

Umani Ronchi is recognized as the leading producer in “Le Marche”. This region stretches along the eastern coast of Italy and is famous for its long hours of sunshine and cool sea breezes. In such favorable conditions the Montepulciano and the Verdicchio grapes have found the perfect growing environment that make them a commercial success. Within the regional borders, the **Rosso Conero** and the **Castelli di Jesi** appellations, producing respectively Montepulciano and Verdicchio wines, are well known to be quality-driven areas.

In the 1950s, long before Verdicchio had won worldwide fame in the amphora bottle, Gino Umani Ronchi founded his winery at Cupramontana. In the 1970s the company was taken over by the Bianchi family, who by then were Umani Ronchi’s business partners. The management was given to Dr. Massimo Bernetti, Dr. Bianchi’s son-in-law. Two new cellars were built: one in Castelbellino and one in Osimo. During the 1990s, Michele Bernetti joined his father Massimo in the management of the winery. The Bernettis recently appointed famed **Beppe Caviola** as their consulting enologist.

Within Le Marche, Umani Ronchi owns 6 vineyards for a total of 170 hectares (over 420 acres) in the production areas of **Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico** and **Rosso Conero**. Verdicchio is vinified solely in Castelbellino and then bottled, refined and aged in Osimo. The wines from Rosso Conero are vinified, bottled, refined and aged in Osimo.

Acknowledging the renewed interest in nearby Abruzzo, Umani Ronchi has recently purchased an estate in the **Colline Teramane** area, a sub-zone within the Montepulciano d’Abruzzo D.O.C., which will soon receive D.O.C.G. status. The estate includes 30 hectares (74 acres) of land, a cellar and a landmark house, which is being renovated and transformed into a winery.

Umani Ronchi’s mission is to constantly improve on the quality of its wines and to stress the importance of the regional grapes from Le Marche and Abruzzo. Nonetheless, experimentation with international varieties is needed and the successful results are evident at the international level. The most compelling achievement is **Pelago**, which in 1997 won the “Best Red Wine” award at the London International Wine Challenge in a competition of over six thousand high quality wines from all over the world. That same triumphant vintage (1994) also received 97 points from the Wine Enthusiast.

