

GIL SHATSBERG, WINEMAKER FOR RECANATI



Gil Shatsberg heads winemaking and vineyard management at Recanati winery, one of Israel's top five wine producers and an international standard bearer for fine quality Israeli wines. Shatsberg's credentials include managing and making wine for seven years at the critically acclaimed Amphorae Vineyard. In early 2008, Shatsberg took over from former Recanati winemaker Lewis Pasco, who left to pursue new career opportunities in his native United States.

Established in 2000 by Lenny Recanati, a prominent Israeli financier and wine collector, the Recanati winery in Israel's Hefer Valley in Upper Galilee obtains fruit from some of the area's finest high-altitude vineyards. In less than eight years, Recanati wines have developed a following that extends far beyond Israel, and can be found on wine lists and in stores in the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Shatsberg is a seminal figure in the modern-day Israeli wine industry. On completion of four years' military service with an elite unit of the Israeli Air Force, he transferred to the U.S. to study Viticulture & Enology at U.C. Davis, graduating with honors in 1993. For the next couple of years he worked as assistant winemaker at the Jordan sparkling winery in Healdsburg, CA, before relocating to Israel in late 1994 to take up the position of winemaker at Carmel where he spent six years before joining Amphorae.

Born and raised in the Kibbutz Tzora near Jerusalem, Shatsberg knew from an early age that his calling lay in agriculture. The multi-disciplinary demands of winemaking held particular appeal. *"Israel is blessed with exceptional growing conditions, ideal for producing top-flight wines,"* he says. *"Though the Israeli wine industry is still young, I believe it's just a matter of time before our wines share the same levels of international awareness and respect and enjoyed by other top wine regions worldwide."*

In his new position at Recanati, Shatsberg looks forward to creating wines that project the authenticity and the very best attributes of Israeli terroir. *"It's not my objective to create wines that imitate those from elsewhere in the world. Instead, I strive to make wines that remain true to the land they come from, wines that also offer an ideal match for Israeli's amazingly rich and diverse culinary heritage, extending from Europe, to the Middle East and North Africa."*

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