

IL PALAZZONE

Year Founded: 2012

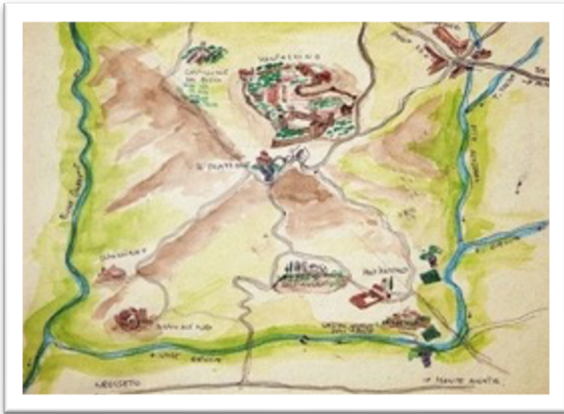
Region: Montalcino, Italy

Owner: Richard Parsons

Fun Fact: From “The Media Mogul of Montalcino” himself, Mr. Richard Parsons. Parsons began his career as a lawyer working under Nelson Rockefeller. When Nelson became Vice President in 1974, Mr. Parsons followed him to Washington where he worked directly with President Gerald Ford. Eventually Richard Parsons would move back to New York and become President and CEO of Time Warner, the most profitable media conglomerate in the world.

-Organic-

Il Palazzone, a boutique winery minutes from the town of Montalcino, produces Brunello di Montalcino in a traditional style. Growing grapes in three separate areas allows for the fullest and most balanced expression of Montalcino’s diverse terroir and microclimates. In addition, the vineyard adjacent to the cantina is a very special, high altitude parcel, a portion of which has been bottled as the cru Le Due Porte since 2015. The estate has three separate vineyards in quite different areas of Montalcino. The microclimate and extraordinary variety of terroirs means that we are able, on blending the three vineyard harvests, to have three complementary aspects of Montalcino in our Brunello.



Le Due Porte vineyard is 540 metres above sea level and is next to the cellar. The three small plots are northwest facing. Thanks to the altitude and the exposition, grapes from the Due Porte benefit from the excellent ventilation and pronounced day/night thermal excursion. The soil type is pietraforte arenaria, a type of local sandstone with a significant presence of galestro, which gives good drainage. In 2020 we released the first bottling of 2.000 liters of Le Due Porte Brunello 2015.

The Vigna del Capa Vineyard, located down below the hamlet of Castelnuovo dell’Abate, southwest of Montalcino, is quite different. Over 200 meters lower in altitude and south facing, the vineyards here are over thirty years old. The vineyard is gently sloping and the vine exposition is N/E and S/W. There is a significant presence of fine gravel and shale, with sand, clay and silt in equal proportions making up the soil. The fruit from this vineyard is distinguished by lovely saline and aromatic components, thanks to the presence of marine fossils in the soil. This is our warmest vineyard, one on which we rely for fruit and sugars.

The La Vecchia Vineyard is 400 meters a.s.l., is nearly 40 years old and close to Castelnuovo dell’Abate, in an area with iron, magnesium and manganese in the soil. The grapes from this vineyard have an incredible mineral component and a deep and developed root system.

Our vineyards vary so much in terms of terroir that we benefit from an individual approach. This way of working ensures that we never do unnecessary treatments. We pick by hand using small 5kg crates meaning that the grapes are in perfect condition when they reach the cellar. The crates are poured one by one through the de-stemmer. The vibrating selection table allows hand-sorting of the grapes and a complete and final quality control. Fermentation takes place in beautiful wooden 50 HL barrels. The tannins in the oak are an anti-oxidant. This, combined with the micro-oxygenation permitted by the wood, results in wines with increased aromatics and tannin stability. Our cellar woman, Paola, is constantly checking fermentation progress and making barrel specific decisions. Since each vineyard is vinified separately each barrel has different needs. Traditional aging times for Brunello are respected and our wine usually receives at least 40 months in wood instead of the two years specified by the DOCG regulations. Il Palazzone wines are created with a long bottle aging period in mind – promising to mature and improve over the years. In exceptional vintages our best grapes are destined for the production of our prestigious Riserva. Riserva spends a year more in wood than the vintage Brunello and is released a year afterwards.



2019/2020 Brunello di Montalcino

100% Sangiovese Grosso from vineyards Le Due Porte, Vigna Vecchia and Vigna del Capa. Harvested by hand, optical sorting on vibrating selection table. Natural fermentation in 50 HL wooden barrels in our gravity-fed cellar. 38 months aging in traditional large Slavonian “botti”.

“The 2020 Brunello from Il Palazzone is a fantastic expression of the vintage, starting with its beguiling aromas of forest floor, dog rose, wild berry, graphite and a balsamic whiff of eucalyptus.” - Kerin O’Keefe

95 Points – ’20 Wine Spectator - *“Reveals cherry, blackberry, plum and violet flavors, with accents of earth and Mediterranean scrub. Fresh and solidly built, with a flinty, mineral-infused aftertaste. Shows terrific balance and persistence on the finish.”*

95 Points – ’19 James Suckling - *“Black cherries and flowers, such as roses on the nose. Medium to full body with firm, silky tannins and a clear finish.”*

94 Points - ’19 Vinous – *“An understated beauty, slowly blossoming with rose petals, cedary spice and dried strawberries. It’s silky-smooth and pliant with a hint of sweet spice up front that gives way to ripe red and blue fruits all carried across a wave of silken textures. Youthful tension slowly builds as mounting tannins tug at the cheeks and a cranberry crunchiness forms, yet all the while, residual acidity maintains perfect balance. Don’t let this seductress fool you, for all of her youthful charms, the best is yet to come.”*



NV Rosso del Palazzone

“An honest, pleasurable message in the bottle from Tuscany”

– Master Somm Jancis Robinson

100% Sangiovese. The grapes in the Rosso del Palazzone were cared for and held to the same regulations as if they were destined to become Brunello. During the aging process, we declassified them to create the Vino Rosso blend. The component wines have spent 10-24 months in large Slavonian oak barrels on average but varies per lot.

90 Points – Robert Parker – *“You get a bit of the ripeness of 2020 to counter the bigger concentration of 2019 and the freshness of 2018. The piecemeal assembly shows dried cherry and dried raspberry with mild tones of barbecue spice and sweet mesquite smoke.”*



2019 Brunello di Montalcino Due Porte

100% Sangiovese from Le Due Porte vineyard. The D.O.C.G. regulations governing the production of Brunello require a minimum of 4 months bottle aging before release. Ages in wood for a minimum of 24 months.

93 Points – ’18 Vinous – *“Captivates with a delicate bouquet that keeps the taster working to explore its depths of wild blueberries, strawberries, violet pastille and sweet smoke. This is a model of purity and refinement. Juicy acidity and pretty red and blue fruits swirl throughout. Fine tannins amass through the finish, combining with orange and a black tea-like bitter twang as the 2018 tapers off long yet nuanced and only lightly structured. Il Palazzone did a fantastic job of culling the beauty of the vintage and capturing it in bottle. Masterfully done.”*

95 Points – ’19 Vinous - *“Opening up like a basket of freshly picked raspberries complemented by hints of clove, worn leather and dusty earth, the 2019 slowly comes to life in the glass. This sweeps across the palate with soft and round textures while maintaining a lifted and finessed character throughout, as tart berries and hints of red plum saturate. It finishes classically dry and structured, leaving fine tannins and a pleasantly bitter tinge of sour cherries to linger on and on. This fantastic rendition of Le Due Porte is geared up for a long and lovely maturation.”*