



## IPO WINES

**COUNTRY**  
France

**REGION**  
Corsica

**APPELLATION**  
Patrimonio

**SOIL TYPE**  
clay, limestone

**VARIETAL(S)**  
100% Vermentinu

**FARMING**  
Organic

**WINEMAKER**  
Antoine Arena



## 2013 Arena Patrimonio Rouge "Grotte di Sole"

IMPORTED BY Kermit Lynch

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Antoine Arena, like most Corsicans of his generation, grew up in a family that earned a modest living working the land on an island largely unknown to the outside world. As soon as he could he joined the mass exodus of Corsicans to the French mainland, in search of jobs and what they thought to be a better life. Several years later in the mid 1970s, with a promising career on the mainland, the Corsican independence movement exploded with violent confrontations between nationalists and French government forces, leaving Antoine stunned.

In his shock and anger, he moved back to the family farm and decided to reverse the trend and remain on the land, as his own form of protest. Many others soon followed his lead, and for the first time in over a century, the emigration from the island ebbed and Corsicans came back home to reclaim their land. To survive off the land, Antoine knew he would need to show the world outside of Corsica what Patrimonio was capable of. And so his mission began to make the best his land could make and to spread the word. He started identifying the best parcels and vinifying them separately, and long before his time, worked the vines organically and vinified without any added sulfur.

From the beginning of the endeavor, Antoine and his wife Marie worked tirelessly to put Patrimonio on the map to the greater French public, and with quite a success. They brought fame and respect to their appellation and are recognized nearly unanimously as being the best there is on the island. In Paris, for example, Arena is a living legend and his presence at a tasting in the city will always guarantee an over capacity crowd. He's close friends with the likes of the Gang of Four, Montanet, Barral, Catherine & Pierre Breton, and is as much of a bon vivant as any of them.

Now Antoine is joined by his two sons, Antoine-Marie and Jean-Baptiste who share Antoine's spirit and continue to work the land and make the wine naturally, as taught from their father. Good thing is, this time around, no one will be leaving the domaine in search of a better life elsewhere.

### WINE NOTES

Hand harvested (yields usually around 35 hl/ha), natural fermentation, with infrequent doses of sulfur, cement cuve, no oak, long macerations from 6 to 9 weeks, with regular punch-downs, long élevages, up to 2 years, no fining, no filtration. 60 year old vines. Meaning "sunny grottoes" in Corsican, this parcel takes its name from its direct southern facing exposure. As the name suggests, this terroir on clay-limestone soils gives the ripest grapes from the property. Patrimonio Grotte di Sole Rouge (2 ha), 100% Niellucciu, and Patrimonio Grotte di Sole Blanc (1ha), 100% Vermentinu, both come from this parcel. These vines average 60 years of age, and are from the original holdings of the Arena family, going back to at least the 18th century. These wines tend to be rich and round, but Antoine takes pains to harvest early and never allows for excessive maturity.

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