



For Vittorio Moretti and his daughter, Francesca, who discovered this beautiful seaside estate while on vacation nearby, the dream came true. In 1997 the pair founded this small boutique winery in Maremma Toscana in Suvereto, where the hills of Val di Cornia rise toward the Colline Metallifere.

Three hundred hectares make up the peaceful estate, although only a third is planted with vineyards. Sitting on the edge of the Tirreno Sea, they're constantly caressed by the breezes blowing in off the Follonica Gulf. The soil of the steep slopes here (which form part of the Colline Metallifere, or "Metal-Yielding Hills") is particularly mineral-rich and ruddy colored, leading to strong-willed, complex wines. The vineyards' layout, which is a patchwork of different varieties (Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Petit Verdot, Syrah and Cabernet Franc) seemingly strewn about randomly, is no coincidence. The arrangement is based on long and careful studies of the soil, wind, sun and climate conditions in each area of the estate.

Only the vines most suited to a particular area were planted there.

Deep consideration went into the creation of the spectacularly designed winery as well. A stunning contemporary structure designed by the famed Swiss architect Mario Botta (who also designed the San Francisco Museum of ModernArt), it uses sweeping lines and a ruddy, earth-toned color scheme to complement its environment. The building digs 500 feet deep to create a state-of-the-art cellar, while above ground it is a poetic addition to this land of groves and vineyards. The four high-end wines made here -- Ebo, Petra, Quercegobbe and Zingari -- are known for being expressive, aromatic wines with a fresh modern style.

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