



Robert Parker's
Wine Advocate

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PASSOPISCIARO	2008	PASSOPISCIARO	SICILY	(\$46.00)	RED	93+
PASSOPISCIARO	2008	PASSOPISCIARO CONTRADA RAMPANTE	SICILY	(\$60.00)	RED	94
PASSOPISCIARO	2008	PASSOPISCIARO CONTRADA CHIAPPEMACINE	SICILY	(\$75.00)	RED	93
PASSOPISCIARO	2008	PASSOPISCIARO CONTRADA SCIARANUOVA	SICILY	(\$75.00)	RED	92
PASSOPISCIARO	2008	PASSOPISCIARO CONTRADA PORCARIA	SICILY	(\$90.00)	RED	93

The Etna is one of Italy's most fascinating emerging wine regions and Andrea Franchetti is arguably the area's most fanatic, driven producer. High altitude vineyards, volcanic soils, ancient indigenous grape varieties in Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio and a rediscovery of the uniqueness of these vineyards are among the reasons for the spectacular growth in interest the Etna has seen in recent years. In 2008 Franchetti bottled his single-vineyard Nerello Mascalese separately, resulting in four new wines, all of which are well worth discovering. The regular Passopisciario bottling doesn't seem to have suffered, as it is magnificent in this vintage. The 2008 Passopisciario emerges with gorgeous textural richness in its elegant, silky tannins. Despite its considerable concentration, the wine literally floats on the palate with layers of perfumed red fruits. Everything is perfectly balanced in this harmonious, utterly impeccable wine. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2022. The 2008 Passopisciario Contrada Rampante (from the estate's highest vineyards) is nothing short of spectacular. I imagine the Rampante could easily be mistaken for a Barbaresco in a blind tasting. Ripe red berries, flowers and minerals are supported by firm, yet beautifully integrated tannins. Sweet menthol and licorice linger on the impeccable finish. This is an impressive showing! Anticipated maturity: 2012-2022. The 2008

Passopisciario Contrada Chiappemacine is rich, dense and powerful in its dark red fruit. This is a more muscular, overtly fruit driven style than the Rampante. The intensity carries through to the long, powerful finish where persistent minerality notes add a dimension of clarity and freshness. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The 2008 Passopisciario Contrada Sciaranuova is another of the darker, richer wines in this lineup. Ripe red fruits, spices, and flowers come together in a style that combines elements of power and ethereality. There is terrific concentration and depth in the glass, even if the Sciaranuova seems to have lost of the distinct personality and direction of some of the estate's other 2008s. Still, it is impossible not to be impressed by the wine's sheer overall balance. The Sciaranuova is made from vines adjacent to Guardiola, the Contrada that is the base for the estate's straight Passopisciario bottling. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The 2008 Passopisciario Contrada Porcaria stands apart from the other 2008 single-vineyard bottlings in its dark, sensual fruit and masculine personality. Sweet menthol, spices and minerals develop in the glass, adding further shades of nuance to this decidedly virile, dark Nerello Mascalese. The finish is rich, dense and totally convincing. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2026. Importer: Tom Edward Wine, New York, NY; tel. (212) 233-1504