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**WINES: seven wines from the winery Al-Cantàra have been selected by the 5StarWines jury ofVinitaly for the Guide 2021.**



**The owner PucciGiuffrida: ‘An honour and a joy that we share with the workers’**

**Experiments continue to be carried out on the grape variety NerelloMascalese: Al-Cantàra sparkling wine and grappa are coming soon.**

**Town of Randazzo (CT), 30th June 2020** – The 5StarWines is a prestigious competition organised byVinitaly which assesses the best wines in Italy. The results of the last edition have been recently published: **with seven labels chosen for the 5StarWines Book 2021, Al-Cantàra in Randazzo (CT) is the winery on Mount Etna with the highest number of wines selected through blind tastings by an international jury of wine experts**, including enologists, critics, sommeliers and journalists. With this result it came second in Sicily, after the winery Milazzo di Campobello in Licata, from which 8 wines have been selected in the section of the same competition dedicated to organic wines. Thanks to this good score, Al-Cantàra winery came sixth at a national level.

The 5StarWines book, handed out in the most important wine fairs in Italy and abroad, recommends the best wineries to wine lovers and restaurant managers. The guide gathers the

wines that obtained a score of at least **90/100** during the tasting and Al-Cantàra is at the top of the list, being the only winery on Mount Etna which obtained **93 points** for its white wine '**LuciLuci 2018**' (Etna Bianco DOC, made from the grape variety Carricante) and red wine '**La Fata Galanti 2017**' (Pgi Terre Siciliane, made from the grape variety NerelloMascalese). The other selected wines are: '**Occhi di ciumi 2018**' (Etna Bianco Doc) with 92 points, '**CappiddazzuPagaTuttu 2017**' (Pgi Terre Siciliane, made from the grape variety Cabernet Sauvignon) with 91 points, '**Lu veruPiaciri 2016**' (Etna Rosso DOC, made from the grape variety NerelloMascalese), '**Ciuri di Strada 2018**' (Doc Sicilia Bianco) and '**A Notturna 2018**' (Pgi Terre Siciliane, made from NerelloMascalese grapes vinified in white) with 90 points. The sanitary emergency put a stop to the wine fair in Verona and the 5StarsWines 2020 ofVitaly was organised in a different way: blind tastings of wine samples were carried out at distance and the international judges were in conference call. You can see all results here <https://bit.ly/2YGLsec>, and those of the organic selection here <https://bit.ly/3i7VNaV>.



Al-Cantàra is a flourishing winery founded in 2005 in ContradaFeudoSant'Anastasia, which is part of the town of Randazzo (CT), on the North Western slope of Mount Etna, at about 600 metres above sea level and just a few steps from the Nature Reserve of Alcantàra. It is the result of the passion and obstinacy of its owner, the well-known and esteemed accountant **PucciGiuffrida**, whose love for Sicilian literature and theatre influenced all the products (Etna Doc wines, Pgi Sicily wines, raisin wine and extra virgin olive oil made from olive variety '*nocellaraetna*'). In fact, their names evoke poems, novels and works by Sicilian writers and playwrights. Great attention is given

also to the artistic and fine pictures on labels, entrusted to the creative inspiration of young artists, such as **Annachiara Di Pietro**. Al-Cantàrophylosophy is inspired by local tradition and based on the protection of the soil and the landscape (which there it is characterised by three amazing small towers known as '**Pyramids of Mount Etna**'). All the operations related to the vineyards are carried out with total respect for the environment: grapes are harvested by hand, the vine training systems are sustainable and the organic conversion of some cultivar (e.g. the Carricante) started. Experiments keep going on NerelloMascalese, the grape variety *par excellence* on Mount Etna: it is the object of continuous research and improvement for Al-Cantàra winery, which is going to produce from this variety 8 different wine versions, from the goblet to the flute glass.

'When 7 of your wines are selected by such an important guide like the 5StarsWines ofVinitaly', PucciGiuffrida says, 'it is an honour and an immense joy for both the producer and for who, in the cellar, follows the evolution of the wines paying attention to the smallest details. The wine is a man product, the result of the intuition of the enologist, who is able to understand and exploit the pedoclimate of the soils, and of the efforts of those working among the vine rows using old techniques, from dawn to sunset, in snowy or sunny days, in every season. This is why I want to share this recognition with all the team: with our enologist, **Salvatore Rizzuto**, who has been exploiting every cultivar for years, from the most recent to the most ancient vineyard, which dates back to the period before the phylloxera plague and for this reason it is a witness and memory of the great biodiversity of Mount Etna; I share this goal also with the workers, men and women from the towns of Mount Etna, attached to the wine culture and experts on traditional vine training systems, which Al-Cantàra winery combines with more technological solutions during the fermentation, in order to improve the results of every single grape variety. Finally, this recognition is an incentive to go on and enrich our production adding new 'alcoholic languages', on which we have been working for a long time: we are launching **grappa** and, in autumn, extra-brut **sparkling wine** - classic method, which is ending its fourth year of maturation. Both will be given evocative names, linked to the Sicilian literature and culture, according to our tradition.