

Donnafugata

An icon of Donnafugata, this tailored blend unfolds with satin texture, sweet-toast nuances and polished spice, balancing opulence and freshness for a luxuriously composed, gastronomic red.

DONNAFUGATA
SICILIA • SICILY



Alcohol :13,45 %

Composition: 70% Nero d'Avola, 30% Blend

Mille e Una Notte 2020

Sicily, Italy

Region and Vineyards

South-western Sicily's **Contessa Entellina** zone combines rolling hills at **200-400 m** with **clay-loam** soils, sub-alkaline pH (7.5-7.9) and **20-35% limestone**. Mild winters, dry ventilated summers and marked **diurnal** contrasts foster slow, complete ripening and pristine fruit. These conditions shape a Nero d'Avola-led blend with black-fruit amplitude, balsamic lift and a distinctly Mediterranean savor.

Vineyards are trained to VSP with spurred cordon, **4,500-6,000 vines/ha** and low yields around **4-5 t/ha**. Precise canopy work and staggered picking preserve freshness and phenolic balance across parcels. In 2020, below-average rainfall and careful agronomy ensured healthy, perfectly ripe grapes—foundation for concentration without heaviness.

Winemaking

Grapes (primarily Nero d'Avola with Petit Verdot, Syrah and others) are hand-harvested into crates, then sorted again via a next-generation destemmer that removes any green or overripe berries. Fermentation occurs in stainless steel with **~12 days** on skins at **28-30 °C**, extracting color, perfume and refined tannins while keeping the profile vibrant and precise.

Élevage follows in **new French oak barriques for 14 months**, selected for fine to extra-fine grain and medium toast, then **almost two years in bottle** before release. In 2020, Syrah was picked late August; Nero d'Avola and others followed in early September, finishing with Petit Verdot on **September 11**—timing that layers ripe fruit, spice and structure into a seamless whole.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, luminous ruby.
- **Aroma:** Blackberry and black mulberry with liquorice, subtle sweet-toasting, hints of nutmeg and cocoa, and a cool balsamic thread.
- **Palate:** Full yet poised; velvety tannins and vibrant acidity frame dark fruit, spice and saline savor. Long, echoing finish with refined oak integration and mineral grip.

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Did you know?

The label depicts the **palazzo** where Queen Maria Carolina once took refuge and which later became a favorite house of writer Tomasi di Lampedusa; Gabriella Anca Rallo transposed it into a starry "Arabian Nights" sky.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Rack of lamb with rosemary and fennel pollen** — Protein and fat soften the wine's firm, velvety tannins; herbal notes mirror its spicy-balsamic register.
- **Beef braise with Sicilian capers and olives** — Umami-rich sauce resonates with the wine's savory depth and sweet-toast nuances.
- **Swordfish stew ("ghiotta")** — Meaty texture and tomato-olive flavors suit the wine's structure and saline persistence.
- **Aged caciocavallo** — Salt and nuttiness highlight the wine's sapidity and spice-laced finish.



Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2020)

One of Sicily's most beloved reds, the Donnafugata 2020 Sicilia Mille e Una Notte is Nero d'Avola with Petit Verdot, Syrah and a few other local grapes. All the fruit is selected from across the Rallo family's sprawling Contessa Entellina estate that counts 343 hectares of vines. This barrique-aged red offers lots of fruit weight and a full-bodied approach with dark fruit, dried blackberry, spice and sweet tobacco. This vintage offers especially supple tannins and lasting richness.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2020)

The 2020 Mille e Una Notte opens with a basket of berries and spices, further complicated by shavings of cedar and minty herbs. It's silky yet sincere, with tart wild berry fruits and licorice underscored by saline minerals as a balsamic resonance forms toward the close. The 2020 finishes structured and long. Fine-tannins saturate the senses as savory herbs and hints of tart blackberry fade. Bury this deep in the cellar.



James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2020)

A complex red with aromas of licorice, black cherries, herbs and cocoa. Firm on the palate, with velvety tannins, a medium body and juicy acidity. Cloves and dark fruit on the pleasantly woody aftertaste.

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