



Our journey begins in **San Pietro Vernotico** (Brindisi Province), and takes us through an area with a wealth of wineries to discover. Each one is different and has its own story, but they all have one grape variety in common: **Negroamaro**, the symbol of **Salento** wines.

The most important wine towns of the **Upper Salento** have created a **Park for Negroamaro**, and the two Doc wines of the area - **Squinzano** and **Salice Salentino** – are based on this variety.



There are two different theories about the origin of the name Negroamaro: one is that it is an obvious reference to the black grapes and the slightly bitter flavour, while the other is that it means “blackblack” from *niger* in Latin and *maru* in Greek. This is the heart of the Messapian Plain, a sunny, fertile area which was once rich grazing land.



The trip from Brindisi to Lecce takes us through countryside full of reminders that this area has always produced oil and wine. A few kilometers take us to **Squinzano, Guagnano, Salice Salentino** and **Campi Salentina**, in the so-called Cupa Valley. The ideal combination of climate and soil structure produces wines with rich and complex bouquets.



The **Cupa Valley** was once home to the Lecce aristocracy, and is full of grand houses, farm houses, fortified farmsteads and dry-stone buildings: these include the *pagghi* (or *are pajare*), used by farm workers to shelter from bad weather or to store their implements. The landowners' residences often have dove-cotes and underground ice stores (*neviere*).

Movimento Turismo del Vino Wineries

[Feudi di Guagnano](#)

Guagnano (Le)

[Cantele](#)

Guagnano (Le)

[Taurino](#)

Guagnano (Le)

[Tenuta Mater Domini](#)

Salice Salentino (Le)

[Castello Monaci](#)

Salice Salentino (Le)

[Leone de Castris](#)

Salice Salentino (Le)