



Vineyards: Squinzano, San Pietro Vernotico, Torchiarolo, Novoli.

Wine name/Appellation: ULLIESA SQUINZANO DOP ROSSO RISERVA

Training system: 20-year-old bush vines. Trunks are kept short: 40-60 cm high. Few buds (6-8), in order to ensure high-quality yields.

Climate: Mediterranean. It is mild thanks to the influence of the sea, which offers long, sunny (average sunshine hours per year: 2,600), dry (500-600 mm/yr) summers to the Salento peninsula. Cold season is short and mild. The Adriatic coast from the town of Otranto to that of Santa Maria di Leuca is rainier than the Ionian coast towards Gallipoli, where North African winds blow more frequently. The areas north of Otranto have a slightly lower temperature due to the influence of the Balkan peninsula.

Region: mostly flat areas dotted with a few low hills. From a geological point of view, the region has a calcareous structure. Except for a few areas, its ground is mostly rocky, made up of stony layers and chalky banks.

Grape varieties: Negroamaro 70%; Sangiovese 30%.

Harvest: hand picking, after the grapes are fully ripe. In order to obtain a good structure, harvest is delayed so as to facilitate the concentration of sugar and extractive substances.

Winemaking: traditional temperature-controlled fermentation of must in large wooden vats for 30-45 days.

Ageing: 24 months in French oak barriques, 12 months in bottles.

Colour: very intense ruby-red, with garnet reflections.

Tasting note: Its inviting aromas resemble ripe red fruit, with spicy notes of black pepper and clove, and with delicate undertones of coffee. It is intense, well-structured and round in the mouth, with good tannins. Its long aftertaste is dominated by a persistent fruity note.

Alcohol: about 14-15%

Food pairing: best drunk with grilled or roasted red meats, meat hashes, oven-baked lamb, savoury and mature cheeses.

Serving temperature: 20 °C

Recommended glass: a large bowl-shaped glass with an inward-curved rim: the wine can fully breathe, and the glass can be held better in hands. It will help the temperature rise gradually, and aid in the release of the complex fragrances of more structured wines.

Storage period: many years, if the wine is stored out of light in suitable cellars at a constant temperature of 10-14 °C (sudden changes can deteriorate its quality), with 60-70% humidity levels, and in a horizontal position so as to keep corks moist and elastic.