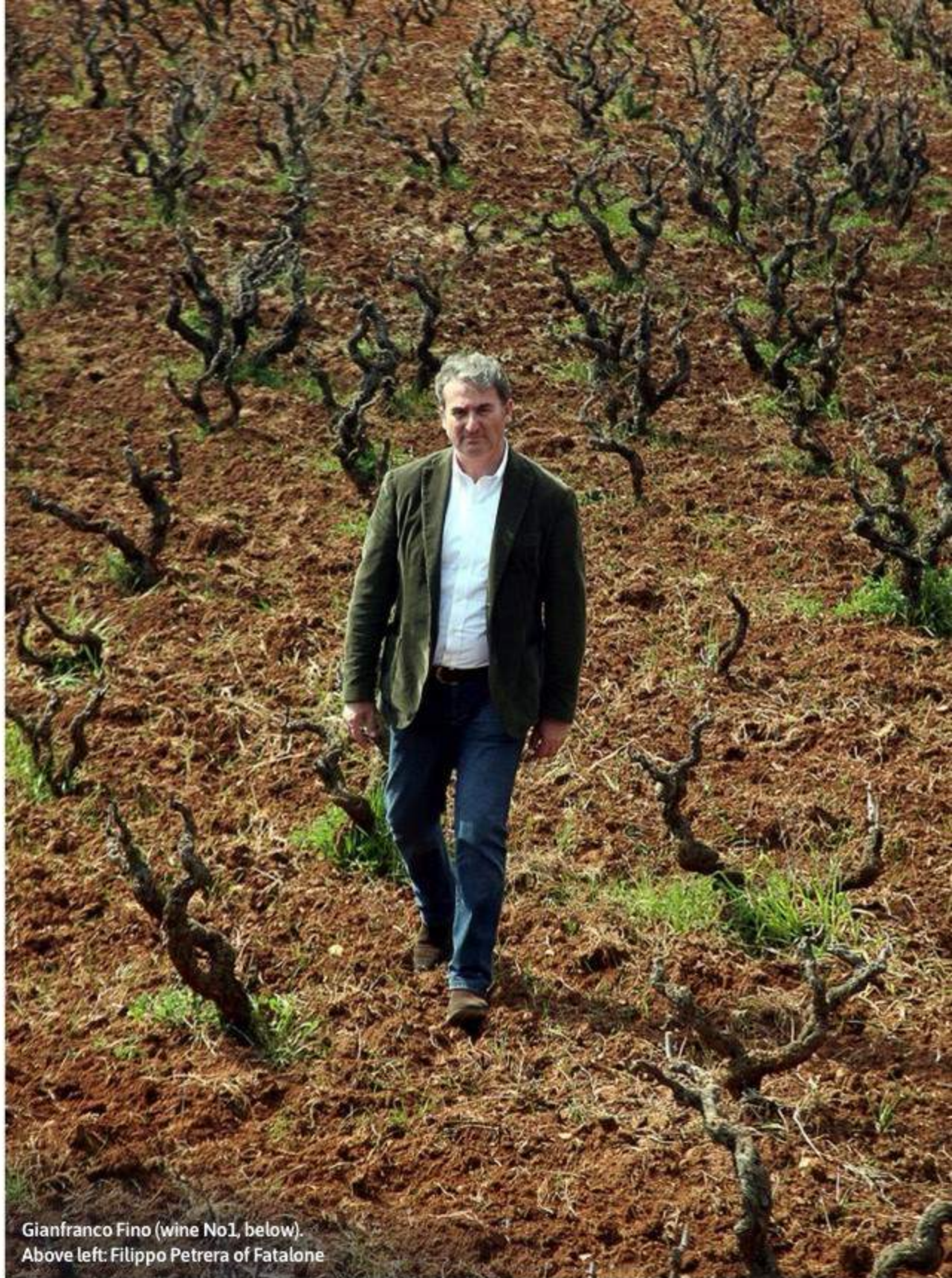




characteristics produce wines that are generally fruit-forward and full-bodied, delightfully velvety and mellow, with robust alcohol content making them potent yet balanced. These wines can be enjoyed young, or laid down for years. Pope Benedict XIII famously produced Primitivo di Manduria. Today, Italian and international celebrities (such as American actor Ronn Moss) have bought their own vineyards.

Covering some 4,500ha, this DOC is leading a constantly growing market, with 70% of its output exported. Production, and sales, increased even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Part of Primitivo di Manduria's appeal is undoubtedly its value for money, with prices in major retailers ranging from £7.99 to £39 in exceptional cases.

Puglian Primitivo really delivers in the glass, exuding the special atmosphere of this welcoming Italian region, abundant in natural beauty.



Gianfranco Fino (wine No1, below).  
Above left: Filippo Petrera of Fatalone

## Power and poise: Piubello's 20 top Primitivo reds to try



①

① **Gianfranco Fino, Es, Salento 2019** 97  
£35 (ib)-£55 Cru, Lay & Wheeler, Millésima,  
Starling Wines

Fino has spearheaded the renaissance of authentic Primitivo for nearly two decades. Italian critics agree that Es is the ultimate genre-defining Primitivo. To experience this wine is a privilege – not due to its status or rarity, but for its power to convey sheer emotion. **Drink** 2021-2033 **Alcohol** 16.5%

②

② **Fatalone, Riserva, Gioia del Colle**  
**2018** 94

£17-£23.95 Exel, Forest Wines, Hay Wines,  
Keeling Andrew & Co, Les Caves de Pyrene, Noble  
Green, Prezzemolo & Vitale, StarmoreBoss, Tannico,  
The Good Wine Shop, Theatre of Wine  
The fifth generation of the Petrera family  
made history; in 1987 it was the first to  
bottle under the Gioia del Colle DOC, and

③

was among the first wineries in Puglia to  
go organic. This wine is emblematic of its  
variety and terroir. Astoundingly beautiful.  
**Drink** 2021-2031 **Alc** 15%

③ **Pietraventosa, Riserva, Gioia del  
Colle 2016** 94

N/A UK [pietraventosa.it](http://pietraventosa.it)  
Stone and wind are the two core elements  
of Marianna Annio's winery. This Riserva  
encapsulates the vibrant, sunny spirit of  
both terroir and owner, its radiance enticing  
you to take sip after sip as you attempt to  
capture its soul. **Drink** 2021-2031 **Alc** 15%

④

④ **Plantamura, Etichetta Nera,  
Contrada San Pietro, Gioia del Colle**  
**2019** 94

£17.15 Ethical Edibles  
A small, family-run, organic winery led by