



THE OLD VINE CONFERENCE

MAY 2023

## FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO HOSTS SECOND OLD VINE CONFERENCE FIELDTRIP

In April Feudi di San Gregorio, leaders in the Italian movement to protect, preserve and make wines from old vines, hosted The Old Vine Conference and a group of international wine trade and media on a three-day immersive field trip to study ancient vines in Campania and Basilicata. The Old Vine Conference's second field trip brought together leaders in the realm of ancient Italian vineyards to discuss and examine the best practices for growing, protecting, and promoting old vines and their wines. Guest speakers included Professor Attilio Scienza, Vine Master Pruner Pierpaolo Sirch, Antonio Capaldo, Sarah Abbott MW and Viviana Malafarina.

Feudi di San Gregorio operates a total of 300 hectares, of which approximately 50 hectares are small vineyard plots that are over 100 years old. Their single vineyard wine, Serpico, is produced from 150-year-old, pre-phylloxera, ungrafted vines in Taurasi which stand over 2.5 metres tall with criss-crossing shoots that reach a length of 4 to 5 metres. This open-air museum, the 'Dal Re' vineyard, is recognized as home to some of the most exciting and prized vines in all of Irpinia and together with Prof. Attilio Scienza and the University of Milan, Feudi have invested in identifying these specimens, to preserve, catalogue and study their potential, in a research project known as "The Patriarchs". *"We came close to losing a priceless genetic treasure,"* says Antonio Capaldo, Feudi di San Gregorio's Chairman, *"but instead it has become part of our heritage."*

Guests on the field trip were treated to a pruning seminar lead by Vine Master Pruner Pieropaolo Sirch in Feudi's treasured Dal Re vineyard. Later the group was joined by Italian media and sommeliers for a lecture on how viticultural practices past and present can help us preserve heritage by Prof. Scienza, a marketing workshop on building the old vine category led by Antonio Capaldo and a tasting Masterclass by Sarah Abbott MW.

*"It was an incredible honour and pleasure to host an Old Vine Conference field trip. At Feudi di San Gregorio and Basilisco, we are incredibly lucky to have unique ungrafted vines over a century old and we believe that this heritage remains the key for our future. Connecting with wine professionals interested in this movement has been a tremendous opportunity to further our thoughts on the future strategy to enhance the incredible value represented by our patriarchs."* **Antonio Capaldo, Chairman, Feudi di San Gregorio.**

**Sarah Abbott MW, co-founder of The Old Vine Conference** led a powerful tasting of old vine wines from the region and around the world: *"I've always believed that old vines are the most powerful story wine has, and this field trip only deepened that belief. Spending time with these ancient vines of Aglianico in Irpinia and Basilicata was revelatory, and moving. And the wines were sensational. I*

*learned so much from my fellow students, and from Pierpaolo Sirch, Viviana Malafarina and Prof Attilio Scienza.”*

The Old Vine Conference was established by Masters of Wine Sarah Abbott and Alun Griffiths, and Leo Austin to create a globally recognised category for old vines and their wines. In the two years since it was founded The Old Vine Conference has gathered a worldwide following and contributed exponentially to the awareness, understanding and support of the global old vine movement through the establishment of a varied programme of activities including international field trips to wineries and vineyards like Feudi di San Gregorio, that are home to some of the world’s oldest and richest viticultural heritage.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

**About Feudi di San Gregorio:** Since its foundation back in 1986, Feudi di San Gregorio winery has been enhancing the value of indigenous Campania grape varieties such as Greco, Fiano and Aglianico. The winery has studied and researched its terroir, Irpinia (the central part of Campania), which is historically well-suited to growing vines of the highest quality. Today, Feudi works over 300 hectares of vineyards fragmented in over 800 plots which differ in altitude, exposure and slope. Each parcel is specifically studied and vinified to magnify Irpinia diversity potential and allow the creation of its extraordinary crus. Feudi is today the leading winery in southern Italy and the experience has prompted the Capaldo family to explore the wine potential of other regions of Italy too, as part of the “Tenute Capaldo” project which encompasses a series of wineries with the same founding values of long-term vision, a local approach, and a client- centric culture. The Group spans the following territories: DUBL – a classic method sparkling wine from Campania; Campo alle Comete – a bulwark of Tuscany from Bolgheri; Basilisco – an organic winery in the Vulture area (Basilicata). All of these wineries share the same values of making fine wines as a product of their local terroir.

In May 2021, Feudi di San Gregorio changed its legal status into a Benefit Company with the ultimate aim of safeguarding and promoting the natural environment, and the social and cultural heritage of the Irpinian territory and its community. In August 2021 it has obtained the Equalitas Corporate certification and from now on is part of the B Corp Community.

**About The Old Vine Conference:** The OVC is a non-profit organisation based in the UK and funded by a community of producer, distributor, generic body, and private individual members. Membership of The Old Vine Conference is an impactful way to safeguard global old vine heritage, and its priceless ecological and cultural value of which Feudi di San Gregorio has been an active member since 2021.

### **Wines tasted in the tutored masterclass:**

1. 2022 Vineyard Collection Carignan Gris, Domaine Jones, Vin de France, Roussillon (*Age of vines: 120 yrs*)
2. 2019 Aciniell’ Roviello Bianco, Fratelli Addimanda, Taurasi, Italy (*Age of vines: 150yrs & 2009 plantings of cuttings & grafted buds from the 150y/o vines*)
3. 2019 Lison Classico DOCG, Villa Bogdano, Veneto, Italy (*Age of vines: 80 yrs. Certified Organic*)
4. 2021 Old Vine Pale Rosé Lot 113, Garage Wine Co., Maule Valley, Chile (*Age of vines: 75+ years*)
5. 2020 Barbera d’Asti DOCG, Vigne Vecchie, 50 year Anniversary, Vinchio Vaglio, Piedmont, Italy (*Age of vines: 50+ years*)

6. 2019 Vieilles Vignes Cinsault, Domaine des Tourelles, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon (*Age of vines: 70 years*)
7. 2020 Quinta do Crasto Reserva Old Vines, Douro DOC, Portugal (*Age of vines: average 70yrs*)
8. 2017 Numanthia, Bodega Numanthia, Toro DO, Spain (*Vine age: 50 & 100 yrs*)
9. 2021 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel, Ridge Vineyards, Sonoma Valley, USA (*Age of vines: between 90 & 120yrs*)
10. 2020 Catena Zapata Malbec Argentino, Mendoza, Argentina (*Age of vines: 26 yrs/90 yrs (50/50)*)
11. 2013 Basilisco Storico, Aglianico del Vulture Superiore DOCG, Campania, Italy (*Age of vines: 80 yrs*)
12. 2015 Serpico, Feudi di San Gregorio, Irpinia DOC, Campania, Italy (*Age of vines: 100+ yrs, ungrafted*)

**Images:**

Royalty free images of the trip are available to download in the [following dropbox](#).

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