

Solagna del Titolo (Barile), Province of Potenza

Established: 1979

Owner: Fucci family

Winemaker: Elena Fucci

Production: 18,000 bottles

Hectares under vine: 6

Viticulture: Natural



In less than a decade, and producing just one wine from her family's vineyards on Monte Vulture, Elena Fucci created a new classic in Italian winemaking.

Monte Vulture, a 1326 metre high extinct volcano in northern Basilicata, lends its name to Basilicata's most significant wine, Aglianico del Vulture. Aglianico has somewhat of a mythical reputation and, as one of Italy's three noble red grapes, is said by many to be the 'Barolo of the south'. On the steep slopes of Monte Vulture the vines benefit from the intense sunlight of the south and, at these altitudes, the dramatic day and night temperature differences that promote freshness and acidity. The climate is relatively cool and the harvest is one of the latest, beginning in the last week of October.

The Fucci's six hectares of sixty year old vines are located on the Titolo lava channel of Monte Vulture in northern Basilicata, grown at 600 metres on a volcanic lava mix known locally as *pozzolana*. The viticulture is organic and tending the grapes is labour intensive, picked by hand and crushed in small batches. Titolo is fermented in stainless and ageing takes place in new French barriques, followed by twelve months in the bottle. It is intensely aromatic with rich, ripe fruit, the palate full bodied with firm tannins and acidity, allowing it to age for many years. This is a wine that really speaks of its origins, both place and grape.

Aglianico del Vulture DOC 'Titolo'

2017. Good full deep red. Enticing aromas of ripe strawberry, mocha, brown spices and fine old leather, with minerals surfacing with air. Precise and penetrating on the palate, with the strawberry and raspberry flavors complicated by a hint of exotic fruits and spices; I think this will go a little balsamic with bottle age. Finishes long and creamy. Made from 75 years old vines, and aged 18 months in new French oak tonneaux, this special anniversary edition is also sold in a bottle sporting a dark label, markedly different from Fucci's usual white and grey one. Only 2,500 bottles made, from the original vines that started off the Fucci's estate glorious winemaking course. 94 points, Ian D'Agata

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