



PRESS RELEASE

VALLE DELL'ACATE CONQUERS THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE SAKURA JAPAN WOMEN'S WINE AWARD

Acate, February 24th 2016 – Valle dell'Acate, the historic winery located in Sicily's province of Ragusa and run by Gaetana Jacono, **has conquered the gold medal at the Sakura Japan Women's Wine Awards 2016**", the international wine competition whose jury is composed exclusively of women.

Valle dell'Acate distinguished itself with its **DOCG Cerasuolo di Vittoria "Classico"**, the cellar's top red wine, produced with a blend of 60% Nero d'Avola and 40% Frappato. A wine which is produced from vines planted on the "Red Soil" of the "Bidini Sopra" high plateau. The wine is aged both in casks and in 500 liter puncheons for twelve months and then for a least nine months in bottle before release. This Cerasuolo is an intense and brilliant cherry red in color and shows aromas of red berry fruit, ripe cherries, and hints of spices such as vanilla, liquorice, and chocolate. The palate is full, the texture of the tannins velvety, and the flavors fragrant and persistent.

"I am very happy with this prize, which I consider a further confirmation of the end of the monopoly of the Nero d'Avola grape. The Cerasuolo d'Avola controlled appellation (DOCG) is the maximum expression of our territory, the province of Ragusa, fruit of the marriage between the elegant Nero d'Avola and the fragrant Frappato. It is certainly a wine which allows excellent matches with the cuisines of distant countries, it goes extremely well, for example, with spicy dishes and exemplifies a modern way of drinking, fresher, less concentrated, conceived to go hand in hand with food without dominating it" – commented Gaetana Jacono who, in addition to being the owner of the winery, is also the **Brand Ambassador del Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG and of the territory of Ragusa**, an important recognition for someone such as her, totally committed to and constantly occupied with carrying the message of her native ground far beyond its confines.

The Cerasuolo di Vittoria, in particular, distinguished itself in this Japanese wine competition among the 3,54 wines offered from 35 different countries. There were 1498 prizes awarded in all: 615 silver medals, 704 gold medals, and 179 double gold medals.

The important participation at the Sakura Japan Women's Wine Award, along with the award given to the Cerasuolo di Vittoria, produced by a winery run by a woman, demonstrate, in addition, to what extent the culture of wine is more and more widespread among **women**. And in the Far East as well. The Sakura competition, in fact, is organized by Yumi Tanabe, a professional in the wine sector who is assisted by 340 "wine women": sommeliers, journalists, and entrepreneurs.

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