

# PODERE POGGIO SCALETTE

## RUFFOLI - GREVE IN CHIANTI



### HISTORY

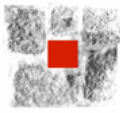
**PODERE POGGIO SCALETTE** became an autonomous wine-producing estate in **1991** when *Vittorio Fiore* and his wife *Adriana Assjè di Marcorà* acquired several plots of land and a rural building on the hill of **Ruffoli** in the township of **Greve in Chianti**, in the very heart of the Chianti Classico appellation. The property came from the division of an heredity and the sale of property consisting of old stone farmhouses, vineyard land, olive groves, pasture land, and woods which had been abandoned years previously after the death of the former owner.

The first part of the estate was thus constituted and was enlarged shortly afterwards in **1996** with the addition of an adjacent property endowed with functional cellars and ample working spaces creating, with this acquisition, a **40 hectare (100 acre) property** sub-divided as follows:

- Vineyards 15,00 ha
- Olive groves 10,00 ha
- Grain fields 2,00 ha
- Woods 5,00 ha
- Buildings and uncultivated area 8,00 ha

The estate is directly run by son **Jurij** (a graduate of the *School of Viticulture and Oenology of Beaune in Burgundy*) with the overall supervision of Vittorio. The marketing of the wines, instead, has been assigned to son **Alessandro** for export markets.





## THE TERRITORY

The town of **Greve in Chianti** takes its name from the stream (the Greve, as it called by local residents) which runs through and whose tributaries are to be found in the hills which encircle this medieval hamlet, historically one of the **major centres of production of Chianti Classico wine**.

The slopes of the Greve river valley between the town and the neighbouring hamlet of Panzano, the west-facing hill of Ruffoli, is unanimously considered one of the finest of all sites for the cultivation of the vine and the olive, for obtaining maximum qualitative expression, and for producing the great wines of Chianti Classico and the splendid **extra-virgin olive oil** of the zone.

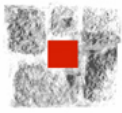
“**Alta Valle della Greve**” (Upper Valley of the Greve) is the **IGT** (Typical Geographical Indication) utilized for the first wines to be produced by **Podere Poggio Scalette**, an estate situated in this small area between Greve and Panzano in Chianti, in the center of an ample area for the production of Chianti Classico wine.

The vineyards and olive groves of **Podere Poggio Scalette** are located in a strip of land between 350 and 550 meters (1150-1800 feet) above sea level, a property which takes its name from the configuration of the hillside slopes, characterized as they are by lovely dry stone walls which sustain terraces of varying sizes. On these terraces vines or olive trees are planted according to the characteristics of the soil; seen from afar they give the impression of a series of staircase steps which climb the slopes of the hill of Ruffoli.



## THE VITICULTURAL PATRIMONY

On these terraces and on an ample plot of vineyards, called by the local peasantry “**IL CARBONAIONE**” are planted the **Sangiovese** vines which – as has been discovered - were the first to be planted in the decade following the **First World War (1915-1918)**, after the destruction of the largest part of Europe’s vineyards by the phylloxera plague which struck in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



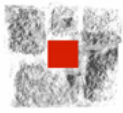
We are dealing, therefore, of vines **which have reached the venerable age of more than 80 years** and which constitute, without the slightest doubt, one of the rarest (if not the sole) example of a Tuscan vineyard with this age, prevalently composed of an important member of the large Sangiovese family known by the name of **“Sangiovese di Lamole”** and born in the territory of the Chianti Classico appellation. This first nucleus, five hectares (12.5 acres) in size, was joined by a second in 1996, other Sangiovese vineyards planted during the 1960's and 1970's and, again, five hectares in size. New vineyards began to be planted in the new millennium to bring the overall surface under vine – in 2007 – to an area of approximately 15 hectares (37 acres). Of this vineyard surface a bit more than a hectare is registered as an **“Alta Valle della Greve” IGT**, with a small portion of **white Chardonnay and Trebbiano grapes**, while the rest is carried on the official **Chianti Classico** appellation (**DOCG**) rolls. In this context, during the course of the planting operations for the latest vineyards, principally Sangiovese, a small parcel of **Merlot** (5,000 square meters - or a bit less than two acres, planted on 1996) to be used for the **PIANTONAIA** wine **was planted along with four rows**, respectively, of **Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Merlot** (1000 vines each, planted in 2004) and utilized for **CAPOGATTO**. In another micro-area, approximately 1500 vines of **Chardonnay** were planted, to be used for **RICHIARI**. The **Trebbiano**, which comes from our oldest vineyard of Il Carbonaione, together with a portion of the Chardonnay are used to produce the **CHIARA AURORA**.



## SAVOIR FAIRE

The secret for obtaining the finest quality results from the grapes which have been cultivated is to **plant the vineyard in the right spot**. Producing wine is a peasant art, made up of patience and foresight of imaging the vineyard before planting the young vines and preparing for them a welcoming place, one where they will feel at home and live for many years, accompanied by the love, the care, and the patience of a special person: the **grower-producer**.





## VITTORIO FIORE

**Vittorio Fiore** was born at **Fortezza** in the province of Bolzano and lived the years of his childhood in this spot, in full contact with the natural beauties which surrounds this marvellous area, an experience which perhaps inspired his decision to dedicate his studies to agriculture and the natural world.

After completing his professional preparation, first at **San Michele all'Adige** and then at the **Oenological School of Conegliano Veneto**, he began his professional career, working at various wine-producing firms in northern Italy in the early 1960's.

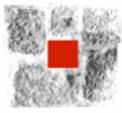
In 1970 he was charged with general direction of the **Association of Italian Oeno-Technicians** (today the *Association of Italian Oenologists*), a position which he held until the end of the 1970's when he decided to move to Tuscany. In this period – **thanks as well as various study trips abroad** – he **developed a wider awareness and knowledge of the viticultural and oenological world**, increasing as well his technical preparation and capabilities.



**He arrived in Tuscany in 1979** and began the type of professional career which he had, first among colleagues, conceived in the 1960's: **the oenologist as consultant, as a free professional**. And thus began to work with various wine producing properties which, from his experience, drew inspiration to renew and re-conceive their work both from the viticultural and the oenological point of view.

**For this contribution he is unanimously considered one of the major figures in the successful re-foundation of Tuscan viticulture**, to the point that the regional government, the Institute for Foreign Commerce, and the Enoteca Italiana of Siena frequently avail themselves of his services as world-wide ambassador for the promotion and the diffusion of knowledge of Italian wine.

From 2003 to 2008 he was a **member of the Commission of Appeal for the appellation (DOC and DOCG) wines of central Italy** at the Ministry of Agricultural and Forest Policies; he was also



named **professor** and chair holder of the course of **Sensory Analysis** for doctoral candidates in Viticulture and Oenology at the **Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Pisa**.

After many years of consulting work and of wines for other producers, **he was able, in 1992, to realize a long-held dream: that of creating his own proprietary wine estate**. Together with his wife Adriana **he acquired**, in that year, the **Podere Poggio Scalette** farm on the Ruffoli hill in the township of Greve in Chianti, which in a short space of time became one of Tuscany's, and Italy's, most prestigious wine estates. Thanks as well to the crucial contribution of his son **Jurij**, a professional winemaker trained at Beaune in Burgundy, who runs the property and his son **Alessandro**, with a long experience of living abroad, the abroad marketing aspects.

Today Vittorio Fiore continues, in addition, his consulting work with the numerous and important estates with which he collaborates.