

## VALLE DELL'ACATE & CASE IBIDINI

### SICILIA DIRILLO VALLEY

**OVERVIEW** | Valle dell'Acate has a long and storied history amongst the top estates in Sicily, as the Jacono family can trace back their winemaking roots here to the nineteenth century. It is located in the southeastern corner of Sicily, on the elegant Bidini Manor in the hills of the Dirillo Valley. The estate comprises over one hundred hectares of land, both for grapevines as well as Sicily's famous blood oranges. Under the direction of the current head of the family winery, the elegant Gaetana Jacono, many of the vineyards have been replanted to the great traditional grapes of Sicily which are farmed organically. The estate produces one of the finest examples of Cerasuolo di Vittoria, traditionally Sicily's greatest wine. Cerasuolo di Vittoria was the first red wine in all of Sicily to achieve DOCG status, and to this day it continues to be one of Sicily's greatest reds. Valle dell'Acate also makes a great many IGT bottlings from their well-tended vineyards, including Il Nero, Zagra, Il Frappato and Tané. All of the bottlings from Valle dell'Acate must be ranked amongst Sicily's finest.

**VINEYARD AREA:** 100 hectares

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION:** 450,000 bottles

**SOIL TYPES:** clay strata, calcareous, and sandstone

**GRAPE VARIETIES:** nero d'avola, frappato, syrah, insolia,

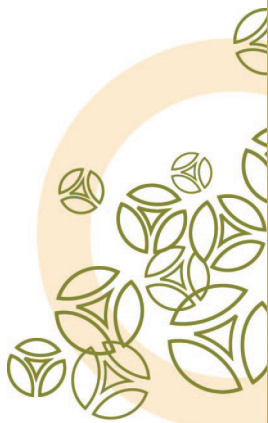
The estate's Cerasuolo di Vittoria is made of a blend of seventy percent Nero d'Avola and thirty percent Frappato, with the Nero d'Avola spending time in predominantly used barrique prior to bottling. The wine receives eight to nine more months of aging in bottle prior to release, allowing for the traditionally broad and velvety style of Cerasuolo di Vittoria to emerge prior to release. This is a full-bodied and complex wine, combining the dark spice notes of Nero d'Avola with the high-toned floral aspects of the Frappato. This harmonious blend displays supple tannins and sound acids to keep the wine fresh and bouncy on the palate. Valle dell'Acate's Il Frappato bottling is comprised, no surprisingly, of one hundred percent Frappato, and aged in stainless steel tank prior to bottling to retain this varietal's lively red-fruited, highly-aromatic and floral profile. As is typical of this grape, the wine is light to medium-bodied and delivers a lovely base of soil tones from the calcaire, sandstone and clay strata of soils that lie beneath the estate's vineyards. Their Il Moro bottling is a richer and more voluptuous style of red wine than the Il Frappato, as it is made from one hundred percent Nero d'Avola from the estate's best hillside vineyards, and is aged entirely in tank. It is characterized by more black fruity tones of blackberries, black cherries, as well as notes of new leather and a fine base of soil. Like the Cerasuolo di Vittoria bottling, it is held back for six to nine months after the mise to allow it to fully blossom before it is released.

Valle dell'Acate's lineup also includes a lovely white wine, the lovely and floral Zagra bottling. It is made up of two traditional Sicilian white wine varieties, seventy percent Inzolia and thirty percent Grillo. The resulting wine is medium-bodied, deep and intensely flavored, with plenty of citrus fruit, lovely soil tones and a potpourri of floral scents in the upper register that recall jasmine and citrus blossoms. It is a beautiful, bone-dry white that works beautifully as an aperitif, with all seafood preparations and sings with vegetable pasta dishes. The new flagship bottling from Valle dell'Acate is their red IGT bottling, known as Tané. This is the only wine in the Valle dell'Acate portfolio that is not made entirely from indigenous grapes from Sicily, as it is made up of a mélange of Nero d'Avola and Syrah. The wine is aged for one year in one hundred percent new French oak barrels, and then receives an additional year of aging in bottle prior to its release. There are only five hundred cases made of Tané in a bountiful vintage, and this wine has proven to be very popular amongst fans of both Syrah-based wines and lovers of traditional Sicilian varietals. All in all, Valle dell'Acate produces an impressive array of complex and food-friendly wines that are amongst the very greatest to be found on the island.

A second label of Valle dell'Acate's, the Case Ibidini range (pronounced 'bidini) consists of varietally labeled wines from the estate intended for more casual consumption. The local name of the area where the estate is situated, Bidini, is drawn from the ancient root Bidis. This in turn referred to the name of a group of early Hellenic settlers who populated the area nearly 20 centuries ago. These wines provide a purity and authenticity reflective of the philosophy of the estate, all at an affordable price.

**WINES** | Case Ibidini Insolia, Nero d'Avola

Valle dell'Acate Insolia, Il Frappato, Cerasuolo DOCG, Tané (Nero d'Avola and Syrah)



## trriage wines

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