

Monte Antico®

News From a Timeless Wine: Monte Antico 2009 Inaugurate Increased Bottle Age

For thirty-five years the Empsons' signature Super Tuscan, Monte Antico, has stood for quality, reliability and value, world-wide.

One of the secrets to the wine's success is resistance to change. You move with the times while appearing to stand still. Touch up the classic packaging so it looks fresh and yet remains timeless. You renovate closures and labels so they're as sleek and userfriendly as possible, all the while without rocking the boat of brand recognition.

As far as Monte Antico's quality goes, the recurring adjectives from top reviewers are "delicious" and "consistent". As fans of Monte Antico will remember, since 1977 Sangiovese has remained the predominant variety in Monte Antico, complemented by 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot. The wine is aged in oak for one year using Slavonian barrels and barrique. The barriques are all made of French oak and 10-20% of the barriques used in every vintage are new. The remaining percentage are 2nd year barriques.

In Franco's words, "The larger barrel is conducive to slow ageing and maintains fruit, finesse and elegance. Barriques are conducive to complexity and structure, as well as to that light, toasted and vanilla nuance which, blended into the mass of barrel-aged wine, creates floral fusion integrated by a subtle spicy tone, without compromising the floral character of the major variety, Sangiovese."

There is, however, one innovation we trust everyone will love – especially when paired with the grace, balance and depth of the 2009 vintage. **From '09 onwards, aging will be a minimum of 2 years rather than 1½. The usual one year in oak will be followed by at least one year in bottle prior to release.**



Tasting Notes:



"I thoroughly enjoyed this vintage, showing great balance, silky tannins, fruit intensity and elegance. Deep crimson with brilliant color and excellent legs, ample and appealing bouquet of black cherries, licorice, leather and plums. Full and rich on the palate; ripe red fruit, violets and well integrated vanilla. Whopping 32-second finish, 2 more than 2008. I give it 92/100."

–Neil Empson, July 2012



"Good color intensity, lively crimson with crystal-clear reflections. Vinous bouquet shows subtle licorice nuances and elegant cherry notes laced with aromas of black pepper, ripe berry fruit, brushwood, delicate vanilla and deep plum. Soft, silky tannins and acidity are perfectly integrated; the finish is round, persistent and consistent."

–Franco Bernabei, July 2012

