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ITALY'S STARS OF TOMORROW

by Kerin O'Keefe

We asked Italy's biggest names to mark our card by nominating their successors - the stars behind the country's most exciting new wines.

Elisabetta Foradori, Ampeleia

Nominated by **Albiera Antinori of Antinori**, Tuscany and Umbria:

Although Foradori is already a star of Italian winemaking, admired for the Teroldego wines from her Trentino estate, her new project in Tuscany is showing her competence and versatility with Mediterranean grapes. She and friends Giovanni Podini and Thomas Widmann founded the Ampeleia estate in 2002.

"We were looking for conditions that would allow us not only to make very elegant wines, but a unique place that would give us a lot of variety to yield different expressions of the same grapes," explains Foradori. Set in the village of Roccatederighi in Maremma, Ampeleia's vineyards lie 30km inland, on the high Massi hills.

"Our vineyards range from 200m to 600m and the altitudes give the wines their balance," she says. The mineral-rich soil further adds to their complexity. Besides Cabernet Franc and Sangiovese, the team has planted Grenache, Carignan, Mourvedre, Alicante and Marselan. Its flagship wine, Ampeleia, is made with all seven, while the newest wine, Kepos, is from the five Mediterranean grapes.



"I greatly admire Elisabetta's Ampeleia project, and the results she is having experimenting with Mediterranean varieties planted in different vineyards at different altitude," says Antinori.



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