

PODERI MELINI
3 different Estates

The Tuscan Landscape



The so-called ‘beautiful Tuscan landscape’ is the result of a precise agricultural process that has involved central Tuscany since the beginning of the 1700s and that had a strong boost under the Medici family. Demographic development and the need to cultivate the land with more rational methods led to the reorganization of landed properties into Poderi (estates) to entrust to settler families.

Especially in the hills, the surface of the estates was never very extensive, always made up of an alternation of fields and small fields, pastures and sods, farm roads, hedges, vineyards, and fruit trees. There was never a shortage of woods, which remained at the owner’s disposal as a hunting reserve and for the settler as a source of wood and for grazing livestock..

Melini's Family

Following the example of the Medici, the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie also invested in the land.

Among these, the Melini family, wealthy Florentine entrepreneurs, decided to take on viticulture by founding the first winery near Florence as early as 1705.

With the end of sharecropping and the industrialization of the 1960s, the countryside lost the people who had inhabited, shaped, and cultivated them for centuries.



The Winery

Melini therefore felt a strong need to get as close as possible to their vineyards.

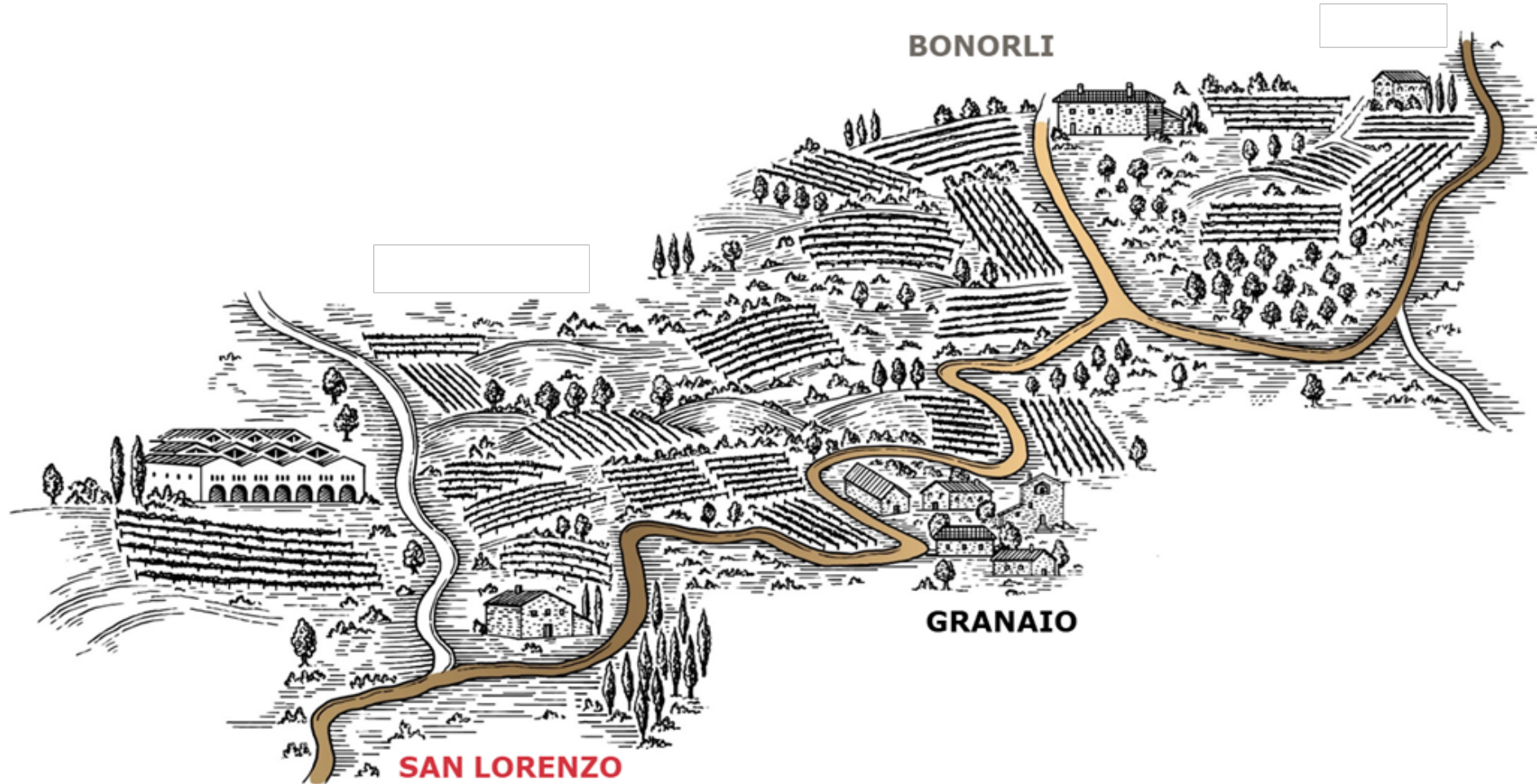
Based on a project that was avant-garde for the time, the new winery was built in Gaggiano, a small village at the crossroads of the farm road that connects 3 beautiful estates: San Lorenzo, Granaio, and Bonorli.

