

Benanti

Crafted from old-vine Carricante on Mount Etna's eastern and southern slopes, this wine displays crystalline minerality, freshness, and a long, saline finish.

BENANTI
Carattere etneo dal 1734.



Etna Bianco - Caricante 2025

Sicily, Italy

Region and Vineyards

The vineyards lie on the **eastern and southern slopes of Mount Etna**, Sicily's iconic volcano. Here, vines between **20 and 60 years old** thrive on **volcanic sands rich in minerals**, giving Etna Bianco its distinctive energy and minerality. These sites, situated at high altitudes, benefit from abundant sunlight and strong diurnal shifts, which help maintain freshness and aromatic complexity.

Traditional training systems are used, including the historic **alberello (free-standing bush vine)** alongside spurred cordon. Vine density is high, between 6,000 and 7,000 plants per hectare, reflecting the region's commitment to concentrated, low-yielding fruit. Farming practices are sustainable, respecting the fragile volcanic ecosystem. The **2024 vintage** was marked by drought until late summer, followed by September rains, which balanced ripening. Yields were lower on the southern slopes, but overall quality was high with excellent structure and acidity.

Winemaking

This wine is produced from **100% Carricante**, a native Sicilian variety synonymous with Etna Bianco DOC. After harvesting, fermentation took place over **12 days at 18°C in stainless steel vats**, using **indigenous yeasts selected from Benanti's own vineyards**.

The wine matured in **stainless steel on fine lees**, adding textural complexity and enhancing aromatic precision, before spending **2-3 months in bottle** for refinement. No oak was used, ensuring purity and transparency of terroir. The final blend reflects Benanti's hallmark style: elegant, mineral, and terroir-driven.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale yellow with bright green reflections.
- **Aroma**: Delicate yet intense, with notes of green apple, citrus zest, and subtle herbal tones layered over volcanic minerality.
- **Palate**: Dry and precise, with vibrant acidity, chalky mineral grip, and saline undertones. The finish is long, linear, and refreshing, echoing the volcanic soils of Etna.

Alcohol :12,00 %

Composition: 100% Carricante

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Did you know?

The **Carricante grape** has been cultivated on Etna for over a millennium and is almost exclusively found on the volcano. Its name derives from the Italian "caricare," meaning "to load," referring to its naturally abundant yields — though on Etna's volcanic slopes, old vines give much lower, high-quality production. Benanti has been instrumental in reviving Carricante, positioning Etna Bianco among Italy's most prestigious white wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Linguine alle vongole** - the saline freshness mirrors the brininess of clams.
- **Grilled swordfish with lemon** - acidity and minerality cut through the richness of the fish.
- **Ricotta-stuffed zucchini flowers** - the wine's delicacy complements floral and creamy flavors.
- **Sicilian caponata** - the wine's vibrant acidity balances the sweet-and-sour vegetable medley.

92 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2023)

My passion for Carricante grows stronger with each passing minute and I hope to use my platform to convince as many people as possible that this is the white wine to end all white wines. If you're skeptical, start with the gold standard: Benanti's exuberant but refined expression that shows their unparalleled understanding of both the grape and its terroir.

90 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 90 Points (2023)

This sleek, minerally white is well-cut and refreshing, with flavors of plump white cherry, lemon oil, spun honey and chamomile that expand on the palate, underscored by lingering notes of minerally smoke and salt on the spiced finish.