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PRESS RELEASE

CHIANTI RUFINA

THE 2024 WINE GUIDE EVALUATIONS

Over the course of 2023, wine critics, editors of the various **2024 wine guides**, and columnists for the major international wine journals were able, at their leisure, to take full advantage of the generous offer of the **Consorzio Chianti Rufina** to provide wine samples or to arrange technical tastings. The guide editors also made on-site visits to evaluate the styles and qualities of the new Terraelectae project, placing these wines into a tasting category distinctive from Chianti Rufina and non-Terralectae Chianti Rufina Riserva wines. (At the bottom of this press release is a full description, as useful background information, of the Terralectae project.) All the guides carry positive evaluations of this initiative by the Chianti Rufina producers, and the results of the reviews of the Terralectae mark testify authoritatively to its soundness and value. The various evaluations underscore the wines' overall growth in quality and the increased attention paid to a viticulture and winemaking fully capable of maintaining and heightening the terroir expression of the Sangiovese classic to this Apennine foothills growing zone marked by such an unusual climate. In the review section below, comments on the Terralectae wines are given special attention.

The results of the tastings, published in late 2023, document the excellent performances of the wines produced in the **Chianti Rufina** zone.

Attention focused primarily on **Chianti Rufina 2021** and on **Chianti Rufina Riserva 2020**, with the expected reference to 2019, in particular for many Terralectae, and 2018, and with the new 2022 whites and rosés. The complete report on the growing season can be found on the www.chiantirufina.com website.

The **Guida Vini d'Italia del Gambero Rosso** (Gambero Rosso Guide to the Wines of Italy), the top Italian wine guide in the world in terms of sales and distribution, with editions in various languages, contains this comment on Tuscany: "There is a dynamism, a desire to grow and to more deeply understand the relationship with the land, which is untiring.... Montepulciano continuously offers wines with personalities more decisive and autonomous compared to its great neighbours, a trajectory whose Pieve denomination—every bit as ground-breaking as Rufina's **Terralectae** and Chianti Classico's UGA—is a critical milestone."

Gambero Rosso's highest award is the famous **Tre Bicchieri** (Three Glasses), and it bestowed just that recognition on **Frescobaldi** for its Terralectae-marked wine, Nipozzano Chianti Rufina Riserva

Vigna Montesodi 2020. “(Frescobaldi) combines the challenge of business with the satisfaction of producing wines that reflect each individual terroir. Montesodi is a vibrant, well-balanced wine with a pronounced acidity. The nose releases a cornucopia of fragrances ranging from dark cherry to sweet violets, and from white pepper to umami.” The coveted Tre Bicchieri also went to **Castello del Trebbio’s** Chianti Rufina Riserva 2018, or, to be more precise, the Tre Bicchieri Verdi (Green), awarded to wineries whose operations are certified organic or biodynamic. The overall good results for Rufina are also demonstrated by the numerous **Due Bicchieri Rossi** (Two Red Glasses) award, which go to wines competing in the final tasting round for the Tre Bicchieri. Receiving this impressive award were **I Veroni** for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Quona 2020, “a strikingly current interpretation... energy-laden and brine-edged, with an elegant, long-thrusting palate,” and **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019, with this appended characterisation: “The wines of this estate are of uniformly high quality, and its Terraelectae is a great Sangiovese, exhibiting an appealing, mineraly palate and a balsam-nuanced finish.” The same award went to **Colognole** with its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Le Rogaie 2020, “a gorgeous version of a Chianti Rufina Terraelectae that displays all the refinement classic to a high-elevation Sangiovese..., a superbly authentic wine that succeeds in expressing what this growing area is truly capable of producing.” Ditto for **Frascole’s** Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna alla Stele 2019, which “possesses all the qualities of a mountain-grown Sangiovese and impressed us with the clean profile of its aromas,” and, finally, to **Selvapiana’s** Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Erchi 2019, with the comment “The terroir character of Rufina-grown Sangiovese is superbly on display in Terraelectae Vigneto Erchi, with its intriguing bouquet, restraint on the palate, judicious tannins, and crisp, straightforward finish.” The Due Bicchieri (Two Glasses) award that recognises excellent performances went to **Castello del Trebbio**, in particular for Anfore Trebbiano and Le Anfore Sangiovese di Elena Casadei; **Frescobaldi** for three Rufinas: Riserva Nipozzano and the white and sparkling Pomino; **Marchesi Gondi** with its Chianti Rufina and Supertuscans Ser Amerigo and Mazzaferrata; **Colognole** for its Chianti Rufinas and Le Lastre and SaràSyrah IGTs; **Selvapiana** with Chianti Rufina 2021 and Riserva Bucerchiale 2020, an established growing-area icon; **Borgo Macereto** and **Il Lago**, whose mountain elevations confer unusual finesse; **Lavacchio** for Chianti Rufina Cedro 2020; **Grignano** for its Chianti Rufinas and an original Sangiovese SingerSangio dedicated to youth; **Fattoria Il Capitano** for Vigneto Poggio Terraelectae versions; and **Vinae Montae (ex-Ormae Vinae)** that rolled out its first Terraelectae, Vigna Il Monte 2020.

