



**Lodovico** is a rare, unexpected assemblage from our Biserno estate. We had previously identified parcels of the estate that were particularly conducive to the cultivation of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, but we only recently discovered within that micro-climate and terroir an even more special parcel, Vigna Lodovico, that has been yielding superior, singular results. It then became immediately clear to everyone involved that this unique character must be fostered, that this individual expression demanded to be crafted. Lodovico, an extraordinary wine, is only available in extremely small quantities through exclusive wine merchants.

**Classification:** Indicazione Geografica Tipica di Toscana

**Grapes:** Majority of Cabernet Franc, and, in very small quantities Petit Verdot.

**Vineyards:** Soil type is part clay, part Bolgheri conglomerate. Vines were planted in 2002. Training is *cordone speronato* (spurred cordon). Density is 6,500 vine stocks per hectare (2,361/acre).

**Harvest:** Mid-September to early-October 2008. All harvesting is done by hand into 15 kg crates.

**Vinification:** Grapes are strictly sorted on a vibrating belt at the cellar. They are then de-stemmed and soft crushed. Fermentation takes place in stainless-steel vats for three to four weeks at 28°C. 50% of the mass undergoes malolactic fermentation in barriques.

**Ageing:** The wine is aged for 18 months in new French oak barriques. The wine is aged for another 12 months in bottles before release.

#### Key Points

- First vintage: 2007
- Winemaker: Helena Lindberg
- Consultant: Michel Rolland
- Bottles produced: 8,000
- Format: 750 mL, magnum and double magnum
- Ageing potential: will age wonderfully for more than 20 years

#### Winemakers Tasting Notes, August 2011

Currently very tight and closed but, post decanting, a wine of many-layered complexity is revealed. There are high notes of Mediterranean herbs and flowers on the nose but, at this stage, the dominant aromas are of dark chocolate, liquorice and black cherries with well-integrated oak adding some dark spice.

The palate has the luxuriant, deep fruit the nose promises – blackcurrant and dark forest fruits - and exceptional intensity and length. This very fine vintage has produced such fresh acidity and ripe but fine tannins that the balance is as near perfect as man and nature can create.

Without doubt, the wine has the structure to develop wonderfully well over the next 20 years or more.