

VAENI 2016 Naoussa (Xinomavro)

WineWise Code	HVA-NAO16
Country	Greece
Region	Naoussa
Subregion	Marina, Trilofos, Fitia, Naoussa and other small subregions of the city of Naoussa
Color	Red
Alcohol by Volume	12.8
Acidity	5.4
Residual Sugar	3
Closure	DIAM
Annual cases produced	20,000
Varieties	100% Xinomavro
Pumpover or Punchdown?	Pumpover
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation vessel	Stainless Steel
Fermentation duration	10 days
Aging duration (months)	10
Filtered?	Yes
Fining agents	Gelatine
Yeast	Cultured
Lees Contact or Stirring	1 month
Malolactic	Yes
Added Sulfur	Yes
Soil Type(s)	Calcareous, Alluvial, Sedimentary
Elevation (meters)	200
Vineyard Aspect	Northwest
Vine age (years)	30
Vine Yields hl/ha	60
Farming practices	Conventional
Grape Picking	Hand-harvested

Notes from the producer:

The Co-operative was inaugurated in 1983 but the winery was actually built in 1984 and the first commercial vintage took place during that year. A desire for increased production was one of the reasons that led to the establishment of the Co-operative, which could act as a counterbalance for private companies. In 1984, the most radically designed winery in the Balkans was built at record speed, due to the hard work of its members and support from the government. The Co-operative originally counted 330 members that grew 65% of the grapes in the Naoussa viticultural zone.



WineWise Notes:

This is a perfect introduction to the aromatic joys of Xinomavro and its capacity for producing refined, tense and expansive red wine. It could plausibly cost much more. Let us be glad that it does not.

This must be one of the world's great wine co-operatives, on a par with La Chablisienne, the Wachau's Freie Weingärtner and the Produttori di Barbaresco. The vast majority of Naoussa's growers have tiny holdings. Only 20 or so grow enough grapes to contemplate making a living from them. Most of the rest sell them to this exemplary organization, which offers a degree of technical and marketing expertise that is quite remarkable.

