

A photograph of a long, straight asphalt road in Tuscany, Italy. The road is flanked by tall, dense cypress trees that create a tunnel-like effect. The sun is low in the sky, casting long, warm shadows across the road and the foliage. The road leads towards a bright horizon where a small building is visible in the distance.

# *Italy*

Tuscany

# *History*

- Etruscans – 8<sup>th</sup> century BC
- Greece – 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC mentions of Tuscan wines
- Monasteries in the middle ages
- Mezzadria (Métayage) – Sharecropping
- First mention of Vino Nobile di Montepulciano in 14<sup>th</sup> Century
- First alcohol sales laws by the guild of wine salesmen 1282:
  - No wine sold within 100 yards of Church
  - No serving to children under 15
  - No serving to prostitutes, thieves or scoundrels
- The Iron Baron:
  - Bettino Ricasoli
  - Man of utmost integrity
  - Prime minister of Italy
  - Went into winemaking in Chianti
  - Travelled France and Germany to bring better grapes
  - Decided local grape varieties are better



# *Sangiovese*

- *blood of Jove*
  - *blood of Jupiter the Roman god*
  - *Sometimes referred to as the blood of Christ*
- *Notoriously high-acidity*
- *Thin-skinned, but still reasonable tannins*
- *Chianti*
- *Feruccio Biondi-Santi*
- *Brunello*
- *Central Italy*
- *Rest of the World*

# *Super Tuscans*

- Marquis Mario Incisa della Rocchetta
  - Agronomist
  - Inherited Tenuta San Guido
  - Focussed on vegetables and tulips
  - Before moving to wine, visited Mouton
  - Built vineyard in the stony hills
  - Founded Sassicaia Vineyard
  - 1985 – 100 point marker
  - Started production of Guidalberto right after
- Antinori Family
  - Historical documents prove them to make wine in 1180
  - 1385 officially become a business
  - De Medici
  - 1920's breaking appellation laws with Bordeaux grapes
  - Tignanello 1971 released in 1974
  - Still using IGT
  - Solaia
- Tenuta dell'Ornellaia
  - Offspring of the Antinori Family
  - 1980
  - Masseto
    - Million year old clay under the surface
    - Pure Merlot
  - Ornellaia
    - Bordeaux blend Cabernet based
  - Le Volte based on Sangiovese
  - Le Serre Nuove based on Merlot
- Gaja
- Tua Rita
- Querciabella



# ***Whites of Tuscany***

- Vernaccia
- Vermentino
- Malvasia
- Trebbiano



# ***Notable sub- regions of Tuscany***

- Maremma
- Morellino
- Carmignano
- San Gimignano