

In the heart of Chianti Classico, the Castello d'Albola estate is steeped in history. Owned over the centuries by the region's aristocratic families, the property was bought in 1979 by the Zonin family. Around 160ha of the 900ha estate are planted, 90% to Sangiovese. Vines are, on average, 20 years old, and are grown on soils of two distinct geological types: *alberese* (fine-grained, compact limestone) and *galestro* (clay-based shale). As well as ensuring good drainage, these give the wines a mineral, tangy character. Pictured in the foreground is the 18th-century country house, Villa Marangole, available for holiday rental. To the bottom left are some of Castello Albola's many olive trees – these are noticeably smaller than those in Italy's south, as all olive trees in Chianti Classico froze and died during a severe winter in 1985.

