



# CASTELLO DI AMA

*GAIOLE in CHIANTI*

## CASTELLO DI AMA 2011 - The CRU Wines Return

Since 1982, Marco Pallanti has developed a stellar reputation as one of Italy's top winemakers by consistently producing elegant and refined wines from one of Chianti Classico's finest sites, Castello di Ama.

Early on at Ama, Marco identified vineyard lots on the property as offering special expressions of wine in the best of vintages. Only in exceptional vintages does Marco bottle these wines separately as "Cru" wines. Not since 2007 has Castello di Ama offered all three of their Cru wines. 2011 was a truly marvelous vintage for Castello di Ama, thus we have the Crus.

### Vigneto Bellavista

The Bellavista vineyard comprises 22.82 hectares, planted part in 1974 and 1978 (ca. 9.31 hectares), while the remaining 13.51 hectares were planted between 2006 and 2008; the elevation varies from 530 metres in the area known as Bellaria and 456 metres for Campinuovi. The soils are predominantly clay with abundant pebble-gravel component. 16.34 hectares are vertically-trained to the single Guyot system; the remaining 6.48 hectares are trained to the open lyre configuration. The first release of this much-prized selection was in 1978.

### Vigneto La Casuccia

The La Casuccia vineyard comprises 12.58 hectares. 6 hectares were planted in 1978; the remainder was planted in 2007 at a density of 5,300 vines per hectare. The elevation ranges from 480 metres to 526 for the vines at Adine. Soils are fairly consistent throughout, predominantly calcareous clay. The vines are vertically-trained to the single Guyot system in 8.04 hectares and to the open lyre in 4.54. The vineyard is sub-divided into 17 parcels, all planted to the traditional varieties authorized by the production code. One parcel is planted to Merlot. Its wine is produced only in exceptional growing years and in very limited quantities. The first vintage was bottled in 1985.



### L'Apparita

Right from its first vintage in 1985, L'Apparita has enjoyed cult status. Lying at the top of the Bellavista vineyard at an elevation of 490 metres is the collection of small parcels that make up the L'Apparita vineyard, a total of 3.84 hectares. It was planted to Canaiolo and Malvasia Bianca in 1975, but grafted over to clone 342 of Merlot between 1982 and 1985. Its open lyre training system and clay-rich soil make this small cru a true jewel in the international wine world.

### 2011 Growing Season

The year started off cold and troubled. Only the end of March experienced a rise in temperatures followed by days of true sun in April when the vines began to re-start their growth cycle. May continued warm, with above-average temperatures, thus further bringing forward the development process. June and July were exceptionally hot with almost no rain, so the time gain increased. No rain fell in August, and a heat wave arrived from Africa which quickened further the early ripening, particularly in the early ripening grape varieties. Subsequent lower temperatures did allow the harvest to be delayed somewhat.

### Castello di Ama 2011

#### L'Apparita

Vigne Bellavista Chianti Classico Gran Selezione

Vigne La Casuccia Chianti Classico Gran Selezione



now offered in a new and exquisite 3 bottle package