Winemaker: Gino, Luca, and Marta Magnabosco
Generation: 2nd

MONTE TONDO

Corvina del Veneto IGT

When an expert wine-nick like Gino Magnabasco puts a glass of wine in front you, we've learned to just say "thank you". The award-winning winemaker seems to never disappoint. This clean, unoaked red from Valpolicella positively sings with soil-driven slate, bright pomegranate, and potpourri. Two-decade-old vines and low-yield picking give it purpose, even at an affordable price. With its light body, it is outstanding with all white meats (fish or fowl), and continually leaves us wanting just a bit more!

WINEMAKER BIOGRAPHY

With larger-than-life personalities, the Magnabosco clan – led by father-daughter team Gino and Marta – likes to draw you in, spoil you properly, and leave you laughing. For all their mirth, however, the elegant wines of Monte Tondo remain worthy of serious discussion. Few estates can rival their multiple tiers of Soave, each backed by its own unique cru and soil type.

ENOLOGIST

Nico Danese

TASTING NOTES

Color	Ruby red
Nose	Bright, with fresh cherry and hints of black pepper
Palate	Fresh and lively, with cherry, dark chocolate and spice
Finish	Easy drinking, medium length

VINEYARD & VINIFICATION

Vineyard Location	Veneto IGT, Veneto
Vineyard Size	15 ha
Varietals List	100% Corvina
Farming Practices	Organically farmed (non certified), including dry-farmed; grapes picked by hand; certified vegan
Elevation	450 m
Soils	Calcarious soil of medium depth
Maturation Summary	In Steel for 6 months and Bottled for 3 months
In Steel	6 months
Alcohol	12.5 %
Acidity	5.5 g/liter
Residual Sugar	3.5 g/liter
Annual Production	13,000 bottles

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MONTE TONDO

In almost every way, the small, family operated estate of Monte Tondo sets itself apart. Contrasting the large coops which dominate the Soave Classico region, Monte Tondo represents the true artisinal minority: not only are their wines low yield, single estate and picked by hand, but in lieu of grapes grown in the vast alluvial flatlands, Monte Tondo's whites hail from various crus on the hillside above the town, each complete with its own unique soil profile. These sites in turn allow Gino Magnabosco and his daughter, Marta, to create tiers of Garganega-driven whites with a remarkable array of personalities. Their Soave Classico, for example, comes from vines growing halfway up the slope in a pocket of clay and limestone, lending the wine its bright-eyed structure and telltale minerality. From even higher up the hill, the single cru Slavinus and Casette Foscarin both derive from volcanic soils, possess a big-boned structure usually reserved for oaked whites, and promise to age beautifully for 5-10 years.

More recently, the Magnabosco family invested in red wines, as well. Located some 90 minutes inland from Venice, Monte Tondo serves as a physical bridge between the subalpine hills of the Valpolicella region and the sprawling, sea-level fields that produce so much of Italy's affordable white wine (i.e. Soave and Pinot Grigio). Established in 1979 by Aldo Magnabosco, the estate was expanded 20 years later by his son, Gino, and currently has 32 hectares spanning two different DOC's: they now have 22 hectares in Soave Classico and 10 in the Valpolicella (lying on the opposite side of the same hill). Fortuitously once again, both locations enjoy a bit of extra altitude. The estate's Garganega sites start at 110-150 meters (high for the region) and roam all the way up to 280-350 meters for the cru whites. Likewise, the Valpolicella vineyard is also lofty at 450 meters, to the extent the grapes are actually harvested in mid-October.

For anyone visiting Monte Tondo, it would be awfully hard not to notice the charm and constant hospitality of Marta Magnabosco, who assists her father both in making the wines and then promoting them. Along with Gino's work ethic, Marta also inherited the twinkle in her father's eye and possesses a winking, warmhearted, bilingual wit. If you're going to be near Venice, we recommend making the quick drive inland to meet Marta and her familia!

REGION

VENETO

Home to the iconic cities of Venice and Verona, Veneto is also Italy's second most prolific region in terms of wine production. Whites like Pinot Grigio and Prosecco, in particular, are made en masse in the lowlands proximate to the Adriatic. Beyond this, however, Veneto is also home to world-class estates and wines that couldn't be made anywhere else (not least of all the renowned Amarone della Valpolicella). From coastal flatlands to subalpine hills, a vast diversity of microclimates gives this wine region a unique edge. There are an impressive 28 DOCs and 14 DOCGs, with Prosecco, Pinot Grigio, Soave, and the red wines of Valpolicella all calling the Veneto home.

Beginning on the edge of Lake Garda, this NE region has 7 provinces: Belluno, Treviso, Venezia, Verona, Vicenze, Padova and Rovigo. Its northern boundary is protected from harsh weather conditions by the Dolomites, and cooler conditions in the north are well-suited to white varietals like Garganega (the main grape in Soave). In contrast, the warmer Adriatic coastal plains and river valleys near Lake Garda are where the renowned Valpolicella, Amarone, and Bardolino reds are produced.

It is believed that Veneto is one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world, dating back to the bronze age. Its main port, Venice, has long served as a point of entry for new varietals, and departure for its products. Italy's very first school for oenology was founded in Conegliano in 1885, and today Europe's most important wine fair, VinItaly - with a draw of some 200,000 people - takes place each spring in Verona.

VENETO IGT

As the name might suggest, the Veneto IGT spans the entirety of the famous NE Italian region. With over 10,000 acres of vineyards participating (as of 2018), it is also a highly prolific zone in terms of output. Combined, wines from the Veneto account for nearly a quarter of Italy's production (second only to Puglia in this department) and this IGT allows for countless experimental wines and/or affordable options to add to the equation.

Similar to other broad, inclusive designations, a long list of varieties (both local and international) is permitted under the Veneto IGT. These include Glera, Pinot Grigio, and Pinot Bianco on the white side, and Corvina, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon on the red. (The entire list of primary grapes is 4-5 dozen long!) Free of the restrictions governing DOCs and DOCGs, producers may use any proportions of the approved vines to make bianchi, rosati, and rossi wines. In order to include the varietal on the label, a wine must include at least 85%. Dual varietals are also allowed on the label, provided the first-named grape comprises 50-85%, and the second-named 15-50%. Passito wines may also be made under the auspices of this IGT, but there are currently no provisions for sparklers. Unsurprisingly, there are no aging requirements for any wines falling into this category.