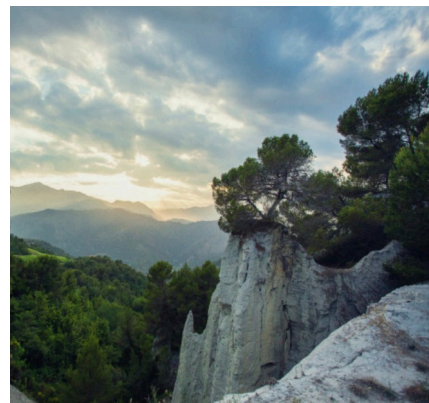




TERRE BIANCHE



Terrabianca numeranza (cru)

As early as 1260 (according to the deeds of the notary Amandolesio, 30 April 1261, doc. 14) the area known as ‘Terra Blanca’ was already cultivated and belonged to two families from Camporosso, the Alemanno and the Macariu.

It was later that the Rondelli family (from Reondello, an old Camporosso family), which already owned land in the nearby Monte Curto area, acquired the land; in 1870, by planting the first Rossese di Dolceacqua vines, it founded today’s Terre Bianche.

Identity card

Soil type

Blue Clays or Blue Marls (Ortovero Clays).

Details

Grey-blue marls (CaCO₃ content around 30%), massive to faintly laminated, with minor centimetre-thick interbeds of siltstones and fine sandstones with erosive bases and normal grading. Associated with a microfauna of benthic foraminifera (tiny shells).

Geological age

Pliocene (Lower Zanclean–Lower Piacenzian).

Average slope

30%.

Altitude

360-380 m.

Exposure

South-east.

Plantings

Varieties and planting year

Rossese di Dolceacqua, 2010 and 2018.

Vermentino, 2018.

Pigato, 2011.

Rootstocks

Paulsen 779, Paulsen 1103.

Training systems

Spurred cordon, Guyot.

Curiosities

History

Since ancient times the Terre Bianche area has supplied clay for making bricks; a stretch of road believed to date from Roman times, used to carry the raw material down to the brick kilns in the valley, can still be seen.

Geography

The badlands (calanchi) around Terre Bianche are striking erosion features. The clay pinnacles are held in place by the roots of the pine trees.

Literature

Salvatore Quasimodo (Nobel Prize in Literature, 1959) wrote about the hill of Terre Bianche in “Ed è subito sera – Erato ed Apollion” (1932), dedicating to it the poem ‘Sul colle delle Terre Bianche’.

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