



Italy, Tuscany: New Releases from Valdarno di Sopra

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31st Oct 2017 | The Wine Advocate | 233 (Oct '17)

Assistenza

Vintage	Wines	RP
2015	Petrolo Galatrona	96
2015	Tenuta Sette Ponti Oreno	93
2015	Petrolo Boggina Bianco	92+
2014	Il Carnasciale Il Caberlot	92
2015	Petrolo Val d'Arno di Sopra Boggina A	92

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My smallest report from Tuscany focuses on these new releases from Valdarno di Sopra. This up-and-coming appellation is located in the Province of Arezzo along the Arno River Valley with the Apennine foothills at its back. In my previous article, I reviewed wines from just four producers in the area. On this round, I have added a fifth. If you would like to know more about the physical and geographic traits of the appellation, please click [here](#).

My tasting trip to the area this past September coincided with a harvest picnic held at Petrolo at the foot of the landmark Galatrona tower, with tables scattered among the olive trees. I thought it might be fun to share a few moments of the celebration with you. Grapes were picked anywhere from ten to two weeks early in 2017, and proprietor Luca Sanjust's annual harvest celebration was attended by all the people—from grape pickers to cellar hands—who helped to bring that fruit indoors. The 2017 season was not easy by any stretch. Frost damage in the spring caused a reduction in yields, and dry, hot conditions throughout the summer put the vines under enormous stress. But the Petrolo harvest party was a time to rejoice and commemorate a job well done. Wine flowed from a plastic jug and assorted meats were cooked over an outside fire pit. Luca roasted his workers with funny speeches and gave them ironic gift prizes. He named a young intern from France "Ms. Vendemmia 2017" (Ms. Harvest 2017), and Mr. Vendemmia went to a local boy with a broad smile. The top prize, however, went to his mother. The category was "Harvest Witch" and the prize was a wooden broom. With a wink and a smile, I am told that she wins that prize each and every year.

matter of taste

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Petrolo proprietor Luca Sanjust is awarded a "thinking cap" by his workers.



What's bigger than a jeroboam? The 100% Merlot 2015 Galatrona is served from a plastic-wrapped jug.



Sausage, pork ribs and bacon ready to be served.



The Galatrona tower stands 27 meters high on a vantage point some 500 meters above sea level. It overlooks the towns of Torre, Mercatale Valdarno and San Leolino. It was built in 963 and recently restored.



The Valdarno di Sopra appellation is planted mostly to Sangiovese but has a large percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah vines as well.