



2011 STICKYBEAK TOSCANA

WINEMAKER: Alberto Antonini
REGION: Tuscany
VARIETALS: Sangiovese (85%), Merlot (10%), Syrah (5%)
MATURATION: 18 months in French oak
ANALYSIS: 13% alc/vol | TA: 5.5 g/L | pH: 3.66

OVERVIEW:

Becco Appiccicoso - Italian for 'Stickybeak', Australian slang for a 'busybody' or 'nosey neighbor'. As a verb: to have a look, to investigate. By chance we met famed Tuscan-based Alberto Antonini in his Victoria, Australia vineyard and, recognizing a kindred spirit, soon after flew to Italy to have a 'stickybeak' at his 40-year old Cerreto Guidi vineyards in Tuscany. Mature vines of Sangiovese and Merlot are blended with a dollop of spicy Syrah from nearby Maremma to create our first vintage of Stickybeak Toscana.

WINEMAKING:

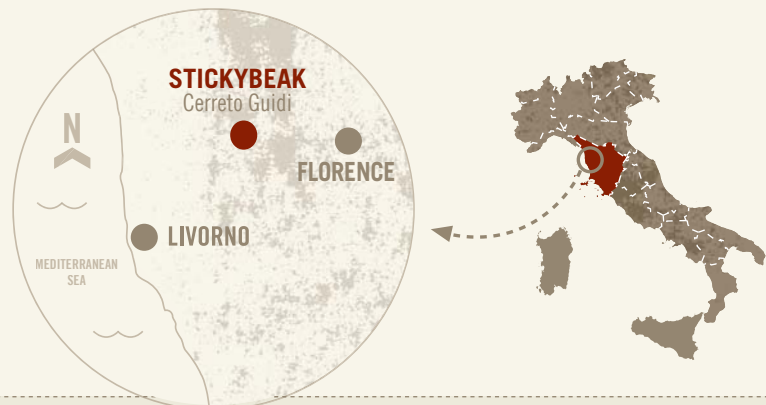
After a late September/early October harvest, we left the grapes to it - fermentation triggered by wild yeast, gentle punch downs, racks & returns during the 10-20 day process. The varietals are kept separate during their 18-month maturation before final blending and bottling - unfinned and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES:

Wonderful lifted red fruit and light herbs on the nose, with a good palate and tight clean acidity. Tart cherry typical of Tuscan Sangiovese melds seamlessly with luscious Merlot and a hint of spice from the Syrah. Drinks beautifully now, and will only get better with a little bit of age.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 88 pts - Best Buy Wine & Spirits

ABOUT THAT NAME... Ever been curious enough to stick your nose over someone's fence to see what's going on? Or peer through a crack in a front gate, just to get a better look? We have! Some people might say we're busybodies or nosey neighbors although we prefer the Australian term, 'stickybeak.' And being Napa-based wine folk, it's hard to resist being curious about the stunning wines and regions that we admire. In fact, as inquisitive vintners, it seemed only natural that we'd have a bit of a stickybeak and produce our own wines from these areas.



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