Alongside its classic Guida Vini d’Italia, Gambero Rosso also publishes **BereBene, i migliori vini italiani entro i 20 euro** (Drinking well, the best Italian wines 20 euros & under), which saluted the following Rufina entries: **Colognole** for SaràSyrah 2020 with 86/100 points; **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** with 83 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020; **Grignano Tenuta Inghirami** with 83 for Chianti Rufina Ritratto del Cardinale 2020; **Selvapiana** with 82 for its current-vintage Chianti Rufina; **I Veroni** with 81 for Chianti Rufina I Domi 2021; **Frescobaldi** with 80 for Chianti Rufina Nipozzano Riserva 2020; and **Fattoria Il Capitano** with 80 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio 2020.

Daniele Cernilli, a stand-out figure among Italian wine critics, publishes **Guida Essenziale dei Vini d’Italia** (The Essential Guide to the Wines of Italy), which paid tribute to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Nipozzano Vecchie Viti 2020 with 95 points and its *faccino*, the little face that is Cernilli’s personally-guaranteed result. **I Veroni** took home 94 points for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona 2020, while an enviable 93 went to **Castello del Trebbio** for Chianti

Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Lastricato 2018 and a fine 90 for Chianti Superiore 2021. **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** reached 92 points for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019 and a 90 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi 2018. 91 points also went to **Selvapiana's** Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Erchi 2019, and it gained 92 for its Pomino Rosso Villa Petrognano 2020. Cernilli also saluted new producer **Vinæ Montæ**, of Russian businessman Alexey Kondrashov and wife Ella Korop. (The original name, **Ormæ Vinæ**, had to be changed due to a brand of the same name in the Bolgheri area.) They achieved 93 points for Primæ IGT Toscana 2020 Sangiovese and Cabernet and 92 for the new Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna il Monte 2020.

The **Slow Wine** guide published by **Slow Food** benefits from the collaboration with **FISAR** (Federation of Italian Sommeliers, Hoteliers, and Restaurateurs) and its broad network of sommelier-tasters. Historically, it does not assign scores to wines, except for a handful of awarded wines. Rather, its standard procedure is to review wine producers that meet the "slow" tenets of the movement; thus, simply gaining a review is in itself a significant achievement. But the comments of the tasters are revealing, particularly those referring to Terraelectae. At the top of SlowWine's evaluation system is a very select group of producers, each named as a **Cantina Chiocciola** (Snail Winery), meaning that they represent to the highest degree the Slow approach: they are directed by true vigneroni, utilise reduced interventions in vineyard and winemaking, and respect the nature of their soils and environment. They also designate as **Cantina Moneta** (Money Winery) those whose wines in the tasting boast a noteworthy price-quality ratio. The **Top Wine** award can be given to a **Vino Slow**, a wine that, in addition to be exceptional, expresses characteristics linked to the wine's terroir, history, and environment, or to a **Vino Quotidiano** (Everyday Wine), a bottle of excellent wine costing less than 13 euros in a wine bar. Once again, the historic **Selvapiana** is a Cantina Chiocciola, as well as a Top Vino Slow for Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina 2013. Its Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Erchi 2019 is "intriguing and multi-faceted, with an outstanding balance enlivened by a generous acidity, while a judicious suite of tannins presages fine cellaring potential." On the podium as well is the small gem **Frascole**, which tends some of Rufina's highest-sited vineyards, and a Top Vino Slow goes to its Chianti Rufina 2021. Its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna alla Stele 2019 is "enfolding on the palate, and refinement is its outstanding hallmark." **Colognole's** Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Le Rogaie 2020 is also a Top Wine, "intense and firmly-structured, with bright fragrances of balsam, tanned leather, rhubarb, and summer wildflowers; it is richly-flavoured, succulent, lengthy, and with hearty but well tucked-in tannins." **Castello del Trebbio** took a Top Vino Slow Quotidiano for its Chianti Superiore 2021. **Podere il Pozzo** won both Cantina Moneta and Top Wine Vino Quotidiano for its Chianti Rufina Riserva 2019, while its Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Fiorino 2019 was "introduced as a specific response to the institution of the voluntary Terraelectae mark, and we regard it as a sure bet for a promising future." As to **Frescobaldi**, the guide cites Castello di Nipozzano along with its "Montesodi vineyard, which yields a Terraelectae of the same name. The Terraelectae mark was recently launched to promote the finest Rufina Sangiovese vineyards. This wine has a crisp mouthfeel and elegant contours, in addition to fine balance and notable length." Other producers too boasted excellent reviews. One was **Grignano Tenuta Inghirami**, whose Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montefiesole 2019 is "a single-vineyard cru offering fragrant sweet violets and wild red berry segueing onto a sober, compact palate with tannins and rich mid-palate flavours in a harmonious duet." **I Veroni** scored too with its Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona 2020 "offering ripe cherry, pipe tobacco, and evolved notes, then a warm, velvety yet forceful palate that stands out for its

tactile fleshiness and near-theatrical overall impression.” And, finally, **Podere Il Balzo** and **Borgo Macereto**.

