



PREFACE

Celebrating the women behind the bottle

“What is your dream in life?”

More than two years ago, my friend Emma asked me that question one dark and gloomy November night.

“To write a book about natural wine,” I replied instantly.

“But that’s too wide, what exactly do you want to do?” she countered.

“Write a book about women who make natural wine,” I said, without realising I had such a dream.

My dream was to write the book I had wanted to read but hadn’t found. About women in wine. Nearly all the producers I had read about in natural wine books – and other wine books for that matter – were men. Which perhaps isn’t that surprising, given that only about 14 per cent of all wine producers are women. What I wanted was a book about some of my favourite producers, who happen to be women.

But of course, the idea of writing this book wasn’t really born that November night. It began much earlier, with my first sip of natural wine. It left me speechless, with a happy smile on my face. This was back in 2008 and I had been recommended a bottle of Arianna Occhipinti’s Il Frappato at my local wine shop owned by the Norwegian state monopoly.

Up until that point, the wines I had been drinking were straight, mostly industrial wines made in large quantities. I had found my