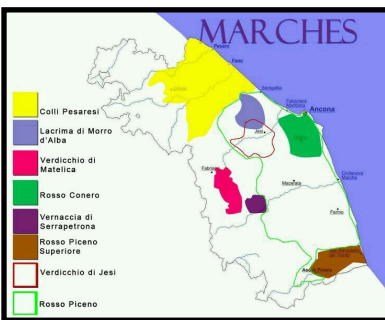


ANDREA FELICI

MARCHE



Leopardo Felici's focus has been on marketing but rather converting the farm to organic farming to create the purest wine possible. Today Andrea Felici's wines are considered the pinnacle expression of Verdicchio.

Le Marche is a region often overshadowed by its more glamorous neighbors across the Appenines. It is a beautiful region of rolling hills flowing down to the Adriatic Sea. The shelter from the mountains keeps it sunny while the proximity to the sea keeps temperatures moderate. Combined with the fresh fish from the nearby sea it is ideal white wine country.

The dominant native grape, Verdicchio, lays claim as Italy's top and most ageworthy native white variety. In fact there are two Verdicchio DOCGs in Le Marche.

Andrea Felici is located in Apiro, the highest of the villages surrounding the town of Jesi (Castelli di Jesi). The Esino river divides the region with the higher elevations being on rockier soils with the lower on heavier silt and sand. This elevation of Apiro allows for great day-night temperature shift and the wines express the clay/rocky soils on which they grow. Felici's wines have the tension between fruit and minerality found in the world's great white wines.

Leo eschewed putting "organic" on the label because he wants the quality to speak for itself. All grapes are hand picked using small bins and wines are fermented in stainless and concrete. The wines see no new oak but are aged on the lees to add a creamy texture and are given extended bottle aging before release.

CASTELLI DI JESI DOC

Verdicchio has had a long history in the Marche region of central Italy with documents noting its presence there since at least the 14th century.

Despite its sensitivity to climate conditions and propensity to produce variable yields of variable quality wine, Verdicchio was a very popular planting in central Italy with an estimated 65,000 hectares planted in the mid-1980s. These figures made Verdicchio the 15th most planted variety of any grape in the world, ahead Chardonnay, Pinot noir, Sauvignon blanc and Sangiovese.

While Verdicchio is widely grown throughout the Marche, it is most widely encountered in the DOC wines of Verdicchio di Matelica and Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi. Castelli di Jesi, located around the commune of Jesi in the Ancona province, is the larger of the two areas and tends to produce a higher volume of wine.

in Matelica, located in the nearby province of Macerata, the yields for Verdicchio are more restricted under DOC regulation with the best vineyard locations situated along hillsides of the Esino valley.



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