

LE COSTE
(Gradoli, Italy)

May 2023



With Clementine Bouveron of Le Coste. Photo by Ramona Barron.

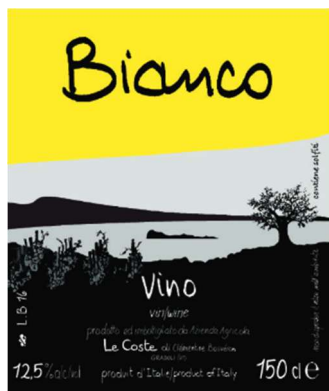
Visiting Clementine and Gianmarco of Le Coste is like no other. The most recent visit to their winery in May of 2023 lasted seven hours. It started just past nine o'clock in the morning in their vineyards, where Clementine and Gianmarco spend the majority of their working hours.

Le Coste is located in the hilltop village of *Gradoli*, which is about two-hour drive directly north from Rome. Le Coste vineyards are the liveliest and prettiest that I have ever seen. Poppies and wild flowers cover between the rows of vines, while fruit and olive trees dot the perimeters of their vineyards. Bees and butterflies are everywhere. Their vineyards are full of life. If wines are made in vineyards, then I can't think of no other vigneroni who live up to the expectation of such ideal than Clementine and Gianmarco. It is so beautiful that I simply want to sit and weep in the vineyards of Le Coste.

The unassuming entry into the Le Coste vineyards always surprises me. Off the country lane, through an unmarked gate that interrupts the ancient stone walls, and pass the tiny dirt path hill that leads to the working shed, then the vista opens to a dramatic hill that looks down Lake *Bolsena*. It is difficult to describe the words that I feel. The vigneroni like Clementine and Gianmarco come once in a generation – of that, I am certain.

BIANCO 2021

SKU: 178801 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$42.10 Wholesale / \$55.00 Retail per bottle



So lovely. Fresh and fragrant. Peach-apricot fragrance. Unforgettable nose and taste. This is the original skin-contact wine. There are many imitations but none can match the magic of Le Coste. This wine sees about two weeks of skin contact. A skin-contact wine like no other that I know. During the May 2023 visit, Gianmarco told me the 2021 is best Bianco and Rosso (see below) that he and Clementine have ever made. I agree. Made with mostly *Procanico*, *Malvasia di Candia* and *Malvasia Toscana* with a smattering of *Roschetto*, *Pedino*, *Romanesco* and *Ansonica*. This cuvée is the Clementine and Gianmarco's signature of all skin-contact wines. Clémentine and Gianmarco spend extraordinary effort of growing, selecting and blending to make this cuvee every

vintage. It is best to turn the bottle upside down for a couple minutes to stir the lees. The lees of skin-contact wine add body and marrow feel. That is the way Clementine and Gianmarco serve their wines at their winery.

SOS LAGO 2020

SKU: 061686 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$50.14 Wholesale / \$66.00 Retail per bottle



This is a skin-contact wine made with pure Muscato grapes. So pretty and aromatic. Exotic citrusy nose. After soft pressing, the free-run must ferment in vats for about three weeks and then refined for a further six months. After bottling, the wine aged for about two years in bottle before being released on the market. On the palate, it has a great freshness with some structure from the skin-contact. This wine is a social cause for Clementine and Gianmarco. Funds from the sales of this wine will go to an organization that raises an awareness of the negative impact of industrial developments near farm lands and lakes.

ROSSO 2021

SKU: 178804 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$40.17 Wholesale / \$52.00 Retail per bottle



Simple name for a wine that is anything but simple. Made with 95% *Sangiovese* with a splash of *Ciliegiolo*, *Cannaiolo* and *Vaiano*. Ah, no other red speaks so provocatively Italian to me. Bright and perfumed. All the varietals are planted together in the same vineyard as tradition demands. Alluring. Pretty. Shapely and balanced. Hand-harvested grapes are fermented with ambient yeasts, like all of their wines. The wine spends about a year in large (1,000 and 2,000 litre) traditional chestnut barrels. A wine that speaks to a sense of place and great Italian tradition. Gianmarco and Clementine feel they made the best Rosso in 2021 so far in their lives.

