

## **Peter Vinding**

When Peter and Susie Vinding – Diers bought their land in 2005 between Catania and Siracusa in the town of Melilli overlooking the Ionian Sea, they found two fields with perfect soil of light sand with fragments of coral reef and deep loamy granulated black subsoil full of oxygen at the west, and at the eastern part that faces the Ionian Sea, a former seabed with fossilized sand which they refer to as a Paleolithic vineyard. The estate is situated on the remains of a volcano in Sicily which exploded around two million years ago. They planted two Syrah vineyards in 2010, which produce wines that are rated among the best examples in Italy. They then added a hectare that they cultivated with Grillo vines which were selected from the old Whitaker plantation on the Island of Mozia outside Marsala. They now have a total of 5 hectares of land in Melilli where two prestigious wines are produced: the Vigna Grande and Vignolo, and another 5 hectares in Noto where Suzanne and Il Carrubo are produced. On top of it all, Peter is also working on a project of recovering some ancient and long forgotten Sicilian red varieties that have DNA that have 3,000 years. Everything is organically grown including 1,300 olive trees of Nocellara Etnea and Nocellara del Belice cultivars and in addition to that, for biodiversity, they have two large organic lavender fields that have a local honeybee population. Peter is renowned for his major contributions worldwide to wine making and he seeks serious terroir to take out their great potential.

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