



Winemaker: Paolo Caciorgna
Generation: 2nd



San Bruzio Vermentino Maremma Toscana DOC Brut

Born under the sun and salty breezes near Tuscany's southern coastline, this bright and balanced sparkler provides an everyday path to celebration. A touch of barrel-fermented Chardonnay adds a through-line of structure to a wine that's otherwise crafted in stainless steel tanks (think Prosecco but with greater aromatics and layers of complexity). At times fruity, floral, and refreshing, it drinks well on its own, or pairs with all manner of cheeses and frutti di mare. Allora salute e buon appetito!

WINEMAKER BIOGRAPHY

Located just inland from the Tuscan coastline, the Cantina del Morellino is a true co-op that distributes profits to its 170 participating families. The average land holding is tiny - just 3 hectares - and sustainable farming remains the undying mantra.

ENOLOGIST

Paolo Caciorgna

TASTING NOTES

Color Luminous straw yellow
Nose Complex, with notes of acacia, orchard fruit and fresh cut hay
Palate Bright, dry, and food-friendly
Finish Balanced and pleasant



VINEYARD & VINIFICATION

Vineyard Location	Maremma Toscana DOC, Tuscany
Vineyard Size	6 ha
Varietals List	90% Vermentino 10% Chardonnay
Farming Practices	Organically farmed (non-certified), dry-farmed, and picked by hand; vegan
Elevation	150 m
Soils	Mix of sandy soils and silt-rich tufa
Maturation Summary	Chardonnay in new French barrels for 6 months; Vermentino in steel 6 months then bottled 6 months
In Steel	6 months
Alcohol	11.5 %
Acidity	7 g/liter
Residual Sugar	3.5 g/liter



REGION

TUSCANY

One of the most recognizable regions in the world, Tuscany has an enological history dating back to the era of the Etruscans. Like Piedmont, Tuscany's daily life is interwoven with its food and wine... In sum, vino is a daily facet of the Tuscan lifestyle. With winding roads, sculpted cypresses, and romantic hilltop towns, Tuscany's beauty is legendary, and for many, Florence - once the epicenter of the Renaissance - provides a cultural heartbeat. That said, while the rolling hills of Colli Fiorentini help form a baseline in the minds of many Americans, the region is also home to Italy's Apennine mountain range (stretching from north to south), the wild, southern Maremma district, and a gorgeous, rugged coastline. In the end, Tuscany is topographically quite diverse, and wine zones range from warm and coastal to surprisingly high, continental, and cool.

As one of Italy's most prolific and historic wine regions, it's no wonder Tuscany has so many dedicated and regulated wines. There are currently 42 DOC's and 11 DOCG's. The latter include, of course, Chianti, Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino and Vino Nobile, all predicated on the single red grape that dominates Tuscan production: Sangiovese. Roughly two-thirds of the vines in Tuscany are devoted to this noble varietal, which also happens to be Italy's most planted grape overall. Beyond this, winemakers have been increasingly supplementing vineyards with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon (both with a 300+ year history in the region). For better or worse, white varieties generally take a distant back seat to the reds, with Trebbiano Toscano being the most widely planted and Vernaccia and Vermentino enjoying more prestige.

MAREMMA TOSCANA DOC

Promoted from IGT to DOC in 2011, the Maremma Toscana designation is now the third largest (area under vine) in Tuscany, behind only Chianti and Chianti Classico. The designation encompasses a vast area, reaching from the slopes of Mount Amiata near Montalcino all the way to the coast, and even including the island of Giglio. Today, nearly 300 producers belong to the DOC, a third of whom are single estate.

Unlike many places in Tuscany, the Maremma plays host to far more than Sangiovese - which accounts for less than half of all planted vines. Increasingly, producers are working with Bordeaux and Rhone varieties, destined to thrive in the warm, well-aerated climate, and Italian blending grapes like Canaiolo and Cilieggiolo. In addition, whites and rosés are permitted under the DOC, with Vermentino comprising more than 25% of the region's production and grapes like Chardonnay and Sauvignon (Blanc) adding to the mix. Overall, combined with loose aging requirements, the result is a more innovative range of wines than seen elsewhere in Tuscany. In early 2021, the Consorzio also announced it would be one of the first in Europe to begin using an official bivarietal label (for wines blending 2 grape varieties).

Historically, the Maremma was a very marshy area (its name derives from the Spanish word Marisma, meaning 'marsh'), but it was drained multiple times over the centuries (first by the Etruscans a thousand years ago and as recently as the 1930s) and reclaimed for agricultural use. To this day, it remains Tuscany's "wild" zone, with beautiful yet rugged landscapes, plenty of wide-open spaces, and fewer tourists.



CANTINA DEL MORELLINO

While August imports' tendency is to work with single estates, every now and again we come across a truly outstanding co-op like the Cantina del Morellino. They are a family-owned, interconnected network of exceedingly small growers, virtually all of them multi-generational and married to the land. With an average of just 4 hectares apiece, each of the 170 participating farmers treats their vines with the utmost reverence. Harvest times are micromanaged by their agronomist, and chief enologist Paolo Caciorgna, a native Tuscan, keeps personal tabs on all sites. This allows him to direct specific parcels to an array of smaller projects, and to trace the origins of any given wine. On top of all this, the Cantina is wholly devoted to sustainable farming - even when the word 'organic' does not appear on the label - and their yields in some cases drop down to 1 bottle per plant (incredibly low for a co-op).

The hilltop town of Scansano lies about 15 minutes inland from Tuscany's SW coastline - roughly halfway between the Tyrrhenian Sea and the extinct volcano, Mount Amiata. While hilly and fairly high in altitude, this area has a long history of agricultural development (pasture, olive and vine), and is therefore a little less wild and rugged than other parts of the Maremma. Drenched in sunlight, Scansano shares the same latitude as central Abruzzo (think La Quercia), and the Sangiovese from this region tends to be a bit fruitier than further north. Sweeter tannins and riper, darker cherry components help define the red wines, not least of all when the Morellino clone of Sangiovese comes into play. Historically speaking, Scansano was first inhabited by the Etruscans, followed by the Romans and eventually the Grand Dukes of Lorraine, who vacationed each summer in the town's gorgeous, storybook landscape.