

Gambero Rosso®
Slow Food Editore



italianwines 2007

**A GUIDE TO THE WORLD
OF ITALIAN WINES
FOR EXPERTS
AND WINE LOVERS**

**2,206 PRODUCERS
16,000 WINES**

**282 THREE GLASSES
25 RETROSPECTIVE
THREE GLASSES
AWARDS**

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If we bear in mind that Massimo Di Lenardo's vineyards are in the Grave DOC zone, then we can safely say that he has won his personal wager. Even though he bottles about 500,000 units from his 47 hectares, year after year the Di Lenardo cellar shows that it can do quality as well as quantity. Massimo's next objective is to reach 50 hectares under vine. Most of the winery's output goes to the United States, with the Italian market absorbing about 30 per cent of the total. The man himself is dynamic to a fault, always looking for new ideas to develop. Nor can you ignore the imagination he puts into naming his wines. Just Me, for example, is a single-variety Merlot aged in American oak for 18 months and chock full of ripe red fruit, currants and briary fruit. The depth of this wine is incredible as it enters assertively and then opens on the palate into a wealth of pleasurable sensations. It's a product of undeniable drinkability. Also good is the Ronco Nolè 2004, from merlot, refosco and cabernet. Dry, austere and very complex on the nose, it is all fragrance in the mouth. The other bottles tasted included Pinot Grigio Vigne dai Vieris 2005, one of the cellar's big hitters. Flowers and banana-like fruit take you slowly through to the soft finish. Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso 2005 is another characterful wine. Fermented on the skins for ten days in steel tanks, it has a deep ruby hue, red fruit aromas and a prolonged, agreeably taut progression on the palate.

● Merlot Just Me '04	5
● Ronco Nolè Rosso '04	4
● Friuli Grave Refosco P. R. '05	3*
○ Friuli Grave Pinot Grigio Vigne dai Vieris '05	3*
● Friuli Grave Cabernet Vigne dai Vieris '05	4
○ Friuli Grave Pinot Bianco Vigne dai Vieris '05	4
○ Friuli Grave Sauvignon Blanc Vigne dai Vieris '05	3
○ Verduzzo Pass the Cookies '05	4
○ Friuli Grave Chardonnay '05	3
○ Friuli Grave Tocai Friulano Toh! '05	4