

SICILY

ETNA ROSSO

TOP 10

Etna Rosso DOC



NERELLO MASCALESE

minimum of 80%



NERELLO CAPPUCCIO

maximum of 20%

The cohabitation with the volcano also carries a particular weight, not indifferent to the variety and quality of the terrains. Put more simply, the dominate structure linked to its volcanic origins – a geographical character that disintegrates over time to become sand – has prohibited the dissemination of phylloxera, in this area, resulting in vines of advanced age. It is typical to encounter a plant that is 100 years old.

The vineyards of the Etna are, probably, the highest in Italy, even more than the sites on the Alps. On the mountainsides of the volcano there are plants at 1000 meters above the sea level.

The most widely used cultivation system is that brought from the ancient Greeks, called the

alberello or “little tree” method. The lion’s share of the fruit produced are red varieties, while that of white grapes is about 20%.

The principal red varieties cultivated here are the:

- **Nerello Mascalese:** red berry grape from late harvest, lacking color, but capable of producing a wine of excellent finesse. A minimum of 80% for the DOC title.
- **Nerello Cappuccio:** red variety that confers color and fruity sensations to the wine. A maximum of 20% in wines that bear the Etna DOC.

Etna Rosso DOC

GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.

 SHORT (5-8 years)

 MEDIUM (10-15 years)

 LONG (more than 15 years)

95

 **Etna Rosso DOC Archineri 2015**
PIETRADOLCE

Aromas of lavender and red fruit. The floral balsamic sensation that appears on the nose transforms in the mouth in favor of a slightly sharper green impression that has nothing to do with lack of maturity. From mid-sip on, concentrated and rich red fruit. Smoky finish. Flavorful tannins.



95

 **Etna Rosso DOC Arcuria 2015**
GRACI

Fruity nose with alternations of strawberry and yellow raspberry. In the mouth, the acidic part is that which brings back wild strawberry, while the softer side thanks to peach, is without excess. The complexity is merit of flavorful notes and touches of aromatic herbs. Flavorful tannins.



94

 **Etna Rosso DOC Serra della Contessa 2013**
BENANTI

Brilliant color and a very multifaceted nose. The red fruit, translated into sour cherry and strawberry, takes center stage. The rest of the aroma is an alternation between smoky notes and balsamic tonalities. Agile and complex mouth, thanks to sensations of hibiscus and dried rose, among others. Flavorful tannins.



94

 **Etna Rosso DOC Rovitello 2013**
BENANTI

Only large barrels during aging. Blossom and strawberry on the nose. In the mouth, elegance dominates with much succulent fruit such as raspberry and pomegranate, accompanied by some touches of rose and by a subtle, veiled spice kit. Excellent persistence. Flavorful tannins.



WINE RANKING

93

**Etna Rosso DOC Vigna Barbagalli 2014**

PIETRADOLCE

Grapes from plants that grow 900 meters above sea level. Floral and fruity nose, followed by a pleasant hematic nuance. In the mouth, the fruit separates into cassis and orange rind, followed by earthy tones and those, which recall star anise. Flavorful tannins.



93

**Etna Rosso DOC Feudo di Mezzo 2015**

GIROLAMO RUSSO

Practically a solo of Nerello Mascalese given that the small quantity of Nerello Cappuccio. Fresh fruit that is a bit dark on the nose, accompanied by balsamic notes of black currant leaves and geranium. The mouth cedes little to the immediacy with shy fruit, earthy nuances, and pleasingly bitter suggestions. Flavorful tannins.



92

**Etna Rosso DOC Altamura 2014**

CUSUMANO

Aromas that play on the duality between the balsamic of geraniums and juicy notes of sour cherry. In the mouth, the attack is dry and taut, while from mid-mouth on, the sip demonstrates roundness, specifically on fruity sensations of ripe strawberry and raspberry jam. Fine grain tannins.



92

**Etna Rosso DOC Contrada di Villagrande 2013**

BARONE DI VILLAGRANDE

Dried rose with a touch of spice. In the mouth, the flower remains on the side leaving space for a fruity sensation, recalling raspberry, both fresh and preserved. The spices are no less, specifically tonalities of cinnamon and star anise. Acidic tannins.

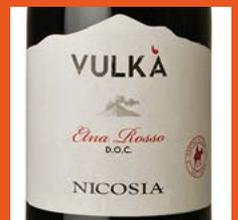


90

**Etna Rosso DOC Vulkà 2015**

NICOSIA

Aromas of cherry, red peppercorn, and cinnamon. In the mouth, fresh red fruit accompanies the jammy version. The overall sensation never becomes soft, thanks to refreshing balsamic notes of anise and earthy hints of licorice. Flavorful tannins.



89

**Etna Rosso DOC 2015**

AZIENDA AGRICOLA TORNATORE

Pomegranate and smoky notes on the nose. In the mouth, the fruit increases complexity, but also volume, intense alcohol. The drink however is not compromised thanks to small, citrusy touches that are substituted at mid-sip by an exhilarating flavor. Flavorful tannins.



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Layout and design by **ZeppelinStudio.it**

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MAY 2017

SICILY - ETNA ROSSO TOP 10
WINE RANKING BY
MARCO TONELLI

TASTING PERIOD
MAY 2017