Today, as then, Melini cultivates its vineyards with passion and dedication, giving life to wines that are the fruit of the terroir from which they come.





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San Lorenzo

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SAN LORENZO

Podere San Lorenzo

An aerial photograph of the Podere San Lorenzo estate. The landscape is a patchwork of green vineyards and olive groves, interspersed with dense, dark green cypress forests. Several farm buildings with red-tiled roofs are visible, including a large complex on the right and smaller structures on the left. A winding dirt road cuts through the estate, connecting the various areas. The overall scene is a picturesque representation of the Tuscan countryside.

On the hills overlooking Val d'Elsa, Podere San Lorenzo is located on the historical border between Chianti and Chianti Classico, at 330 m a.s.l. inside a majestic natural reserve of cypresses. It is the first estate that you come across along the farm road through the cypress groves.

We have records of Podere San Lorenzo dated as early as the 1300s, when it was the site of a suffragan church under the more important church of Sant'Agnese.

La Cipresseta



Podere San Lorenzo houses a majestic cypress grove of over 250 hectares, which is today a Natural Reserve.

The particular conditions made it so that the cypress naturalized here, renewing itself spontaneously and integrating perfectly with the pre-existing vegetation.

It is one of the few examples in Mediterranean countries and one of only three cypress groves from seed existing in Italy.

The soil

The soil of Podere San Lorenzo is composed of yellow-ochre sands of Pliocene origin. Commonly called 'tufo senese' (Sienese tuff) in the area, this soil is rich in marine fossils. Indeed, it is not uncommon, walking among the rows of vines, to come across shells from millions of years ago.

