

## VAENI 2013 Grande Reserve (Naoussa)

WineWise Code	HVA-GRE13
Country	Greece
Region	Naoussa
Subregion	Marina, Trilofos, Fitia, Naoussa and other small subregions of the city of Naoussa
Color	Red
Alcohol by Volume	13.3
Acidity	5.8
Residual Sugar	2.2
Closure	DIAM
Annual cases produced	2200
Varieties	100% Xinomavro
Pumpover or Punchdown?	Pumpover
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation vessel	Stainless Steel
Fermentation duration	15 days
Aging method	Used Barrique 100%
Aging duration (months)	18
Filtered?	Yes
Fining agents	None
Yeast	Cultured
Lees Contact or Stirring	2 months
Malolactic	Yes
Added Sulfur	Yes
Soil Type(s)	Calcareous, Alluvial, Sedimentary
Elevation (meters)	300
Vineyard Aspect	Northeast
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:

It is not clear why the Macedonians like to use French names to describe their top wines, but old habits can die hard. Made from the best grapes available and aged for a minimum of five years in wood, there is an added weight, depth and beauty here that add up to something close to greatness. We challenge you to find a wine of this class and maturity at a price remotely close to this.

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.

