TERRE BIANCHE







Terrabianca nomeranza (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 ($CaCO_3$ 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 Apòllion" (1932), dedicating to it the poem 'Sul colle delle Terre Bianche'.

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TERRE BIANCHE







Arcagna nomeranza (cru)

It is unquestionably one of the oldest cultivated places in Liguria. Archaeological finds on the northern slope of Arcagna suggest that the Ligurians were farming here in the 7th century BC. Blessed with enviable sunshine and a warm but never torrid climate (the Alps are close by), the area has never ceased to be cultivated: first by the Roman Aurinia family in the early centuries AD, then, from the 12th century, by the Benedictine monks of the Abbey of Novalesa, and finally by the people of Dolceacqua, in particular the Orrigo family, who built the farmhouse that is now the symbol of Terre Bianche.

Identity card

Soil type
Ventimiglia Flysch.

Details
The unit consists of turbidite sequences of alternating grey-brown sandstones and pelites. The formation is made up of coarse graded sandstones and fine sandstones in banks and beds, with silty-sandy and silty-clayey interbeds; clayey-marly and occasionally calcareous-marly levels are present.

Geological age
Eocene (Upper Bartonian–Lower Priabonian).

Average slope
30%.

Altitude
380-450 m.

Exposure
East.

Plantings

Varieties and planting year
Rossese di Dolceacqua, 1890, 2010, 2020.
Pigato, 1991.

Rootstocks
Rupestris du Lot, Paulsen 1103.

Training systems
Spurred cordon, Guyot.

Curiosities

Etymology
An ancient history, an ancient name: 'arcagna' is thought to derive from the Latin 'loca arcanea', meaning 'enclosed, protected place' or 'place of boundary marks'. It was probably an estate controlled by the Roman Aurinia family.

History
Its position on the hilltop has made Arcagna a natural and political border: from the Ligurians' wars of independence against the Greeks and Romans (first centuries BC) to the front line between Italy and France in the Second World War.

Literature
Mario Soldati writes about Arcagna in 'Vino al Vino' (1975): "the most exhilarating landscape one could imagine".
In his 1990 'Repertorio', Veronelli rated the Arcagna cru as "exceptional".

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TERRE BIANCHE







Scartozzoni vineyard

A terraced plot of great geological variety. The red clays, rich in stones, make a warm, free-draining soil. Towards the hilltop the clays thin out, giving way to rocky areas of rounded pebbles and to very large veins of conglomerate, often outcropping.

Identity card

Soil type
Monte Villa Conglomerates.

Details
Discontinuous, isolated silty-sandy horizons and clayey-marly lenses, from tens of centimetres to metres thick, interfingering with conglomerate bodies.

Geological age
Pliocene (Lower Zanclean–Lower Piacenzian).

Average slope
50%.

Altitude
360-450 m.

Exposure
East, from south-east to north-east.

Plantings

Varieties and planting year
Vermentino, 2000 and 2002.
Pigato, 2002 and 2018.

Rootstocks
Paulsen 1103.

Training systems
Guyot, spurred cordon.

Curiosities

History
The vineyard takes its name from the Scartozzoni family, the first owners of the land.

Geography
At the foot of the vineyard, in its northernmost part, is one of the valley's rare springs, known as 'Vergae'. Its water was once used for drinking. Storage tanks dating from the Second World War can still be seen.

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TERRE BIANCHE







Aurin nomeranza (cru)

The Aurin nomeranza (cru) lies on the northernmost hilltop, bordering the Arcagna nomeranza (cru). The soil is classic Ventimiglia Flysch, here in one of its most typical forms: the traditional 'sgrutto', rock that crumbles into a sandy, free-draining soil. The vines are surrounded by unspoilt pine woods and Mediterranean scrub and enjoy a breathtaking view over the Nervia valley.

Identity card

Soil type
Ventimiglia Flysch.

Details
The unit consists of turbidite sequences of alternating grey-brown sandstones and pelites. The formation is made up of coarse graded sandstones and fine sandstones in banks and beds, with silty-sandy and silty-clayey interbeds; clayey-marly and occasionally calcareous-marly levels are present.

Geological age
Eocene (Upper Bartonian–Lower Priabonian).

Average slope
60%.

Altitude
400-450 m.

Exposure
East.

Plantings

Varieties and planting year
Rossese di Dolceacqua, 1965 and 1994.

Rootstocks
Rupestris du Lot, Paulsen 1103.

Training systems
Bush vine (alberello), spurred cordon.

Curiosities

History
On the summit lie the ruins of an ancient Ligurian hill fort (castellaro) dating from the 7th century BC. The name probably comes from the Roman Aurinius family, who owned the estate in the first centuries AD.

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