



Canonica a Cerreto

Location: Canonica Cerreto, Castelnuovo Berardenga
Province of Siena



Imagine Paradise with cypress trees; gentle hills so enchanting that

mists embrace them in the early morning, turning them into islands in a sea of clouds. We are atop one such hill, dominating the *Crete Senesi*, Montalcino visible in the distance on a clear day, Siena on our right, Rapolano, Brolio and Valdarno on the left, San Gusmè and San Felice further left: the horizon from Canonica a Cerreto seems to sweep wider than anywhere else; wider than the real world, we are tempted to think, for the onetime summer home of the Siena bishop is suspended between magic and mystic, fairytale and monastic quiet.

Owners **Egidio and Brianna Lorenzi** welcome us with a well bred cordiality that warms into shared enthusiasm as we walk from room to room and from century to century: the *canonica* (parsonage) was first built around the year 1000 by the *canonici* or parsons of the Siena cathedral, who selected a scenic location not far from the city, surrounded by luxuriant Turkey oaks (*cerreto*). The *canonici* erected a small, exquisite Romanic church that stands to this day. It is the first building we come to from the driveway among the vineyards, like a silent sentinel guarding the group of Renaissance and 18th century houses and former cloisters, peacefully huddled together to form today's Canonica a Cerreto.

The Lorenzis – he Tuscan-born and Milanese-bred, she Milanese-born and in love with the countryside – have moved to Castelnuovo Berardenga



and purchased the estate some twenty years ago.

They gave no thought to becoming wine producers, devoting their time, passion and energies to restoring the 18th-century frescoes and buildings, furnishing them with authentic period pieces (much of the original contents disappeared through the centuries) and making wine for their own use... Until they realized the unique microclimate and soil nurtured product too extraordinary to keep to themselves.

Winemaker: Stefano Chioccioli.

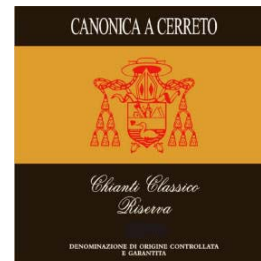


Vineyards & Wines

The buildings are located at 380 meters (1,250 feet) above sea level, whilst the vineyards average 1,150 feet a.s.l. (350 meters): Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

The Lorenzis built a new winery in 2003, entirely underground and covered by newborn olive trees so as not disturb the aesthetics of the landscape while also preserving ideal conditions and naturally cool temperatures.

The *CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG* is 90% Sangiovese and 10% Merlot, and aged in barriques (90% French, 10% American oak, up to 3 years old) for one year.



The *CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA DOCG* is 85% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, aged in barrique (90% French, 10% American oak, up to 3 years old) for 18 months. Issued only in the finest years.



The *SANDIAVOLO IGT* is one third Sangiovese, one third Cabernet Sauvignon and one third Merlot, aged 18 months in barriques of French and American oak (90% and 10%

respectively, up to 3 years old).