

Querciabella



Palafreno 2017

<i>Appellation</i>	Toscana IGT
<i>First vintage</i>	2000
<i>Grape</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>	The 2017 vintage is one of the driest on records. The scarcity of rain, a cold winter, and a long, hot summer limited bunches and berries development, but also kept disease pressure low. Thanks to near-perfect autumn conditions, we harvested healthy grapes with vibrant profiles and depth. The high skin-to-juice ratio of the berries and ripe tannins made it a fine start for elegant wines of tension and structure. Harvest start date: September 8.
<i>Harvest</i>	Grapes are harvested by hand in 9 kg crates.
<i>Maturation</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: 14.5%; pH: 3.36; Acidity: 5.91 g/l.
<i>100% Vegan</i>	No animal products or byproducts are used during any phase of grape growing and wine making.
<i>Longevity</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.