



LLS, a Member of The Winebow Group, is Appointed Exclusive U.S. Importer of Codice Citra

Richmond, VA – May 9, 2018 – LLS (Leonardo LoCascio Selections), a member of The Winebow Group and America’s leading importer of premium Italian wines, has announced that it is the exclusive U.S. importer of Codice Citra, a collection of family-owned hillside vineyards located in the province of Chieti in central Italy’s coastal Abruzzo region. Codice Citra joins a portfolio that represents more than 60 wineries throughout Italy.

“We are truly honored to be working with this tight network of family growers who share a commitment to producing wines that maintain the culture of the Abruzzo region,” said Ian Downey, Senior Vice President and General Manager of LLS. “Codice Citra has a determined vision for the future: to balance innovative viticultural study and practice with its dedication to producing wines of the highest class made from indigenous grapes. It’s a vision in which we wholly believe, and together with Codice Citra, we look forward to advancing the world’s appreciation of the storied Abruzzo region.”

Since its founding in 1973, Codice Citra has focused on cultivating quality, indigenous grape varieties – from the well-known Montepulciano and Trebbiano to the more esoteric Pecorino, Passerina, and Cococciola – that express the unique terroirs and microclimates of the region. When the warm wind from the Adriatic Sea meets the cool air coming down from the Majella Mountains, the temperature drops, blowing a cooling wind through the valleys. This phenomenon, known as the “*brezza di terra*,” provides an ideal climate for vine development.

In 2017, Codice Citra inducted Riccardo Cotarella as Executive Enologist, who brings over 30 years of passion, experience, and knowledge to the role. “Riccardo’s influence on the Italian wine industry’s rise to international acclaim is undisputed and his long-time partnership, since the earliest days of LLS and Winebow, has instilled a very personal and meaningful connection between LLS and Codice Citra,” Downey adds.

“The families’ decades of continued passion have met their match in Riccardo, whose guidance and expertise will forward our mission to produce wines that express the true beauty of Abruzzo,” said Valentino Di Campli, President of Codice Citra. “With our reinvigorated dedication to quality and our new partnership with LLS—whose team understands Italian wine better than anyone else—we look forward to increasing the knowledge-base of what the Abruzzo region has to offer.”

Codice Citra is sub-divided into four ranges of wine:

CITRA

Citra is Codice Citra’s most historical line. Now with Cotarella’s precise vinification techniques and custom blending, these eight wines offer clean varietal expressions that provide the perfect introduction to Abruzzo: Trebbiano d’Abruzzo, Pinot Grigio Terre di Chieti, Chardonnay Terre di Chieti, Rosato Terre di Chieti, Montepulciano d’Abruzzo, Sangiovese Terre di Chieti, Merlot Terre di Chieti, and Cabernet Sauvignon Terre di Chieti.

FERZO

Never before presented in the United States, Ferzo is a line of wines that offers a view of southern Abruzzo. Ferzo, which refers to a patch of fabric that is stitched together with others to create a sail, is a union of the finest viticultural “patches” that embrace the region’s indigenous grapes, which are hand-harvested from 20-year-old vines. The five wines from Ferzo include: Passerina Terre di Chieti, Cocciola Terre di Chieti, Pecorino Terre di Chieti, Rosato Terre di Chieti, and Montepulciano d’Abruzzo.

CAROSO

Caroso is a singular expression of Chieti’s top cru. While most of southern Abruzzo’s hills run perpendicular to the sea in the east and the mountains in the west, the hills of Chieti province run parallel to the Adriatic, which creates a unique microclimate. With Caroso, Codice Citra has made an elegant and powerful Montepulciano d’Abruzzo Riserva.

LAUS VITAE

With Laus Vitae, meaning “praise to life,” the winery has bottled its celebration of life with a refined Montepulciano d’Abruzzo from 40-year-old hand-harvested vines from an exclusive high-altitude vineyard.

For more information, please visit www.llswine.com.

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About LLS

LLS, a member of The Winebow Group, has represented Italian wines of impeccable quality, character and value for over 35 years. Each wine in the collection tells a unique story about the family and region that produced it. A taste through the portfolio is a journey across Italy’s rich spectrum of geography, history, culture and cuisine. Whether a crisp Pinot Bianco from the Dolomites or a rich Aglianico from Campania, the wines of LLS will transport you to Italy’s outstanding regions.

About Codice Citra

Codice Citra, founded in 1973, embraces nine wineries in the province of Chieti. The success of Codice Citra is the result of the marriage between technology, control, and the competencies of the pioneering producer in Abruzzo with a commitment to quality, regional distinction, and the stewardship of the particular traditions of its 3,000 member family winegrowers.