San Lorenzo

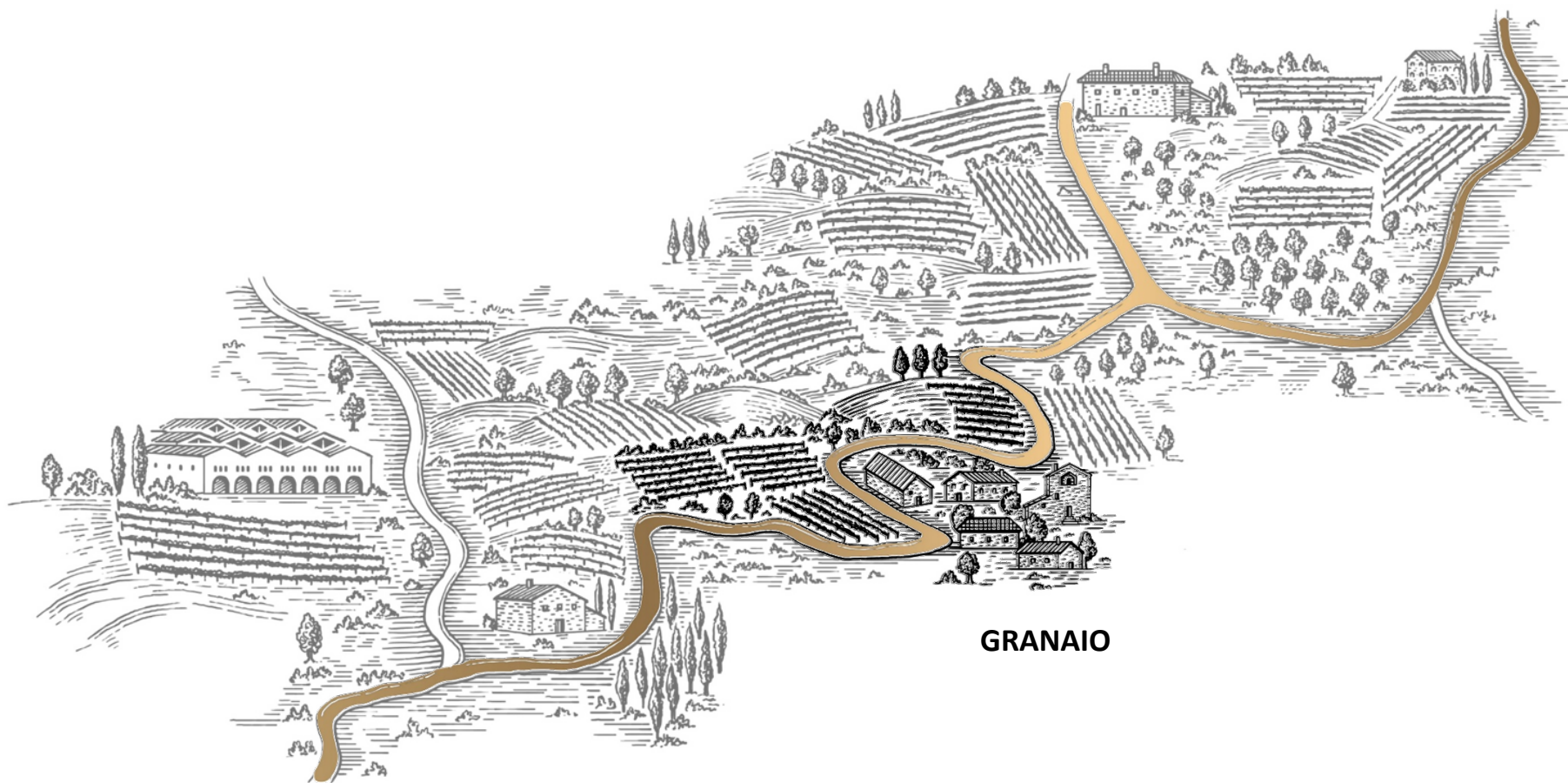
Podere San Lorenzo enjoys optimal exposure and constant north-west ventilation, which guarantees excellent levels of grape health.

The particular marine origin of the soils gives minerality and sapidity to the wines.

The Sangiovese grown on these soils makes our Chianti Superiore San Lorenzo a wine with a pleasant and fruity character.



Granaio



Podere Granaio

An aerial photograph of the Podere Granaio estate. The estate is a cluster of stone buildings with terracotta roofs, nestled in a valley. It is surrounded by dense green forests of tall trees. Several dirt roads lead from the estate into the surrounding landscape, which includes rolling hills and fields. In the far distance, a small town is visible on a hill.

Situated on one of the highest hills, at 360 m a.s.l., Podere Granaio extends between Castellina in Chianti and San Donato in Poggio.

Due to its extension, the village of Granaio has always been the point of reference for the surrounding estates.

The Soil

Podere Granaio is characterized by very rocky, skeletal soil.

Alberese, which is its main composition, is a calcareous marl that is very difficult to cultivate.

The parcels of vineyards alternate with forest formed by cypresses, holm oaks, and arbutus trees.

On the roads, near the edges and along the crests, it is easy to be struck by the yellow of the brooms which are well suited to this difficult terrain.



Granaio

The vines here, in order to obtain the necessary nourishment, are forced to sink their roots deep into the rock.

