

Day 707 Donnafugata Does It Again!

2/18/2019

Every time I receive wine from Donnafugata, my heartbeat quickens and my palate tingles with anticipation. Whether I taste Donnafugata wines while surrounded by the beauty of Sicily or in the comfort of my home, each bottle and style of wine always performs its magical spell on me. Before I even open a bottle, the whimsical and captivating labels seduce me.



Donnafugata has wineries and 405 hectares of vineyards located throughout Sicily, including historic aging cellars at their Marsala winery.



Today we're going to explore a few of their wines from Etna and Vittoria in eastern and southeast Sicily.

Vittoria

The Vittoria DOC area is located in southeast Sicily where Donnafugata has 36 hectares of vineyards in production. Nero d'Avola and Frappato are grown in the territory of Acate and the wines produced here fall under the denomination of Cerasuolo di Vittoria DCG and Frappato DOC. The vineyards enjoy a Mediterranean climate with cooling sea breezes during the summer and a large diurnal temperature range that helps to promote greater acidity in the grapes. The soils are medium-textured, sandy and mingled with calcareous tuff.



Vittoria Vineyards Photo credit: Donnafugata

Bell'Assai Frappato di Vittoria DOC 2017 is made with 100% Frappato which is one of the most ancient Sicilian grape varieties. It is believed that its origins began in the Ragusa province around 300 years ago. The wine is cherry red with enticing aromas of a flower garden, spice, strawberry and cherry that segue onto the palate with additional notes of pepper and orange peel. This is a refreshing and light wine to drink. The tannins are soft and the flavors linger for a very satisfying finish. Drink as an aperitif or pair with fish, light pasta and cheese.

Alcohol: 13.5%

SRP: \$28



Every artistic label of Donnafugata wine has a story called "Dialogue With Art". And in the story of Bell'Assai, Donnafugata "*wants to celebrate the love for the beautiful*".



The name Bell'Assai means "very pretty" in Sicilian. Donnafugata's Dialog With Art is as follows: *"Bell'Assai is a girl with personality who offers to the sweet Sicilian breeze the fruits of the vineyards and the scents of the countryside. She represents the spirit of those enterprising families with the love for beauty which have always been animating the territory of Vittoria."*

Etna

Donnafugata has approximately 18 hectares of vineyard production on Etna, all in the DOC zone, located in eastern Sicily. The vineyards are on the north side of the volcano and are spread out among 5 districts, with the highest altitude of 750 meters above sea level in Randazzo. While this area benefits from the Mediterranean climate, the proximity of the active Mt. Etna volcano plays an important role in the surrounding soils. The soil is rich with volcanic nutrients thanks to volcanic ash and rock, which in turn provides nutrients to the grape vines and ultimately helps to create more concentrated flavor and complexity in the wines.



Etna Vineyards Photo credit: Donnafugata

Sul Vulcano Etna Rosso, DOC 2016 is made with 100% Nerello Mascalese, a dark-skinned grape variety that is most commonly grown on the volcanic slopes of Etna. The wine is a soft ruby red with delicate aromas of cherry, strawberry, floral and spice. Tannins and acidity complement each other with a lovely palate of red fruit, sour cherry, sweet spice, and a dash of pepper on a lengthy finish. It is an expressive and impressive wine! Serve with antipasto, stews, grilled fish, meat and spicy Asian cuisine.

Alcohol: 13.5%

SRP: \$35



Here is the Dialog With Art for Sul Vulcano: *"A goddess-volcano stands out on the label. Its intense colors, red, yellows, iridescent blacks, are those of the highest active volcano in Europe. An ancient, powerful and feminine deity: "the Mountain" as Etna is called by the locals. "Sul Vulcano" is a declaration of love: a pure wine, fragrant and elegant, that lets you breathe the energy of this unique place located in the center of the Mediterranean."* I love the goddess-volcano!



Like all of Donnafugata's wine labels, they tempt you and pull you into the emotions of the wine before you even have your first sip. And once you taste their wines, you will be magically transported to the mesmerizing island of Sicily!

To read more about Donnafugata, please select from the menu at right.

Until next time...

Cheers!

Penina

To leave a comment or if you have an inquiry, please contact me at wineknittercomments@gmail.com

Day 667 A Glass of Sicily

8/21/2018

Over the past fifteen months I've had the opportunity to visit Sicily twice. I have experienced a breathtaking array of landscapes, sampled delicious food and savored many memorable wines from west to east and north to south. My exploration of Sicily has taken me to cities and regions such as Palermo, Mazara del Vallo, Menfi, Cammarata, Catania, Marsala and Pantelleria to name just a few.



Sicily is the largest Mediterranean island surrounded by the Ionian, Tyrrhenian and the Mediterranean seas. It is also the third largest producer of wine in Italy. The only parts of the island that I have not yet explored are the southeast and northeast wine regions.

So, when I received a bottle of Donnafugata's Floramundi Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG made from the grapes of the Vittoria area in southeastern Sicily, I was quite excited to tour this region through my taste buds!



Donnafugata has wineries and 283 hectares of vineyards located throughout Sicily, including historic aging cellars at their Marsala winery.



