



# CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA

## THE VINEYARDS AND TERRENO: INTRODUCTION AND ESTATE CRU VINEYARDS *(page 1 of 5)*

The nearly 46 hectares (114 acres) of vineyards owned by Castello di Volpaia are at 450 to 600 meters (1,300 to 2,130 feet) above sea level, making Volpaia one of the highest winery in the Chianti region. All the vineyards are on south-facing slopes, just down the hill from the village of Volpaia, and are fully exposed. Given its elevation, Volpaia's vineyards are well above the spring and autumnal fogs and frosts. During summer, temperatures soar by day and plunge at night and are essential to the ripening process. The slopes are continually graced by gentle breezes, which inhibit the development of morning frosts. All these factors combine to give Volpaia one of Chianti's most distinctive microclimates.

According to the Stianti Mascheroni family, the earth at Volpaia is comprised mainly of light soil consisting largely of sandstone, a sedimentary rock from the Pliocene epoch (the period in the geologic timescale that extends from 5.332 million to 1.806 million years before present.) The porosity of the soil provides ample drainage, forcing roots to dig deep to find moisture and nutrients. This light, sandy soil, compared to clay soil, allows the vines to dig deeper given the relative lack of density compared to clay. Counter-intuitively, dry seasons do little harm to the vines due to their far-reaching root systems.

There are 16 different estate vineyards surrounding Volpaia. They are primarily planted to Sangiovese, although there is some Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Trebbiano, Malvasia del Chianti, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc planted in specific sites suitable to each variety.

In the last 35 years, Volpaia has replanted about 80 percent of its vineyards on the slopes leading up to the village, increasing plant density, selecting different clones of Sangiovese suitable for the different soil, and implementing new training systems and pruning techniques to keenly focus on quality production, to lower the vines and to reduce the yield per hectare.

Volpaia is also committed to organic farming practices in its vineyards and complies with all organic viticulture legislation (European Community Legislation, rg CE 834/2007 Organic Agriculture; EU Certification 203/3012 for Organic Wine; Controller Q Certificazioni srl) for the production of wine. Castello di Volpaia began practicing organic viticulture in the late 1990s and has been certified organic since the 2004 vintage.



### **BALIFICO** (bawl-ee-FEE'-co)

The Balifico vineyard shares its name and location with a villa. The vineyard was grafted over from older Sangiovese clones in 1982 when the existing vineyard was 10 years old. The technical approach for grafting was the same, but Volpaia planted Balifico to 35 percent Cabernet Sauvignon (grafted over from Sangiovese). Balifico has been gradually replanted during the last 20 years to increase plant density. The vines are fully exposed to south on light, sub-alkaline (pH 7.8), sandstone soil — ideal conditions for the grapes. Grapes from Balifico vineyard are used exclusively for the Balifico I.G.T. bottling.

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese; Cabernet Sauvignon (in two separate parcels)

**Vine Age:** Ongoing plantings since 1970

**Soil:** Sandstone

**Sangiovese:**

**Size:** 3.1 hectares (7.66 acres)

**Elevation:** 470 meters (1,542 feet)

**Exposure:** South-southwest

**Density:** 5,435 vines/hectare (2,200 vines/acre)

**Training:** Guyot

**Cabernet Sauvignon:**

**Size:** 1.92 hectares (4.74 acres)

**Elevation:** 450 meters (1,475 feet)

**Exposure:** Southwest

**Density:** 5,698 vines/hectare (2,306 vines/acre)

**Training:** Cordon spur

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*Radda in Chianti*

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# CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA

## THE VINEYARDS AND TERRENO: ESTATE CRU VINEYARDS *(page 2 of 5)*



### COLTASSALA (cole-tah-SAWL'-ah)

Located west of the Balifico vineyard, the Coltassala vineyard shares its name and location with the villa that houses Volpaia's vinegar-making equipment. This vineyard faces both southwest and southeast, with two parcels spanning up two opposing hillsides that are separated by a seasonal creek. It was grafted over from various clones of Sangiovese to newer Sangiovese clones in 1977 when the vineyard was 10 years old. When grafting the Coltassala, the Stianti Mascheroni family selected the best Sangiovese clones available and increased the vineyard density to 5,698 vines per hectare (2,306 vines per acre). The first harvest was in 1980 when Volpaia made their first Super-Tuscan from 95 percent Sangiovese (and 5 percent Mammolo). Coltassala has been gradually replanted during the last 20 years to increase plant density. Grapes from Coltassala vineyard are used exclusively for the Coltassala bottling (since the 1998 vintage, a D.O.C.G. Chianti Classico Riserva).

