



## ***Italy, Sicily, Etna: Eruptions, Excitement, Elegance & Electricity***

-Monica Larner - Oct. 2021

### TENUTA TASCANTE

92

**TENUTA TASCANTE “Buonora” Etna Bianco DOC 2020** – Boasting handsome forest-green packaging, the Tenuta Tascante 2020 Etna Bianco Buonora reveals a lean, almost transparent appearance with a dim spot of golden sunlight. The wine puts big emphasis on its mineral side with gorgeous definition and sharp tones of crushed oyster shell and aspirin, followed by faintly fruity and citrusy tones. In fact, more than fruit, the bouquet veers toward white flowers and jasmine, with a hint of white pepper. I love this minimalist, elegant style from Etna, and it should be interesting to see how this release of 25,000 bottles fleshes out with time. At the moment, it would make a great aperitivo with delicate crab cakes.

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**TENUTA TASCANTE “Tefra” Etna Rosato DOC 2020** – Showing a light pink color with raspberry and copper highlights, the Tenuta Tascante 2020 Etna Rosato Tefra is a new wine from the Tasca family of Sicily’s leading winery, Tasca Conti d’Almerita. Rosé wines can sometimes feel indistinguishable one from another, but not this bottle from Etna. Volcanic growing conditions add an especially bright and cooling effect to the wine, with pronounced focus and linear, mineral tones. The fruit is downplayed and elegant with white cherry, grapefruit and cassis. I also love that hint of glossy latex or natural rubber that translates to the wine’s mid-weight texture. About 7,000 bottles were released.

92

**TENUTA TASCANTE “Ghiaia Nera” Etna Rosso DOC 2019** – Pouring from the bottle with a thin, light ruby color, the 2019 Etna Rosso Nerello Mascalese Ghiaia Nera is a finely textured wine. This delicate approach and those soft footprints make this bottle quite exciting to pour, especially as an easy companion to a homemade pasta dish. It offers wild cherry, tart berry, cassis, crushed stone, smoke and lavender essence. With 50,000 bottles produced, you get great value here.

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**TENUTA TASCANTE Contrada Pianodario Etna Rosso DOC 2017** – A lovely red for a porcini recipe, the 2017 Etna Rosso Contrada Pianodario reveals a delicate and silky fiber with a fine embroidery of red fruit, cassis, smoke, tar and pressed flowers. The Tasca take on Etna underlines purity and elegance, and there are few extra bells, whistles or other distractions. The wine brings you to the essence of the volcano with some hot-vintage ripeness and roundness. Pianodario is located in Randazzo on the northern side of Etna.

94+

**TENUTA TASCANTE Contrada Rampante Etna Rosso DOC 2017** – There is a lot of aromatic definition to the Tenuta Tascante 2017 Etna Rosso Contrada Rampante. The wine reveals a distinct and unique personality, with a slightly higher degree of natural richness, concentration and textural power, which is due to the warm vintage. The vines are planted in eroded volcanic ash and soils, meaning that they have been broken down into ashy dust and smaller particles over the centuries. The bouquet offers red cassis, wild cherry and toasted fennel seed. It should be interesting to see how this lovely wine progresses over time.

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**TENUTA TASCANTE Contrada Sciaranuova Etna Rosso DOC 2017** – The Tenuta Tascante 2017 Etna Rosso Contrada Sciaranuova also comes from the Randazzo village, where the volcanic geology is quite complex, with new and ancient lava flows that crisscross and where viticulture transitions to important pistachio nut farming. This delicate wine opens to a mild ruby color and offers pretty notes of wild plum, dark cherry, tarry smoke and campfire ash. And yes, there is a distinctive touch of toasted nut or pistachio. The tannins are firm in this wine, revealing important staying power to the palate. Serve it with a cheese-and-honey platter with slices of fresh bread and savor those nutty notes.

95+

**TENUTA TASCANTE Contrada Sciaranuova Vigna Vecchia Etna Rosso DOC 2017** – Made with fruit from old vines, the Tenuta Tascante 2017 Etna Rosso Contrada Sciaranuova V.V. is powerful and delicate at the same time, and it strikes a careful balance between these two opposing forces. This is one of the biggest compliments you can give to a wine from Etna, one of the most dramatic and violent winemaking panoramas on Earth. This lovely Nerello Mascalese shows aromas of cherry and wild rose with toasted nut, scorched earth and lavender essence. The concentration and staying power from those old vines add considerably to the depth, tannic power and complexity of this age-worthy bottle.