



ANDREA FRANCHETTI

2014 & 2015 VINTAGES, EN PRIMEUR

"Life moves pretty fast. You don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

"The question isn't 'what are we going to do', the question is 'what aren't we going to do' "

Ferris Bueller

I have to say I love writing offers, particularly the Italian ones, but I appear to have been slightly "stitched-up" in following a very amusing Joh. Jos. Prüm 2015 offer from Mr Hartley, not only amusing but rather effective. He was writing about a German producer and I have taken a slightly Germanic approach to this offer with the introduction of a few lists, but then who doesn't love a list?! Anyway, back to the point and the point is Andrea Franchetti. There are many individuals in the world of wine who do things a little differently but few who thrive on going against the grain. When people have questioned what he has done, his reply has almost always been *"why can't I make the wines I want to make?"* It's a fair point. Rather than regurgitate the same adjectives people often use I thought I would ask a few of the team for one word they would use to describe Andrea, the answers are below.

Focussed – "Pay particular attention to"

Uncompromising – "Showing an unwillingness to make concessions to others, especially by changing one's ways or opinions"

Radical – "Characterized by departure from tradition; innovative or progressive"

Exceptional – "Unusual; not typical"

Iconoclast – "A person who attacks or criticises cherished beliefs or institutions"

Dissident – "In opposition to official policy"

Mad (with the caveat "in the nicest possible sense") – "Mentally ill; insane or very enthusiastic about someone or something"

I think you get the picture. There is real energy and drive about Andrea and the wines he produces beg you to do exactly what Ferris Bueller is talking about in the opening quote. To follow that, Andrea's attitude to what he grows, where and why is certainly well captured in the second quote. Before moving on to discuss the wines of the two estates there is one "agenda point" of note and that relates to us offering these estates together, when for the last few years we had moved them apart. The creation of **"Vini Franchetti"** which encompasses both these estates, Trinoro and Passopisciaro and also that of Andrea's younger cousin Carlo's Sancaba means there is more of a togetherness about the properties, as the future with Carlo involved alongside Andrea, looks so very bright.

Will Hargrove
October, 2016

PASSOPISCIARO, MOUNT ETNA, SICILY

In 2000 Andrea holidayed in Sicily and loved what he saw there. He bought an old winery on Etna and Tenuta di Passopisciaro was born. It has taken some of us the last 15 or more years to work out how to say Passopisciaro but one thing we have never struggled with is the wines. Initially there was just one wine called Passopisciaro, from 100% Nerello Mascalese. This wine has now become Passorosso. Along the way Andrea spotted very specific sites within the vineyard holdings that produced Passopisciaro and started to bottle them separately as "Contradas" the names of which are below.

One other red wine has been made and that was named Franchetti and is an ever changing blend of Petit Verdot and Cesanese d'Affile. This wine is offered one vintage ahead of the estate's other wines (2015 vs 2014 this year). On more than one occasion, including this year (see below), we have been ready to offer Franchetti based on a tasting only to find that the blend has been changed and we need to re-taste! The last wine added has become something of a cult offering, a 100% Chardonnay with no new oak called Guardiola, now renamed Passobianco. So to the wines.

It is important to note – these wines are made in very small quantities as outlined below. The Contradas and Passobianco will certainly sell out in the offer so we do ask for balanced orders and may have to allocate.

TASTING NOTES

FRANCHETTI 2015

So this was looking like it would be 100% Petit Verdot but there was a change of blend and it is now 70% Petit Verdot and 30% Cesanese d'Affile. We did a recent vertical tasting of this wine and interestingly this blend was the one that came out best over time. The wine is bold with big tannins, a little more savoury than some other vintages, the fruit though is delicious and defined.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2021 - 2027+)
£325/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

17 - 18

PASSOBIANCO 2015

100% Chardonnay

I love this wine every year but it has gone from strength to strength since (and including) 2012. There is something about the nose that reminds me of young top quality champagne that has lost its fizz combined with mature Chablis. The texture is superb being both moreish and quite rich. A gem and a wine you have to buy on release now as it sells out.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2017 - 2022+)
£115/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

18+

PASSOROSSO 2014

100% Nerello Mascalese

Picked between October 24th and November 2nd. Only 6000 cases of 6 bottles are made from vines that are 70-100 years old. The altitude varies between 500 and 1100 metres above sea level. A lovely herbal nose with red fruits, nicely poised, slightly crunchy with refreshing minerality. Juicier on the palate, moreish and just what "Passo" should be. Drink it young and cool or leave it 2-3 years.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2017 - 2023+)
£115/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK
£120/CASE OF 3 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK
£100/CASE OF 1 DOUBLE MAGNUM, IN BOND UK

17 - 17.5

CONTRADA RAMPANTE 2014

100% Nerello Mascalese

Only 3000 bottles from these 100 year old vines at 1000 metres above sea level. This is typically the last Contrada to ripen. Lovely rich notes on the nose, reminds me of warm vintage Nebbiolo. The palate is a little tighter and closed; another moreish example. All in all a broader expression.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2018 - 2025)

17.5

£170/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CONTRADA CHIAPPEMACINE 2014

100% Nerello Mascalese

Only 4000 bottles from these 80 year old vines at 550 metres above sea level. A lovely lifted nose, a wine that really accentuates the possible links that this variety has to Nebbiolo. Crisp red berry fruits, this is bright, cheerful and inviting...long too.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2018 - 2025+)

18

£170/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CONTRADA SCIARANUOVA 2014

100% Nerello Mascalese

Only 2100 bottles from these 80 year old vines at 850-900 metres above sea level. The name means "new lava flow", but then I suppose 200 years is a "recent" flow for lava. More concentrated. The fruit character is that of smaller and darker berries, compote too. The structure is a little bolder which adds complexity.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2026+)

