greater density and vertical training systems.

Tasting Silvano's wines in the company of both the owner and his enologist, we were struck, not only by the outstanding depth and complexity achieved by the Montepulciano grape in this soil, but by both Silvano and Giancarlo's excitement over the accomplishments they have made in such a short period of time. In Italian, Strologo sounds a lot like "astrologo", or astrologer. Judging from his wines, it would seem that Silvano does indeed have a way with other-worldly forces on his land!

The Strologo winery only makes two wines: Julius, to the left, is named for Silvano's father, Sante Giulio Strologo. Traiano, below, is named for the ancient Roman emperor Trajan, who built the nearby city of Ancona into one of the biggest harbors of the Mediterranean

