

Volano, Province of Trento*Established: 1979**Owner: Neil & Maria Empson**Winemaker: Franco Bernabei**Viticulture: Conventional*

Bollini has been the Empson proprietary brand since 1979 and, thirty years later, the concept is as avantgarde and fresh as when Neil and Maria first created the range. The Empsons' goal in 2011, as in 1979, is expressing excellence and consistency at accessible price points. The wines come from choice hillside locations in Trentino, where a combination of high altitude and day/night temperature differences result in a multitude of mesoclimates. The artist of the Empson team, Maria Gemma Empson, has devoted an especially inspired series of vineyard drawings that capture the vine as a living creature, tendrils dramatically outstretched as if to grasp the cool, clean air of this alpine appellation.

Pinot Grigio DOC

Flinty and mineral notes with pear fruit and a creamy texture. The grapes are vinified and aged in stainless steel, but to engender further complexity and depth, the wine undergoes bâtonnage on lees for a period. It is the ultimate aperitivo wine but matches especially well with a wide variety of fish and shellfish.

Merlot DOC

Fleshy, fragrant cherry and wild berry fruit, integrated with subtle spice and a mellow, medium body. After fermentation and malolactic, 70% of the wine is aged in French and American oak barrels ranging from 225 to 2000 litres for 8 - 12 months. A great accompaniment to tomato based pasta dishes, pizza, chicken, veal and pork.

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