

TENUTA SANTA MARIA

NEGRAR VERONA

DI GAETANO BERTANI



Official documents from as early as the mid-1500s attest to the Bertani family heritage in the Valpolicella region. At the start of the last half of the 1800s, brothers Gaetano & Giovanni Battista Bertani set out to establish a new benchmark for excellence in their craft. Combining their deep respect for tradition and love of the land with innovative drive in both the areas of production and cultivation, the brothers Bertani built an enterprise unique to the Veneto. With a forward-looking spirit, they introduced revolutionary vine growing techniques developed by agronomist Jules Guyot, techniques to which Gaetano Bertani had been exposed during his years of political exile in France for his active role in the Italian Unification Movement against the Austrian Empire.

This passionate dedication led to the wine we now know as Amarone, a name that was coined within the very cellars of the estate. The term was in reference to a wine the Bertani family had been producing since the early 1900s under the name "Recioto Secco". Today, Gaetano Bertani, great-grandson of founding brother Gaetano, and his sons, Giovanni and Guglielmo, maintain the family tradition and philosophy with true passion and dedication to the land and their wines.



TENUTA SANTA MARIA 2022 VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE DOC

Our Valpolicella Classico Superiore represents the full expression of the Veronese wine growing and the family's enological traditions. It is produced entirely from native Veronese varietals in our low-yielding vineyards, at our historic estate in Arbizzano di Negrar, Verona.

Blend: Corvina 70%, Rondinella 10% and Corvinone 15%, from 25+-year-old vines + Oseleta 5% from 7-year-old vines.

Vineyard location: Negrar di Valpolicella Valley.

Soil composition: Colluvial soil, made up of mostly limestone with subtracts of clay. Upper vineyards are terraced with a south-east exposure. Altitude: 120-220 m.

Aging: 14 months in traditional large oak barrels + some bottle aging.

92 Points, Falstaff Magazine: "Medium ruby red with garnet reflections. Intense aroma of ripe cherries, strawberries and raspberries on the nose with light spice. Very straightforward on the palate, with a fruit driven core and grippy tannins."



WINE OF THE WEEK – Jancis Robinson

"Superiore is the operative word for this Italian stallion. Finding a benchmark example of a wine isn't always straightforward. Most Valpolicella, for example, is made by large producers, including enormous co-operatives, who are mostly responsible for the region's output doubling since 1997. As a result, the most statistically commonplace Valpolicella is often a weedy and insipid red – 'mere supermarket fodder', according to *The Oxford Companion to Wine* – and that makes the one made by Santa Maria entirely atypical for all the right reasons. Atypical for all the right reasons. All three of the vintages that I tasted – 2020, 2021 and 2022 – show Valpolicella's true potential."