

Tiberio

ARCHIVIO MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO - 2019

REGION: ITALY - ABRUZZO



TIBERIO

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Montepulciano d'Abruzzo

AGRICOLA TIBERIO - C.DA LA VOTA - CUGNOLI

TIBERIO

The story of Azienda Agricola Tiberio rings more like a new world tale than one from the old world of the ancient lands beneath the Majella and Gran Sasso mountains in Abruzzo. At 1150 feet/350 meters, twenty three miles inland from the seaside city of Pescara near the hillside town of Cugnoli, Riccardo Tiberio found an old plot of Trebbiano Abruzzese vines roughly 50 years old so impressive that he decided to change his and his family's destiny. Over a decade ago, Cristiana and Antonio, daughter and son of Riccardo, took over reins of Tiberio. Cristiana, a chemistry specialist who also teaches college sommelier and enology classes, handles winemaking and is the global brand ambassador. Antonio leads grapegrowing and viticulture. The dynamic team have established Tiberio, and Abruzzo, in the forefront of leading-edge wine making and renown in this central part of Italy. Today, Tiberio farms 74 acres/30 hectares of vines.

THE WINE

Vineyard Profile

The Archivio is a "single vineyard" Montepulciano d'Abruzzo coming from a specific 3 acre/1.2 hectare portion of our historical 6.2 acre/2.5 hectare vineyard, planted to 65 years old Montepulciano vines. It is from this vineyard that over the years we identified, selected and then propagated our massal selections of Montepulciano vines with which we have planted all our Montepulciano vineyards.

The Archivio is a special portion of this larger vineyard because it is the only plot on the whole property that has a strong clay presence in the subsoil (limestone soil – subsoil with presence of clay and iron oxide). The Montepulciano that grows in the Archivio vineyard has different characteristics and so do the wines that are made with it. It is from this vineyard that we identified four different Montepulciano biotypes that look and behave differently from other known Montepulciano biotypes and clones. Therefore, it represents our estates's historical Montepulciano vines library, or archive (hence the wine's name: "archivio" in Italian translates to archive). The four biotypes have been named after our estate's dogs, who are as much a part of our family's history as the wines we make.

Differences between the four biotypes are numerous, but these can be generalized in: one biotype is characterized by smaller round berries with thicker skins that reach full physiologic polyphenol ripeness with greater ease, Tione98; a second biotype that has grapes with thin skins (and therefore a lower skin to pulp ratio with more juice) and higher acidity levels, Quarmari15; a third by a much longer bunch and it is the latest ripening of the four, Diana18 (do keep in mind Montepulciano is a late ripening variety as it is); and a fourth biotype characterized by a very round leaf instead of the more typical multilobed, jagged leaf and by seeds that only rarely turn completely brown (therefore delivering a much more tannic wine that is nonetheless more often than not nobly tannic despite the seeds not turning colour fully) Otto19 . The spontaneous fermentation carried out with natural, vineyard-specific yeasts only reaches higher temperatures, indicating how this specific yeast population is adapted to a specific environment and able to work at higher temperatures and lead to deeper natural extraction of polyphenols. The result is a wine that is at once fresh and elegant but also quite powerful, with darker colour, aromas and flavours, and greater density than our other Montepulcianos, a profile that is fully expressive of the wine's specific terroir. For these reasons, and unlike all our other wines, the Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Archivio is partly aged in oak (barriques, 30% new). The use of the barriques is not out of a desire to make an oak-aged wine, but rather a consequence of the wine's specific characteristics and need for a greater

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amount of oxygenation.

- Soil: Limestone, clay subsoil with iron oxides
- Vineyard Area: 3 acres/1.2 Ha
- Altitude: 1247 feet/380 meters
- Vine Age: 67 years
- Vine Training System: Pergola Abruzzese – Canopy training system
- Yield: 50 Hl/Ha

Harvest Notes

- Hand harvested mid-October
- Spontaneous fermentation with only indigenous yeasts in stainless steel tanks for 40 days
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in stainless steel
- Aged 12 months in 30% new barriques, 70% stainless steel vessels
- Aged 12 months in bottle

Winemaker's Notes

Intensely aromatic, powerful and elegant. Smoky, dark and red cherry fruit with spices. Flavors of violets, roses and liquorice. Smooth, vibrant and fresh.

Technical Information

- 100% massal selection Montepulciano d'Abruzzo from 4 different biotypes
- Alcohol: 14.5%
- Total Acidity: 4.95 g/l
- pH: 3.60
- Residual Sugar: 0.6 g/l
- Extract: 31.2 g/l

REVIEWS

Archivio Montepulciano d'Abruzzo – 2019

95 Points - Terroir Sense - Ian D'Agata, May, 2023

Moderately glass-staining purple. Surprisingly low-pitched for a Tiberio wine, with a spicy nose evoking red and dark cherries, violet, licorice, underbrush, allspice, and cocoa, plus a touch of licorice for added interest. Creamy-smooth and rich on the palate, but also vibrant and precise despite its size, with flavours that echo the aromas. The aftertaste hints at cinnamon, vanilla, cocoa, and smoke. 2026 – 2040

95 Points - Vinous, August, 2023

The 2019 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Archivio opens slowly in the glass, darkly intense and youthfully coiled. Swirling brings an aromatic blend of foreign spice, balsam herbs, dried black cherries and lifting shaved pine notes. With its silky textures, this seduces, more lifted and poised than I'd imagined. A core of tart raspberry fruit stains the palate as a web of fine-grained tannins forms toward the close. While structured and dramatically long, the Archivio maintains a lovely harmony, as a bitter tinge of savory spice mingles with violet inner florals. Interestingly, the textural performance between the Archivio and Colle Vota seems to have traded places in 2019, as this is the

more elegant and lifted of the two. It's an atypical Archivio that should not be missed. 2026 – 2036

GENERAL INFO

Country	Italy
Region	Abruzzo
Appellation(s)	Abruzzo
Proprietors	Riccardo, Cristiana, Antonio Tiberio (father, daughter, son)
Founded	2000
Winemaker	Cristiana Tiberio
Annual Production	8,300 9L cases
Farming (Sustainable, organic, biodynamic)	Sustainable