



by today's standards, the advanced age of the vines, over 35 years, generates concentrated flavours and aromas, while calcareous, well-draining soil lends structure. 'We always noticed that the best grapes came from Poggio al Vento, and before 1982, grapes from this vineyard went into our Brunello Riserva,' says Francesco Marone Cinzano, son of Alberto.

In 1988, better to understand Sangiovese, the firm began working with the University of Florence's

Roberto Bandinelli, a pioneer in Sangiovese clonal research. That same year it also began working with consultant oenologist and Sangiovese specialist Maurizio Castelli further to improve quality. In 1984 Col d'Orcia became one of the first wineries in Montalcino to plant Cabernet Sauvignon, which went into the varietal 'SuperTuscan' Olmaia. Released in 1991, Olmaia's debut 1989 vintage garnered critical acclaim.

Above: in their quest for quality, Francesco Marone Cinzano, left, and managing director, Eduardo Virano have trialled new clones and training systems, and kept faith with large casks

Col d'Orcia: a timeline

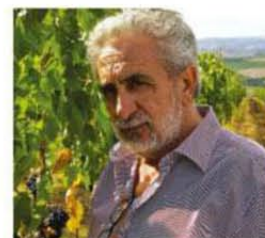
1933

Fattoria di Sant'Angelo in Colle presents several vintages of its Brunello at Siena's first wine exhibition



1973

Count Alberto Marone Cinzano buys Col d'Orcia



1958

The Franceschi family divides its Fattoria di Sant'Angelo in Colle estate into two parts, one of which becomes Col d'Orcia



1975

Agronomist Giuliano Dragoni joins