

Son of the Wind

I will always remember when I first met Ali, a Tunisian who has lived on the island of Pantelleria for more than 60 years and who is now in charge of the “appassimento” process of drying the grapes to make the Ben Ryé. He was so proud of his work and so attentive to carefully explain everything we wanted to know. When I told him that each time I present “his” wine to participants of my wine classes, it was invariably their favourite of the flight. Ali beamed with pride and a small tear rolled down his right cheek... I discovered Ben Ryé, which means “son of the wind” in Arabic, several years ago when my Italian brother-in-law brought a bottle to celebrate the Christmas in the flat we rented in Venice that year. The 2014 is well balanced with a racy acidity that refreshes and lifts it like a feather on the palate. The aromas are intense with peaches, apricots, figs, and honey. The texture oh-so caressing and the finishes last forever. I am in love!

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