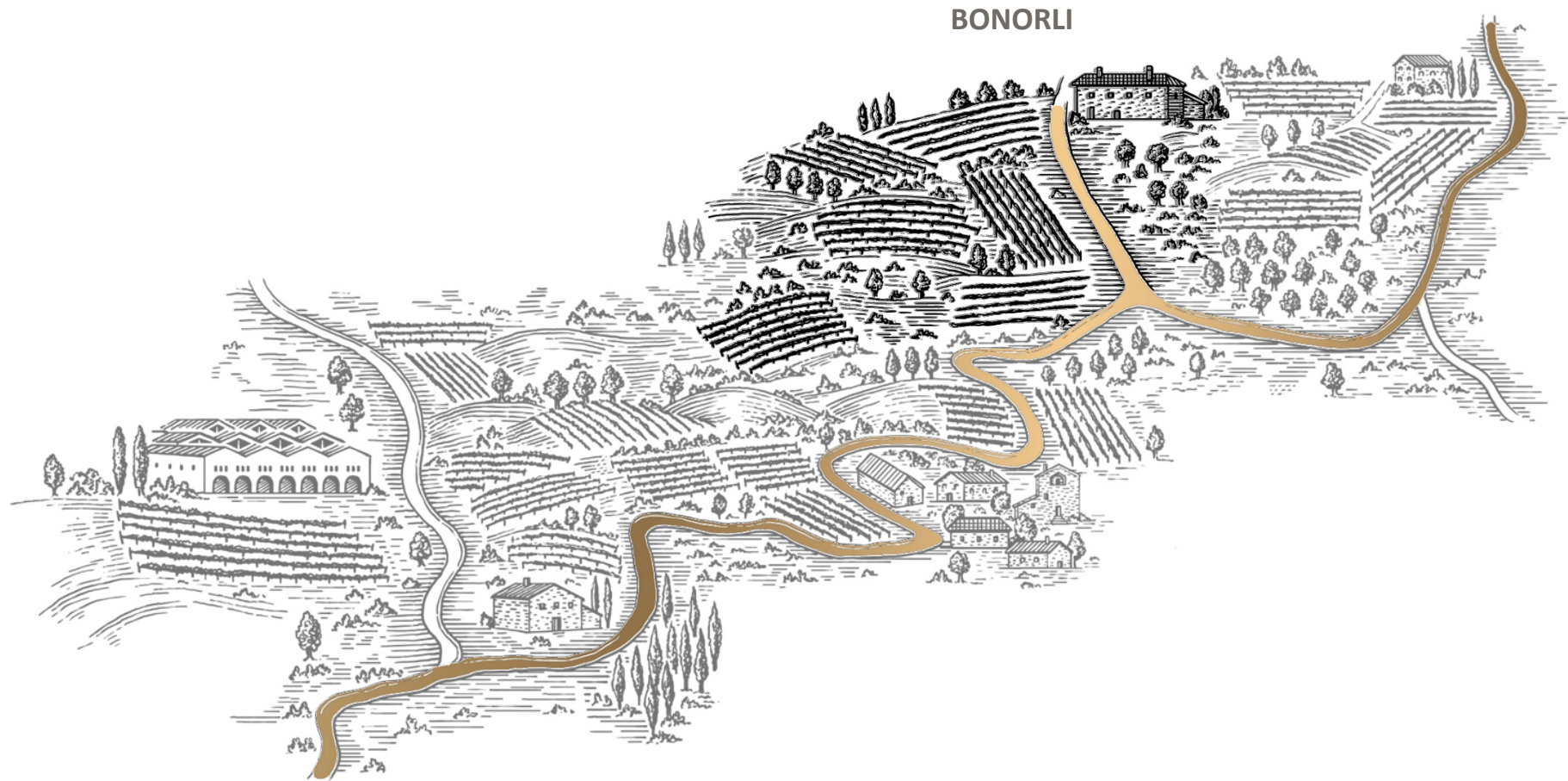
This means that even in difficult and dry years the plants always manage not to suffer, giving us balanced wines with a tasty tannic texture.

Chianti Classico Granaio, produced since 1969, is an authentic expression of freshness and elegance.



Bonorli

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Podere Bonorli

The small Podere Bonorli, adorned with an ancient spring, is located at 350 m a.s.l. on a hill between Borro Cepparello and Borro Granaio.