The venerable **Guida Oro Veronelli** scattered a handful of stars on Rufina. **3 Stelle ORO** (3 Gold Stars) went to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Nipozzano Vecchie Viti 2020 and Mormoreto IGT Toscana 2020, a truly classic Super Tuscan grown in Rufina, while Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montesodi 2020 was awarded 3 Stelle and 93 points, Chianti Rufina Nipozzano Riserva 2022 3 Stelle and 92, as did Pomino Bianco Benefizio Riserva 2021, a wine that is the fruit of experimentation by Vittorio degli Albizi, who planted numerous French varieties, deemed more resistant to the challenging Apennine climate of upper Rufina. **Tenuta Bossi Marchesi Gondi** captured the 3 Stelle ORO with its Terraelectae Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019, as well as 3 Stelle and 93 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi 2018 and for IGT Mazzaferrata 2018, while its Ser Amerigo brought 3 Stelle and 92, and 3 Stelle and 91 went to Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020. **I Veroni** won 3 Stelle and 90 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona 2020 and 89 New Development points for Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina 2012, along with 88 and 2 Stelle for Chianti Rufina I Domi 2021 and its IGT white, Alba. **Borgo Macereto**, which participated for the first time in the Veronelli tastings and was therefore in the new participant category, achieved prestigious scores, 91 points for Chianti Rufina Riserva Musica 2019 add 90 for Chianti Rufina La Fuga 2021. **Villa Travignoli**’s Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Colonnato 2019 was also tasted for the first time, winning a remarkable 92, while Chianti Rufina Riserva Tegolaia 2020 took 3 Stelle and a 91. **Fattoria Il Capitano** turned in an enviable performance, with Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio 2020 capturing 3 Stelle and 90 points.

AIS, the Association of Italian Sommeliers, publishes its **Vitae** guide, edited by committees composed of its regional branches. Its highest award, **4 Viti** (4 Vines) went to **Frescobaldi**’s Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Montesodi 2020. Another Terraelectae, Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Quona 2020 of **I Veroni** took the 4 VITI, along with its Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina Riserva 2012. Completing the awards were **Tenuta Bossi Marchesi Gondi** for IGT Mazzaferrata 2018 and **Selvapiana** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Bucerchiale 2020.

Rome boasts the **Bibenda** guide, edited by Franco FIS (Italian Foundation of Sommeliers), whose awards are calibrated in **Grappoli** (Clusters): 5 for exceptional wines, 4 for great, 3 for good. 4 Grappoli went to **Castello del Trebbio** for Chianti Rufina Riserva 2018 and Sangiovese 2020 in the Le Anfore line. Same number to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Montesodi 2020 and to **Veroni** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona 2020, flanked by Chianti Rufina I Domi 2021 and Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina Riserva 2012. In the same company **Tenuta Bossi Marchesi Gondi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019, Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi 2018, Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020, Chianti Rufina San Giuliano 2021, and IGTs Ser Amerigo 2018 and Mazzaferrata 2018. **Colognole** achieved the 4 Grappoli for fully 5 wines: Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Le Rogaie 2020, Chianti Rufina Riserva del Don 2018, Chianti Rufina 2021, and the IGTs SaràSyrah 2020 and Le Lastre 2020. **Podere Il Pozzo** took its 4 Grappoli for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Fiorino 2019, Chianti Rufina Riserva 2019, and IGT CantoLupo 2020, while **Cantine Bellini** received the same award for Chianti Rufina Riserva 2020 and IGTs Comedia 2020 and Mamb-O Dominante 2020. The 4 Grappoli team concludes with **Villa Travignoli** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Colonnato 2019 and Chianti Rufina Riserva Tegolaia 2020.

