



Screening and collection of local varieties

In 1997 we bought the Rosaneti estate, a property measuring approximately 260 hectares. We were determined to invest with a new, stronger energy on native grape varieties. Here, based on a geopedologic mapping, we implanted large fields of Magliocco, Mantonico Bianco, Gaglioppo and Greco Bianco.

Our research developed gradually, together with the recovery process of the varietal grapevine assets. In 2000, we planted an experimental field to compare presumed clones of 25 native varieties, then, for five years, we took pre-harvest samples and ran a comparative vineyard microvinification.

With the countless cues he took from our experiments and the firm belief that much more was yet to be unveiled, preserved and exploited from an enological point of view, Nicodemo Librandi began a journey through the region with Davide De Santis and Professor Attilio Scienza of the University of Milan, looking for undiscovered varieties. Our adventure in research and grapevine exploration began with the thought of covering the whole Calabrian area, from North to South, from the Ionian to the Tyrrhenian Sea, determined to understand the strong link between man and vine in every plantation site, and to bring back with us, besides the stories we learned, the grapevines we found. Every single recovery was made unique by meeting the local farmer, hearing him recollect his story and tell his anecdotes, finding out the odd names he gave to his local grape varieties and admiring the magnificent landscapes.

In 2003, all the collected material has been grafted in an experimental field, creating a collection field of native Calabrian vines: a proper varietal garden hosting at the moment about 200 varieties recovered on regional soil and arranged, in series of ten plants for each type, in a vineyard with the traditional spiral shape. This field, named varietal vines garden, is now a symbol, almost an imprint, of our important and qualified screening work and regional grapevine collection.

Using the collected material, we started a highly multifaceted project, which articulates as follows: a DNA study aimed at establishing genetic relations between the vines we recovered in the region, conducted by Doctor Maria Stella Grando of the San Michele all'Adige Agrarian Institute (IASMA); an accurate historic, bibliographic and ampelographic study



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conducted by Doctor Anna Schneider of the Institute of Plant Virology at the Turin office of the National Research Council; a virological study aimed at determining the plants' phytosanitary condition, conducted by Doctor Franco Mannini of the Institute of Plant Virology's Grugliasco Unit at the Turin office of the National Research Council; a well-structured enological study, conducted by Doctor Donato Lanati, Enology Professor at the University of Turin, at his ENOSIS MERA VIGLIA Centre in Cuccaro Monferrato.

The result of this technical-scientific work was published in GAGLIOPPO E I SUOI FRATELLI – I vitigni autoctoni calabresi (GAGLIOPPO AND ITS BROTHERS - Native Calabrian vines), Tecniche Nuove, 2008. The book, complete with historic and anthropological outlines as well as technical and scientific notions, allowed us to reorganize our findings about regional grapevine germplasm and to recollect information on the enological potential of the cultivated varieties. Librandi publications thus became extraordinarily outstanding educational tools, to the benefit of a trade that plays an essential role in the Calabrian territory: the viticultural industry.