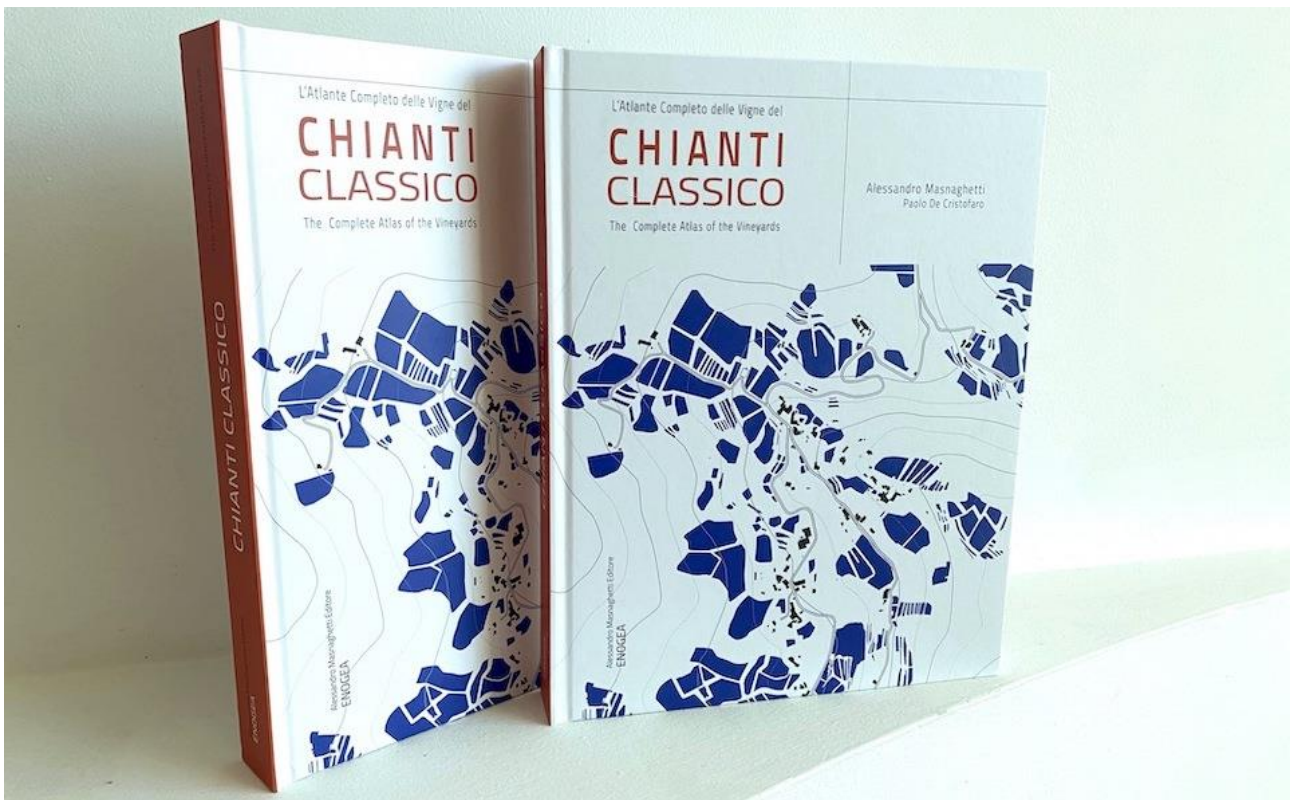


Alessandro Masnaghetti's Latest Opus

Readers will want to be on the lookout for Alessandro Masnaghetti's latest opus, *Chianti Classico: The Complete Atlas of the UGA Vineyards*. When I saw the final draft recently I immediately thought: *I might as well stop writing about wine now, as I don't have anything like this to contribute*. I am not kidding or exaggerating. Looking through the pages, I was not only blown away but also deeply inspired. *Maybe if I work really hard and apply myself, maybe one day I can write something that approaches this level*, I thought.

When it comes to Alessandro Masnaghetti and his work, I am not at all unbiased, so let's get that out of the way. Since 2015, Alessandro and I have worked closely on a series of California vineyard maps. Since then, I have had a front row seat to this work. I have seen, firsthand, workdays that start at the crack of dawn and go late into the evening, often seven days a week. Days off are few and far between. Alessandro's attention to detail can only be described as maniacal. But none of that would matter if the final product wasn't good, and it is more than good, it is profoundly great.

Chianti Classico: The Complete Atlas of the UGA Vineyards examines the new UGAs (Unità Geografiche Aggiuntive), Chianti Classico's version of place names, with historical background, in-depth information on soils and detailed maps for each UGA. The English translation is by none other than Burton Anderson. Alessandro's earlier books were translated by the late Daniel Thomases. As much as I admire and respect Thomases, his translations were literal to the point of often feeling unnatural or rigid. In my view, Anderson does a better job of capturing the spirit of Alessandro's texts.



Chianti Classico: The Complete Atlas of the UGA Vineyards represents a seminal moment for Italian wine. Think about it. How many regions in the world have been covered with this amount of detail with regards to soil, geology and history of sites? Bordeaux, Burgundy and perhaps Champagne, but across

numerous books and maps, and of course Piedmont through Alessandro's work. Certainly there are no books like this on any American winegrowing region, at least not that I am aware of. But this book is more than that. In Piedmont, for example, there is a collection of work that existed prior to Alessandro's books. One can say those treatises were incomplete or not specific enough, but some body of knowledge existed with regards to soils, geologies and there was a pretty good idea of the location of top vineyard sites too. None of this has ever existed in Chianti Classico. Until now. Alessandro has written the first definitive text on Chianti Classico. There are only a handful of people, producers included, who possess this knowledge, but only one person who could put it all together. It's a book that instantly elevates the reputation of Chianti Classico and places it among the elite wine regions of the world. *Chianti Classico: The Complete Atlas of the UGA Vineyards* is a hundred years ahead of its time. It is one of the most far-reaching and historically significant texts ever written about wine and certainly about Italian wine.

For these reasons I am convinced *Chianti Classico: The Complete Atlas of the UGA Vineyards* is Alessandro's masterpiece; it is his *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, his *Kind of Blue*, his *The Wall*.

Vinous.com, Antonio Galloni, 19. Juli 2022