




Passopisciario, Passopisciario Rosso 2009

 <p>Blend: 100% Nerello Mascalese</p> <p>Vineyard age: 70-100 years</p> <p>Vineyard density: 8,000 vines/Ha</p> <p>Vineyard altitude: 500-1,100 m asl</p> <p>Yield per hectare: 42 Hl/Ha</p> <p>Fertilization: None</p> <p>Spraying: Propolis, vitamin C, copper, sulphur</p> <p>Aging: Malolactic fermentation 18 months in large oak barrels and cement vessels</p>	<p>This wine is made from the grapes of Nerello Mascalese planted in various Contrade (Crus) of Malpasso, Guardiola, Santo Spirito, Favazza and Arcuria. These Contrade lie between 500 and 1,000 m/1,650 and 3,300 ft above sea level on the northern side of Mount Etna. The vines are bush trained and are between 70 and 100 years old. Generally, the higher crus are on a more gravelly soil, the lower ones in a deeper powder made with more oxidized, older lavas. As a blend of different altitudes and soil types, Passopisciario demonstrates the breadth of flavors that Etna can produce.</p> <p>2009 VINTAGE</p> <p>The weather in 2009 had a particular effect on our wines, giving them a greater tension and density than normal. Scattered rains through the end of September, then continual into the middle of October: the rising humidity prompted us to pick earlier than in other year in each of the various vineyards that rise across the northern face of the volcano at the different altitudes.</p> <p>2009 was a year of wines with strong varietal character than others because of the earlier pickings, so the blend amasses aromatic power, holds a backward, tight structure, and shows great complexity and aging potential. We fermented quickly and without maceration, and started aging the wines after running them, already clean of lees, in large vessels of wood and concrete. Preserving light, bright wines of nerello mascalese called for careful closure and rare rackings until bottling, which we did 18 months later, after a good fining to keep the wines clear and long lasting. Passopisciario 09 will peak after 2016.</p>
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