

Querciabella



Palafreno 2016

<i>Appellation</i>	Toscana IGT
<i>First vintage</i>	2000
<i>Cépage</i>	Merlot (100%).
<i>Vineyards</i>	Ruffoli, Greve in Chianti. Cipresso and Marrone. The Merlot for Palafreno comes exclusively from two similar sites at around 350 – 400 m a.s.l. The vineyards grow on rugged, loose galestro soils, with a south, south-west orientation. The grapes from higher up the slope show distinct concentration and intensity, whereas those from the lower sides, richer in clay, have a fresher, more ethereal delivery.
<i>Viticulture</i>	Organic since 1988, biodynamic since 2000.
<i>Average Yield</i>	30 hl/ha.
<i>Production</i>	Approximately 2,600 bottles.
<i>Vintage profile</i>	A mild winter, interrupted by some heavy rainfall in February, resulted in even budburst and shoot growth at the end of March. Warm spring temperatures and abundant rains in April were mitigated by a cooler but dryer May, anticipating a regular summer season. Almost perfect ripening conditions were supported by significant diurnal temperature variation that allowed for great phenolic maturation while preserving bright fruit flavours and zesty acidity. Harvest start date: September 13.
<i>Harvest</i>	Grapes are harvested by hand in 9 kg crates.
<i>Élevage</i>	Only released in the best years, the wine matures for 18 months in fine and extra-fine grained French oak barriques, 30% new.
<i>Analytical data</i>	Alcohol content: 13.5%; pH: 3.31; Acidity: 6.18 g/l.
<i>100% Vegan</i>	No animal products or byproducts are used during any phase of grape growing and wine making.
<i>Maturity</i>	Palafreno reveals its sublime character 6–7 years after harvest. It will continue to evolve for at least 20 years.
<i>Ideal serving temperature</i>	18–20 °C (64–68 °F).
<i>Recommended glasses</i>	Riedel Extreme Cabernet 4441/0; Riedel Performance Cabernet 6884/0; Riedel Sommeliers Bordeaux Grand Cru 4400/00; Riedel Sommeliers Hermitage 4400/30. Zalto Bordeaux 11200.
<i>Bottling and packaging</i>	0.750 liter, 6 bottles in wooden case; Magnum (1.5 liters), single bottle wooden case; Double Magnum (3 liters), single bottle wooden case; Imperial (6 liters) single bottle wooden case.
<i>Label</i>	Drawing by John Downer.