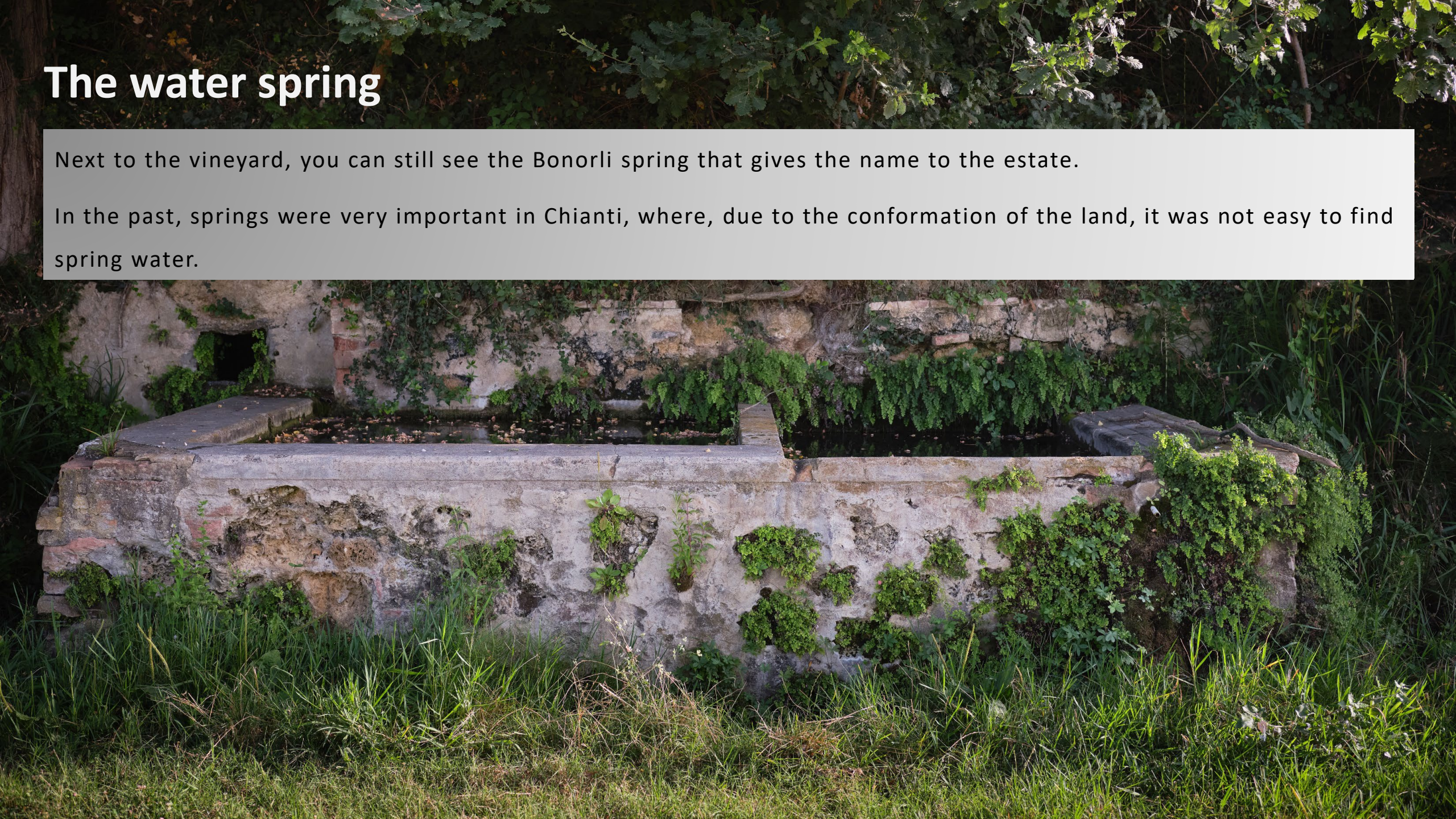
The Verdians were the last peasant family to live on the estate in the late 1960s.



