

# The Region.

## Fontanasanta and the hills above Trento.

Set at the end of the Val d'Adige, Trento is surrounded by mountains and hills that depict a setting of great visual impact and of fundamental environmental value.

The hills to the east of the city represent a unique context where Renaissance villas mingle with old farmsteads and wooded landscapes blend with those shaped by farming, an activity that is still of considerable importance for the local economy. Despite substantial urban development due to great housing demand in recent years, some areas have been thankfully spared from real-estate development and have preserved a fragile balance between human, natural and agricultural space.

The villa 'Fontanasanta', surrounded by woods and vineyards, overlooks the town, while behind it a south-facing valley rises to the plateau of Martignano. The name Fontanasanta (in English "Holy Fount") seems to come from the Rio Salùga, which runs inside the property, and whose name according to tradition derives from "Santa Aga" (Santa Acqua in Italian), i.e. holy water.

Designed by Sebastiano de Boni, the Empire-style villa was commissioned in 1815 by Count Simone Consolati, Consul in Trento under the Prince Bishop Thun, for "gli ozi dagli affanni della città e per il trattenimento degli amici" (the leisure from the worries of the city and the entertainment of friends) - as stated on the epigraph on the facade. The farmstead near the main building dates back to 1557 when the revenue from a candle factory, which satisfied the needs for candles for the Council of Trento, allowed the Count Vincenzo Consolati to build a private manor in the hunting estate. The nearby chapel, however, dates from 1828. It was built, in Empire-style as well, in the shape of a small temple dedicated to the Madonna of Divine Love, depicted in a painting found within it.

In the nineteenth century the Consolati family played a central role in the city's political arena: in fact, during the French occupation the Prince Bishop took refuge in Castle Thun in Val di Non leaving Simone's brother, Filippo, who was repeatedly elected mayor, to manage, aided by the Conte Mancini, the delicate relations with Napoleon until the final victory of Austria.

The First World War was an extremely dramatic chapter in the history of Trento, finding itself near the state border and therefore on the battlefield. The population was forcefully evacuated and the region suffered heavy devastation. Crushed by the weight of mortgages contracted because of the significant economic damage caused by the war, Fontanasanta was redeemed by Carl Von Lutterotti, Annunziata Consolati's husband, who reclaimed the area by planting vineyards and fruit trees.

Miraculous or not, water is a ubiquitous element in the entire property: brooks and streams not only feed the vineyards but also the dense forest vegetation that surrounds them, contributing to the creation of an ideal environmental system, naturally protected from the outside.

In 2007 Foradori rented the farmland of the estate: red earth and white rock, clay and limestone; a perfect soil for whites, for Incrocio Manzoni and Nosiola.

Since 2012 life returned to the paddock of Fontanasanta thanks to the arrival of three "Grigie Alpine", the local cow breed. After the harvest the cows are free to graze through the vineyards until bud break, spreading impulses to the soil and manure used for our compost.

A new chapter begins in Fontanasanta's rich history. Deep roots thrive on the past while branches and leaves stretch out towards the future where this story will also be told through the wines that will originate here.

