

TUA RITA

"2019 was one of the most perfect vintages of the last 25 years"
Stefano Frascolla, Winemaker





Tua Rita 2019 Releases

We first heard Stefano Frascolla, the head winemaker of Tua Rita and son-in-law of founder Virgilio, get excited about the 2019 vintage as soon as the harvest was over. Even following the excellent 2018 vintage, he knew that 2019 was going to be truly special, one of the best that he can recall.

With a cool Spring, and a warm, dry Summer that avoided intense heat, the growing season passed into a long, mild, sunny Autumn. The harvest itself took place over 45 days, with no fewer than 29 passes through the vineyards, not finishing until the end of October. It was this slow, meticulous harvest with perfect weather that pushed 2019 into the realms of true greatness. Each individual berry was given the extra time to be selected at the absolute prime moment, and the vineyards were allowed to express themselves fully, both in varietal character and in sense of place. It is this personality and purity that shines through in all of the 2019s.

This fruit was further amplified in the cellar, where the wines were treated to a prolonged fermentation and maceration, developing an enhanced complexity that is immediately obvious. While these wines will certainly age for decades, as is the norm with Tua Rita, we were struck by just how delightful the new releases are now, even tasting from barrel.

We recently discussed how Tua Rita's wines had changed over the years with Stefano, in particular Redigaffi, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2019. *"The wines have matured with us"* he said. *"When we were young, we wanted powerful wines, with all the boldness of youth. But as I matured, so did my approach to winemaking. While the philosophy and character of our wines remains the same, we give them much more freedom with less interference in the vineyards, less extraction in the cellar. We aim for more elegance, complexity, and balance now – and above all, we strive to make wines that are truly enjoyable."*



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Redigaffi 2019

"Tua Rita's legendary Merlot [...] This is one of the icon wines of Italy" - Monica Lerner,
The Wine Advocate

£425 per case of 3 bottles in bond

£300 per magnum in bond

Larger formats available in very limited quantities

Named as one of the *'World's best Merlot'* this year by Italian specialist Ian d'Agata, Redigaffi was placed alongside the likes of Pétrus, Trotanoy, l'Evangile, Le Pin, and Masseto. The comparison to Pétrus is particularly relevant, as their legendary winemaker Jean-François Berrouet has visited Tua Rita several times over the last 15 years and helped guide Redigaffi's evolution. In particular, you can see his influence in their use of oak - particularly the tonellerie Darnajou - and the technique of pre-harvests, an initial selection around 3 weeks before full ripeness that provides an extra dose of concentration.

Redigaffi was the first Italian wine to be awarded 100 points from barrel by Robert Parker. Now on its landmark 25th vintage, Redigaffi remains one of the most sought-after and collectable wines in Italy, and arguably the world. To celebrate this anniversary, the wine features a unique commemorative label, designed by the estate's long-term partner, artist Raffaele De Rosa. This portrays a legendary knight, Ildebrandino VIII, who defended the borders of Tuscany during the 13th century: a suitably noble, triumphant comparison for such a spectacular wine.



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Syrah Per Sempre 2019

"The Hermitage La Chapelle of Italy" - James Suckling

£300 per case of 3 bottles in bond

Magnums available in very limited quantities

Syrah Per Sempre was highlighted by winemaker Stefano as the second particularly high-achieving wine in 2019. This is the rising star in Tua Rita's range, with scores and praise in recent vintages matching that of Redigaffi – sometimes even surpassing it. With only around 3,500 bottles produced each year, the demand for this wine far outstrips supply, which only serves to fuel its meteoric rise as one of the most prized wines in Italy today. One of the first truly world-class Syrah made in Italy, this wine is also the founder Virgilio's personal favourite and so carries a more intimate significance to the family. It is produced in a traditional style with around 18 months in French oak, described as "a true syrah-lover's wine" by Monica Larner in The Wine Advocate



Giusto di Notri 2019

"A terrific and highly enjoyable wine" - Antonio Galloni, Vinous

£255 per 6 bottles in bond

£99 per magnum in bond

Larger formats available in very limited quantities

Giusto di Notri is really Tua Rita's calling card. This was the wine that launched the Estate in 1984, the first bottle to bear the name 'Tua Rita'. The exact blend varies according to the vintage, as does the toasting of the oak and different tonelleries used, in order to best draw out the juiciness and round character that still lies at the heart of this wine. Always a Bordeaux-style blend, in recent vintages the percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon has increased, displaying ever more classic cassis and blackcurrant character – in 2019 it is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, blended with Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Clearly, this approach is seeing some significant success, with scores for the Giusto di Notri creeping higher and higher: it is now starting to compete with Redigaffi, which is an astonishing achievement given the price point.