The water spring

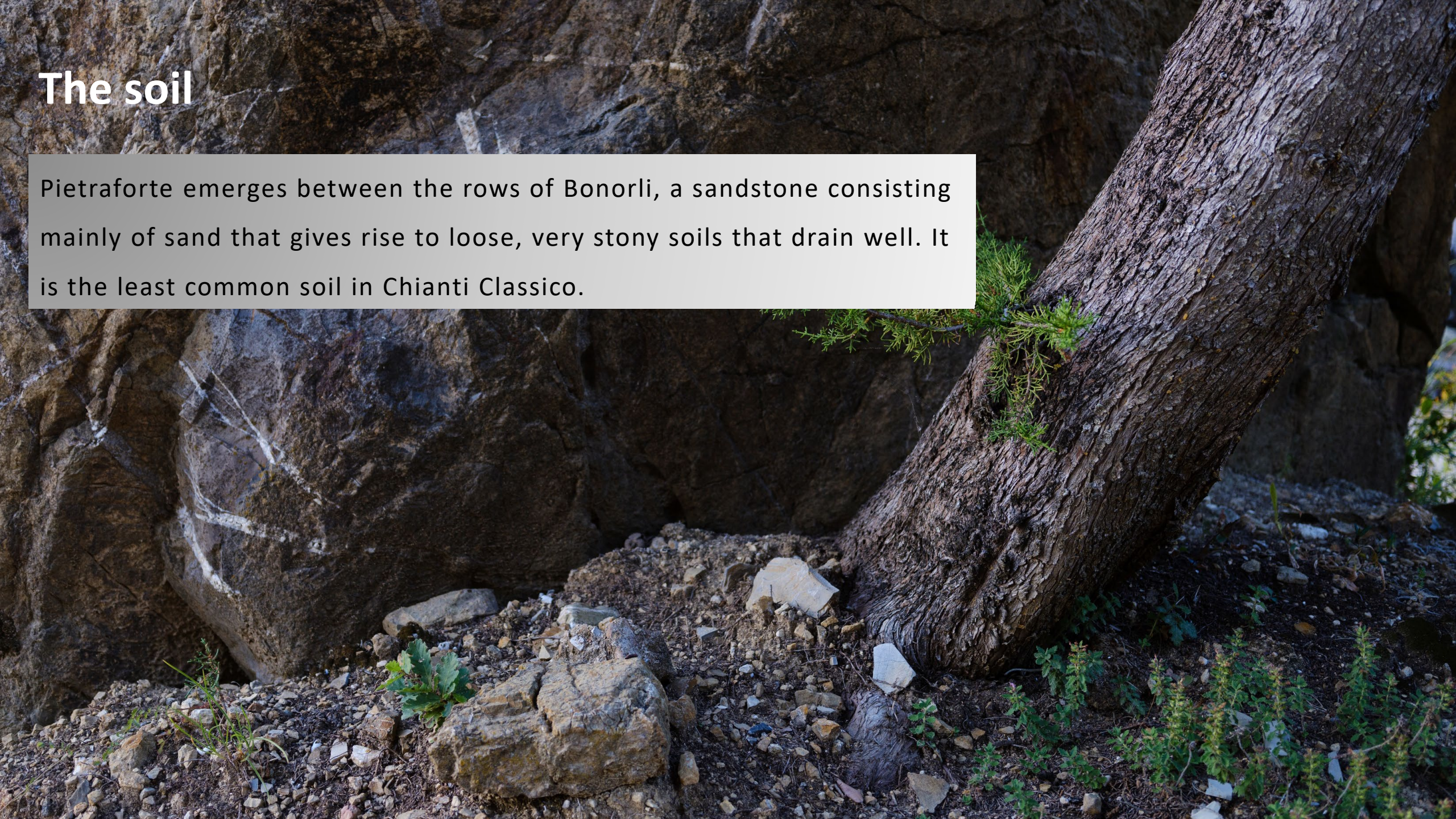
Next to the vineyard, you can still see the Bonorli spring that gives the name to the estate.

In the past, springs were very important in Chianti, where, due to the conformation of the land, it was not easy to find spring water.



The soil

Pietraforte emerges between the rows of Bonorli, a sandstone consisting mainly of sand that gives rise to loose, very stony soils that drain well. It is the least common soil in Chianti Classico.



Bonorli

Bonorli is a true example of a 'Super Tuscan' of Bordeaux variety, broad and intense on the nose, vibrant and sapid on the palate.

This red Toscana IGT embodies the freshness of the fruit and the elegance of the terroir.



An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a winding dirt path. The path is light brown and curves through the lush green trees. The trees are mostly deciduous with vibrant green foliage. The lighting suggests a sunny day, with shadows cast across the path and the forest floor.

«If you know where you want to get to, you'll always find your way.

Poderi Melini, our footsteps, our story, our wine.»