

FUORISTRADA

Sowing the seed in 2003, Michael Schmelzer, who is American, moved to Italy with his family and purchased 10ha of organic vineyards, in the “belly button of Chianti Classico” at Monte Bernardi. When he planted in 2005 and began farming biodynamically, he did not yet know what it would entail or how difficult it would be, but he did know that conventional vineyards tend to spray when it rains, to help prevent the grapes from rotting, and that these chemicals simply wash off of the vines and into the soil. He decided that if he built from the roots—from the base up—then he would have healthy vines that were less frequently inundated with mold and pests.

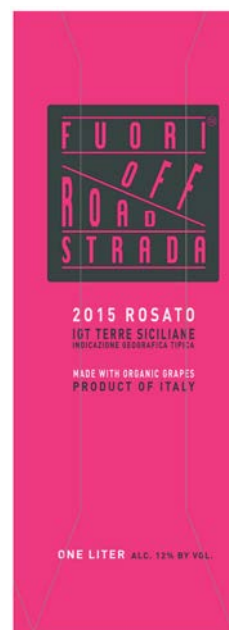


And though he has always made vegan wines, he just recently started to market the practice on his Tetra Paks. With conventional wines, there is a list of over 200 ingredients that can legally be added, including fish bladder and gelatin from hooves (!). With organic wines, the list is limited to 50 or 60 optional ingredients. Michael chooses to add nothing but grapes and a small amount of sulfur to his wines—only 70 parts to his white wines and 45 parts to his reds. (Organically certified wines are allowed up to 100 parts of sulfur.)

Knowing that the average consumer might not expect such high quality wines in Tetra Paks, Michael said, “How quickly this is successful is determined by how people sell them. If a retailer puts them in the ‘bag-in-a-box’ section, then the people for whom the wine is intended won’t buy it.”

T. EDWARD
NEW YORK

ROSATO



Varietal/Blend: Nero d’Avola

Farming: Organic certified negociant, no herbicides or pesticides

Fermentation: in stainless steel vats

Alcohol: 13%

Soil: sand, silt and clay

Vine Age: 10 years

Yeast: selected

Fined: Bentonite clay

Filtered: yes

Production #s: 25,000 liter tetra-packs

An easy drinking rosé with fresh aromas of sour cherry and forest fruits. With a delicate finish and refreshing acidity, this wine is ready for the park.

Country: Italy

Region: Sicily

Vineyard: single vineyard at Camporeale

Vineyard Size: 8ha, above 3,250 meters