



PIERLUIGI TOLAINI

TUSCANY

PIERLUIGI TOLAINI *owner and winemaker*

A Tuscan native who emigrated to Canada in 1959, Pierluigi Tolaini returned home in 1998 to acquire an exceptional Chianti Classico property in the commune of Castelnuovo Berardenga. Tolaini has since created a state-of-the-art operation marrying contemporary technical knowledge with regional traditions to bottle a true and profound expression of the region. He is ably aided by two renowned wine professionals: famed enologist Michel Rolland and Tuscan agronomist Andrea Paoletti.

Guided by the fundamental principle that 'the best fruit produces the best wine,' Tolaini uses high density planting and low yield management as strategies for ensuring excellent fruit. With up to 11,500 plants per hectare in the less hilly vineyards, drip irrigation for each plant, and two green harvests to pre-select the healthiest, most promising bunches, the estate sees fruit optimization.

Ruggero Mazzilli, agronomist and founder/owner of SPEVIS (*The Experimental Station for Sustainable Viticulture*) also consults for the estate, creating new solutions to practical vineyard issues by following principles of organic agriculture and a respectful environmental perspective. With Rolland, Paoletti and Ruggero, Tolaini creates impassioned expressions of this unique terroir while being a conscientious steward of the vineyard and its contributing resources.

AL PASSO IGT

Al Passo is named after a small circular forest perched atop the tallest hill on the Tolaini Estate where centuries ago local landlords hunted using trained birds as decoys to lure prey into the passage (passo). Sangiovese (85%) and Merlot grown in lime and clay soils with gravelly stones.

*Parker's WA: **92 Points** "The 2010 Al Passo is a pretty blend of Sangiovese and a smaller percentage of Merlot from an elegant vintage. The wine is redolent of sweet spice and tobacco with lingering prune and dark cherry. The tobacco theme is strong with dried cigar leaf and ash. The wine is lively in the mouth, with a tight vein of acidity that keeps it from feeling heavy on the palate. Drink 2014-2024"*

VALDISANTI IGT

*Parker's WA: **93 Points** "The 2010 Valdisanti (Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc) is staked tall with bold fruit nuances of dark cherry, blackberry, spice, tobacco and Spanish cedar. Crushed white pepper and grilled herbs also play into the mix. This is a large, extracted wine that glides slowly over the palate, imparting a lingering sense of depth and richness. Tolaini is on a tear, making some of the best wines representing the warmer Castelnuovo Berardenga subzone of Chianti Classico."*

PICCONERO IGT

*Parker's WA: **93 Points** "Styled after the great wines of Bordeaux, the 2009 Picconero represents a blend of Merlot (65%), Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot from the estate's Tenuta Montebello. The wine opens with an inky dark appearance and follows to the nose with dark fruit, blackberry preserves, prune, tobacco and leather. Again, like the other wines of this estate, what really stands out is how elegantly these wines perform in the mouth. Picconero is tight and structured, but never heavy or sticky. Lingering tones of cigar box and Indian spice add complexity to the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2025."*

Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur wines.