

Chiaramonte Gulfi, Province of Ragusa

Established: 1982

Owner: Cosenza family

Winemaker: Pierluigi Cosenza

Production: 80,000 bottles

Hectares under vine: 15

Viticulture: Organic

Vegan Friendly



Located in Chiaramonte Gulfi, near Ragusa in south eastern Sicily, the Cosenza family has been growing grapes and making wine here for two centuries. They are right in the middle of Sicily's only DOCG, Cerasuolo di Vittoria, and one of the six founding wineries of the DOCG. In Abruzzo the name Cerasuolo refers to a rosato wine but here it is a blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato. Nero d'Avola probably needs no introduction. It is Sicily's most popular grape with about 20000 hectares and has had considerable success here in Australia, whilst there are just 900 hectares of Frappato. The grape is unrelated to any other growing in Sicily and its DNA shows both a parent-offspring relationship to Sangiovese and a sibling of Calabria's Gaglioppo.

The Cosenza family's vineyards are ideally located in a valley where the Para Para and Mazzarronello rivers join. Frappato thrives in these sandy soils and hot and dry climate to produce a light red bursting with red fruits and a lively freshness. It is perhaps exactly the sort of wine you might not expect from such a region: light colour, gentle tannins, moderate alcohol and refreshing acidity. When blended with Nero d'Avola, the two grapes complement one another with a little more body and richer fruit whilst maintaining energy and freshness.

Frappato DOC

100% Frappato, fermented at cool temperatures for about two weeks and aged in stainless steel for a few months. A light ruby colour, this is perfumed with bright red berry fruit that is fresh, carried through onto the palate with refreshing acidity. Locally it pairs well with oily fish, pasta with sardines and caponata.

Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG

A 50/50 blend of selected Frappato and Nero d'Avola, aged 18 months in stainless steel. Although the label depicts Costanza, the family matriarch, in a very serious pose, this is a joyful wine. The fruit is darker, more blueberry and dark cherry, the palate rich with Frappato's pleasing freshness driving persistence and finesse.

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