



Montepeloso

One of Italy's Elite Rare Super-Tuscans

From the beginning, Suvereto's challenge to Bolgheri—as Tuscany's premier source of Super Tuscans—has come from just two adjacent estates: Tua Rita and Montepeloso.

The properties enjoy two of the best terroirs in Italy: Montepeloso on a gentle hillside of chalky gravel and clay, and Tua Rita in heavier clay below. Climatically warmer than interior Tuscany—and possessing a marked similarity to St. Emilion's famed Côtes—this locale naturally limits yields and is capable of producing wines with great concentration and perfume.

Under the guidance of the original owners, Willi and Doris Neukom, Montepeloso established itself as one of Tuscany's most exciting estates, earning 5 stars from Robert Parker.

In 1998, however, the estate was sold to Fabio Chiarelto, a Swiss-Italian historian. Chiarelto was entranced with the wines, but he was also convinced that they fell short of the terroir's true potential.

While a unique site is important for great wine, an inspired winemaker is also required. The introspective Chiarelto had little interest in the guidance of fashionable enologists. He was determined to follow his own path- and he brought with him a clear vision of the singular wines he felt the estate could yield.

Within a year of the purchase, Chiarelto embarked on a dramatic overhaul of the vineyards—retraining or regrafting thousands of vines. He was willing to accept drastically reduced production for a few years if it would result in greater wines.

Slowly, Chiarelto is receiving the rewards of his passion. The buzz that has been spreading through Europe over the past few years has leapt the Atlantic.

A growing number of collectors see Montepeloso's wines as the most beautiful, profound, and expressive of the Tuscan New Wave:

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