



JANCIS ROBINSON
ON WINE

It was like unpolluted mountain viticulture in a bottle – it was also the cheapest of the lot

Passopisciaro 2004 IGT Sicilia, Italy

The maker of this wine has also featured on these pages: he is the

eccentric former hippie Andrea Franchetti, who has built Tenuta di Trinoro of southern Tuscany into a cult Bordeaux blend depending heavily on Cabernet Franc, even though the powerful American critic Robert Parker favoured his Merlot. This wine, first vintage 2002, is made from ancient stumps of Nerello Mascalese vines growing on the lava-strewn slopes of Mount Etna at up to 1,000m altitude. The palest red of the lot, it tastes very sweet but is then saved by a great revitalising cut of tannin on the finish. Very exotic, this wine oozes spicy flavours not found in the usual roster of international grape varieties. Although the latitude is the same as north Africa, nights are cool, even in August, and the area is currently attracting considerable interest from outside investors. From €24 in Italy, occasionally imported by Corney & Barrow of London.