

# VILLA CALCINAIA: THE LAND

The Greve river divides its valley in two sides whose soils greatly differ from one another. The right bank in fact is characterized by the mountain range known as “Monti del Chianti” and the soil here comprises prevalently sandstone and sand formed by the break-up of the bedrock of these mountains.

The left bank instead, where Villa Calcinaia sits, is of Eocene origin and calcareous clay is the predominant element in these parts. The name Calcinaia can indeed be translated as chalk quarry, the extraction of this element necessary for the making of mortar.

Although the calcium can be found in great abundance on the estate and creates a certain *fil rouge* between the different soils, there still are important differences in the various vineyards due also to their varied elevation, from 200 meters to 350 meters above sea level, exposure and presence also of many small tributaries of the Greve river crossing the estate. These streams have formed throughout the centuries *impluviums* that through sedimentation have created in the lower grounds patches of soil with great presence of grey clay in tuscan dialect aka “*mattaione*”.

Generally speaking the soil texture in Calcinaia is loam; deeper soils with a higher presence of sand in the lower slopes towards the Greve River and shallower soils with plenty of “*scheletro*” (structure??) on the higher grounds in particular “*galestro*”: a clayey schist whose exfoliating structure, crumbly surface, permeability, pebble content and wealth of trace elements ensure the vine’s vegetative balance and characterful wines. Above a certain altitude, roughly 300 meters, one can start finding also outcrops of “*alberese*”, a calcareous marl typical of the area of Gaiole that contributes to the wide array of soils at Calcinaia.