



**MONICA LARNER**

28th Dec 2018 | The Wine Advocate | 240 (Dec '18)

As I have done in past years, my Etna reviews are being published in an article separate from my reviews from the main island of Sicily. I do this to draw attention to the Etna wine appellation that really is a world apart. Like the Sicily reviews, these wines were tasted in part at the Assovini Sicilia preview tasting in Palermo and at my home office in Rome.



*Here is a view of the Etna volcano and the city of Catania as seen from my airplane window seat a few moments after departure.*



*This is an ancient vine of Nerello Mascalese in the Contrada Feudo di Mezzo, one of the most celebrated single vineyards on the volcano. The photo of the vine in the banner image above is from the same site.*

(...)



*The old versus the new: Etna is home to startling examples of innovation and tradition. This abandoned Palmento (or wine press) is located inside Alberto Aiello Graci's winery in Passopisciaro. A new way of making wine on Etna includes these high-tech oak egg fermenters seen at Palmento Costanzo.*



*The volcanic soils of Etna include lava from newer flows and compressed ash and eroded material from ancient flows. The soils are mixed by composition but most importantly by age (of the lava flow), which can vary by thousands of years in a single vineyard site.*

(...)

## 2016 Passopisciaro • Contrada C

### Rating

90


### Release Price

\$55

### Drink Date

2019 - 2030

### Reviewed by

 [Monica Larner](#)

### Issue Date

28th Dec 2018

### Source

[240, The Wine Advocate](#)

Showing a dark color with medium saturation, the 2016 Contrada C delivers dark berry flavors with balanced spice, tar and smoke at the edges. From the Contrada Chiappemacine, this is a steady, slightly undertone expression from Andrea Franchetti. This wine is elegant and tight with firm tannins that are on the astringent side. Compared to other Contrada wines in this series, you get good power, extract and density here. Only 3,696 bottles were produced.

### Importer Information:

#### T Edward Wines

 66 W Broadway, Suite 406, New York, NY 10007  
 (212) 233-1504  
 [office@tedwardwines.com](mailto:office@tedwardwines.com)  
 [www.tedwardwines.com](http://www.tedwardwines.com)



## 2016 Passopisciario • Contrada G

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date
93	\$70	2019 - 2030

**Reviewed by**  
👤 [Monica Lerner](#)

**Issue Date**  
28th Dec 2018

**Source**  
[240, The Wine Advocate](#)

A pure expression of Nerello Mascalese from the Guardiola vineyard, the 2016 Contrada G is slightly tamer in appearance but more poignant and sharp in terms of aromas. The quality of those berry aromas is very clean and bright. You can easily distinguish cassis, dried cranberry and wild blackberry. Delicate tones of spice, cigar ash, scorched earth and crushed stone appear at the back. This wine is streamlined and elegant. Like the other wines in this series, it ages in large oak casks for 18 months. Some 3,700 bottles were released.

## 2016 Passopisciario • Contrada P

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date
93+	\$85	2019 - 2033

**Reviewed by**  
👤 [Monica Lerner](#)

**Issue Date**  
28th Dec 2018

**Source**  
[240, The Wine Advocate](#)

This wine is made with fruit from 80-year-old vines in the Contrada Porcaria. The 2016 Contrada P shows a beautiful appearance with glossy ruby highlights. In fact, this wine appears more luminous and bright compared to the other single-vineyard wines in this series. The aromas are focused and sharp, and maybe more direct in this concentrated expression. It would appear that the age of the vines has contributed to those elegant identifying characteristics. The finish shows dried cherry, licorice and grilled herb. Only 3,000 bottles were made.

## 2016 Passopisciario • Contrada R

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date
92	\$65	2018 - 2028

**Reviewed by**  
👤 [Monica Lerner](#)

**Issue Date**  
28th Dec 2018

**Source**  
[240, The Wine Advocate](#)

The 2016 Contrada R (the "R" stands for Rampante) delivers a glossy dark ruby appearance much like the Contrada P. The wine emits straight-shooting aromas with dark berry and wild cherry framed by smoke, tar, cigar smoke and scorched earth. You get some floral tones, like red rose petal as well. This wine is balanced and powerful, yet the tannic presence is more moderate, making this wine slightly more accessible. I'd suggest a near to medium-term drinking window. Some 3,300 bottles were made.

## 2016 Passopisciaro • Contrada S

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date
91	\$65	2019 - 2030
<b>Reviewed by</b> 👤 <a href="#">Monica Larner</a>	The 2016 Contrada S sees fruit sourced from the Contrada Sciaranuova vineyard. The wine delivers dark fruit at the core that is framed elegantly by ash, smoke and dark volcanic mineral. Contrada S is balanced and very tight in terms of its texture. That tightness suggests a year or two of bottle aging may be required before this wine really starts to shine. Bottle production is limited with only 2,300 units made.	
<b>Issue Date</b> 28th Dec 2018		
<b>Source</b> <a href="#">240, The Wine Advocate</a>		

## 2016 Passopisciaro • Etna Rosso Passorosso

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date
91	\$38	2018 - 2026
<b>Reviewed by</b> 👤 <a href="#">Monica Larner</a>	The 2016 Etna Rosso Passorosso is the most accessible of the red wines presented by Andrea Franchetti and the team at Passopisciaro in the not-always-easy 2016 vintage. The wine is clean and forthcoming with a nice succession of wild berry and cassis, all framed by spice, tar and toasted aniseed. This wine makes itself immediately available for a pairing with roasted porchetta stuffed with fennel and herbs. The mouthfeel is crisp but compact on the close. Some 47,000 bottles were made.	
<b>Issue Date</b> 28th Dec 2018		
<b>Source</b> <a href="#">240, The Wine Advocate</a>		

## 2016 Passopisciaro • Franchetti

Rating	Release Price	Drink Date
94	\$129	2019 - 2035
<b>Reviewed by</b> 👤 <a href="#">Monica Larner</a>	A 60-40 blend of Petit Verdot and Cesanese d'Affile, the 2016 Franchetti shows a raw, determined character with dark fruit and prune aromas that emerge roaring from the bouquet. This is a loud, large-scale wine that wraps heavily over the palate with enduring waves of condensed black fruit, smoke, tar and cigar box. The wine is boldly extracted, almost to a fault, but it's also delightfully opulent and enriched. Saying this wine has bold character would be a gross understatement. It ages in new French barrique for eight months followed by a ten-months' resting period in cement vats. Only 3,900 bottles were made.	
<b>Issue Date</b> 28th Dec 2018		
<b>Source</b> <a href="#">240, The Wine Advocate</a>		

## 2016 Passopisciario • Passobianco

**Rating**

92+


**Release Price**

\$35

**Drink Date**

2018 - 2025

**Reviewed by**

 [Monica Larner](#)

**Issue Date**

28th Dec 2018

**Source**

[240, The Wine Advocate](#)

The 2016 Passobianco (a pure expression of Chardonnay) produces a lightweight but solid frame that reminds me on some metaphorical level of that special aluminum used to make racing bicycles. Indeed, this is a racy wine with steely aromas of citrus, white peach and Sicilian almond biscuit. It is put together with impeccable balance and precision. And of course, you get those vaguely scented volcanic notes on the silky finish. It is aged in a combination of large oak vats (for four months) and cement (for eight months). This is a terrific expression of Chardonnay from the deep south of Italy. Some 36,000 bottles were made.