



LLS, a Division of Winebow Imports, is Appointed Exclusive U.S. Importer of Cantele

Richmond, VA – February 25, 2019 – LLS (Leonardo LoCascio Selections), a division of Winebow Imports dedicated to premium Italian wines, is pleased to announce that it is the exclusive U.S. importer of the wines of Cantele, a producer based in Salento, the southernmost part of Puglia. Cantele joins a portfolio that represents more than 60 wineries throughout Italy.

“We are honored to welcome Cantele,” said Ted Campbell, Senior Vice President and General Manager of LLS. “At LLS, we make a point of seeking out family-owned producers of high-quality wines. Cantele is a perfect fit – they’re in their third generation of family ownership, and a pioneer when it comes to quality.”

The winery is one of a handful of producers who played a key role in Puglia’s shift from bulk wine production to high quality winemaking in the 1980s.

Originally a wine merchant in northern Italy, Giovanni Battista Cantele traveled to Puglia frequently in the 1950s to source wines to sell in the North. His wife, Teresa Manara, accompanied him on one of his business trips and fell in love with the charming city of Lecce. They decided to relocate there to raise their two sons, Augusto and Domenico.

Augusto went to northern Italy to study winemaking in Conegliano, working with several wineries in the Veneto before returning to Puglia to start the family winery with his father and brother in 1979. They bottled their first vintage under the Cantele family name in 1981.

The estate today, located in the town of Guagnano, comprises 125 acres and is run by Augusto’s children, Gianni and Paolo, and Domenico’s children, Umberto and Luisa. Gianni Cantele is the winemaker and aims to produce wines that are food-friendly in style, with an emphasis on freshness and drinkability. The focus is on native Puglian reds made from the region’s two main indigenous varieties - Negroamaro and Primitivo. Their award winning Amativo (the first ever blend of Negro Amaro and Primitivo) has been recognized for decades as one of Puglia’s top wines.

Cantele also grows a small amount of Chardonnay, from which they produce their flagship white wine, Teresa Manara Chardonnay. Named for the grandmother of the current generation, it was the first Chardonnay in Puglia ever to be fermented in barrel.

In addition, the winery operates a cooking school and test kitchen called “I Sensi,” which first opened in 2014. Profiled in *Food & Wine Magazine* and featured on several leading American and British food blogs, it acts as a showcase for traditional Pugliese cuisine, locally grown produce, locally sourced traditional food products, and Cantele’s wines.

“The LLS team has tremendous expertise when it comes to selling Italian wines in the U.S. market. They also share our family values and vision for the future,” said Paolo Cantele, one of the four cousins currently in charge of the estate. “We are delighted to begin this new partnership with them.”

LLS will import the following wines from Cantele: Chardonnay Salento IGT, Negroamaro Rosato Salento IGT, Primitivo Salento IGT, Salice Salentino Riserva DOC, Teresa Manara Chardonnay Salento IGT, Teresa Manara Negroamaro Salento IGT, Amativo Salento IGT.

About LLS

LLS is a division of Winebow Imports, a leading importer of fine wine and spirits from the around the world. LLS 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. For more information, please visit www.llswine.com.