LULU 2020

SKU: 316822 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$55.30 Wholesale / \$73.00 Retail per bottle



This is the first time we received Lulu. It is 100% Syrah. Vinified with the stems, like the traditional masters from *Côte Rotie* and *Hermitage*. Aging is done in the 500 litre *demi-muids* for 20 months. It has an intense and dark ruby red color, with an earthy and wild nose. In the mouth it has a beautiful evolution, generous structure, still raw but fresh and rigorous on the finish. There are two parcels in Le Coste that have granite close to the surface, where Syrah is planted. In certain vintages, there are two offerings of Syrah: Lulu and Nini, which are the nicknames of their two daughters. Then, in other vintages, the two parcels are blended to make NiniLulu.

ROSATO 2021

SKU: 094587 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$59.68 Wholesale / \$78.00 Retail per bottle



Delicate, floral, and fragrant. 100% *Aleatico*. From the exceptional vintage of 2021, this rosato really sings. While the majority of the producers are rushed to market their rosatos in the spring following a vintage, Clementine and Gianmarco take time with their top rosato. Destemmed grapes are left on skins for a few hours before pressing to give this rosato delicate colour. Fermentation lasted for just three weeks in 2021, followed by *élevage* in neutral barrels for about ten months. Bottle aged for further six months prior to release. A true rosato. Clementine wrote to say that the 2021 has so much complexity and structure that it is best to cellar this rosato for a few months – not the usual comments one hears about a rosato. It is the most compelling rosato or rosé that I have ever drunk.

ROSATO 2021 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 316717 Speculative 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/ case
\$139.24 Wholesale / \$181.00 Retail per bottle

For a summer garden party with a lover.

ALEA JACTA EST 2018

SKU: 178851 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$81.37 Wholesale / \$105.00 Retail per bottle



Garnet red, with very intense and aromatic notes. Clear hints of rose, raspberry and eucalyptus menthol. Great freshness in this 2018 vintage with a long and juicy finish of raspberries and flowers. A red made from 100% *Aleatico*. Hauntingly beautiful fragrance. I can smell this wine all night. What a singular wine. And what a beautiful wine. The wine is aged for about two years in neutral 500 litre barrels, followed by equally long aging in bottles prior to release. Serve slightly chilled. An appropriate name given to this wine. If I were Julius Caesar, I would have drunk this red in great quantities the night before crossing the river of Rubicon.

VASALONE 2020 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 316714 Speculative 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/ case
\$120.47 Wholesale / \$158.00 Retail per bottle



Vasalone is made with pure *Aleatico*, coming from the old vineyard that contributes to the production of Rosato. Clementine wrote: *“After destemming, the grapes macerated briefly in contact with their skins in concrete vats, then, after pressing, they finished fermenting and aged in French oak barrels. The result is a dry red wine, with an airy structure, but with very intense aromatic scents, typical of flowers, with some menthol, resin tones, unique in its kind. Very pleasant, fresh on the finish with floral hints of rose and geranium.”*

Pizzicante Bianco 2019

SKU: 061730 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$33.39 Wholesale / \$43.00 Retail per bottle



For the summer patio. This *frizzante* wine is made primarily from *Muscato* with a little addition of *Procanico* to give structure and freshness. This frizzante is done right – taking its time. Clémentine and Gianmarco let the wine age on lees for about a year. Then, after disgorging, there is an additional year of refinement in bottles prior to release. Clémentine wrote: *“The result is a pleasant sparkling ancestral method with the aromatic notes of muscat, not excessive, with a nice drinkability but also able to be paired at the table with any summer dish”*. Comes in a crown cap.



ROSSO DE COCCIO 2019

**SKU: 476435 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$45.63 Wholesale / \$59.00 Retail per bottle**

This rosso is also the first vintage of this wine from Le Coste. Rosso de Coccio is mainly Sangiovese with a dash of Merlot and Barbera. An unusual and delicious blend. The wine is aged entirely in 500-litre terracotta amphorae. Sangiovese and Barbera bring out the freshness and acidity, which are tempered by Merlot. The texture is cashmere like, while maintaining the great fruit quality. So lovely.

Note: All of our wines are shipped using a reefer (temperature-controlled container) to protect the wines.

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