

John Fodera's
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NEW RELEASE: VAL DELLE ROSE LITORALE 2019

by John Fodera



~ The Val delle Rose estate in Maremma is a gorgeous property and boasts excellent potential for the Cecchi Family ~

The Val delle Rose estate was purchased by the Cecchi family in 1996. At the time, only 25 hectares of vineyards existed on the expansive parcel of land. In what could only be described as an agricultural revolution, the Cecchi's built a state of the art winery and reception center, commissioned an extensive soil study, and replanted existing vineyards. As a result of the study, they were able to increase plantings to over 100 hectares.

Today, the estate is a shining gem in the Famiglia Cecchi portfolio. Sangiovese is the leading star for here. However, the estate boasts plantings of Merlot, Ciligiolo, Cabernet, Cabernet Franc and Vermentino.

In fact, in this article, I questioned if Vermentino was Tuscany's next big white. Along with Vernaccia, I think the answer is a resounding yes! Frankly, I am not sure why wineries waste their time on Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc. Those can be found anywhere in the world. Tuscany should champion its original varietals – the Twin V's – Vermentino and Vernaccia.



~ A sea of vineyards on the Val delle Rose estate taken late in the evening ~

The 2019 Val delle Rose Litorale is a pale straw color. This 100% Vermentino is vinified in various sizes of stainless steel and then bottle at the apex of its vibrancy. I've tasted every vintage of Litorale since the 2015 and this version may be the best yet. Coincidentally, during my recent Zoom calls, winemakers have all told me how impressed they are with the 2019 vintage. I think we may be seeing early signs of that.

On the nose, the wine is very complex featuring aromas of pineapple, lemon grass, guava, white flowers and wet stones. It's one of the most aromatic whites I've smelled in a long time. On the palate, there is no let up. This is medium to full bodied with a viscous mouthfeel that retains its freshness. Flavors of citrus, exotic tropical fruit, flinty mineral stones and honey are noteworthy. Lively and long, there is nothing not to like here. Considering this will be available for \$16-\$20 it is quite a value and I recommend stocking up. 91 points. Find this wine.



~ The Litorale label is a fun, whimsical nod to Summer. ~

I'll have more reviews from the Val delle Rose property forthcoming. For now, let the hunt begin!

Salute.