The **Vini Buoni d'Italia** (The Fine Wines of Italy) guide of the Italian Touring Club (TCI) exclusively reviews wines made from native grape varieties, which means penalising many DOCs, such as Pomino or Carmignano, for their use of internationals, even if that use goes far back in history. Their top award is the **Corona** (Crown), with the **Corona Oro** (Gold Crown) for outstanding Italian wines, selected by open voting in the final round of tastings by a nationally-selected tasting panel, wines whose varietal fidelity makes a significant impression, are deeply expressive of the Rufina terroir, and are likely to create vivid and lasting memories. The **Corona TOP 300** is awarded to the top 300 among the winners of the Corona, selected by national coordinators Mario Busso and Alessandro Scorsone during the national final tasting rounds. Such wines represent the *crème de la crème* of the wines from native grapes, for each region, and must be faithful expressions of both the varietal and the terroir, with regard to bouquet, body, harmony, and ability to convey complex, lengthy emotions. The **Corona Azzurra** (Blue Crown) is bestowed by tasting panels of guests at "Oggi le Corone le decido io" (Today I'm the One Deciding the Crowns) events. This year's 4 Stelle Corona Top 300 went to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Montesodi 2020, "a wine that successfully harmonises pronounced Rufina Sangiovese identity and pleasing the palate of half the world's consumers" and to **Colognole** for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Le Rogaie 2020. At just two years from the debut of the Terralectae mark, those wines are now winning an ever-growing number of awards. In the words of **Vini Buoni**, "It is by now taken for granted: the Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae wines constitute the prestigious face of the denomination, much more so than the *normal* Riservas." Translating such reviews are the 4 Stelle Corona bestowed on Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Lastricato 2018 by **Castello del Trebbio**; Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Erchi 2019 by **Selvapiana**; and on Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna alla Stele 2019 by **Frascole**. Continuing with the march of Terralectae, **Fattoria il Capitano** gained the title "Don't-miss wine" for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Poggio 2019. 4 Stelle also represent high scores, spotlighting wines that possess eloquent varietal fidelity; a harmonious interrelationship of elegance, finesse, and consistency—a wine to recommend unreservedly. 4 Stelle went to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Nipozzano Vecchie Viti 2020; **I Veroni** for Chianti Rufina I Domi 2021, Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Quona 2020, and Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina Riserva 2012; **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019 and Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020; **Colognole** for Chianti Rufina 2021 and Chianti Rufina Riserva del Don 2018; **Selvapiana** again for Chianti Rufina 2021, Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Bucerchiale 2020, and for its seductive Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina 2013; **Borgo Macereto** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Musica 2019; **Frascole** for Chianti Rufina Riserva 2020 and Chianti Rufina 2021; and to **Fattoria Lavacchio** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Casanova 2018.

GO WINE CANTINE D'ITALIA 2024 (Go Wine. 2024 Wineries of Italy) aims to be the enotourist's Bible, listing the best producers by wine quality, but also and above all for their winecellar environment and quality of their hospitality services. It selected 852 Italian wineries, 262 of which received their *Impronte* (imprint) of excellence with respect to enotourism, which means that the winery in question has achieved an average of 4 Stelle(stars) for each category: site, hospitality, and wine. The "Impronte" range from 1 to 3 and the Stelle from 1 to 5. Tuscany has 54 imprinted cellars, with 6 of those in Rufina. Each reviewed winery is given one VINO TOP. **Tenuta Bossi Marchesi Gondi** was awarded 2 Impronte, as well as the prestigious Vini Storici d'Italia (Historic Wines of Italy) Special Prize, with this reasoning: "Villa Bossi, with its Poggio Diamante vineyard, boasts a distinctive history, in that Carlo Gondi, in 1878, entered this wine in the International Paris Exposition." Tenuta Bosso received 4 Stelle for its wines, and its Vino Top is Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi. 2 Impronte also go to **Castello del Trebbio**, with 3.5 Stelle for its wines and Vino Top for

Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Lastricato. **Frescobaldi** has 2 Impronte and its wines 4 Stelle, with its Vino Top as Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Montesodi. **Colognole** was given 1 Impronta and 3.5 Stelle for its wines, with its Vino Top as Chianti Rufina Riserva del Don. 1 Impronta also goes to **Selvapiana**, with 4 Stelle for its wines, and its Vino Top Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Bucerchiale; to **Fattoria Lavacchio** with 3.5 Stelle and Vino Top to Chianti Rufina Cedro. **I Veroni's** wines received 3.5 Stelle and its Vino Top is Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Quona, and **Villa Travignoli** has the same result, with 3.5 for the wines and Vino Top for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Colonnato.

WINEBLOGROLL is the blog of Francesco Saverio Russo, one of the most widely-known Italian wine influencers. Russo recently visited all the vineyards in Rufina and did his wine tastings with particular reference to Terralectae. It is interesting to read his overall impression about tasting wines bearing the new mark, all Chianti Rufina Riservas with vineyards listed. "I like to think," maintained Russo, "that Rufina, from here on, will astonish us, not for its history—or at least not just for that—nor, even less, for its ability to align itself with other more or less nearby denominations, but rather for its revived self-awareness and for its current ability to produce wines that respond to the demands for **authentic terroir identity**, **balance** with no forced manipulation, supple **drinkability**, **versatility**, and that ever-rarer marriage between eloquent approachability and expected longevity that these Sangioveses can guarantee." In the December issue of WineBlogRoll, two articles bear reading. The first, [11 territori del vino italiano \(non scontati\) sui cui puntare nel 2024 e non solo!](#) (11 Italian winegrowing areas (not your usual ones) to pay attention to in 2024, and beyond) has a fine section entitled "**Rufina – "Terre elette" per storia e futuribilità della viticoltura** (Rufina: "Choice vineyards" for their history and for the future direction of viticulture), in which Russo states, "The wines themselves speak clearly: Chianti Rufina, from their "classic" versions to the Riservas, and through to the **Terralectae**, embody, in a spontaneous manner, without any forcing, the tenets of contemporary wine, with their generally moderate alcohols, greater crispness, and ease of drinking, yet with abundant vigour, nerve, and grip, with generous tannins and even more generous length." The second, [I giovani vignaioli e produttori di vino più talentuosi e preparati incontrati nel 2023](#) (The most talented and expert young grapegrowers and wine producers of 2023), has a key quote regarding Cosimo Lippi of **Frascole**: "The challenge is to orient everything in the direction of elegance, and in this area and with the right approach, that elegance might reach levels only partly attained up to this point. Something tells me that this young winegrower will do it. The latest wines from this producer are a great reason for hope, both regarding Sangiovese (keep your eye on their **Terralectae**) and Trebbiano as well (In Albis is a varietal expression as ancient as it is contemporary)." (FSR)

Finally, let's examine the first results of tastings carried out by the principle international printed journals and online sites; these are not wine guides as such, but their evaluations are closely followed by international buyers, who are looking for wines available in their various individual markets.

