`Primo Rosso` Carignano Isola dei Nuraghi 2009

Sulcis, Sardinia, Italy



Grape Varieties	**50% Carignano/Carignan** **50% Syrah/Shiraz**
Winemaker	**Stefano Cova**
Closure	**Natural Cork**
ABV	**13.5%**

PRODUCER

This is one of the most exciting wineries to come out of Sardinia in two decades. It is the brainchild of Gavino Sanna, a Sardinian who has lived in Milan for the past 50 years, where he built up one of Italy's most successful advertising agencies. On a whim, he decided to sell the agency and seek new challenges. One of these challenges was the creation of a winery in Sulcis in southwestern Sardinia. As might be expected from someone with Sanna's background, the labels are striking. He has also ensured that the contents are equally striking. Stefano Cova, a young winemaker from Trentino, took over with the 2008 vintage, improving on already high levels of quality.

VINEYARDS

The estate comprises 70 hectares in the heart of Sulcis Iglesiente. The largest part of the vineyards is located in the Sant'Anna Arresi area, in a valley sheltered from the maestrale winds and surrounded by the sea. The vines are vertically trained, largely to spurred cordon, some to the alberello, or bush, style, depending on local conditions and exposure.

VINTAGE

The rain in 2009 was a welcome relief in Sardinia after two drought years. The climatic conditions were excellent, with just the right amount of rainfall and long, hot, sunny days in August. Unfortunately, rain in the middle of September caused problems for many growers, although luckily for Cantina Mesa, it was less heavy in the south west where they are based and Syrah, Cannonau and Carignano were picked in good condition.

VINIFICATION

After the grapes are de-stemmed and crushed, the juice flowed using gravity into fermenters on the level below, where the must underwent maceration and fermentation for up to ten days. The wine remained for several months in stainless steel tanks and in lined cement vats before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Deep red in colour, almost opaque at the core, with perfumes of red berry fruit, a touch of tar and spicy blackberries. On the palate, it is full-bodied and powerful, with ripe tannins and a dense, black fruit character, with flavours of spice and leather giving way to a long, cinnamon and chocolate finish.