

# Tiberio

## FONTE CANALE TREBBIANO D'ABRUZZO - 2019

REGION: ITALY - ABRUZZO



# TIBERIO



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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.

## REVIEWS

### Fonte Canale Trebbiano d'Abruzzo – 2019

#### 94 Points - Vinous, October, 2022

A dazzling bouquet of honeyed flowers, young mango, apricot, flinty stone and sweet smoke make the 2019 Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Fonte Canale impossible to ignore. It's savory and supremely soft textured, pushing its pure orchard fruits forward and allowing its minerality to play a supporting role, which creates a sense of undeniable elegance and balance. The 2019 lingers incredibly long, leaving a salty stain and tension that tugs at the palate; pretty inner florals and hints of ginger slowly fade. The production of the 2019 Fonte Canale was down by 20% due to the cold conditions during flowering. 2024 – 2031

It's amazing to think about what Cristiana and Antonio Tiberio have accomplished in such a small amount of time, but what's even more amazing is how humble they've remained throughout the process, and how, unknowingly, they have pushed the entire region of Abruzzo forward by leaps and bounds. The Tiberio winery and vineyards are located in Cugnoli within the hilly interior of Abruzzo and in between two valleys formed by Gran Sasso and Maiella. This location, at around 380 meters, is very particular, as the two valleys funnel ventilating winds through the vineyards during the day and cooling currants at night. While standing amongst Cristiana Tiberio's 70-year-old, double-pergola-trained vines and admiring the well-shaded Trebbiano Abruzzese that creates the Fonte Canale bottling, one will immediately notice that the wind never seems to die down. It's because of this that, even in the warmest of years, these vines remain vital and balanced. Tiberio's vineyards are contiguous, running along the gently sloping hills of the region, and all planted through massal selection using the original Montepulciano, Trebbiano Abruzzese and Pecorino that were found in the vineyard that Cristiana's father discovered in 1999. In more recent years, the differences of terroir have made certain parcels stand out, such as the Colle Vota vineyard, where vines grow in sandy soils mixed with a large amount of rocks and produce a Montepulciano that is more ethereal and mineral in style. Simply through soil alone, these 20-year-old vines produce larger berries, smaller, more compact bunches and result in a much-later harvest than the rest of the vineyard. Terroir is not something that the average producer speaks of in Abruzzo, yet it's the focus at Tiberio. The family has continued to bottle their estate Montepulciano (a blend of their vineyards and one of the best values of the region) but also the old-vine Archivio and the aforementioned Colle Vota. In every vintage, both of these single vineyard wines demonstrate their uniqueness, and are now two of the best reds being made in the region. Year after year, tasting through this portfolio gives me hope for all of Abruzzo, as it shows what's truly possible on a large scale if producers begin to look more at

the earth beneath their feet and less at high production and winemaking wizardry.

**94+ Points - Terroir Sense - Ian D'Agata, August, 2022**

Pale green-tinged yellow. Pure crushed rock, fresh citrus fruits and flinty minerality on the inviting nose, gaining noteworthy intensity with aeration. Fresh and juicy, complex and very refined, but manages the neat trick of being simultaneously thick and weightless. Best today on the mounting finish, which saturates the palate with iodiney minerality and repeating lemon and lime flavours; strikes me as rounder than usual ("rounder" with Fonte Canale is a very relative term) most likely because of the year's low yields and cooler weather that increased hang time and in so doing, blessed the wine with greater complexity and a less angular personality. Even at this early age, the 2019 Fonte Canale still conveys the essential style of the vintage, a direct result of the area's growing season character traits. Very different from the showier 2018, but each will have its fans. 2026 – 2035

**18 Points - JancisRobinson.com, April, 2023**

Brilliant intense straw. Hazelnuts and cedro (citron) and orange pith. Crystal-like acidity, super-taut and linear. Lip-smacking finish. Stunning. 2023 – 2032

**95 Points - Decanter, September, 2023**

A beguiling nose slowly reveals camomile and lemon balm underscored by earthier hints of bay leaf and hazelnut shells. Vertically fashioned, the palate is über-focused and bracing yet well-padded with succulent apricot. Chalky and saline accents lend intrigue, drawing out the tangy, tantalising finish. Tiberio's Fonte Canale vineyard is a mere hectare or so, and the 90-plus-year-old, double pergola-trained vines are painfully low yielding, which makes for tiny quantities. By no means a substitute, the excellent value estate Trebbiano d'Abruzzo is more readily available and I often pour it as my house white. 2024 – 2032