

CASTELLO LA LECCIA TOSCANA ROSSO IGT 'VIVAIO DEL CAVALIERE'



Sangiovese, Merlot and Petit Verdot. This Tuscan red is compelling stuff, with plum and cherry, gentle tannins and nicely handled acidity. The Merlot and Petit Verdot add softness and spice to the Sangiovese. Deliciously approachable, juicy and appetizing with a long finish. Named after the spring-fed fishpond, or vivaio, that once graced the vineyard. Organic.

In the 15th century, Castello La Leccia in the village of Castellina, and most of Chianti, came under control of the Ricasoli family. The lord of the castle, the Ricasoli knight known as Cavaliere Capinera, took advantage of a hillside spring near the castle and constructed a *vivaio* (fish pond). The ancient *vivaio* was uncovered during excavation of this site for planting in 2001, thus the vineyard's name, Vivaio del Cavaliere. The vineyards are organic. The grapes are harvested and sorted by hand. 14-day soak and fermentation in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks. The refining of the wine takes place in both cement containers and oak barrels, "tonneaux" and smaller wooden barriques.

Written historical sources mention Castello La Leccia as early as 1077. In 1920, the entire property was bought by Great Grandfather Giuliano Daddi. The young, supremely dedicated Francesco Daddi took the reins of the family estate in 1997, and has elevated La Leccia to a level that rivals the most ambitiously scaled wines of the region. He has never stopped making incremental improvements, not the least of which was the return to the organic viticulture of his ancestors. An enthusiastic young man, Francesco Daddi is able to communicate his passion to everyone who works with him. He is mild-mannered and affable, the very definition of a gentleman. But he harbors a perfectionist streak and with the help of Paolo Salvi, the famous enologist, he produces wines of world-class quality.

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Tasting Note:

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Shelf Talker:

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