

## Etna wildfires threaten 'Sicilian Montrachet'

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- by Richard Woodard

Wildfires on the slopes of Mount Etna threatened the winery and vines of Passopisciaro, the Sicilian outpost of Tuscan producer Tenuta di Trinoro.



*Image credit: [Corriere della Sera](#)*

The fires, prompted by soaring temperatures of up to 35C, devastated the northern slopes of Etna on Sunday, destroying large swathes of Mediterranean scrub, pine and beech forests in the **Zingaro National Park**.

**Barbara Santilli** of **Tenuta di Trinoro** said the fires, fuelled by the strong Sirocco wind, damaged broom bushes in **Contrada Guardiola**, where the **Passopisciaro** winery is located, 'almost reaching the walls of the cellar'.

She added: 'The fires spread very fast and therefore also damaged some of our Chardonnay vineyards of the **Guardiola** cru, planted at 1,000m, our **Sicilian Montrachet**.

'Luckily, the grounds around the vines were kept clean, so the flames didn't destroy the plants; however, the high temperatures could have harmed the grapes.'

Santilli said it was too soon to assess the possible damage to this year's harvest.

The Chardonnay vineyards are the source of **Passopisciaro's** flagship white wine, **Guardiola**.

About 900 tourists were evacuated from hotels and campsites when the fires took hold, as firefighters battled for 12 hours to control the blazes in the 4,000-acre park.