RIZZI

Piedmont, Italy

HISTORY

Ernesto Dellapiana is known to say: “I have a crazy love for the earth.” This phrase embodies his life; from his birth in Alba, Italy in 1940 through his current stewardship of his family’s 19th century estate, in the Treiso zone of Piedmont.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

The township of Treiso sits at 1,345ft (410m) elevation, with 35% of their total 1,250 vineyard acreage planted to Nebbiolo. This zone, known as the Southern Sector, boasts a cooler climate and steeper vineyards than many in Barbaresco, and is home to the historic vineyard crus of Rizzi, Nervo and Pajoré. Within the Rizzi cru rests the important Vigna Boito, one of only three officially named vineyards in this township. Steep, terraced vineyards, primarily south and southwest facing, are comprised of the white, sandy soils typical of this zone; one exception is the hilltop Vigna Boito, which showcases more clay soils reminiscent of the Barbaresco zone.

The estate uses cover crops, following objectives outlined by “The Green Experience,” designed to guide sustainability and to help produce wines respectful to the traditions of the zone.

The winery was reacquired by the family and rebuilt in 1973 with enlarged storerooms, aging and processing facilities. Patriarch Ernesto Dellapiana was amongst the first in the Langhe, in 2006, to install a photovoltaic system on the roofs of the farm, in order to produce enough electricity to power the entire estate.

The estate went through another modernization in 2014, with the addition of new storage facilities, and an addition of several cement storage tanks–a preferred resting method for the wines that Enrico feels compliments their aging cellar of 50HL Austrian-produced Slavonian oak barrels.

Communes
Treiso, Neive, Neviglie

Year Founded 1974

Proprietor Enrico Dellapiana

Winemaker Enrico Dellapiana

Annual Production
7,500 to 9,000 9L cases

Varieties Cultivated
Nebbiolo, Barbera, Dolcetto, Moscato Bianco

Farming Practices Organic