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese (primarily) and Mammolo

**Size:** 3.53 hectares (8.72 acres)

**Vine Age:** Ongoing plantings since 1970

**Soil:** Sandstone

**Elevation:** 520 meters (1,700 feet)

**Exposure:** Southwest and southeast

**Density:** 5,698 vines/hectare (2,306 vines/acre)

**Training:** Guyot



### CASANOVA

The pride of Volpaia is its library of old, local Sangiovese clones replanted in 2001 in Casanova vineyard, located south of Balifico near the Casanova villa. Here, Volpaia grows 25 different clones of Sangiovese that have been collected in the last 30 years during the process of replanting the winery's vineyards. Volpaia chose to take on this important project in order to preserve the genetic differences of local vines, and to avoid the risk of extinction of ancient clones (The winery decided not to employ massal selection in this vineyard, which involves choosing a number of outstanding vines and propagating new vines from that budwood; the vines are from the same family, with the same genes, but the individual plants are not identical. Volpaia wanted to be able to identify the origin of each vine in the vineyard, so they chose to plant 25 different "mother" vines; the vines that come from the same mother vine are identical to each other and are identified as a clone.)

**Variety Planted:** Sangiovese

**Size:** 0.56 hectare (1.38 acres)

**Vine Age:** Planted 2001

**Soil:** Sandstone

**Elevation:** 480 meters (1,575 feet)

**Exposure:** South-southeast

**Density:** 5,435 vines/hectare (2,200 vines/acre)

**Training:** Guyot

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# CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA

## THE VINEYARDS AND TERRENO:

### ESTATE VINEYARDS *(page 3 of 5)*

#### CAMPO A PITTI

“Campo a Pitti” means “field of Pitti” in Italian.

**Varieties Planted:** Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay

**Soil:** Sandstone

**Elevation:** 510 meters (1,675 feet)

**Exposure:** Southwest

**Larger Parcel:**

**Size:** 1.22 hectares (3 acres)

**Vine Age:** Planted 1972

**Density:** 2,564 vines/hectare (1,038 vines/acre)

**Smaller Parcel:**

**Size:** 0.64 hectare (1.58 acres)

**Vine Age:** Planted 1988

**Density:** 5,698 vines/hectare (2,306 vines per acre)



#### CAMPO A PRATO

“Campo a Prato” means “field of Prato” in Italian. The vineyard *(pictured above)* is located near the Prato villa.

**Soil:** Sandstone

**Density:** 5,556 vines/hectare (2,248 vines/acre)

**Larger Parcel:**

**Size:** 3.35 hectares (8.28 acres)

**Vine Age:** Planted 2005

**Elevation:** 550 meters (1,800 feet)

**Exposure:** South

**Smaller Parcel:**

**Size:** 2.4 hectares (5.93 acres)

**Vine Age:** Planted 2003–2005

**Elevation:** 500 meters (1,640 feet)

**Exposure:** Southwest

#### CAMPO BERTO

This “field” is Volpaia’s last piece of land that is still cultivated as “promiscuo” (vines cultivated together with olive trees). These vines’ were planted on pre-phylloxera rootstock, and were the mother vines of the clones in Volpaia’s Casanova vineyard.

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese, Trebbiano and Malvasia del Chianti (plus olive trees)

**Vine Age:** Sangiovese planted 1944; Malvasia and Trebbiano planted 2010

**Elevation:** 542 meters (1,779 feet)

**Soil:** Sandstone

**Training:** Guyot



#### CASALINO

Casalino vineyard *(pictured above)* is where Castello di Volpaia grows grapes for the production of its Vinsanto. The soil is mainly composed of a mixture of clay and sandstone with very tiny rocks. The high altitude and greater temperature change between night and day are the perfect conditions to extract a great variety of perfumes of the white grapes.

**Varieties Planted:** Trebbiano and Malvasia del Chianti

**Size:** 0.62 hectare (1.53 acres)

**Vine Age:** Planted 1992

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# CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA

## THE VINEYARDS AND TERRENO:

### ESTATE VINEYARDS *(page 4 of 5)*

**Soil:** Sandstone and clay  
**Elevation:** 650 meters (2,130 feet)  
**Exposure:** South  
**Density:** 5,698 vines/hectare (2,306 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

**Elevation:** 500 meters (1,640 feet)  
**Exposure:** Southeast  
**Density:** 5,435 vines/hectare (2,200 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

#### CASAVECCHIA

Named after and located near the Casavecchia rental villa, an ancient house (“casa” means “house” in Italian; “vecchia” means “old” in Italian) with a tower tucked away in one of the quietest and most exclusive parts of the farm.

