

COTTANERA

SICILY



The story of the Cottanera winery begins with Francesco Cambria, who in 1962, seeking a retreat from his career in Messina, bought 100 hectares of vines and hazel-nut groves near his birthplace in Randazzo. Francesco cultivated hazelnuts and also initially sold grapes to the local cooperative, but with the arrival of DOC status for Etna in 1968 and hazelnuts losing market share, he soon decided to focus on grape growing for bulk wine production, replanting the hazelnut groves to vines.

In the late 1980s, Francesco's son Guglielmo successfully selling the family wine "sfuso", in demijohns to local consumers and restaurants. The initial success pushed Guglielmo to focus on quality production, so in the mid-1990s, he renovated his father's vineyards and Cottanera were born.

In 1995, the fame of Etna had not yet reached our shores. From the 1850s to the 1960s, Nerello-based wines left Etna to be blended into more famous appellations (Piedmont's reds as well as France!)

The Cambria family tried everything to bring fame to their volcanic terroir, including planting Cabernet, Merlot and Syrah in an attempt to reach a more international audience for Etna. That experiment, however, only lasted from 1995 to 2002, when, once again the Cambrias were able to return to their roots. Enologist Lorenzo Landi joined the Cottanera team, and the true potential of Nerello-based wines at Cottanera became evident. In 2005 they released their first Etna Rosso DOC, and in 2009 their first Etna Bianco DOC.

Meanwhile, they had been grafting over their vines to Nerello and Catarratto, as well as purchasing some cru vineyards in Zottorinotto, Feudo di Mezzo and Diciassettesalme. In 2008, tragically Guglielmo passed away, but his children Francesco, Mariangela and Emanuele along with their uncle Enzo now are at the helm of this dynamic and exciting rising star of Sicily!

FRANCESCO CAMBRIA HAS JUST BEEN NAMED THE
GAMBERRO ROSSO'S "GROWER OF THE YEAR"!



"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."
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