

# The wine of the Chianti Classico area, between history and legend

## The "Gallo Nero" (Black Rooster)

The Black Rooster is the historic symbol of Chianti, adopted as a trademark for wine from the Chianti Classico consortium that brings together manufacturers. There are many good wines in Tuscany which use the name "Chianti", but it only wines with the symbol of the Gallo Nero label of the bottle are the "real" Chianti.

## The Legend

The origin of this symbol comes from an old legend. It is said that at the time of the struggles medieval Florence, Siena has always been at war for the possession of this precious corner of Tuscany and both tired of bloody battles, they decided to settle the issue with a singular arbitration.

In fact, the two cities decided to entrust the definition of the border to a test between two knights, one with the colors of Florence and one with the colors of Siena. The Florentine-Sienese border was fixed at the point where the two knights met their respective cities, starting at dawn, when the cock crows. The Sienese chose a white cock and rimpinzarono of food (eat a lot), convinced that this was going to sing at dawn stronger, while the Florentines chose a black rooster who left thin. On the day of the test, the black cock Florentine bitten by hunger, began to sing even before the sun had risen, while the white, Siena, was still asleep because I still sated.

The Florentine knight, at the signal, immediately began to gallop, while his colleague Siena had to wait much longer before the other bird to decide to sing the result of the peaceful duel was that the two knights met only 12 km from the walls of Siena and so the Florentine Republic was able to annex all of Chianti.

This is the legend, at least as well as tell the Florentines.



## The History

The history of the League of Chianti Legends of turf aside, the Gallo Nero was born as a symbol of the Chianti League, a sort of military jurisdiction created by the Republic of the Marzocco (Florence) in 1384 to counter Siena, comprising the present towns of Castellina in Chianti, Gaiole in Chianti and Radda in Chianti.

In 1716 the Grand Duke of Tuscany Cosimo III issued a notice which decreed that the wines produced in Castellina, Radda and Gaiole could be called Chianti wines then delimiting the Chianti wine area to include about 3/5 of the Municipality of Greve.

The subsequent establishment of the Podestà of Radda in Chianti with seat, saw the inclusion of the three towns of Siena and the entire common Greve, then still without the suffix "in Chianti" but in fact included in its entirety in the same.

In the heart of the Chianti Classico there are important historical producers. One of the key is the family of the Princes Corsini. The Corsini family is one of the oldest and most prestigious Tuscan families. The Corsini came to Florence at the end of 1100, from the area of Poggibonsi, a small town between Florence and Siena. Career started at the political and ecclesiastical able to distinguish themselves in all areas. Among the leading figures in the family, we can quote Andrea di Niccolò (1302-1373), Bishop of Fiesole, which was done in 1624, the Holy, and the Cardinal Lorenzo (1652-1740), elected Pope in 1730 under the name of Clement XII (<http://www.principecorsini.com>).

Villa Le Corti is part of the property of the Prince Corsini since 1427 as well as the Villa and the more than 260 hectares of vineyards and olive groves. The beautiful cellars were built in the late '500 and a part of them, the old wine cellar, has remained unchanged and is now home to the Direct Selling.