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Keir Syrah 2019

"Syrah Meets Burgundy!" - 98 points, Susan Hulme MW, Decanter

£185 per 3 bottles in bond

The Keir Syrah is not a wine that Stefano ever wanted to make. However, after much persuasion by his son Giovanni and renowned consultant Luca d'Attoma, he gave in – and openly regrets his trepidation. Fermented and macerated for six months in clay amphorae, this is a pure, naked expression of Syrah that allows the character of the variety to shine through, a completely different wine to the Per Sempre. The name comes from the Greek for 'hand', which refers to the hand-made nature of the amphorae, and the wine itself – which is meticulously produced in tiny quantities, just 3,000 bottles a year.

"Bright magenta in colour with an exuberant nose of vivid sweet blackcurrant, cream and spice, this has youthful raspberry, white pepper and flint flavours mixed with concentrated yet vibrant fruit. Impossible to resist, with a lovely weightless texture and harmony, it dances seamlessly across the palate and disappears with incredible lightness but lingering flavours. Syrah meets Burgundy!" 98 points, Susan Hulme MW, Decanter



Keir Ansonica 2020

An exciting new addition to the Tua Rita range

£65 per 3 bottles in bond

Tua Rita's newest wine, this is the second ever vintage and the first in the UK. A partner to the Keir Syrah, this white is 100% Ansonica – a local variety found on the coasts and islands of Tuscany – and also made in amphorae with two months' maceration on the skins. The vines that produce this fruit are ancient, at least 100 years old: they were originally rented from a local farmer in his nineties, who says they were planted before he was born. With only 1,500 bottles produced, this is also Tua Rita's smallest production wine.

Keir Ansonica is entirely unique, a truly fascinating wine that will enthrall wine lovers. It is a textural, slightly tannic white quite unlike anything else we have tasted. Fresh stone fruit like nectarines and peaches flow out of the glass, followed on the palate by an amaro-esque bitter herb character, with fennel seeds, dried citrus peel, and juniper. A hint of almond nuttiness on the finish, the wine develops into something creamier at the end, with a line of salinity and saltiness underneath.



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Perlato del Bosco 2019

"A hugely over-achieving wine" - Monica Larner,
The Wine Advocate

£98 per six bottles in bond

Perlato del Bosco is Tua Rita's 100% Sangiovese, something of an oddity among their range of Bordeaux varietals. However, alongside Fattoria le Pupille's Poggio Valente, and Michele Satta's Cavaliere, Perlato del Bosco forms part of a more recent movement on the Tuscan coast which is re-establishing this flagship Italian variety, and exploring new expressions of the wine. In Suvereto, Stefano uses selected rootstocks to delay the ripening and producer smaller, more flavourful clusters, while in the cellar this is the only wine in the range that sees no barriques, only large wooden vats. This results in a more muscular, broad style of Sangiovese that combines Tua Rita's rich style with a uniquely Tuscan tang, that will intrigue and reinvigorate lovers of this variety.



Rosso dei Notri 2020

"You can't beat this excellent value from Tuscany" - Monica Larner,
The Wine Advocate

£80 per six bottles in bond

Rosso dei Notri is the gateway to Tua Rita. Described as a "more accessible, affordable version of Giusto dei Notri" by Susan Hulme MW in Decanter, this blend of Cabernet, Merlot, and Syrah is reliably superb year after year. In recent vintages, the quality has improved yet further: following the advice of Pétrus' winemaker, Stefano started to use pre-harvests for Tua Rita's top cuvées – this serves to further concentrate these iconic wines, but allows some of that ultra high-quality fruit to end up in Rosso dei Notri, adding further complexity and freshness. It's never been better.





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For more information and to place your orders, please get in contact with clients@armitwines.co.uk at your earliest convenience.



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