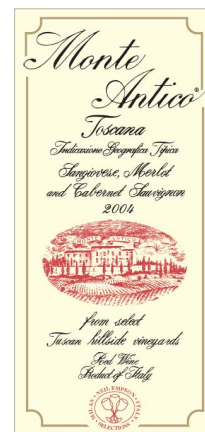




# Monte Antico

Monte Antico, Santa Lucia, Province of Pisa

Type: red  
 Grape: 85% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot  
 Maturation: 1 year in oak (20% in barrique)  
 Winemaker: Franco Bernabei



## General

**MONTE ANTICO IGT:** The blend, albeit varying slightly depending on vintage conditions, is 85% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The best selections are blended and aged 1 year in oak (80% in Slavonian barrels, 20% in barrique) + at least 6 months in the bottle, achieving a graceful balance of voluptuous berry tones and flexible yet sturdy backbone. Dark ruby in color, its bouquet of leather, earth, herbs, black cherries, licorice and plums is confirmed on the medium to full-bodied palate – round, spicy, elegant, attractively fruity and extremely versatile with any fare from pasta or risotto, to meat, fowl and cheese. Moreover, the Empsons’ judicious pricing policy makes it “consistently one of Italy’s better values”. Food-friendly, pocket-friendly, all-around simpatico.

## Vineyard Characteristics

From a selection of Tuscany’s finest vineyard sites. Terrain includes compact, v. fine-textured limestone, at an altitude of 1,312-1,476 feet; rocky, clayey/calcareous areas, also at altitudes around 1,350 feet; and clayey/siliceous/calcareous soil, at an

## Vinification & Aging

Vinification: Soft-pressed; raked into stainless steel tanks Fermentation: At approx. 25°C (77°F), followed by maceration for 15-20 days Malolactic Fermentation: In stainless steel vats for 7 days Élevage: 1 yr in oak (80% Slavonian barrels, 20% Frenç

## Tasting Notes

Deep ruby color w/garnet hues; elegant bouquet: leather, black cherries, licorice + plums; medium to full palate where ripe red fruit, goût de terroir, subtle notes of vanilla + violets harmonize and linger, interlacing w/the soft tannins + silky texture. Firm backbone, ideal balance.

## Recent Reviews

<i>Vintage</i>	<i>Review</i>	<i>Source</i>
2004	88 points	Rober Parker's Wine Advocate
2004		MSNBC.com
2003	88 points	winereviewonline
2003	87 points	Rober Parker's Wine Advocate
2003	86 points	Wine Enthusiast
2003	86 points	Wine Spectator
2003		Washington Post

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