

the summer season that has not been excessively hot and dry. It was an abundant year in terms of quantity, but thanks to the use of the now traditional practice of thinning, the situation returned to normal levels, further favoring grape quality. In general, the weather was ideal, including a final spurt of sunny days and excellent diurnal temperature variation from mid-August to late September, conditions that identify "great

vintages." Stefano Chiarlo, winemaker

**GRAPE VARIETY:** barbera MUNICIPALITY: Castelnuovo Calcea FIRST VINTAGE PRODUCED: 1996

**VINEYARD:** La Court

SURFACE AREA OF THE VINEYARD: 3 hectare

YEAR PLANTED: 1976

**SOIL:** called the 'astiane sands'', it consists of calcareous clay marl of sedimentary marine origin, with good presence of lime and sand, rich in microelements, in particular magnesium

VINEYARD EXPOSURE: the best exposures facing south / south-southwest

VINEYARD ELEVATION: 240 AMSL. METHOD OF CULTIVATION: Guyot VINES PER HECTARE: approximately 5,000

YIELD: very low yield; thinning of excess bunches at end of summer, leaving an

average of 5/6 bunches per vine **PRODUCTION PHILOSOPHY CERTIFICATION:** V.I.V.A. "Sustainability and Culture"

HARVEST: manual harvest

VINIFICATION: fermentation for 15 days in 55 hl oak vats with the skins, with a soft "shower" system of wetting the cap at a temperature between 30°C / 27°C.

Malolactic vat fermentation

REFINEMENT: 30 months in total. Depending on the vintage, 50% is aged in casks and the other 50% aged in large barrels for I year. A period of 18 months refinement in the bottle follows.

**COLOUR:** purple with brilliant ruby hues

NOSE: ample, intense, elegant with notes of black cherry, cocoa and coffee

TASTE: very good structure, fresh, velvety with a long, silky finish

ACCOMPANIES: agnolotti with a wild rabbit sauce, tagliolini with porcini, roasted veal and well-matured cheeses

serving temperature:  $18^{\circ}$  C

**BOTTLE SIZES:** 0,750 L. - 1,5 L. - 3 L. - 5L.

**CLOSURE:** cork

