

# PANIZZI

Giovanni Panizzi was a Certified Public Accountant from Milano who purchased the Estate Santa Margherita in San Gimignano in 1979. San Gimignano - half way between Florence and Siena, 34 miles east of the Tuscan coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea - is the town famous for its Middle Age towers (over 70 in the splendor time, around 1250-1300) and for the wine: Vernaccia di San Gimignano, made with the grapes of the same name. This white wine was the first to obtain in 1966 the DOC (Denominazione di Origine Controllata) recognition in Italy and from 1993 is DOCG. Vernaccia has a long historical past; it is mentioned in the city tax records of 1276; Dante Alighieri writes in the *Purgatory* of Pope Martin IV (d. 1285) who liked eels and Vernaccia. It was served at the table of Lorenzo il Magnifico.

A new winery was built in 1989, followed by subsequent expansions. The estate covers 112 acres of vineyards & 35 of olive groves, on hills at an elevation of 820-1150 ft. with south, south-east exposure.

The quality of his Vernaccia of San Gimignano is acclaimed by the Italian press and as a result his production depletes very quickly.

Giovanni Panizzi commuted between Milano and San Gimignano every week until the end of 1994. The success of his wine has forced him to move permanently at that time to San Gimignano.

Great care is given to the vineyard; progressively he has increased the density to 5000 vines per hectare (2025 per acre) and in his passion he is assisted by his friend Salvatore Maule, a known enologist.

**The Manhattan of the Middle-Age:** a proper definition of San Gimignano due to its 13 "skyscrapers", less than one hour from Florence driving south to Poggibonsi (Florence-Siena highway) and then west.

**The name VERNACCIA** is probably derived from the name of a Ligurian town in the area of the Cinque-terre, Vernazza. In support of this theory, several experts say that the variety originated in Liguria and was successively introduced into Tuscany at San Gimignano.

**The production zone** includes ONLY the territory of the commune of San Gimignano.

**TIP:** The geometry of the towers of San Gimignano and of the rectangular shape of their stones inspired Giovanni in designing the label. - **Tel # of Panizzi: 0577 941-576**



Giovanni (Gianni) Panizzi and the towers of San Gimignano as seen from his vineyards.

