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89 PTS
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TASTING NOTES

Warm and full, with an elegant finish of bitter almonds and raisins.

Vecchio Florio

Marsala Secco Dry

COUNTRY	ABV	APPELLATION
Italy	18%	DOC Marsala
REGION	VARIETALS	
Sicily	85% Grillo, 15% Catarratto	

WINERY

The Duca di Salaparuta Group, gathered together by the Reina family, consists of three historic wine brands (Duca di Salaparuta, Corvo, and Florio) and today constitutes the largest private wine group in Sicily. Founded in 1833 by Vincenzo Florio, the Florio Winery in Marsala looks out towards the bright sea of western, or "occidental," Sicily. Made from the Trapani area, Grillo is a vine rich in history with characteristics that have given it the lead role in Marsala production. Marsala has been produced for more than 200 years, a famous Italian fortified wine named after the Sicilian city it belongs to. The birth of Marsala dates back to the late 1700s when John Woodhouse, a famous English merchant, arrived on the island and was "conquered" by wine, bringing back 60 casks. To keep the wine good over the course of his journey, he added brandy, and thus, Marsala was born. A consequence of the Continental Blockade in 1807, an embargo against British trade by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Marsala trade gained favor, and many English traders landed in Sicily to produce the famous wine. Vincenzo Florio himself founded his cellar in 1833, which over the years has become a predominant reference for the production of Marsala.

Currently, the Florio cellars house around 80% of Italy's production of the real Marsala, the basis of which starts almost exclusively from the Grillo grape. In the Trapani area, located on the coastline of western Sicily, are vineyards set in the sunny countryside chosen for their hillside position near the sea. After careful selection of the bunches in the field, the grapes arrive in the cellar where they are fermented in concrete tanks. At the end of fermentation, the fortification — or as Florio calls it, the "falling in love" — between alcohol and wine takes place. Using micro-oxygenation techniques, The Florio Winery contains varied kinds of oak that add personality and color to the maturing Marsala. Unexpected and original, it's space, time, and oxygen that breathe life into the rich complexity of Florio wines.

CULTIVATION

Typical Marsala bush-trained vines, density of at least 5,000 plants per hectare.

VINIFICATION

Pressing of the grapes with a high sugar content to pass the precious substances found in the skins to the must. Fermentation at a controlled temperature and blend of the resulting wine with fortified must, cooked must and wine-brandly.

AGING

Aged in old oak barrels for 30 months — well above the requirements of its DOC specification — in the tranquillity of the centuries-old vaults of the Florio Wine Cellars.



Col Solivo

Prosecco Extra Dry

COUNTRY	ABV
Italy	XX%
REGION	VARIETALS
Veneto	Glera
APPELLATION	Second Varietal
Prosecco	Third Varietal
	Fourth Varietal

WINERY

Col Solivo is a joint venture between Charles Lazzara (owner of Volio) and Fattoria Il Palagio back in 2008. The idea came about as Charles was searching for an entry-level Prosecco to compete locally for the coveted by the glass pour for weekend brunch business in the Colorado restaurant scene. The owners of Il Palagio offered some contacts they had in the Veneto region of Italy, home to Prosecco. After several visits to Italy and dozens of winery tastings the final blend was made and Col Solivo was created.

The style is Extra Dry, so there is a creamy mid-palate to this wine with fine perlage to the bubbles. The wine has some residual sugar, as required for Extra Dry classification, which helps round out some of the citrus fruit and provide balance to the wine. It is a crowd pleasing, affordable sparkling wine created with the idea of enjoyment and drinkability.

CULTIVATION

Soil is limestone and clay. The must, obtained by very soft pressing, undergoes an initial fermentation at a controlled temperature of 10°C (50°F).

VINIFICATION

The base wine is then transferred into pressurized stainless steel tanks where the wine is made sparkling using the traditional Charmat method.

AGING

Aged in stainless steel for six months.

TASTING NOTES

This shimmering straw colored Prosecco boasts delicate bubbles and enticing aromas of green apple, lemon zest and spring flowers. Just barely off-dry, Col Solivo is full of juicy ripe pear, golden delicious apple, bright citrus and a hint of almond and vanilla bean. It is hard to beat the quality of this wine for the price. A great Prosecco to start or end a meal, raise a toast or mix with fresh-squeezed orange juice for the perfect mimosa.