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Wine Advocate

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

PASSOPISCIARO	2010	GUARDIOLA	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$50.00)	WHITE	92
PASSOPISCIARO	2009	PASSOPISCIARO	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$45.00)	RED	92
PASSOPISCIARO	2009	CONTRADA RAMPANTE R	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$60.00)	RED	93+
PASSOPISCIARO	2009	CONTRADA PORCARIA P	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$90.00)	RED	94
PASSOPISCIARO	2009	CONTRADA SCIARANUOVA S	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$75.00)	RED	94
PASSOPISCIARO	2009	CONTRADA CHIAPPEMACINE C	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$70.00)	RED	93
PASSOPISCIARO	2009	FRANCHETTI	CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA	(\$210.00)	RED	96

This is another set of fabulous wines from Andrea Franchetti. This year Franchetti has changed the labels of his single-contrada Nerello Mascaleses, which now only bear the first letter of their respective contradas on the front label. The back labels list the full information of each vineyard site. As good as the 2009s Nerellos are, I see less of a difference among the bottlings than in 2008. The **2010 Guardiola** (Chardonnay) impresses for a rich, textured fabric of peaches, apricots and flowers. Clean mineral notes emerge over time, adding focus and drive. A long, multi-dimensional finish rounds things out nicely. This is a beautiful, intense white from Andrea Franchetti. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2017. The **2009 Passopisciario** is impressive. Sweet red cherries, flowers and spices are some of the notes that are woven into a fabric of incomparable grace and elegance. Deceptively medium in body, the wine shows surprising density over time, with layers of fruit that build towards the harmonious, enveloping finish. Soft tannins make the Passopisciario relatively accessible early, although it should drink well for a number of years. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2021. The **2009 Contrada Rampante R** comes across as a touch ethereal. Sweet dried fruit, herbs and spices are some of the nuances that emerge from the glass. The Rampante shows off gorgeous inner sweetness but less overt density than some of the other wines in this lineup. Not surprisingly, the Ramapante is the estate's highest parcel, which accounts for much of its personality. This is an inward, contemplative wine that will require a measure of patience. Anticipated maturity: 2017-2029. The **2009 Contrada Porcaria P** is an

exquisite wine layered with dark, sensual fruit. It is at once muscular yet weightless, much in the style of a great Pinot Noir or Nebbiolo. The wine takes shape beautifully in the glass as it gains notable intensity all the way through to the palate staining finish. This is a dazzling effort! Anticipated maturity: 2017-2029. The **2009 Contrada Sciaranuova S** is one of the firmer wines in this set of 2009s. Bright red fruit, flowers, anise and minerals wrap around the palate in this wiry, energetic Nerello Mascalese. This shows substantial vibrancy and cut, along with intense mineral notes that become more prominent over time. Sweet scents of cedar, dried herbs and tobacco add complexity on the close. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2029. The **2009 Contrada Chiappemacine C** is the most similar to the straight Passopisciario. It possesses attractive density and expressive fruit, all supported by firm yet well-balanced tannins. A bright, articulate finish adds proportion and balance. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2029. The **2009 Franchetti** is another stunning wine. The blend is Cesanese d'Affile (80%) and Petit Verdot (20%) that are the result of massal selections from Lazio and Franchetti's own Tenuta di Trinoro respectively. It is a fabulously ripe, exotic wine that envelops the palate with layers of dark fruit. Refined tannins support the fruit, while intense inner perfume adds sweetness and elegance, especially on the layered finish. Anticipated maturity: 2017-2029. Importer: Tom Edward Wine, New York, NY; tel. (212) 233-1504