



ORGANIC  
**PALA**  
SARDINIA

MARIO PALA *owner*  
ERCOLE IANNONE *winemaker*



With a 1950 inaugural harvest, Mario Pala launched his lifelong wine adventure in the rolling, vine-covered hills of Serdiana, an idyllic village in southern Sardinia. Where mild winters and warm, dry summers are viticulturally ideal, this part of the island is quite traditional in grape selection. Pala is respectful to the region's traditions while simultaneously embracing modern technical innovations that maintain Sardinia's relevance to the larger wine world.

The estate's 6 vineyards total 68 planted hectares. Varieties are selected according to the soils and microclimates of each site. Pala uses no chemical pesticides or fertilizers. Beyond his profound respect for local wine culture, Pala is dedicated to his vines and loves the practical art of making great wine. The fundamental simplicity of his perspective ensures the unique character and elegance characteristic of the wines of this intriguing island property.



### VERMENTINO "I FIORI"

Grown on a sandy, gravelly limestone hill with NE/SE exposure near the winery, and fermented in stainless. Originally named "Crabilis" after the vineyard (meaning *ancient goat shelter*), this 100% Vermentino is now called "i Fiori" (the flowers) in celebration of Sardinia's unique biodiversity; the label flower is endemic to the island.

*Vinous on the 2016: 90pts* "Bright straw. Aromas and flavors of honey, white flowers, earth tones and aromatic spices. Then aromatic and perfumed in the mouth; spicy, soft orchard fruit flavors are complicated by hints of salty capers and botanical herbs. Finishes long and clean. Grown on mainly calcareous white soils."

### VERMENTINO "STELLATO"

Meaning "full of stars," Stellato is Sardinia's apex Vermentino.

*Vinous on the 2016: 90pts* "Bright straw. Intense aromas of pear and anise plus hints of chlorophyll and aromatic herbs. Lovely orchard fruit flavors and herbal nuances are rich and dense. Delivers bright, juicy cut on the long ripe finish. A single-vineyard wine made from southeast-facing 50-year-old vines growing at 200 meters above sea level, characterized by lower production. The grapes are harvested roughly two weeks later than the other Vermentino vineyards. The wine spends about four months on the lees and is aged in stainless steel only."

### VERMENTINO "STELLATO" NATURE

#### CHIARO DI STELLE ROSÉ Isola dei Nuraghi IGT

*Vinous on the 2017: 90pts* "Fresh tangerine, red plum and strawberry on the nose, with spice and herb notes adding lift. Brisk and dry, with good verve to its herbal red berry flavors. Finishes long with repeating notes of herbs, spices and red plum. Strikes me as a more serious than usual version of Rosato from Pala ... Well done."

### CANNONAU "I FIORI"

Grown in Sardinia since the Neolithic period, Cannonau is one of the island's most widely planted grapes. Recent studies associate the grape, rich in phenols, with a long life, and Sardinia has one of the world's largest centenarian populations. Harvested from the S'Acquasassa vineyard (clay and gravel), and the Crabilis vineyard (limestone and clay soils at the base/middle of the hill and sandy soils with higher gravel content towards the top). The wine is aged 8 months in stainless and concrete.

*Vinous on the 2016: 92pts* "Bright red-ruby. Strongly floral nuances on a nose that hints at raspberry, red currant and spicy herbs. Enters fresh and juicy; vibrant red cherry and berry flavors are complicated by faded rose petal notes. An almost dainty wine that finishes long but light on its feet. This is a lovely example of Cannonau."

### CANNONAU RISERVA

Following early morning manual harvest, grapes are gently crushed and see a 10-day temp-controlled maceration; post-malo wine sees 10-12 months in 3000-liter French oak, 3 in stainless, and a further 3 in bottle prior to release.

*Vinous on the 2014: 92pts* "Deep ruby. Perfumed red rose and red cherry jelly aromas and flavors are complicated by ink and sweet spices. Multilayered and complex, featuring a sweet spicy nuance of red cherry and berries that lasts and lasts on the long, suave finish. Aged 12 months in traditional 30-hL barrels."

*Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur Wines.*

CONNOISSEUR WINES • 7510 NORTH CALDWELL AVE, NILES, IL 60714 • 847.588.1300

[connoisseurwines.net](http://connoisseurwines.net)

