



## TENUTA SANTA CATERINA

**Country:**  
Italy

**Region:**  
Monferrato, Piedmont

**Estate owned by:**  
Guido Carlo Alleva

**Winemakers:**  
Luciana Biondo

**Vineyards:**  
Symbiotic agriculture,  
without chemicals or  
non-organic fertilizers

**Year founded:**  
2005

**Home link:**  
<https://www.tenuta-santa-caterina.it/en>

**Production:**

**“Arlandino” Gignolino d’Asti DOC:**  
800 cases

**“Vignalina” Barbera d’Asti**

**Superiore DOCG:** 1200 cases

**“Monferace” Grignolino d’Asti DOC:**  
200 cases

**“Illegale” Monferrato Nebbiolo DOC**  
**Superiore:** 400 cases

**“Sori di Giu” Freisa d’Asti**  
**Superiore:** 350 cases

Little is known about the historic wine appellation of the Monferrato, just outside the city of Asti in the Piemonte region of Italy. These rolling hills north and east of the city are filled with a diverse selection of native plants, produce, and of course, grapes.

Some of the local, autochthonous grapes have been overshadowed by more popular grapes like Barbera or Moscato over the last century. Guido Carlo Alleva, of Tenuta Santa Caterina, is one of the people in the region championing these lesser-known grapes like Grignolino and Freisa. He has banded together with a handful of other dedicated wineries and is starting to draw attention to these historic grapes within Italy, and in the greater wine world.

Here in the heart of the Monferrato zone on hillsides with perfect exposure, Guido, along with 10 other producers have started the “Monferace Project,” promoting the Grignolino grape.

Santa Caterina has now received a Tre Bicchieri award for their “Monferace” an unprecedented four times since the 2013 vintage. The Tre Bicchieri (three Glasses) award is given out by the Gambero Rosso, Italy’s top wine trade publication.

The project itself, <https://monferace.it/en/>, is a pact among winegrowers and entrepreneurs; men and women who live, breathe, and love this land. It is an alliance that unites common passions and aims, to increase the awareness of being a unique territory capable of high-quality wine production. The 11 founding wineries established specific vineyard sites, restricted yields, and added aging requirements in a pursuit of excellence for Grignolino. The fact that this grape is Pope Francis’ favorite wine hasn’t hurt the cause.

The historic Santa Caterina estate is built around a Benedictine Abby dating back to 961 AD, with an ancient underground cellar. The vineyards are only planted on the perfectly exposed southern facing slopes, utilizing a symbiotic approach to farming with an excess of green spaces, gardens, and watersheds. Carefully selected parcels yield small productions for even their most affordable wines. This pristine natural landscape promotes clean, spontaneous, wild-yeast fermentations. Under the skillful eye of winemaker Luciana Biondo, with experience on Mount Etna and in Abruzzo, the wines of Santa Caterina achieve elegance, depth, and refinement. Santa Caterina is quickly being recognized in the area for wines of the highest quality.