In the German-speaking markets, the voice of **Christian Eder's VINUM** is most influential. Each year, it publishes, in editions particular to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, the **Top of Toskana** (Top of Tuscany), selecting that region's top wines. At the top of the 2023 rankings, with a score of 94/100, is **Selvapiana's** Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigneto Bucerchiale 2020. Eder's judgement: "Forthright aromas of raspberry wrapped in nuances of hay, fine balance, still young, but full-volumed and elegant, lengthy, cherry-infused finish. Will bring increased pleasure as it ages." Great performance, too, by **Villa Travignoli**, which won 92 for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Tegolaia 2020; **Marchesi Gondi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020; and **Fattoria Lavacchio** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Cedro 2019. **Frescobaldi** earned 91 for Chianti Rufina Nipozzano Vecchie Viti 2020, **Frascole** a 90 for Chianti Rufina Riserva 2020, the same for **Fattoria Il Lago** and its Chianti Rufina

Riserva 2020, as well as **Colognole** for Chianti Rufina Riserva del Don 2020. **Fattoria di Grignano** closed the team with an 89 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Poggio Gualtieri 2020.

DECANTER MAGAZINE is one of the world's most authoritative and prestigious wine journals. Its breadth of readership is similar to that of the Wine Spectator, but it also boasts excellent penetration in the Asian markets and the regular contributions by numerous Masters of Wine. It entrusted the study of the Terraelectae phenomenon to a full three of its journalists, Monty Waldin, Richard Baudains, and Michael Apstein. It dedicated two articles to the new mark's wines, and its report on the 10 "inaugural" Terraelectae wines bears examination. **Selvapiana** received 95 points for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Erchi 2018, which, in Epstein's words, "Is a classic example of power and refinement. It offers a bracing crispness and incredible length. The tannins remain discrete and polished even after some time in the mouth. It's young, certainly, but its impeccable balance presages a long life and glorious evolution." The same 95 points also went to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montesodi 2018, with "a long, explosive finish that underscores dark fruit and minerality. In one word, Wow!" exclaimed Apstein. **Tenuta Bossi Marchesi Gondi** was awarded 94 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigna Poggio Diamante 2018, "exhibiting Burgundian character, with extraordinary purity and length," as was **Fattoria Lavacchio** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Casanova 2018: "This wine, with its smooth structure, reveals a smoky, flavour-rich side." 94 went as well to **Grignano Tenuta Inghirami** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montefiesole 2018, "in sum, a youthful, exciting wine." **Travignoli** received 93 points for il Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Colonnato 2018, as did **Colognole** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Le Rogaie 2018. **Castello del Trebbio** took 91 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Lastricato 2018, **Frascole** 89 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna alla Stele 2018, and **I Veroni** 88 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona 2018.

James SUCKLING, once an associate of Robert Parker and now one of the world's most authoritative wine critics, has published his reviews of the world's great wines on his own website since 2010. This year saw a collaboration with Luciano Ferraro and Corriere della Sera in the launch of a guide, "I 100 migliori vini e vignaioli d'Italia" (The 100 best wines and winemakers of Italy). Among its most positive reviews we find **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montesodi 2020 with an excellent score of 94/100, while **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** received 91 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019, for Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi 2018, and for IGT Mazzaferrata 2018, and 90 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020. **Podere Il Pozzo** took 93 for Chianti Rufina Riserva and IGT Canto Lupo, and 92 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Fiorino and Chianti Rufina.

Ian D'Agata, a wine writer and educator for more than 30 years and VP of the International Association of Terroirs, recently debuted his **TERROIR SENSE** Wine Review and Academy of the same name. His current target markets are Asian, between China and Korea. With regard to the soundness of the **Terraelectae project**, he writes, "Never mind the sheer deliciousness of Chianti Rufina's wines: for me, the real excitement lies in the potential recognizability of the area's terroir in each and every bottle. Just like it is, for example, with the wines of Bordeaux, Burgundy, Barbaresco and Montalcino, the wines of Chianti Rufina can be clearly associated with a specific communal origin; much as the wines of Gevrey-Chambertin differ from those of Chambolle-Musigny, Margaux's from Pauillac's, Barbaresco's from Neive's, and Graach's from Urzig's, so it is with those of the Chianti Rufina." And, he continues, "the single vineyard requirement makes the

Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae wines quite unlike any other Tuscan wine, Sangiovese-based or not; for example, Montalcino's wines are 100% Sangiovese, but they do not have to necessarily be single vineyard wines. Frankly speaking there is a lot to chew on there: establishing such strict, draconian even, quality guidelines is not at all typical of most, if any, wine production zones. Clearly, production guidelines, no matter how strict, are no guarantee of final quality in the bottle: but it speaks volumes about the Rufina producers good intentions that they went ahead and adopted them to begin with. *Bravi!*" Let's now look at the individual reviews currently available, starting with the **2019** vintage. **I Veroni** received 95/100 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Quona: "Beautiful stuff: this 2019 is the best wine from I Veroni I have ever tasted." **Fattoria Il Capitano** received the same score for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Il Poggio, "Maybe the biggest surprise of my tasting.... A splendid 100% Sangiovese wine that speaks of the right bank of the Sieve River. The vineyard is situated in a beautiful area above I Veroni and Selvapiana's Erchi vineyard, and frankly the first taste of this 2019 wine from I Capitani will tell anyone (with even just a little experience of Sangiovese wines) that this is undoubtedly a noble site." **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi's** Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante took 94/100, as did **Frescobaldi** for Nipozzano Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Montesodi "Outstanding. The first Chianti Rufina cru wine ever made back in 1974, the Montesodi has had a long and distinguished career with many exceptional wines being made over the years. The vineyard is a very large amphitheatre (at 20 hectares, it is one of the largest crus of the Rufina), southwest facing, of mostly *alberese* and clay soil that had to be replanted in 1991 and again in 2007. I've walked this vineyard numerous times and I highly recommend you do too, as it's place of remarkable beauty." 94 went to **Frascole** as well for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna alla Stele: "Very impressive and of extreme elegance," and to **Selvapiana** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Erchi, "made with Sangiovese grown on soils that are somewhat reminiscent of those of Castelnuovo Berardenga in Chianti Classico (a strong presence of soil iron is showcased by the clearly visible red streaks and patches, but also limestone, clay and *galestro*)." The same score went to **Castello del Trebbio** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Lastricato: "The wine's taste profile clearly showcases this is a much fresher area of the Rufina. This struck me as being perhaps the best Lastricato ever made, so that's saying quite something." **Podere Il Pozzo** was awarded 93 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Fiorino: "I have long been a huge fan of the wines from Il Pozzo, and this already ten years ago when Terralectae was a word nobody yet knew (because it didn't yet exist). Clean, pure and mouthcoating, with very polished noble tannins and a strong mineral underpinning to the juicy red and dark fruit flavours. Closes long with earthy and balsamic nuances. Strikes me as one 2019 Terralectae that will develop slower than others." **Grignano** rates a 93 as well for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Montefiesole: This is a beautiful, very precise wine, better than any Poggio Gualtieri Riserva wine had ever been before. The 2018 was labeled as a "Poggio Gualtieri", but with the 2019 vintage, the estate decided to use only the Sangiovese grapes from 1.2 hectares of the total vineyard, a super-selection of grapes from the larger (1.77 hectares) Poggio Gualtieri vineyard." **Villa Travignoli** closes the 2019 group, with 88 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigna Colonnato. Two 2018 vintages won 93/100. The first is Chianti Rufina Riserva Terralectae Vigneto Le Rogaie by **Colognole**: "Colognole has always been one of my favourite Rufina producers, the wines of which are absolute Rufina classics and that benefit greatly from the star-studded position of the vineyards, falling in between the extreme heights of Dicomano and the lower, warmer reaches of Rufina and Pelago. The area the vines grow in is also especially well-ventilated and nearby a forest, further enhancing its cooler climate characteristics." 93 went to **Fattoria di Lavacchio** as well, for Chianti Rufina Riserva

Terraelectae Vigna Casanova, made “From a truly unique, 1.8 hectares large vineyard, planted at 450 meters above sea level back in 1963 with an old biotype of Sangiovese that is hard to find nowadays.”

Antonio GALLONI, another ex-Robert Parker collaborator, publishes the online ratings review VINOUS. His only excursion into Rufina resulted in a 90/100 to **Frescobaldi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Montesodi 2020.

Wine Enthusiast, a magazine whose objective is to inform, entertain, inspire, and educate the consumer, is distributed in wine shops in anglophone markets. Among its evaluations, we find **Selvapiana** awarded 91/100 for Chianti Rufina 2021, **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** with 92 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi 2018, 91 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Pian dei Sorbi 2020, and 91 for IGT Mazzaferrata 2018, followed by 90 for Chianti Rufina San Giuliano 2021 and Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019. **I Veroni** received 90 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona and for Chianti Rufina I Domi.

Jancis Robinson, ultra-well-known English Master of Wine publishing on her JancisRobinson.com website, has a team of prestigious tasters, a full 6 of whom are MWs. Walter Speller, who handles Italy for her, recently reviewed **I Veroni**, giving its Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina Riserva 2012 18/20 (on the 20-point English system), while 16.5/20 went to Chianti Rufina I Domi and 16.5/20 to Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona 15.5/20.

