



Diego Bonato of Tolaini Receives the 2017 Premio Gambelli Award

February 20th, 2017 (Castelnuovo Berardenga, SI, Italy) – We at Tolaini are thrilled to announce that **Diego Bonato**, General Manager and Head Enologist of **Tolaini**, received the **2017 Premio Gambelli Award** presented to him on Monday, February 13th at the 2017 Chianti Classico Collection in Florence, Italy.

“I am very proud to see Diego honored with this prestigious award. He and his team have been dedicated to making the best wines that represent this terroir since day one,” said Pier Luigi Tolaini, owner of Tolaini.

“I chose Castelnuovo Berardenga over 20 years ago for its great terroir. My dream to produce great wines that have a sense of place has been affirmed with this award.”

This Premio Gambelli award is a highly-esteemed honor that is awarded in memory of **Giulio Gambelli**, the late great Italian wine consultant who was known fondly as the “maestro” of Sangiovese. The award is given annually to a young enologist under the age of 35 who shows exceptional skill and dedication in making wine that is representative of the terroir in which they work. The short list of winemakers is selected by leading industry journalists and finalists are asked to send samples to the jury. A blind tasting follows and the winner is chosen.

“I am very proud of our team at Tolaini and very thankful to the Tolaini family”, said Diego Bonato.

“The award was given to me but it is an award for our team. Thanks to Davide Xodo, Tolaini agronomist, and Francesco Rosi, our enologist. We work hard every day to make the best wines from our terroir, and winning the Premio Gambelli for Sangiovese wines, is a true honour as this was the varietal of Giulio Gambelli.”

About Diego Bonato

Diego Bonato graduated in 2004 from the University of Padova with a degree in Enology. He has made wine in the Veneto and Tuscany and participated in harvests in New Zealand and Australia. Diego worked at Tolaini in 2006 for the growing season and harvest. He returned to Tolaini in 2008 where he was hired as the technical director in charge of the vineyards and winery. Today Diego is General Manager/Enologist at Tolaini.

About Tolaini

In 1997 Pier Luigi Tolaini returned to his homeland and bought property located in Castelnuovo Berardenga in the heart of Chianti Classico. Tolaini planted 50 hectares to Sangiovese, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. He constructed, from the roots up, a state-of-the-art winery and brought together the best technology and winemakers to bring to light wines that would be a true expression of this significant region. Today Ruggero Mazzilli is Tolaini's consulting agronomist and under his guidance, Tolaini vineyards are farmed organically and sustainably. Tolaini produces five wines – a Chianti Classico **Vallenuova** (new release 2015 vintage, 100% sangiovese), Chianti Classico Gran Selezione (100% Sangiovese); **Al Passo** (predominantly Sangiovese); **Valdisanti** (Cabernet-Sauvignon dominant); and the winery's top wine, **Picconero**, a Merlot Cabernet Franc blend.