



**Alessandro Cellai**  
Castellare di Castellina, Chianti



**Nominated by Giacomo Tachis, celebrated Italian consultant (inset):** Although Castellare is one of Chianti's leading estates, famous for its I Sodi di San Niccolo Sangiovetto and Malvasia Nera, Cellai, the driving force behind the wines, has remained discreetly in the background. Yet he has been the winemaker and director since 1996, as well as at its Sicilian estate,

Feudi del Pisciotto. He is also the director and winemaker at Rocca di Frassinello, the Maremma estate that was created as a joint venture between Castellare and Domaines Barons de Rothschild-Lafite, where Alessandro has collaborated with Christian Le Sommer. 'Local varieties are part of any region's winemaking history and deserve to be given prominence, but it's just as crucial to find the right varieties that excel in a given area and that best express the area's terroir,' says Cellai. He puts his philosophy to work at his own estate, Podere Monastero, where he makes La Pineta as well as Campanaio, from Cabernet and Merlot.

[www.castellare.it](http://www.castellare.it); [www.poderemonastero.com](http://www.poderemonastero.com)

**'Alessandro is a winemaker I greatly respect. Besides his outstanding work with Sangiovetto at Castellare di Castellina, he also has his own winery where he makes La Pineta, a wonderful, rich and structured Pinot Noir,' says Tachis.**