

vinous

89_{pts}

Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada P

Passopisciaro, Terre Siciliane, Sicily

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2019 - 2023

Bright dark red. Very ripe aromas of sweet spices, quinine and red cherry. Similar flavors of aromatic red cherry and botanical herbs on the palate, with a fleshy tactile texture and a low acid mouthfeel. Finishes broad and ripe, with very good length. A bigger richer wine than Franchetti's other Contrada wines, but less well-delineated currently with a trace of alcoholic heat at the back. The P in the wine's name stands for Porcaria, an Etna Contrada; Franchetti's vines grow at about 650 meters above sea level. (14.5% alcohol)

Ian D'Agata. Tasting date: June 2017

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From Sicily Continues To Progress (Sep 2017)

Passopisciaro

Franchetti is well-known as the owner of Tuscany's Tenuta di Trinoro and its famous, large-scaled wines that are much sought after by collectors all over the world. His Sicilian estate, formerly known as Passopisciaro, has done wonders for the Etna denomination and has the merit (along with Benanti, who first attracted attention to the area, and Tenuta delle Terre Nere, who helped further crystallize it later) of having launched Etna's wines into the stratosphere. Franchetti started bottling wine on Etna in 2001, then in 2008 started bottling his single *contrada* wines that were a knockout from day one, it's safe to say he has never looked back. The wines are sultry, highly perfumed and profound. The estate recently planted two more hectares of Chardonnay in Monte Dolce to go with the three in Guardiola. In fact, and rather curiously for an Etna estate, there is no Carricante-based white wine made here, as Franchetti really doesn't like the variety much. It's about the only thing I am in disagreement with him!

Grape/Blend

Nerello Mascalese

Release price

\$90.00

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90_{pts}

Passopisciaro 2015 Passobianco (Formerly Guardiola)

Terre Siciliane, Sicily

White wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2017 - 2021

Bright straw-yellow. Rich buttery banana and pineapple but also lemon drop and grapefruit on the refined nose. Then similar flavors to the aromas with a vibrant saline backbone and very good lemony bite. A lovely wine with just a trace of alcoholic heat on the finish. Yields are very low: roughly six bunches per plant. After the malolactic, ages 18 months in large oak barrels (16-50 hL) and cement (100 hL).

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Grape/Blend

Chardonnay

Release price

\$38.00

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92_{pts}

Passopisciaro 2015 Etna Rosso Passorosso (Formerly Passopisciaro)

Passopisciaro, Terre Siciliane, Sicily

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2017 - 2022

Bright red. Perfumed aromas of rose and violet are complicated by cinnamon. Fresh, juicy and precise, with a hint of chlorophyll and menthol. Vibrant and very long with a persistent herbal note on the very floral, perfumed finish. 100% Nerello Mascalese grown in different contrade (about 60% from Guardiola, the rest is from Chiappemacine, Malpasso, and Favazza located within Calderara and Feudo di Mezzo). This became an Etna Rosso with the 2014 vintage.

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Grape/Blend

Nerello Mascalese

Release price

\$42.00

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92+ pts

Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada R

Passopisciaro, Terre Siciliane, Sicily

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2019 - 2025

Bright red. Very elegant, clean, precise aromas and flavors of red berries, botanical herbs and sweet spices. Finishes very mineral and refined with lots of lingering spicy red fruit. This is the most ready Contrada R (R stands for Rampante) I remember tasting from Franchetti; usually I find the wines from this specific Etna contrada (his vines are located high up at 1000 meters, or roughly 3500 feet above sea level) to be rigid and tannic in their youth. Instead this wine can be drunk now, though it will also last another ten years without problems. The grapes were picked at the end of October building up enough sugar for the wine to clock in at 14% alcohol.

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Grape/Blend

Nerello Mascalese

Release price

\$60.00

vinous

92+ pts

Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada S

Passopisciaro, Terre Siciliane, Sicily

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2019 - 2024

Bright red. Menthol, sour red cherry, and redcurrant liqueur on the spicy, intensely perfumed almost aromatic nose. Then also spicy in the mouth, with a fleshy powerful mouthfeel (14% alcohol) and outstanding length. This strikes me as being especially well balanced this year. The S in the name of Contrada S stands for Sciaranuova; these Nerello Mascalese grapes grow at 850 meters above sea level.

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Grape/Blend

Nerello Mascalese

Release price

\$75.00

vinous

93+ pts

Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada C

Passopisciaro, Terre Siciliane, Sicily

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2019 - 2025

Bright red. Sweet spices and red cherry on the vivid nose. Then enters soft and round, but turns livelier, thanks to vibrant acidity that lifts the floral and red cherry flavors. Less explosive on the nose than Rampante and Sciaranuova, with a high, lemony acidity on the palate that speaks of this site's calcareous soils. The C in the wine's name stands for Chiappemacine (550 meters asl). The word *chiappemacine* itself derives from the large stone wheels used to crush olives when making olive oil.

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Grape/Blend

Nerello Mascalese

Release price

\$60.00

vinous

94_{pts}

Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada G

Passopisciaro, Terre Siciliane, Sicily

Red wine from Italy

Drinking window: 2021 - 2028

Bright dark red. Intensely aromatic nose of superripe red cherry, spices, minerals, balsamic vinegar and broom. Then clean, vibrant and tactile, with polished tannins providing noteworthy backbone on the long youthful, chewy finish. This will need a long time to smoothen out. The G in the wine's name stands for Guardiola (800 meters asl). First made in 2011, so much later than the other single contrada wines by Franchetti.

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Grape/Blend

Nerello Mascalese

Release price

\$75.00

