

2009 Donnafugata Mille E Una Notte

The 2009 Mille e Una Notte is a gorgeous wine that shows its age with pride. A beautiful wine like this puts any doubt concerning the aging ability of Sicilian red wines to rest. Polished and carefully evolved notes of dried cherry, licorice, pressed rose petal, dark chocolate and coffee bean add momentum to the bouquet. The wine is mostly Nero d'Avola with smaller percentages of other red grapes thrown into the mix. Great care goes into making this wine and it shows. The large production numbers also mean that Mille e Una Notte is relatively easy to find at a wineshop near you.

Importer(s):

Folio Fine Wine Partners, 550 Gateway Dr,
Napa, CA 94558, (707) 256-2700,
www.foliowine.com

- Monica Lerner (December, 2015)

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2010 Donnafugata Tancredi

The 2010 Tancredi is one of the top vintages produced. This is a smooth and supple blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Nero d'Avola and Tannat (with smaller percentages of other grapes) that ages in oak for 14 months. Tancredi presents an authentic Sicilian side thanks to the Nero d'Avola component, but will appeal to an international audience. Dark cherry, spice and chocolate converge on the richly textured finish.

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2010 Donnafugata Mille E Una Notte

The 2010 Mille e Una Notte is one of the best and certainly most age-worthy editions of this landmark wine ever made. Tasted five years after the harvest, this Nero d'Avola-based beauty is only at the beginning of what promises to be a long and slow evolution. Opulent but harmonious aromas of dried cherry, blackberry, spice, truffle and barbecue smoke lift from the bouquet. These notes come together in seamless fashion with lift, momentum and balanced intensity. The tannins still show youthful tightness and this bodes well for the future aging potential of this important Sicilian red.

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2011 Donnafugata Angheli

The 2011 Angheli is a Sicilian blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon executed in a super plump and fruit-forward style. There's a lot to like here and this pleasurable red would pair perfectly with succulent red meat or pork. Angheli is not necessarily "Sicilian" in character, in fact you could mistake it for a blended red from Maremma or southern Tuscany. What it lacks in territorial identity, it makes up for with sheer ease and drinkability.

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2013 Donnafugata Sicilia Grillo Sur Sur

Donnafugata set out to make an easy drinking white and the 2013 Sicilia Grillo Sur Sur was born. This is a simple, delineated and deconstructed wine that shows crisp lines and tonic citric freshness. You get a good sense of the Grillo grape and its aromas of cut grass, blanched almond and lemon peel. The bouquet lacks intensity, but this wine meets its goals of providing a no-fuss drinking experience.

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2012 Donnafugata Contessa Entellina Chiarandà

The 2012 Contessa Entellina Chiarandà presents a thick and oaky style that does justice to the creamy Sicilian Chardonnay grapes used here. Chiarandà is endowed with a superior sense of richness that wraps thickly over the palate with intensity and determination. The bouquet reveals dried apricot, honey, peach, exotic fruit and toasted almond. Added complexity comes in the form of dried sage and toasted pine nut. This is a beautiful Sicilian wine that is built to last. It should continue its evolution over the next ten years.

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2014 Donnafugata Sicilia Grillo Sur Sur

The 2014 Sicilia Grillo Sur Sur is a fresh and carefree white wine that shows the informal and food-friendly side of Sicilian wine. The bouquet is simple and streamlined: It just offers the basics. There is bright freshness here followed by sharp aromas of citrus, lime and white flower. This is not a complex wine by any measure, but it is one of those wines that you will thirstily drink on a hot summer day.

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2014 Donnafugata Lighea

Zibibbo is another name for the Moscato d'Alessandria grape. The 2014 Lighea is a pure expression of Zibibbo and the bouquet shows all the fragrant intensity you can expect from this grape varietal. It opens to a light, straw color and bright luminosity. The aromas range from honeysuckle and almond blossom to summer peach and passion fruit. Lighea is a wine I enjoy drinking with appetizers or at cocktail hour.

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2014 Donnafugata Sicilia Sedàra

This is an easy-drinking expression of Nero d'Avola, but one that impresses nonetheless. The 2014 Sicilia Sedàra opens to a dark ruby and purple color with fresh aromas of cherry fruit, blackberry and dark plum. The wine is true to its varietal characteristics and you get distant notes of crushed almonds and pistachio at the back. The 2014 vintage offers very good quality at this attractive price point.

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2011 Donnafugata Tancredi

The 2011 Tancredi is made of Cabernet Sauvignon, Nero d'Avola, Tannat and other red grapes (in the Sicilia IGT appellation). This is a huge wine with broad shoulders and a very opulent but forthcoming style. The bouquet offers jammy blackberry and cherry liqueur with spice, cola, licorice and Spanish cedar. Tancredi shows a spectacular level of intensity with power and muscle. This vintage delivers a powerful punch. The wine needs a few more months of bottle aging to loosen up.

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2011 Donnafugata Mille E Una Notte

The 2011 Mille e Una Notte is based on Nero d'Avola, although the wine sees smaller percentages of other grapes in supporting roles. This is a thick and darkly saturated expression with a bold flavor profile that reveals dark fruit, jammy blackberry, exotic spice and moist chewing tobacco. The 2011 vintage falls under the IGT Sicilia appellation (but newer vintages will be labeled under the Contessa Entellina appellation). The intensity of the bouquet is remarkable as is the thickness and weight of the wine's texture. Mille e Una Notte is an all-Sicilian wine with an interesting Bordeaux slant. The tannins are firm but very well integrated.

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