



# Vigne Marina Coppi

Colli Tortonesi - Piedmont

**F**rancesco Bellocchio purchased a small vineyard in Castellania, a small village in the Colli Tortonesi region of Piedmont. This 4 hectare (10 acre) plot of land was truly special to Francesco. His grandfather, Fausto Coppi, was born in Castellania and was the original owner of the vineyard. Fausto died when Francesco was quite young, however the family genes for determination to be the best had been passed down. Fausto Coppi was a legendary cyclist who from 1940-1953 won the Giro d'Italia five times, the Tour of France twice, and the World Championship. Grandfather Fausto and his wife, Marina, are Francesco's daily inspiration to do his very best. He honored them by naming the winery after Marina and his Timorasso after Fausto. Francesco studied winemaking then coaxed his wife, Anna, to join him in founding Vigne Marina Coppi in 2003.

The soils here are known as "Marne di Sant'Agata". On this site it is a mixture of 55% blueish clay, 30% sand, and 15% limestone. Grapes here benefit from a continental climate with marked temperature differences throughout the season, the lowest rainfall in Piedmont, and cooling sea breezes. The vineyards are situated mid-slope in a sheltered position, which is protected from the cold northerly winds, making this an ideal micro-climate.

The vineyards were planted with Barbera, Nebbiolo, Freisa and Croatina. Vines were planted 2,000 vines per acre with the soil type and exposure in mind, and trained using the Guyot method. Selected grasses grow between the vines for nutrients. Only natural products are used to fight disease and neither weed-killers nor chemical fertilizers are employed. Hand harvesting of only the optimal grapes insures that what enters the winery is the very best.

With such a small vineyard, Francesco and Anna are able to have total control of the land and the winemaking process. They do it all themselves. They produce a mere 1600 cases per year and they want each wine to be the top of its class.

- *Francesco Bellocchio and Anna Manfredi are a husband & wife team.*
- *Francesco's grandfather Fausto Coppi was a legendary cyclist*
- *Winery is named after Fausto's wife, Francesco's grandmother*
- *2005 was the first vintage*
- *4 hectares (10 acres) owned originally by Fausto Coppi – 55% blueish clay, 30% sand, 15% limestone known as Marne di Sant'Agata*
- *Vineyard - cool sea breeze influences – protected from cold winds from the north*
- *Indigenous grapes of Piedmont – Barbera, Favorita, Timorasso.*
- *Fausto 2009 & 2011 received Tre Bicchieri from Gambero Rosso*
- *Wines of amazing richness and depth of character*



**W** INES

**Sant'Andrea** – Colli Tortonesi Barbera D.O.C.  
**Castellania** – Colli Tortonesi Barbera D.O.C.  
**I GROP** - Colli Tortonesi Barbera Superiore D.O.C.  
**Marine** – Colli Tortonesi Favorita D.O.C.  
**Fausto** – Colli Tortonesi Timorasso D.O.C.