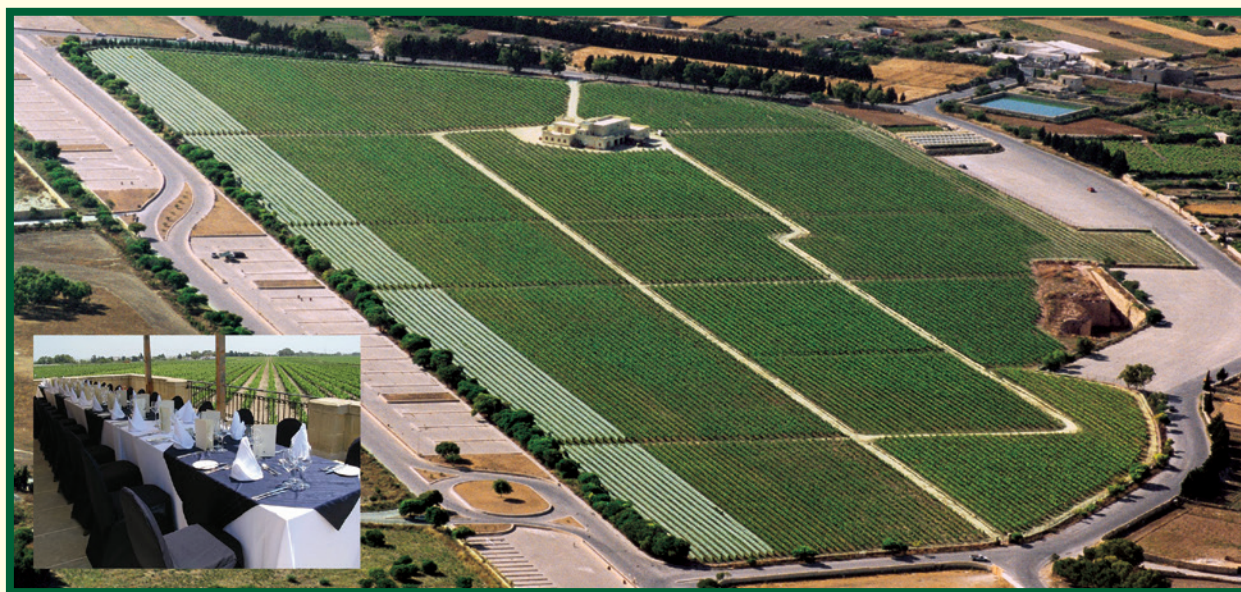


## *A Mediterranean Vocation Finally Fulfilled*



Meridiana's roots date back from 1985 as a result of a conversation between Mark Miceli-Farrugia, a trader in wines for over 20 years, and a Bordeaux oenologist. The latter persuaded Mark that there was potential for high-quality wine growing in Malta. As a result, Meridiana Wine Estate was established in April 1987 in partnership with Edward V. Bartoli and under the counsel of oenologist Roger Aquilina. Meridiana's pioneering mission has been to produce "World-Class Wines of Maltese Character" - internationally acclaimed wines made from wine-grapes grown exclusively in Maltese soil.

The name Meridiana and the estate's sundial insignia have been inspired by Malta's Southern European location.

In 1989, on the strength of successful experimentation with different grape varieties and rootstocks, a 19-hectare (47 acre) site was acquired at Ta' Qali, Malta's agricultural heartland. Reclaimed from an airfield used during the Second World War, the Estate lies scenically below the ancient, walled-city of Mdina. In 1992, Mark's financial and technological partnership with Marchese Piero Antinori helped overcome local financial institutions' reservations to this novel initiative. Marchese Antinori descends from the oldest established winemaking family in the world: Giovanni di Piero Antinori joined the Winemakers Guild of Florence in 1385. Antinori has enriched Meridiana with a wealth of experience acquired in Italy, Eastern Europe and the New World.

The Ta' Qali Wine Estate was planted in 1994 and 1995 with Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Petit Verdot. The vineyard's 91,000 vines are individually drip-fed. A picturesque, purpose-built winery was completed in 1996, constructed from the characteristic, local, chalk-coloured limestone. The process area's stainless-steel fermentation-vessels are independently temperature-controlled. The winery's underground cellar has a natural temperature of between 18-22°Celsius.

The first harvest of a limited quantity of red and white wines took place in 1995 and 1996 respectively, with the first (1996) release of both wines being sold out within weeks. Since then, despite the annual increase in vine yields, domestic demand has been so high that some of Meridiana's wines are sold out before the following vintage's releases. The current portfolio includes nine labels, amounting to a production of around 140,000 bottles of wine annually. Meridiana reserves limited quantities of its wine for export to select niche markets.



### MERIDIANA'S WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Meridiana's mission is to create "World-Class Wines of Maltese Character".

- "Maltese Character" implies that all our grapes are grown within a Maltese climate and soil;
- "World-Class" indicates the use of state-of-the-art technology to produce wines which express Malta's southern fruitiness in an elegant, gentle manner;
- "Gentleness in winemaking" is achieved by harvesting grapes just as their ripe tannins and sugar attain harmonious balance, then pressing and/or vinifying them gently;
- "Fruitiness in red wines" is captured through the tempered use of wood maturation and through the expert elimination of filtration;
- "Fruitiness in white wines" is enhanced through rigorous temperature control and, where pertinent, through restrained barrel-fermentation on the lees; and
- **Observance of internationally approved standards in our vineyard and winery guarantees *sustainability*, *wholesomeness* and *authenticity*.**

