



# TENUTA SANTA MARIA di Gaetano Bertani

## DECIMA AUREA MERLOT VERONA I.G.T.

*This is a rich and intense wine, apparent immediately by its ruby red color. Soft tannins, well-balanced acidity and consistency are complimented by enchanting hints of wild berries and dried plums, accompanied by notes of coffee, eucalyptus and vanilla. This is a well-structured Merlot, expressing typical qualities of the variety, but also the unique character given by a partial "appassimento" for a portion of the grapes, typical of the region and style of the winery.*



<b>Classification:</b>	Merlot Verona IGT
<b>Variety:</b>	100% Merlot (selected from three clones)
<b>Number of bottles produced:</b>	20,000 bottles
<b>Production area:</b>	Illasi Valley (16km east of Verona)
<b>Altitude:</b>	50 meters (164 feet) a.s.l.
<b>Average age of vines:</b>	27 years
<b>Yield:</b>	8,000 kg/ha
<b>Training system:</b>	Cordon-trained
<b>Vinification:</b>	Partial "appassimento" (drying) of the grapes picked in September and remaining grapes harvested overripe in October; separate cold macerations and temperature-controlled fermentation
<b>Refining:</b>	Blended then refined in oak barriques for approx. 14 months and a few months in bottle
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.5% vol.
<b>pH:</b>	3.5
<b>Total acidity:</b>	5.17 g/L
<b>Soil type:</b>	Primarily clay with deeper calcareous layers
<b>Time of harvest:</b>	Late September for some grapes, remainder in first half of October (overripe)
<b>Harvesting:</b>	Manual

### TASTING NOTES:

"A decadent merlot with notes of dried strawberries, dried flowers and tobacco leaves. There is lot of evolution here. Full body, round and juicy tannins and a smooth finish. There is still tension though. Drink now." **JAMES SUCKLING – 92 pts on 2004 vintage**