

OVER 550 WINES REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE 78



# WINE ENTHUSIAST<sup>®</sup>

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PHOTO COURTESY BOCELLI WINES

Andrea Bocelli (left) and his brother, Alberto, among the family's vines.

## ANDREA BOCELLI

**The singer sits down with *Wine Enthusiast* to discuss his family's vineyard, how to pair opera and vino, and his post-tour ritual.**

**A**ndrea Bocelli is known worldwide for his beautiful renditions of operatic classics as well as pop songs, including duets with Jennifer Lopez and Nelly Furtado on his latest album, *Passione*. In addition to near-constant touring, the opera star serves as the ambassador for Bocelli Family Wines. His family has made wine on its Tuscan estate since 1881, and the wines are now available in the U.S.

**WINE ENTHUSIAST:** What are some of your early memories of the family property?

**ANDREA BOCELLI:** As a child, for me, the vineyards were a game, a place of discovery.

My brother and I would often play in the vines. I also spent time cutting grapes during the harvest, working alongside the laborers. We shared the scents of the earth, the joys of life in the country.

**W.E.:** How involved are you with Bocelli Family Wines?

**AB:** While my brother Alberto and I make major decisions together, such as new plantings and vineyard extensions, and we taste wines together during the year as the wines develop, I'm not involved in the day-to-day operations. It is my role to present these wines so people can know how wonderful they are. But I joke that I am the "official taster."

**W.E.:** When you're on tour, what are your favorite regions for wine and food?

**AB:** They say, "wine makes you sing," and it's true. Wine releases music that comes from inside us, a surge of joy, eupho-

ria, and the need to express ourselves beyond words. But wine certainly doesn't help one sing well, especially for concerts! Therefore, when I tour, I do not often partake in rich foods and wine. That said, when my tour is over, one of the first things I do is to enjoy a bottle. As for food, Tuscany, is a veritable gold mine. I love the flavors, our cheese, our bread; I love sausages, especially when handmade; garden vegetables, and of course the pasta.

**W.E.:** What are some of the wines in your home cellar?

**AB:** I have a well-stocked cellar, which holds bottles from Burgundy, white wines of Friuli, Brunello, and also wines from Bolgheri.

**W.E.:** If you were to relax at home and drink a bottle of wine while listening to an opera, what is the opera, and what is the wine?

**AB:** First of all, it is worth mentioning those immortal masterpieces of opera that sing about wine. Just think of the famous *brindisi* from Verdi's *La Traviata* and the equally well-known *Cavalleria Rusticana*. If I had to pick a wine to enjoy while listening to *La Traviata*, I'd pour our Bocelli Prosecco, of course, while *Cavalleria Rusticana* might best be paired with the intense Sangiovese flavor of our Terre di Sandro, named after my father.

—MIKE DESIMONE AND JEFF JENSSEN