**Variety Planted:** Sangiovese  
**Size:** 3.32 hectares (8.20 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 2010  
**Soil:** Sandstone  
**Elevation:** 470 meters (1,542 feet)  
**Exposure:** Southwest  
**Density:** 2,564 vines/hectare (1,038 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot



#### CASETTO

Casetto, *(pictured above with the Campo a Prato and Santa Caterina vineyards)*, named after and located near the Casetto rental villa, a charming stone house with one of the loveliest views on the entire estate, just east of Prato vineyard and villa.

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese and Merlot  
**Size:** 1.26 hectares (3.11 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 2002  
**Soil:** Sandstone



#### CASTELLINO

This vineyard shares its name and location with the Castellino villa, located south of Casavecchia vineyard.

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese and Merlot  
**Size:** 4.64 hectares (11.47 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 2000, 2005  
**Soil:** Sandstone  
**Elevation:** 400 meters (1,312 feet)  
**Exposure:** South  
**Density:** 5,006 vines/hectare (2,026 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

#### DOCCIOLA (doe-SHOW'-lah)

**Variety Planted:** Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon  
**Size:** 1.45 hectares (3.58 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 2003  
**Soil:** Sandstone and clay with little rocks  
**Elevation:** 540 meters (1,770 feet)

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### ESTATE VINEYARDS *(page 5 of 5)*

**Exposure:** Southwest  
**Density:** 5,698 vines/hectare (2,306 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

#### MONTANINO

Located across a small valley at almost the same elevation as the village of Volpaia, Montanino shares its home and name with an estate property recently turned into a small hotel managed by a Neapolitan gentleman who moved to Volpaia to help restore and run the property.

**Variety Planted:** Merlot  
**Size:** 1.23 hectares (3.04 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 2004  
**Soil:** Sandstone and clay (the only red grape vineyard with this soil composition)  
**Elevation:** 550 meters (1,800 feet)  
**Exposure:** East-southeast  
**Density:** 5,435 vines/hectare (2,200 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

#### PRATOLINO

The vineyard takes its name from the villa located near it.

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese and Merlot  
**Size:** 3.71 hectares (9.17 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 1997  
**Soil:** Sandstone  
**Elevation:** 470 meters (1,542 feet)  
**Exposure:** South  
**Density:** 5,006 vines/hectare (2,026 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

#### SANTA CATERINA

Named after the shrine of Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), located near the vineyard.

**Varieties Planted:** Sangiovese and Merlot  
**Vine Age:** Planted 1998  
**Soil:** Sandstone  
**Elevation:** 570 meters (1,870 feet)  
**Training:** Guyot  
**Sangiovese:**  
**Size:** 3.04 hectares (7.51 acres)  
**Exposure:** South-southwest  
**Density:** 5,006 vines/hectare (2,026 vines/acre)

**Merlot:**  
**Size:** 1.67 hectares (4.13 acres)  
**Exposure:** Southeast  
**Density:** 5,435 vines/hectare (2,200 vines/acre)

#### SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

Located next to the Santa Maria Novella church where Nicolò and Annalisa Mascheroni Stianti were married in 2004, Santa Maria Novella vineyard shares its home with some of Volpaia's oldest olive trees. Volpaia and its higher-elevation vineyards are visible in the distance.

**Variety Planted:** Sangiovese  
**Size:** 4.25 hectares (10.5 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 1994  
**Soil:** Sandstone  
**Elevation:** 470 meters (1,542 feet)  
**Exposure:** East-southeast  
**Density:** 5,682 vines/hectare (2,300 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot

#### VIGNAVECCHIA

Vignavecchia translates to old vineyard ("vigna" means "vineyard" in Italian; "vecchia" means "old)."

**Variety Planted:** Sangiovese  
**Size:** 1.4 hectares (3.46 acres)  
**Vine Age:** Planted 1998  
**Soil:** Sandstone  
**Elevation:** 570 meters (1,870 feet)  
**Exposure:** South-southwest  
**Density:** 5,006 vines/hectare (2,026 vines/acre)  
**Training:** Guyot



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