Falstaff launched in 1980 and today has become widespread throughout German-speaking countries, with Simon Staffler and Othmar Kiem covering Italy. Their 2023 tastings resulted in 95 points to **Frescobaldi** for its Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montesodi 2020 and 92 for Chianti Rufina Nipozzano Riserva 2020, while **Villa Travignoli** received 90 for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Colonnato 2019.

The **international wine competition** scene remains hot, in particular for producers who want those medal stickers on their bottles. Participation is voluntary and by fee, so not all producers step up. The tasting panels are usually composed of wine experts, such as Masters of Wine, journalists, and winemakers, and the judging procedures structured in accord with international winemaking standards. Among the most respected is the **Decanter World Wine Award**, organised by the renowned London magazine. That competition awarded silver medals to **Frescobaldi** for Nipozzano Chianti Rufina Riserva, **I Veroni** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigneto Quona, **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** for Chianti Rufina Riserva Villa Bossi. **Borgo Macereto** received a bronze for Chianti Rufina La Fuga, and **VinæMontæ** silver for IGT Aellae and bronze for IGT Primae. The **Concours Mondial de Bruxelles** is another leading competition. In 2023, **Marchesi Gondi Tenuuta Bossi** took home two gold medals for Chianti Riserva Villa Bossi 2018 and for IGT Mazzaferrata 2018. The **Merano Wine Festival** is a long-running festival in November in a spa city very popular with German-speaking consumers; it offers its own competition, the **Wine Hunter Award**. **Frescobaldi** received its gold medal Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae Vigna Montesodi 2020, while **Marchesi Gondi Tenuta Bossi** took a red award for Chianti Rufina Riserva Terraelectae

Vigneto Poggio Diamante 2019 and **Grignano Tenuta Inghirami** the same for Chianti Rufina Riserva Poggio Gualtieri 2018.

As to the future performances, we must look carefully at the outcome of **the challenging 2023 growing year**, which forced many growers into frequent, painstaking interventions in the vineyard in order to keep fruit quality high. Winter brought very little rain. Budbreak ran 10 days behind compared to past years, followed, however, by high temperatures from May on, which brought vigorous growth. Late spring saw continuous heavy rains, which delivered exceptional outbreaks of Peronospora, an unusual feature of this season necessitating treatment on a par with Tuscany in general. Veraison too occurred some 10 days behind the normal schedule. Summer proceeded under hot, dry conditions, mitigated only by the favourable topographical profile of the Sieve river valley, whose soils benefited from accumulations of spring rains. August rainfall brought relief and reduced somewhat the delay in the ripening process. But peak ripeness did evidence some delay, in fact, compared to the previous season. Thus, harvest of the early-ripening whites was practically finished already in early September and that of reds such as Merlot had already begun. Sangiovese, the predominant variety in the Rufina zone, was in good shape, its ripening process having benefited from the hot days and rain in late summer. Crop levels were down 15-20%, but quality did not suffer, thanks to meticulous vineyard operations, and the wines turned out refined and elegant.

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CHE COSA È TERRAELECTAE

Terraelectae è un marchio volontario di concezione e di proprietà dei produttori aderenti al Consorzio Chianti Rufina.

PERCHÉ RUFINA STA LANCIANDO UN PROGETTO DI VIGNETO SPECIALE?

I produttori della Rufina sono alla ricerca di una maggiore caratterizzazione territoriale. L'universo Chianti DOCG è molto vasto, articolato e costituito da territori dalle caratteristiche molto diverse gli uni dagli altri. Oggi invece si ricerca ovunque la definizione precisa del legame tra un determinato vitigno e il territorio sul quale nasce. Il principio di "Territorialità" prevale su qualsiasi altra esigenza normativa e burocratica rappresentata dai normali disciplinari di produzione. Il Sangiovese della Rufina è diverso da quello di Pisa, da quello di Siena, da quello delle valli di Arezzo. Al fine di definire il profilo

ideale di questo Sangiovese, i produttori del Consorzio hanno deciso di scegliere le loro migliori vigne che impieghino esclusivamente questa varietà, una ed una sola per azienda, e di ricavarne un vino contraddistinto dal nome di quella vigna, vinificato con regole uguali per tutti e infine dotarlo del Marchio collettivo volontario denominato Terraelectae.

TERRAELECTAE PREVEDE UNA MODIFICA DEL DISCIPLINARE?

Il Marchio Terraelectae non prevede alcuna modifica di disciplinare.

La DOCG Chianti è ampia e molto articolata e una modifica di disciplinare comporterebbe una procedura lunga e complessa per ottenere alla fine un risultato del tutto simile, con un inutile dispendio di energie e di risorse.

CI SARÀ UN REGISTRO DELLE “VIGNE” TERRAELECTAE?

Il vino deve essere ottenuto esclusivamente da uve prodotte nella zona di produzione Chianti Rufina DOCG e provenienti da vigneti in proprietà dell’Azienda o condotti in affitto o con titolo diretto di conduzione. Deve riportare in etichetta la menzione “Vigna” o “Vigneto”. Il vino deve essere tracciato, la vinificazione e conservazione del vino devono avvenire in recipienti separati e tale menzione, seguita dal toponimo o nome tradizionale, deve essere riportata sia nella denuncia delle uve, sia nei registri e nei documenti di accompagnamento.

