

[Home](#)[About](#)[Video](#)[Podcast](#)[Events](#)[Famous Faces](#)[Press](#)[Contact](#)[Archives](#)[Wine News \(PR Newswire\)](#)

12/10/2020

Sun, Soul, and Song: Savor Sicily with the Wines of Donnafugata



When exploring wines, José Rallo, CEO and Co-Owner of Donnafugata encourages everyone to "Discover Sicily. Trust Sicily. You'll be in Sicily with just a sip!"


For the season finale of Wine With Wanda on [Instagram Live](#), I wished for a vibrant, charming, and clever guest, who also makes beautiful wine. 5th generation vintner José Rallo was the obvious choice. CEO & co-owner of the award-winning Sicilian winery [Donnafugata](#), José is a savvy businesswoman with the soul of an artist.

When José is described as the face and voice of Donnafugata, they really mean it. A talented vocalist, José believes in the synergy of wine and music, and her communications strategy includes events such as the "Donnafugata Music & Wine Live" events. José has recorded two CD's and performed around the world at prestigious venues, including the Blue Note in New York City.

Donnafugata was founded in 1983 by José's parents, Gabriella and Giacomo Rallo, and her brother Antonio is the winemaker. Donnafugata is celebrated for their terroir-driven style that expresses an authentic taste of Sicily and the [Sicilia DOC](#). **I visited Donnafugata in 2017**; it was a magical experience.

Watch the video above, on [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#) to learn more about Donnafugata and to hear José sing a lovely snippet of the jazz song ***An Older Man Is Like An Elegant Wine***. We also discussed the inspiration behind Donnafugata's bold artistic labels and the name of the winery: Donnafugata means woman in flight or escaped woman.

During our chat, we sipped **Donnafugata Sur Sur Grillo 2019 Sicilia DOC (\$21)** and **Donnafugata Mille e Una Notte 2016 Sicilia DOC (\$85)**.

 [Thumbnail-80](#)

Sur Sur is the first Donnafugata wine that I ever tasted and this sentimental favorite never disappoints me. Crafted from the native Sicilian grape Grillo, this is a beautifully textured and aromatic white wine. Juicy flavors of peach and melon are revved up by mouthwatering minerality and salinity. A sultry sip of Sicilian sunshine!



First produced in 1995, Mille e Una Notte is Donnafugata's flagship wine, and José describes it as the dream of her father Giacomo. The name Mille e Una Notte was selected by her mother Gabriella -- when she tasted the wine for the first time, she told her husband that it was like the powerful literary masterpiece *A Thousand and One Nights*. A velvety and rich blend of Nero d'Avola, Petit Verdot, and Syrah; it is a big but graceful wine with gorgeous flavors of black fruits, herbs, and earth. Stunning now, classic and elegant Mille e Una Notte is crafted to age beautifully. in [Friuli](#), [Grillo](#), [Italy](#), [Nero d'Avola](#), [Sicily](#), [wine grapes](#), [Women in Wine](#) | [Permalink](#)