

## Passopisciaro

Producer Spotlight

### Volcanic Cru Wines

In 2000, Andrea Franchetti saw the potential of the abandoned vineyards perched below the active Mt. Etna volcano, on Sicily's eastern seaboard. He purchased land and founded his Passopisciaro winery, a complement to his already successful Tenuta di Trinoro winery in southeastern Tuscany. It was a moment of serendipity, and **Franchetti, along with two other Etna outsiders, would spark the revitalization of Etna's now thriving wine scene.**

Two decades later, **Passopisciaro's lineup of nine wines from 64 acres of vines are among the mountain's most highly esteemed.** The centerpiece is six bottlings from the local Nerello Mascalese grape, particularly the five wines that highlight the unique *terroir* of an individual *cru*—a growing area delineated along feudal property lines known locally as a *contrada*.



Franchetti denotes each with the *contrada's* first letter printed boldly on the front label: Porcaria, Sciaranuova (pictured), Guardiola, Chiappemacine and Rampante. Vine age for each *contrada* is between 70 to 100 years, and elevations range from about 1,800 feet for the Chiappemacine to 3,300 feet for the Rampante. These sleek, clean reds offer pure fruit, spice and mineral character, with fermentation in stainless steel followed by 18 months aging in large neutral oak barrels.—*Alison Napjus*

### PASSOPISCIARO

Terre Siciliane Contrada P 2017  
94 points | \$85 | 100 cases imported | Red

A suave, mouthwatering red, medium-bodied and framed by silky tannins that are finely meshed with the flavors of crushed raspberry, fig and woody spice, showing a touch of dark chocolate shavings. Bright and harmonious, yet long and layered through to the mineral finish. Drink now through 2030. —*A.N.*



### PASSOPISCIARO

Terre Siciliane Contrada S 2017  
94 points | \$65 | 100 cases imported | Red

Fragrant notes of ripe raspberry and exotic spice pull you into the glass of this full-throttle red. Offers amped-up berry fruit, orange peel, tea leaf and spice box flavors, along with firm, chewy tannins and mouthwatering acidity. Beautifully integrated throughout, taking the overall volume down to that of an elegant string quartet. Features a long, mineral-laced finish. Best from 2022 through 2032. —*A.N.*



### PASSOPISCIARO

Terre Siciliane Contrada G 2017  
93 points | \$70 | 120 cases imported | Red

A finely meshed red, with ripe black cherry, anise, kumquat and dried strawberry flavors gliding across the palate. Taut tannins underscore the supple texture, while savory saline, iron and herb notes chime in on the lasting finish. Drink now through 2027. —*A.N.*



### PASSOPISCIARO

Terre Siciliane Contrada C 2017  
92 points | \$55 | 120 cases imported | Red

A well-knit, medium-bodied red, with grip and tension, displaying an expressive, vibrant range of crushed cherry, fig cake, fragrant marjoram and white pepper flavors and lightly smoky mineral notes. Enjoyable now, but should cellar nicely. Drink now through 2029. —*A.N.*



### PASSOPISCIARO

Terre Siciliane Contrada R 2017  
92 points | \$65 | 120 cases imported | Red

Enticing aromas and flavors of crushed mulberry, star anise, fig cake and graphite are set in this compact, medium-bodied red, firmed by gutsy tannins. Fresh and focused, with a lingering finish of herb and mineral notes. Best from 2021 through 2027. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. —*A.N.*

