



ARNALDO-CAPRAI

Viticolture in Montefalco

2012 EUROPEAN WINERY OF THE YEAR

Arnaldo-Caprai has been selected by the editorial board of *Wine Enthusiast* magazine as the *European Winery of the Year*, a recognition of the commitment of the winery to revive Umbria's indigenous grapes and bring the wine region into the international spotlight for its production of Sagrantino di Montefalco.

In 1971, when vintner Arnaldo Caprai purchased the historic Val di Maggio estate, fewer than five hectares were planted to Sagrantino. Caprai and his son, Marco, dedicated themselves to researching Sagrantino and its clones. They believed that this grape could give full expression to the distinctive terroir of Montefalco. As a result of their efforts, Sagrantino from Montefalco has experienced precipitous success, bringing Montefalco to the attention of the winemaking world and inspiring the region's elevation to DOCG status in 1992.

In 1994, Marco Caprai undertook a groundbreaking collaboration with the University of Milan to recover Sagrantino and preserve its genetic heritage. They established two experimental vineyards to collect data on Sagrantino clones, develop a deeper understanding of local soils and climate and optimize traditional viticultural techniques. For more than 18 years, these vineyards have provided valuable data on Sagrantino and the distinctive Montefalco terroir.

Arnaldo-Caprai has remained committed to implementing sustainable vineyard and winemaking practices that will preserve Sagrantino and the region of Montefalco for generations to come. Winery research has assessed the effects of global warming on vineyards and helped determine the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions from all winemaking operations. In addition to partnering with other producers to measure sustainability practices in Montefalco, Arnaldo-Caprai has implemented a number of economic and social programs to protect and support local community members involved in wine production.

Although production of Sagrantino is still extremely limited, the high quality of Arnaldo-Caprai wines has secured acclaim from critics and collectors all over the world. Commitment to ongoing research and experimentation, as well as a dedication to the Montefalco region, has made Arnaldo-Caprai the acknowledged leader in the production of top quality Sagrantino di Montefalco.

