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Historic Italian Winery Up for Auction at Sotheby's

17th-Century Monastery Turned Winery Seeks New Owner

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In the rolling hills of Asti, Piedmont, a 17th-century monastery is about to change hands, and it's not just any old property. Known as Azienda Agricola Montefiorito, this estate is a captivating blend of historical charm and modern winemaking prowess, set to go under the hammer at Sotheby's auction house with a starting bid of 3.9 million

Euros. Mark your calendars for May 23rd, because this is an opportunity that doesn't come around often.

Azienda Agricola Montefiorito spans 13 hectares of organically farmed vineyards, a testament to sustainable agriculture nestled in one of Italy's most renowned wine regions. The estate's current owner, Danish businessman Ole Mikael Jensen, purchased the property in 2013. Jensen, who sits on the board of Pricer AB and previously Montefiorito S.r.l. Agricultural Society, has decided to part with this gem as his life and business commitments have shifted back to Copenhagen.

This estate isn't just about the land; it's steeped in history. Among its previous owners is the family of Nobel laureate Rita Levi-Montalcini, adding a touch of academic prestige to its long and storied past. Listed by Ilaria Demartini of Italy Sotheby's International Realty in April, the property is priced at a tantalizing 3.95 million euros.

The Winery and Vineyards

Montefiorito isn't just an old monastery with some grapevines. It's a fully functional, state-of-the-art winery capable of producing up to 40,000 bottles a year. The winery itself is ingeniously built into the hillside, making it not only aesthetically pleasing but also highly efficient in maintaining optimal conditions for wine production. Hidden beneath the estate lies a tunnel that leads to a cave where wines are aged, adding a dash of mystery and romance to the winemaking process.

Since 2019, the vineyards have been certified organic, a point of pride for any modern winery. Five grape varieties call this land home, including the prestigious Nebbiolo, Piedmont's flagship grape. Over a period of three years, the vineyard underwent significant renovations to enhance vine health and optimize space, ensuring that every grape reaches its full potential.

Currently, the winemaking duties are in the hands of Gian Luca Colombo, a seasoned winemaker known for his organic and biodynamic practices. Colombo's expertise extends beyond Montefiorito; he has worked with some of the best producers in the Langhe region, such as Castello di Perno. His touch ensures that the wines produced here are of exceptional quality, aligning with the estate's high standards.

The estate is more than just a vineyard and a winery; it's a comprehensive lifestyle package. Included in the sale are tractors and other machinery essential for maintaining the vineyards. Wine enthusiasts will be thrilled by the impressive collection of 30,000 estate-aged wines, showcasing the rich legacy of Montefiorito's production.

Living on this estate would be a dream. With 10,000 square feet of living space, it features ten bedrooms, seven bathrooms, five kitchens, and two laundry rooms. It's perfect for hosting guests or even running a boutique hospitality business. For relaxation, there's a two-level infinity pool, a restaurant, and a rooftop terrace that offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

For anyone passionate about wine, history, and sustainable living, Azienda Agricola Montefiorito represents a unique investment opportunity. It's not just buying property; it's acquiring a piece of Piedmont's rich viticultural heritage, complete with modern amenities and a thriving organic vineyard.

As the bidding opens on May 23rd, all eyes will be on Sotheby's. Will you be the one to write the next chapter in the history of Azienda Agricola Montefiorito?