

RONCO DEI TASSI

Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Cormons, Province of Gorizia

Established: 1989

Owner: Coser family

Winemakers: Fabio & Enrico Coser

Production: 76,000 bottles

Hectares under vine: 12

Viticulture: Conventional



This small gem in the heart of Collio was established in 1989 by highly respected oenologist Fabio Coser. Fabio's career as a consulting oenologist allowed him privileged knowledge of the area's terroir so that by the time he chose a property of his own, he already knew the Collio like the back of his hand. Ronco dei Tassi was named after the population of badgers (tassi) on the estate, which like to carry out some grape selection of their own and steal the sweetest bunches. Of what's left, Fabio and son Enrico craft into stylish, elegant and characterful wines.

In Fabio's own words, the winemaking philosophy is "based on quality/quantity control in the vineyard; on tradition supported by modern know-how and state of the art equipment; on minimal outside intervention, so as to maintain individual varietal character, fully expressed".

Pinot Grigio DOC

Made from three clones of 30 year old vines grown on marly and arenaceous soil. Straw yellow with classic pink reflections, the bouquet is floral, fruity and delicate, showing distinct finesse and elegance for a much maligned variety.

Friulano DOC

Six months elevage, partly in stainless steel and partly in second use barriques. Straw yellow and floral nosed in its youth, spicy and complex as it evolves. Velvet textured, the palate recalls citrus and pear with intriguing nuances of liquorice and herbs.

Fosarin DOC

Fosarin is a 40-40-20 blend of Pinot Bianco, Friulano and Malvasia that has been awarded an impressive string of Tre Bicchieri for four straight vintages, 2006-2009. Aged for six months in a combination of stainless steel and barriques, this is fresh and fruity in its youth, filling out with time in the bottle to become rich and spicy. Pinot Bianco provides backbone and finesse: Friulano the mid-palate weight and richness: and Malvasia the exotic aromatics that really drive the wine. The key here is that the Malvasia is the rare 'Istria' clone, completely different to the many Malvasia clones grown around the country. This is Friuli in a glass and for the money, awesome value.

Cjarandon IGT

Released only in vintages favourable to Collio reds, Cjarandon is a classic right-bank Bordeaux blend of 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc from a tiny crop. Aged 20 months in Allier barriques (60% new, 40% second use) and a further 10 months in the bottle, it is full of black cherry fruit with spice and mint, the palate fresh and focussed with a long finish.

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Picolit DOC

Friuli's native Picolit variety is something of a rarity. The wine comes from tiny yields – a mere 10% ratio of grapes into wine. After a two week delayed late harvest, the fruit is dried on racks for about six weeks, then soft pressed and racked into 118l Allier *fayettes*. After seven months, the wine is racked off its lees and aged for a further six months. A rich golden colour with a nose of apricots and figs, the palate has amazing depth and persistence, balancing high acid and high sugar.

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