

VILLA CALCINAIA



Casarsa

Vino Rosso Toscana IGT, Tuscany, Italy

GRAPE VARIETY

100% Merlot

Produced with certified organically grown grapes.

VINIFICATION

Organic Farming. This single vineyard Merlot is fermented in cement vats for eight days. Maceration with skins lasts 18 days followed by aging in French oak barrels for 20 months.

BACKSTORY

In 1966, terrible flooding of the Arno River devastated Florence and its valley including the nursery where Villa Calcinaia sourced vines that year. When the flood hit, all the varietal identification tags on the vines were washed away. In the spring of 1967 Sebastiano Capponi's father and his agent ordered vines to plant seventeen acres of new vineyards. Thinking they were planting these with Sangiovese, Trebbiano, Malvasia and Canaiolo the estate unknowingly planted something else. The agent soon discovered the error and identified most of the mistakenly planted varieties. He thought the varietal planted in the vineyard named Casarsa was Malvasia Nera. For thirty years nobody questioned this but in 1996 Sebastiano started a collaboration with ampelographer from the University of Florence. Upon visiting the Casarsa vineyard he announced that the vines there were not Malvasia Nera. They were Merlot. Sebastiano was shocked. He was not planning to plant international varieties at the estate, and one had already been there longer than he. In 1997 he started making a wine from that vineyard which is still today his only concession to the Supertuscan category. After all these years, Sebastiano admits that despite its foreign origin, the Merlot from Casarsa has picked up a very strong local accent and taken the way of Chianti - or as the Tuscans say, definitely "Chianteggia."

TASTING NOTE

Lovely blackberry and floral aromas. Full-bodied and dry with vibrant, rich fruit with hints of smoke and earth. Supple tannins and buoyant acidity keep everything in balance.

FOOD PAIRING

Excellent with roasted or cured meats, aged cheeses and anything off the grill.

2019	93	WINE ENTHUSIAST
2019	92	JAMES SUCKLING



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