

Al-Cantàra winery success at Vinaly for the fifth consecutive year

PucciGiuffrida's winery on Mount Etna distinguishes itself in the latest 5StarWines rankings. 'The secret? Hard work at every stage of the process, but above all passion'.



‘*Love that moves the sun and other stars*’. It is love that makes everything possible in our lives. That’s the secret’. PucciGiuffrida joyfully quotes Dante’s *Paradiso* to celebrate the latest success of his beloved Al-Cantàra winery: with three labels selected at Vinaly 2021, it is Mount Etna’s top-ranking winery for the fifth year in a row. It all started in 2008 when ‘We were awarded the Certificate of *Gran Menzione*, with a production of just 1,500 bottles. Back then, I would have never dreamed that we would be so successful and I couldn’t be prouder!’, Mr. Giuffrida says. In fact, he is always striving to do even better.

The international jury of this prestigious competition – made up of enologists, sommeliers and journalists – judged the wines during blind tastings (where wine labels are concealed) and gave them a score. The Al-Cantàra wines selected by this jury for the 5StarWines rankings were: ‘*LuciLuci*’, Etna Doc white wine made from Carricante grapes with 91 points, Sicily Doc wine ‘*Ciuri di strada*’ with 90 points and ‘*O scuru’O scuru*’, Etna Doc red wine made from NerelloMascalese grapes, *pièce de résistance* of this winery production, with 90 points. The 5StarWines rankings are included in the Book of the same name, which is a guide that lists the wines that obtained a score of at least 90/100 during the tastings. It recommends the best wineries to wine lovers and restaurant managers and can be found at the major wine fairs both in Italy and abroad.

‘**Once again, Mount Etna, with its unique terrain, wild yet fertile, has won**– Mr. Giuffrida says, well-known Catanese accountant whose love for wine-making became the successful business we know today–‘Our efforts and investments have been rewarded. This success is also thanks to our enologist, Salvo Rizzuto’. The winery occupies an area of 20 hectares between the Alcantara river and

the volcano. It was founded in 2005 and from the very beginning it has promoted a fusion between wine and Sicilian culture: the wines take their names from Sicilian literature and the fine, artistic, original labels are designed by young local artists. 'We produce eight different wine versions from Nerello Mascalese grapes, from Etna Doc red wine to raisin wine, from Blanc de noir to grappa and sparkling wine', Mr Giuffrida explains. Last June he presented a new Etna Doc red wine, Liolà Ullarallà 2017, a collection wine: a total of 999 bottles with hand-painted labels, each one unique.

The secret to five consecutive years of success? 'Painstaking attention and care at every stage of the wine-making process – we caress our plants – and obviously love: I have found a hobby I am madly in love with. After my family and my daughters, the winery is the most important thing in my life. It is always love that moves everything'.