They have 18 hectares of vineyards in production in the Vittoria area, consisting of 11 hectares of Nero d'Avola and 7 hectares of Frappato.



Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG is considered one of the most noteworthy wines produced in Sicily and it is the only wine in Sicily with a DOCG status! These wines are a blend of the indigenous grapes Frappato and Nero d'Avola. No other grape varieties are allowed in the blend. Cerasuolo means 'cherry-colored' in Italian. Frappato is light-bodied with low tannins and flavors of cherries and strawberries. Nero d'Avola has weight and is full-bodied with a rich texture and dark red fruit flavors. Together, they complement and bring out the best in each other.

Floramundi Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG 2016 is Donnafugata's first vintage from the Vittoria vineyards. It is a blend of 70% Nero d'Avola and 30% Frappato.

The color is cherry red with aromas of white peony, cherry, sweet apple, spice and pepper. The palate is layered with cherries, red berries, strawberry-rhubarb pie and a touch of spice and pepper on the finish. Soft tannins and a silky mouth-feel complete this fresh and juicy wine!

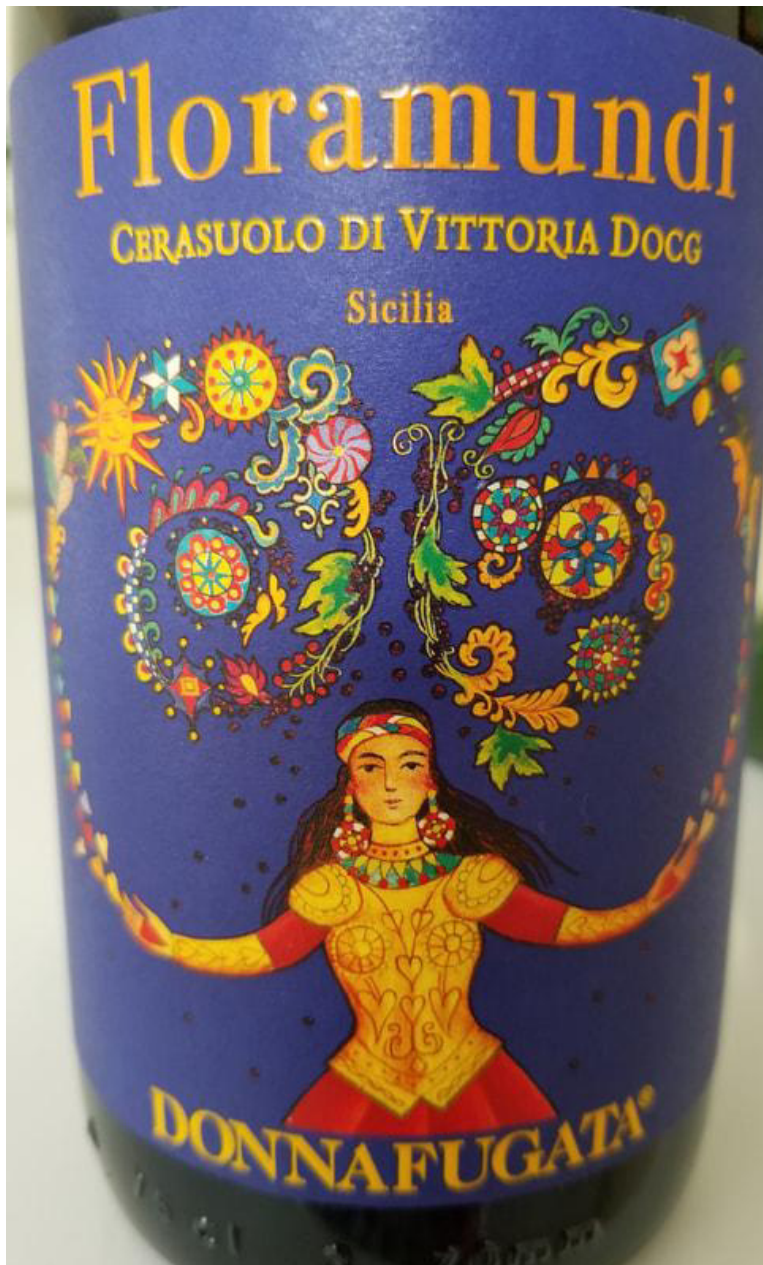


This is a wine that will drink well slightly chilled. Serve as an aperitif or with cheese, beef stew, hearty fish entrees and soup.

Alcohol: 13.30%

SRP: \$30

As always, Donnafugata wine labels are whimsical and a work of art.



Flora means, "flower" in Latin. And in Roman mythology, Flora is the goddess of spring and flowering plants. Mundi, loosely translated is the connection between Heaven and Earth.

The Floramundi label depicts a goddess type woman conjuring up magical gifts of flowers and fruit. As Donnafugata states "it is a dialogue between two souls, the elegant and sophisticated, Nero d'Avola and Frappato". And indeed, this wine is a beautiful marriage!



To learn more about Donnafugata and Sicily, please click from the menu on the right side of this page.

Until next time...

Cheers!
Penina