

# San Felice wine tops "The Enthusiast 100 of 2015" ranking: the *Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Grigio 2011* named the Best Wine in the World

Milan / Siena, December 2015 - A prestigious international recognition was given to Italian wine maker of excellence **Agricola San Felice SpA**, owned by **Allianz Italy**, headed by CEO **Klaus-Peter Roehler**.

"**Wine Enthusiast**", an American widespread magazine addressing a wide audience of wine lovers, proclaimed the **Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Grigio 2011** to be the **Best Wine in the World** of 2015.



In the "**Wine Enthusiast 100**" international ranking, published in the December issue, the famous American magazine took into account over 19,000 labels by the best wine-makers around the world. **Kerin O'Keefe**, wine taster and editor for Italy, motivating the **95/100 score** and the **1<sup>st</sup> position** in the ranking achieved by San Felice's **Il Grigio Gran Selezione**, wrote: "A fantastic combination of power and finesse, this opens with aromas of under brush, ripe plum, truffle, leather, smoke and a balsamic note. The firm, delicious palate delivers freshly black cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and mocha. Velvety tannins support the juicy flavors".

San Felice's **Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Grigio** was merchandised in 2014 (year 2010), out of a careful selection of the best Sangiovese grapes from five areas of excellence in the Allianz owned agricultural estate, combined with a 20% represented by five outstanding native varieties, rescued in **San Felice's Vitiarium**: Abrusco, Pugnitello, Malvasia Nera, Cilieggiolo and Mazzese.

The **Chianti Classic Gran Selezione** is the type of wine placed by the Chianti Classico Consortium at the top of the qualitative pyramid for the Chianti Classico denomination. The Consortium dictates that the Gran Selezione must be from grapes produced exclusively within the business, grown in the most suitable vineyards and according to strict rules. The objective is to get a wine of excellence, as witnessed by the **Wine Enthusiast's** recognition, a reference point in the international wine world.

**Mario Cuccia**, President of Agricola San Felice, commented: "We are particularly proud of this prestigious award, which crowns our efforts to achieve excellence in the quality of vineyards and relevant production. At the same time, it rewards the commitment of Agricola San Felice in research on indigenous vine varieties. We are recognized as an innovative company, for our ability to anticipate trends as well as for our intensive research and experimentation. At the same time, our production style aims to enhance the typicity and uniqueness of the area, while maintaining a strong link with tradition. I wish to thank all the colleagues who - with dedication and passion - have made this possible, and particularly general manager **Davide Profeti** and production manager-enologist **Leonardo Bellaccini**".

**San Felice** is a quaint village in the Chianti area, in the province of Siena and under the Municipality of Castelnuovo Berardenga, and it is home to two businesses owned by the **Allianz Group**: the **Borgo San Felice**

**Relais & Chateaux Hotel** and multi-award-winning **Agricola San Felice**, producer of prestigious wines and extra virgin olive oil.

The history of **Agricola San Felice** saw, already in the late '60s, the output of Vigorello, a wine of new concept at the time, which originated the acclaimed Supertuscan wines. Next, in the 70s, came the first production of Poggio Rosso, at the time a first and rare instance of a 'cru' of Chianti Classico. But it is in the research on native varieties - started in the late 80s in collaboration with the Universities of Florence and Pisa - that the production philosophy of San Felice found its highest expression. In contrast with the trend of many producers of the time, pursuing international varieties, San Felice in its experimental vineyard, known as **Vitiarium**, identified a few overlooked native vine varieties to be devoted to future blending with Sangiovese, which is precisely what happened with the **Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Il Grigio**, now awarded as the Best Wine in the World.

**Agricola San Felice** also owns the Campogiovanni estate in Montalcino. The Brunello Campogiovanni label is one of the most important wines by Agricola and it was awarded many outstanding national and international awards.

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