17.5 - 18.5

£195/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CONTRADA GUARDIOLA 2014

100% Nerello Mascalese

Only 4000 bottles from these 100 year old vines at 800 metres above sea level. This is an amphitheatre where the winery sits. It is on deep gravel off the edge of the 1947 lava flow. It has a cool ever so slightly muted nose, but at the same time is effortlessly classy. Depth and seriousness on the palate makes this the first of the Contradas to demand time.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2027+)

17.5 - 18.5

£215/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CONTRADA PORCARIA 2014

100% Nerello Mascalese

Only 2400 bottles from these 80 year old vines at 650 metres above sea level. The soil is made from a frail sheet of lava that splinters under ones feet, facing due north and therefore getting the most sunlight. More depth and a darker concentration, all within the predominantly red fruitedness of this estate. The sense of volume is greater with this "Cru", as with Guardiola this shows great potential.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2018 - 2025+)

18 - 18.5+

£245/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

TENUTA DI TRINORO

Alison has detailed the history of Trinoro in full many times in our offers which you can see [here](#) so I have chosen instead to give you - 10 things you need to know about Trinoro:

- 1) The estate lies in the Val D'Orcia in the south of Tuscany.
- 2) When Andrea first bought the property, a centuries-old ruin of a farmhouse, there were no vines planted at all.
- 3) Planting is between 500 and 700 metres above sea level and very dense at 10,000 vines per hectare.
- 4) The estate is worked organically but as Andrea says this is not an ideological stance: "I'm not particularly green-minded or ideological – I just don't like chemicals".
- 5) The estate's first release was Cupole di Trinoro 1995.
- 6) From 1997 Cupole, meaning "dome", became the name of the estate's second wine.
- 7) Tenuta di Trinoro itself was first made and released from the 1997 vintage alongside Palazzi.
- 8) Palazzi is 100% Merlot and was made in both 1997 and 1999 before Andrea decided it was "too easy" and abandoned making it for a decade. Who else makes this type of decision?
- 9) Campo di Magnacosta, a single vineyard wine from 100% Cabernet Franc was first made in the 2011 vintage.
- 10) Two further 100% Cabernet Franc wines - Campo di Tenaglia & Campo di Camagi - were first made in the 2014 vintage.

2015 TASTING NOTES

TENUTA DI TRINORO 2015

50% Cabernet Franc, 36% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot. 8400 bottles were made. "2015 is one of the great vintages of Tenuta di Trinoro" says Andrea Franchetti. I find it hard not to agree. Richness and slightly degraded fruit character, opulent. Bold yet fresh, rich, moreish but with a saline and savoury side. I have been lucky to experience several vertical tastings of this wine and can see parallels to the 1997, 2001 and 2009. SUPERB.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2021 – 2030+)

18 - 19

£625/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK
£635/CASE OF 3 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK

PALAZZI, TENUTA DI TRINORO 2015

100% Merlot as ever. Only 3700 bottles were made. So bright and vibrant, very well fruited not over the top. Extravagant. Crimson red fruits but with creamy strawberries as well. Very good.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 – 2029+)

18 - 18.5

£550/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK
£560/CASE OF 3 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK

CAMPO TENAGLIA 2015

100% Cabernet Franc. Only 1800 bottles were made. The youngest vines at 18 years, creamier and a shade darker in fruit character, some tar and more seriousness, delicious savoury palate, big ripe tannins, spice and briary character too.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2020 – 2028+)

17.5 - 18+

£225/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CAMPO CAMAGI 2015

100% Cabernet Franc. Only 2600 bottles were made. Camagi means the "old creek", 25 year old vines here. More muted on the nose then a little sweeter on the palate, slightly less precise, herbal but then drier and tighter. Andrea is excited about a long future for this wine.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2021 – 2028+)

16.5 - 18+

£250 /CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CAMPO MAGNACOSTA 2015

100% Cabernet Franc. Only 2500 bottles were made. 20 year old vines here. Subdued class then an explosion of red fruits and real purity. Vibrant, rich? Yes but with good chalky tannins, a very moreish finish, some ferrous character on the palate. Fascinating and very fine.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 – 2028+)

17.5 - 18

£275/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

EARLIER DRINKING - LE CUPOLE, TENUTA DI TRINORO 2014

We always offer the previous vintage, 2014 in this case, of Cupole as it drinks earlier. Looking back at last year's offer Andrea summed up the vintage well. "Fast colouring of the berries in all vineyards during the last days of July confirmed how the plants were full of energy...the fruit remained firm and healthy to the end".

LE CUPOLE, TENUTA DI TRINORO 2014

Like raspberry coulis, lovely freshness and a bit of good "drive", I am very impressed by this and think it is the best Cupole of the last 5-6 years, and there have been many crackers in that range. Thoroughly recommended especially for those wanting to get a handle of this estate.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
(RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2018 – 2026+)

17 - 18

£115/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

£120/CASE OF 3 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK

£85/CASE OF 1 DOUBLE MAGNUM, IN BOND UK

TASTING GUIDE

Our tasting notes provide full details but, at your request, we have also introduced a clear and simple marking system. We hope these guidelines assist you in your selection.

Wines are scored out of 20. It has the benefit of simplicity. We will often use a range of scores (e.g. 16.5 to 17) to indicate the potential to achieve a higher mark. When a '+' is shown it adds further to that potential. Wines from lesser vintages will, inevitably, show a lower overall score.

Wines are judged, in a very broad sense, against their peers. Why? Well, you cannot easily compare a Ford with an Aston Martin, other than they are both cars and have wheels. It is not that different with wine.

A score is a summary only. The devil is in the detail, so please focus on the tasting notes and, as always, speak to our sales team.

TO ORDER

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