

Week of 07-22-08

Red Bag Clues:

You rule southern ... with quiet strength, from a knarly throne perched high in the hills of Campania. While you choose to govern with the humility one would expect from an Oenotrian deity, we shouldn't mistake this for a demure personality. For those poor impetuous souls that have dared to imbibe your vinous wares before they were ready, your vengeance has been a tannic bolt aimed at their palate.¹

Grape?

Considered one of this country's three noble grapes.

Originated in Greece.

Some different possible origins on the name: *Vitis hellenica*, *Apulianicum* or *Ellenico*.

I like the last one the best, meaning Greek and very similar to the name of the grape.

This grape thrives in volcanic soils.

Region?

2,000 indigenous varieties in a country roughly the size of Arizona.

This DOC is known for its inactive volcano.

DOC since 1971.

Only this one grape may be used in this DOC.

This region is said to have great healing properties due to its consistent climate.

Producer?

They grow these grapes straddling the caldera of a volcano.

The winemaker is a professor at a nearby university.

The vines are Cordon-trained (the main vine stem is laid horizontally, parallel to the ground, and trellis wires upon which are trained new buds, helping to both limit vine yields and reduce rot).

Year?

Sous Chef Kevin says he was in this country that year.

Answer – Tenuta le Querce **Aglianico** 2004 Aglianico del Vulture
"ah-LYAH-nee-koe" vull-TORE-ay



Aglianico vines near Barile that grow straddling the caldera of the volcano Vulture produce striking reds with spice, unique licorice and dark cherry casts and an unfeigned sense of rusticity. Craftsmanship by the Pietrafesa family is sparing no expenses in the field work, the winery, or in the bottle results. Il Viola shows the purity cast with a small amount of wood, Rosso di Costanza is selective fruit in barriques, and the Vigna della Corona is the best high altitude vine with 38 day maceration and eighteen months of wood. New wave wines of old world reality and power.

2001, but good info. - http://www.pjwine.com/html/wow_05_02_21.html

¹ <http://wine.appellationamerica.com/grape-varietal/Aglianico.html>