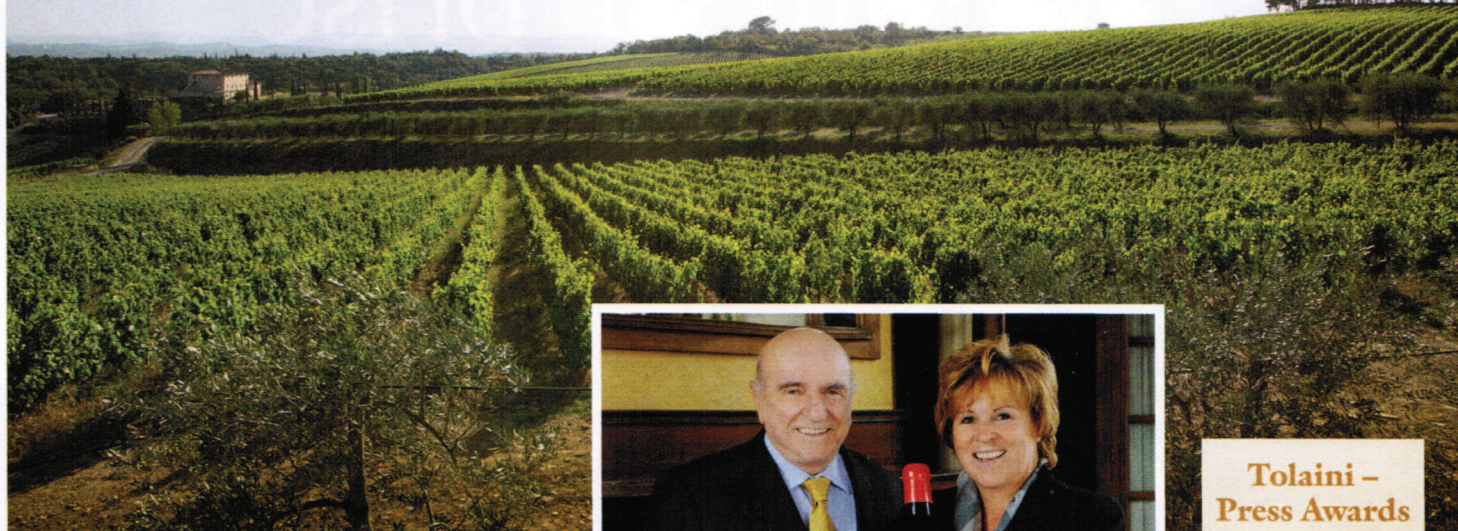


Tolaini

Boutique wines in Tuscany



Right: Pier Luigi Tolaini, winery owner and entrepreneur, with his daughter Lia Tolaini-Banville

Many of us have dreams of returning to our roots, but few do it in the spectacular fashion of Pierluigi Tolaini, proprietor and moving force behind the Tolaini winery in Tuscany. Pierluigi kept his dream alive for 40 years after his emigration to Canada at 20 years old in 1959. Then a successful career in transportation gave him the means to return to Tuscany, look for a winery, and live the next dream: to make one of Italy's best wines, no less.

Four years of research eventually led to the acquisition of an estate in the prime Chianti Classico producing area of Castelnuovo Berardenga, south of Florence and east of Siena. Tolaini has obvious potential: just one look at the amphitheatre vineyards tells you that. Experts have likened the Castelnuovo Berardenga area in style terms to Pauillac in Bordeaux, producing wines with rare power and intensity.

To make the best wines possible, the first necessity is the suitability of the vineyards, since it is a truism of winemaking that wines are only as good as the grapes that the soil produces – “the best fruit produces the best wine” is the fundamental principle of the Tolaini estate. In fact, the property produces fruit of unsurpassable quality and this fruit is evident in every sip of the estate's four red wines.

The second necessity is people, to provide their expertise, which led Pierluigi to put together a highly qualified team of professionals, who

share his vision about making the best wines possible in this unique terroir. Diego Bonato runs the winery, but the most recent recruit is Ruggero Mazzilli, who is the founder of the Experimental Station for Sustainable Viticulture in nearby Gaiole in Chianti and now Tolaini's consulting agronomist.

The estate is young, not even 20 years old in its current incarnation, but the results are already beginning to come in. Gambero Rosso, Parker, Suckling and Wine Spectator have voiced their approval for the four red wines Tolaini produces:

• **Picconero** – based on Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, with 5% Petit Verdot. The top wine produced only in the best years.

• **Valdisanti** – based on Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese, with 5% Cabernet Franc.

• **Al Passo** – a Supertuscan blend of Sangiovese with 15% Merlot.

• **Chianti Classico Riserva** – the cru version “Montebello Vigneto 7” has been awarded the new superior status: Gran Selezione

www.tolaini.it



Tolaini – Press Awards

Robert Parker:

Picconero 2010

94pts

Valdisanti 2010

93pts

Al Passo 2010

92pts

Chianti Classico Riserva 2011

91pts

James Suckling:

Picconero 2010

94pts

Valdisanti 2010

93pts

Al Passo 2011, 2010

91pts

Chianti Classico Riserva 2011

92pts

Wine Spectator:

Picconero 2009

94pts

Valdisanti 2008, 2007

90pts

Al Passo 2008

91pts

Gambero Rosso:

Picconero 2010, 2009

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Valdisanti 2008

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