



TENUTA SANTA MARIA

Region: Negrar (Verona), Italy

Owners: Giovanni and Guglielmo Bertani

Website: www.tenutasantamaria.wine

Winemaker: Franco Bernabei

WINERY PROFILE:

The Bertani name represents centuries of wine-making experience. When brothers Gaetano and Giovanni Battista Bertani founded the historic cellar in the second half of the 19th century, their efforts were built upon an already firmly established viticultural heritage dating back to the 15th century. Combining their deep respect for tradition and appreciation for the land with an innovative and courageous spirit for quality wine-making, the two brothers gave birth to a highly successful enterprise that was quite trailblazing for the Veneto of that era. They were the first in the region to bottle and sell typical Veronese varieties such as Valpolicella Ripasso, Recioto and Soave on a large scale, and innovative cultivation techniques (Guyot method for high-density, low-yield) and enological innovations (such as the *Ripasso* method, a second fermentation of Valpolicella created by “passing over” Recioto grape skins) brought them national and international recognition for winemaking quality.

In 2012, the historic Cantine Bertani family label was sold, resulting in the division of assets and formation of “Agricola Gaetano Bertani e Figli,” a company comprised of the family patriarch, Gaetano (great-grandson of founding brother Gaetano), and his two sons Giovanni and Guglielmo. In addition to the acquisition of over 123 acres of vineyards spanning all three of Verona’s premier production areas, the venture allowed for the expansion of Tenuta Santa Maria estate wines, a project conceived by Gaetano focusing on top echelon wines. In keeping with the innovative traditions of this renowned wine family, Gaetano Bertani was among the first vintners in the Veneto to experiment with international grapes, giving rise to a selection of labels produced from Merlot, Syrah and Chardonnay that stand alongside the more “classic” lineup of the region’s fine wines Valpolicella, Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore and Amarone Classico Riserva.

Until 2020, the continuation of this historic family winemaking tradition was steered by Gaetano Bertani’s able hand, together with his two sons Giovanni and Guglielmo. After the sudden passing of the winery’s head, Giovanni and Guglielmo have taken the helm, guided by years of extensive wine-making experience with their father and a continuing drive for excellence and innovation. Dedication, passion and respect for the vineyard combine with a constant pursuit of the latest advancements in oenological technology and thirst for innovation to produce characteristic wines of timeless elegance, truly authentic expressions of the territory.



VINEYARDS AND VINIFICATION:

To produce the fine wines of longevity, elegance and balance for which Tenuta Santa Maria is known, meticulous care in the vineyards, sustainable agricultural (the Estate is in the process of full organic conversion for all vineyards), and scrupulous attention to detail accompany every phase of the winemaking process. Wines are produced from grapes grown in three of the most characteristic *terroirs* of the Veronese region: Villa Mosconi Bertani in the Valpolicella Classica (Negrar), Tenuta Santa Maria alla Pieve in the Illasi Valley, and Grezzana in Valpantena.

Winemaking (vinification, ageing and bottling) is carried out at two locations: the Estate in Colognola ai Colli and the Villa in Negrar (Valpolicella). More than 20 hectares (50 acres) of high-density (9,500 vines per hectare) vineyards, are planted around the splendid 16th century farmhouse estate in Colognola ai Colli. Here, the Garganega grapes for the Lepiga Soave are planted, while the cellar is dedicated to the production of Merlot Decima Aurea and Chardonnay Torre Pieve. The elegant Villa Mosconi Bertani, in the heart of the Valpolicella classica, is the home of the Bertani family's Amarone and Valpolicella wines.

Renowned enologist and consultant Franco Bernabei guides the winemaking efforts, continuing a bond between the two families spanning generations. Combining traditional methods, advanced technology, exceptional vineyards and experience passed down through generations of family tradition, the Bertani family continues to produce wines that express, in Gaetano Bertani's words, "elegance over strength; complexity as an expression of our *terroir*...because each wine should reflect its territory."



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