

NEIL PHILLIPS –THE WINE TIPSTER

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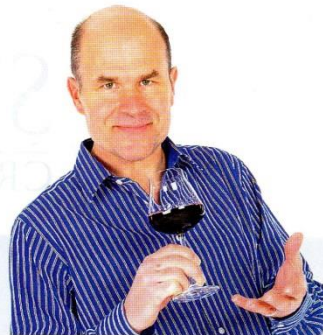


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Why we love Italy and the Cotswolds

Neil Phillips meets the makers of Podere Sant'Alberto wine and olive oil



The Brierley family have an enviable colour supplement lifestyle, as their UK base is Moreton-in-Marsh, while their Italian time is spent at their Tuscan estate Podere Sant'Alberto.

Podere Sant'Alberto is located some 10 miles north of Siena, between the fortified villages of San Gimignano, Monteriggioni and Castellina in Chianti. Their estate covers 12 hectares of mixed woodland, olive groves and vineyards on sloping terrain of limestone and clay at an elevation of around 250 metres.

The Brierley family started their journey at Podere Sant'Alberto in 2007 learning about, appreciating and striving to make great wine and extra virgin olive oil, that is representative of the region in Tuscany.

I can appreciate and understand their passion for this wonderful wine region, which is synonymous with Chianti and yet produces many other wines including the fashionable Brunello di Montalcino and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.

Early on in my career I worked for an Italian importer for four years and I'll never forget my first visit to Tuscany, when I arrived late in the evening to be greeted in the morning by the most spectacular and memorable views – there will be many of you reading this column who will have had the same experience.

As the organiser of the wine talks at the Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival I first met the very approaching and passionate Chris Brierley at the show in 2013 and Chris has now presented a wine master class

and had a stand at this festival for the last three years.

Chris does not make wine sound complicated and brings a different perspective to the wine theatre as an owner and winemaker, who at the Cheltenham Food and Drink Festival this year in mid-June featured his strongest selection of wines from his Podere Sant'Alberto estate at great prices too.

While the Brierley's produce a Rosato del Podere, it is their reds that excite from two very good vintages in Tuscany with the Sangiovese del Podere 2010 and Riserva del Padrone 2009.

Riserva del Padrone 2009, Podere Sant'Alberto, abv 14 per cent, £14.95

This full-bodied red is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with a hint of Sangiovese. Packed with intense plummy fruit, notes of chocolate and violets and a hint of spice this is a red to decant and enjoy with a big meaty dish. Yum!

Sangiovese del Podere 2010, Podere Sant'Alberto, abv 14.5 per cent, £14.95

This is a fabulous red grape variety that is high in acidity and tannin, which has an affinity with oak. This 2010 has great complexity with an appealing earthy, rustic character and cherry and blueberry fruits. Full bodied in style, this will match perfectly with any meaty pasta dish.

As well as their wines, you can purchase the Brierley's olive oil, which is a permanent resident in our kitchen and you can rent their home in Tuscany. **LE**

• www.santalberto.co.uk, @santalberto

The Wine Tipster



PODERE SANT'ALBERTO
WINE & OLIVE OIL

Prosecco Salatin Extra Dry NV, DOC
Reviso, Italy, abv 11 per cent, £12.99. If you mix and match 2 bottles save 25 per cent. Stockist: Majestic. Azienda Vinicola Salatin are based in Cordignano just 13km north of Conegliano and produce a high quality range of Proseccos with Majestic also listing the Salatin Valdobbiadene Superiore NV D.O.C.G. Their Extra Dry has fresh, citrus character with a hint of floral notes and this is a great match as I discovered recently with sushi.

This month's top tipples

Staying in Italy, Prosecco, the wine, (no longer a grape as this was changed by law to the name glera in 2009) is still very much on the up and I'll be featuring these excellent sparkling wines in more detail next month.

In the meantime soak in the sunshine and enjoy these three Proseccos.

Marks & Spencer Prosecco NV DOC
Veneto, Italy, abv 11 per cent, £9.99. Stockist: Marks & Spencer.

This is an example of why Prosecco has become so popular and has such a loyal fan club as this premium Prosecco, which was made by Loris Bonotto at his family estate, is delicious, rounded and fruity style which is an ideal party wine.

Marks & Spencer also have this in magnum too

Valdo Oro Pura Prosecco Superiore NV Valdobbiadene, Veneto, Italy, abv 11 per cent, £13.49. Stockist: Waitrose.

The Prosecco picture is constantly evolving and expect to see more and more high quality styles like Valdo Oro appearing on the market.

From the Valdobbiadene heartland of the Prosecco region this is a really attractive, well made, rounded, soft citrus and creamy Prosecco, with a subtle hint of sweetness and crisp acidity. A perfect pairing with Riserva Grana Padano.

