



**ITALY WINE COUNTRY TRAVEL: WHEN TUSCANY CALLS** by Valerie Quintanilla The story of Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona is the stuff that dreams are made of. And, the beautiful location makes it a favorite Italy wine country stop in Montalcino. In 1985 the Countess Ciacci Piccolomini passed away without an heir for the property. The estate had been in her family since 1877. The Countess surprised everyone, including the man himself, when she willed the property to farm manager, Giuseppe Bianchini. He not only lived on the land, but his children were born there. Giuseppe had a passion for wine with dreams of making a great Brunello, something that never interested the Countess. Until then Giuseppe had made small amounts for both personal and local consumption. Upon receipt he sold a portion of the estate to pay inheritance taxes, then focused on

ciaccipiccolomini.com Area: Southwest side of Montalcino, near Castlenuove dell'Abate We tasted the Rosso di Montalcino 2014 (100% Sangiovese grosso), Ateo (Cab Sauvignon, Merlot blend), Fabivs 2013 (100% Syrah), and Brunello di Montalcino Pianrosso 2011 (100% Sangiovese grosso).