



TERRE BIANCHE



Terrabianca

Already in 1260 (from the deeds of the notary Amandolesio, 30 April 1261, doc.14) the area of 'Terra Blanca' was cultivated, owned by two families from Camporosso: the Alemanno and the Macariu.

In fact, it was later that the Rondelli family (from Reondello, an ancient family of Camporosso), which already owned land in the nearby area of Monte Curto, acquired the land, and in 1870, planting the first Rossese vineyard of Dolceacqua, founded today's Terre Bianche.

Identity card

Type of terrain

Blue Clays or Blue Marls (Ortovero Clays).

Specifications

Grey-blue marl (CaCO₃ content around 30%) massive to weakly laminated, with subordinate centimeter-wide intercalations of siltstones and fine sandstones with an erosive base and normal gradation. Association with microfauna of benthic foraminifera (small shells).

Chronological attribution

Pliocene (lower Zanclean-lower Piacenzian).

Medium slope

30%.

Altitude

360-380 m.

Exposure

South East.

Plant data sheet

Variety and year of planting

Rossese di Dolceacqua, 2010 and 2018.
Vermentino, 2018.
Pigato, 2011.

Rootstocks used

Paulsen 779, Paulsen 1103.

Types of pruning

Spurred cordon, guyot.

Curiosity

History

Since ancient times, clay has been obtained from the locality of Terre Bianche to make bricks; a stretch of road estimated to date back to the Roman era is still visible, which allowed the transport of the raw material to the ovens further down the valley, for firing the bricks.

Geography

The gullies in the white earth area are suggestive erosive phenomena. The clay pinnacles are supported by the roots of the pine trees.

Literature

Salvatore Quasimodo (Nobel Prize for Literature in 1959) wrote about the Colle delle Terre Bianche in his work "Ed è subito sera - Erato and Apollion" 1932, expressly dedicating the poem "Sul colle delle Terre Bianche".

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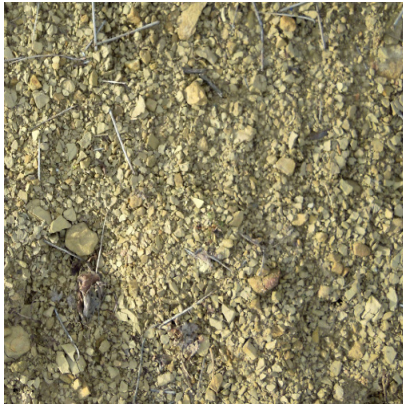
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Arcagna

It is unquestionably one of the oldest cultivated places in Liguria. The archaeological finds on the northern side of Arcagna suggest cultivations by the Ligurians in the 7th century BC. This area, benefiting from enviable sun exposure, combined with a warm but not torrid climate (the Alps are just a few steps away), has never ceased to be cultivated, first by the Roman Aurinia family, in the first centuries AD, then by the Benedictine monks coming from the Novalesa Abbey, starting from the 12th century, finally by the inhabitants of Dolceacqua, in particular by the Orrigo family, who built the farmhouse now a symbol of Terre Bianche.

Identity Card

Type of terrain

Flysch from Ventimiglia.

Specifications

The unit is made up of turbidite rhythms made up of alternating grey-brown sandstones and pelites. The formation is made up of coarse graded sandstones and fine sandstones in banks and layers with silty-arenaceous and silty-clayey intercalations; clay-marly and sometimes calcareous-marly levels are present.

Chronological attribution

Eocene (Upper Bartonian-Lower Priabonian).

Slope average

30%.

Altitude

380-450 m.

Exposure

East.

Plant data sheet

Variety and year of planting

Rossese di Dolceacqua, 1890, 2010, 2020.
Pigato, 1991.

Rootstocks used

Rupestris du Lot, Paulsen 1103.

Types of pruning

Spurred cordon, guyot.

Curiosity

Etymology

Ancient history, ancient name: it seems that the name 'arcagna' derives from the Latin 'loca arcanea' which means 'closed, protected place', or 'place of boundary signs'. Probably a fund controlled by the Roman Aurinia family.

History

The position of Arcagna, on the top of the hill, has made it a natural and political border: from the wars of independence of the Ligurians against the Greeks and Romans (first centuries BC), up to the line of fire between Italy and France in World War II.

Literature

Mario Soldati talks about Arcagna in 'Vino al Vino', 1975: "the most exhilarating landscape imaginable".
In his 'Repertorio' of 1990, Veronelli indicated the Arcagna cru as "exceptional".

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Scartozzoni

A terraced terrain with great geological variability. The red clays, with a good skeleton, offer a warm and draining soil. At the top of the hill the clays are less present, leaving room for rocky areas made up of round pebbles and very voluminous veins of conglomerates, often outcropping.

Identity card

Type of terrain

Monte Villa conglomerates.

Specifications

Discontinuous and isolated silty-sandy horizons and clayey-marly lenses, with thicknesses ranging from decimetres to metres, interdigitated with conglomerate bodies.

Chronological attribution

Pliocene (lower Zanclean-lower Piacenzian).

Medium slope

50%.

Altitude

360-450 m.

Exposure

East, from South/East to North/East.

Plant data sheet

Variety and year of planting

Vermentino, 2000 and 2002.
Pigato, 2002 and 2018.

Rootstocks used

Paulsen 1103.

Types of pruning

Guyot, Spurred cordon.

Curiosity

History

The vineyard takes its name from the Scartozzoni family, the first owners of the land.

Geography

At the foot of the vineyard, in a portion of land in the northernmost part, there is one of the rare fountains in the valley, called 'Vergae'. The water that flows from it was used in the past as drinking water. Storage tanks dating back to the Second World War are still visible.

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Aurin

The Aurin cru is located on the northernmost peak bordering the Arcagna cru. The soil is made up of the classic Ventimiglia Flysch, which here finds one of its most typical expressions: the classic 'sgrutto' (i.e. the rock which when shattered forms a well-draining sandy soil). The vineyards are surrounded by immaculate pine forests and Mediterranean scrub and enjoy a breathtaking view of the Nervia valley.

Identity card

Type of terrain

Flysch from Ventimiglia.

Specifications

The unit is made up of turbidite rhythms made up of alternating grey-brown sandstones and pelites. The formation is made up of coarse graded sandstones and fine sandstones in banks and layers with silty-arenaceous and silty-clayey intercalations; clay-marly and sometimes calcareous-marly levels are present.

Chronological attribution

Eocene (Upper Bartonian-Lower Priabonian).

Medium slope

60%.

Altitude

400-450 m.

Exposure

East.

Plant data sheet

Variety and year of planting

Rossese di Dolceacqua, 1965 and 1994.

Rootstocks used

Rupestris du Lot, Paulsen 1103.

Types of pruning

Sapling, spurred cordon.

Curiosity

History

On the top there are still the ruins of an ancient Ligurian castle, dating back to the 7th century. BC, the name probably derives from the Roman Aurinius family who owned the estate in the first centuries AD.

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