The Quarterly Review of

THE MIRACLE OF FRANCIACORTA

Lombardy's Miniature "Champagne"

Burton Anderson

· aiiiing 82 Clarets



Ca' del Bosco's Maurizio Zanella with barriques

COURTESY B. ANDERSON

Ca' del Bosco received a welcome boost in capital recently when Santa Margherita, the Venetian firm that became a national wine power through its success with Pinot Grigio, acquired the commercial side of the operation, leaving vineyards and cellars in Maurizio Zanella's expert hands. From 237 acres of vines, he and cellarmaster Stefano Capelli turn out some 450,000 bottles, about evenly split between sparkling and still. The basic Brut comes from Chardonnay, Pinot Bianco and Pinot Nero, as do cuvées of the millesimato Brut and Dosage Zero, while Satèn is all white grapes and Pinot Nero prevails in the Rosé. The special Cuvée Anna Maria Clemente 1989 comes from a blend of wines aged in oak barrels. Ca' del Bosco's still wines stand with Italy's best of breed, from the stylish DOC Bianco and Chardonnay to the Burgundy-like Pinero (Pinot Nero) and the elegant signature red Maurizio Zanella (Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc-Merlot).