In definitiva tutti i nomi dei vini Terraelectae seguiranno le regole del disciplinare per quanto attiene la Menzione “Vigna”, ma questo non comporta la necessità di istituire un registro apposito e diverso dai consueti registri di denuncia delle uve previsti dalla legge, ma soltanto un elenco ufficiale dei Soci aderenti e autorizzati all’uso, con l’indicazione della vigna prescelta, conservato a cura del Consorzio proprietario.

CHE COSA È QUINDI TERRAELECTAE?

Esiste per legge la possibilità di riportare in etichetta l’adesione ad un marchio collettivo volontario.

TERRAELECTAE è appunto un **MARCHIO COLLETTIVO VOLONTARIO** con un regolamento d’uso sottoscritto da alcuni o tutti i soci del Consorzio Chianti Rufina, i soli ad avere la facoltà di aderirvi.

QUALI SONO LE SUE FINALITÀ?

Il Marchio è stato realizzato per sviluppare produzioni vitivinicole di alta gamma che riescano ad aumentare il valore aggiunto della produzione azienda e delle produzioni di tutto il territorio. La longevità dimostrata e dimostrabile dei vini della Rufina, fanno di queste bottiglie degli esemplari da collezione e dei veri e propri beni da investimento. Il vino così prodotto dovrà essere immesso sul mercato ad un adeguato valore commerciale.

COME SI UTILIZZA IL MARCHIO?

Il Marchio può essere utilizzato da **ogni singolo produttore solo su un’unica tipologia di vino**. Il Marchio può essere usato esclusivamente in relazione a vini conformi al “Disciplinare di produzione di vini a denominazione di origine controllata e garantita **CHIANTI della sottozona e tipologia RUFINA**”. Il vino deve essere ottenuto esclusivamente da uve prodotte nella zona di produzione

Chianti Rufina DOCG e **provenienti da vigneti in proprietà** o condotti in affitto o con titolo diretto di conduzione, deve avere la seguente base ampelografica: **Sangiovese 100%** e deve riportare in etichetta la menzione “**Vigna**” o “**Vigneto**”. Il vino deve essere tracciato, la vinificazione e conservazione del vino devono avvenire in recipienti separati e tale menzione, seguita dal toponimo o nome tradizionale, deve essere riportata sia nella denuncia delle uve, sia nei registri e nei documenti di accompagnamento.

I VINI TERRAELECTAE AVRANNO UN INVECCHIAMENTO PARTICOLARE E RESE PRODUTTIVE PARTICOLARI?

Il vino **TERRAELECTAE** deve appartenere alla categoria **RISERVA**, con i relativi parametri da disciplinare e deve inoltre rispettare i seguenti parametri aggiuntivi:

- **Produzione max uva/ha 70 Qli/ha;**
- **Titolo alcolometrico non inferiore a 12,5%vol.;**
- **30 mesi invecchiamento di cui 18 in legno e almeno 6 in bottiglia;**
- **Divieto di utilizzo di recipienti tipo “fiasco”;**

QUALI RIFERIMENTI HA IL MARCHIO TERRAELECTAE CON LA TIPOLOGIA GRAN SELEZIONE?

L'uso del marchio **TERRAELECTAE** è alternativo alla rivendicazione della “Gran Selezione” in quanto fa riferimento a una scelta di provenienza precisa e definita dal concetto di “vigna”. La tipologia Gran Selezione si riferisce comunque a uve provenienti dai vigneti dell'azienda, ma può derivare da una scelta effettuata in cantina con masse provenienti da diverse “vigne”, originando un vino distante da quel concetto di “cru” che il progetto Terraelectae ricerca.

E QUALI RIFERIMENTI POTREBBE AVERE CON UNA MENZIONE GEOGRAFICA AGGIUNTIVA?

Si tratta di un concetto diverso. La menzione o unità geografica aggiuntiva ha una valenza collettiva potendo interessare più produttori, al contrario del “cru” che identifica un luogo specifico di produzione dove alcuni fattori, naturali o meno, conferiscono al vino caratteristiche uniche e specifiche, diverse da quelle di altri vini prodotti in luoghi anche vicini. L'individuazione di questo cru è affidata al singolo produttore.

ESISTE UN ELENCO DI SITI/VIGNE SOTTO IL MARCHIO TERRAELECTAE?

Quando il produttore richiede di poter utilizzare il Marchio Terraelectae presenta, insieme alla domanda formale al Consorzio, la scheda Sian del Chianti Rufina Riserva Vigna e questo viene registrato e preso in carico nella documentazione di controllo di competenza del Consorzio proprietario del Marchio.

TERRAELECTAE rappresenta la vera essenza della Rufina e vuole essere sinonimo di un vino che esprima tutte le migliori caratteristiche del Sangiovese di Toscana grazie ai suoi profumi raffinati floreali e dai ricordi di ciliegia matura, all'eleganza stilistica della sua materia, al vigore e alla dolcezza della sua trama vibrante, alle sue lunghe capacità di invecchiamento.