

## Wine of the Week: Sicilian Wines make big release in Chicago



by Dwight Casimere  
May 14, 2025



Sicilia (Sicily) DOC: One Island, a Whole World, was the subject of a major exploration of the Wines of Sicily led by Master Sommelier Mark Guilladeu. The event was held at Chicago's LM Studios on South Michigan Avenue.

Among the wines presented were those of Donnafugata, one of the premiere wine producers of the region, with wineries in Marsala, Pantellaria, Vittoria, Contessa Entellina and Etna. Antonio Rallo, CEO of Donnafugata and its agronomist and winemaker was present in person to represent his winery and the wines of Sicily.

“This meeting in Chicago is important for us because it establishes the brand and Sicilian wines as one of the most important in the vast world of wine. Many of the grape varieties that people associate with Italian wine, such as Sangiovese, actually originated in Sicily.”

Master Sommelier Mark Guilladeu provided a complete perspective of the complexities of wine production in Sicily. “There are myriads of microclimates in Sicily, from the sea beds of Pantelleria to the highest elevations of Mt. Etna, Sicily is a treasure-trove of wine production,” he said.

Climate change is now the biggest threat. Rising temperatures in southern Italy post a growing peril to wine production, The region is experiencing extreme dry heat, worsened by increasingly powerful wildfires. These events create obstacles for the wine industry and agricultural business in general. As a result, many Sicilian winemakers are focusing on sustainable solutions toward reducing their carbon footprint.

Among the 20 or so wines that were presented were some stellar examples. Donnafugata Sul Vulcano Etna Bianca DOC Sicilia 2022 was a standout for its well-balanced fruit and acidity. Tropical flavors of ripe banana, tropical fruit and smooth tannins made for an overwhelming pleasure. This is a perfect wine for summer evenings on the patio or a light afternoon brunch.

Feudo Montoni Vrucara Sicilia DOC 2020, Nero d’avila takes you to the more serious side of things with a depth that captives. This is truly a wine for deep contemplation. With its complex flavors and aromas of dark berries, black earth and aromatic spices, I can only think of long simmering Bolognese or smoked tenderloin as a companion.

On the lighter side, Planeta, one of the venerable producers of the region, founded by the family in 1995, presented its 2024 Sicilia DOC Rose. It was a perfectly balanced delight!

Wine of Sicilia DOC. Explore a Mosaic of Flavors. Visit [winesofsicily.com](https://winesofsicily.com). Always Drink responsibly.