

Cerreto Libri

Visits

This visit at Cerreto Libri took place in November, 2011.



Words by Jules Dressner, photos by Alex Finberg.

After a "light" lunch at [Montesecondo](#), we were off to visit Rufina and Fattoria Cerreto Libri.



The 80 hectare farm is headed by Andrea Zanfei and is run biodynamically.



Andrea explained that the farm dates back to the 19th century around the time of Leopold the 2nd.

It used to be organized by separate houses: many small houses were spread across the land for shape-croppers, one house was for workers and animals (usually filled with two families or one big family of as many as 20 people), another was reserved for the land manager, and finally the main residence belonged to the owner, who naturally had servants. All in all, about 50 people lived on and actively worked the land.





The vines had never been a priority up until the last ten years, and Andrea jokingly explained that the parcels are spread across the farm like "leopard spots".

Before entering the cellar, Andrea showed us his de-stemmer, which Kevin thinks is probably one of the earliest models ever made.



He also showed us a huge pile of gross lees.



Then it was off to the cellar.



Everything is fermented in these beautiful concrete tanks.

29
HL 150



Andrea only fills them up to about 75% and never presses the grapes. The fermentation is therefore a pseudo semi-carbonic maceration, but with numerous remontages and in concrete. No new oak is ever used for aging. Sulfur is never used during vinification or bottling.

From concrete we tasted a tank of 2011, and a 2007 Chianti Rufi re-racked from barrel which Andrea plans to bottle in a month or two. It was light and easy with bright fruit and the wood wasn't overbearing but rather well integrated.



We also tasted some 2010 in tank without wood, some Canaiolo 09 in barrel and a standout Sangiovese 09 in barrel that had ripe, young fruit and strong vibrant acidity. Looks like it'll be a keeper.

Here's my "Wine Spectator Editorial" pic.

