

WINE TOURISM
— MAG —



ISSUE
#10

WINE TOURISM MAG

WINE TOURISM MAG
010

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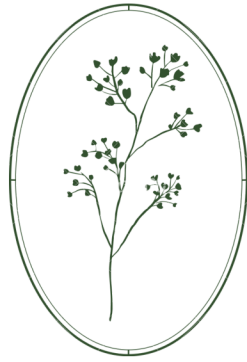


OKANAGAN, MY LOVE!

I know what you are going to tell me: "Canadian wines are little recognized internationally for their quality... They're almost impossible to find on the European market." Of course, this explains that. If enthusiasts are unable to taste it, they will not be able to realize that, on the contrary, the wines of this region are among the best produced in North America. It's by visiting that I understood how great Canadian wines are, how developed this region actually is, and I hope I can succeed to communicate my passion and my love for these exceptional wines within these pages. On the other hand, I believe that like many regions in the world, you have to go there to understand the grandeur of the place. The panorama is incredible and is reflected in the glass. At each sip, I have the impression of tasting the freshness of the water or the structure of the arid soil. And what about the panorama... A landscape composed of duality, just like its soils and its climate. Straddling the desert and the sea, between the mountains and the plains. What beauty and variety for the eyes, and especially in the glass. Let yourself be guided on this journey of the senses with a special issue which mainly talks about this little-known region. This initiation to travel, as the master would say, is filled with 'Luxe, calme et volupté.'

MICHAEL MCDUFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line.



FEATURED WINE REGION

OKANAGAN VALLEY

by Joanie metivier



STAGGERING

We all know wine & beautiful scenery goes together hand in hand, and it's a truly fitting way of presenting the long and narrow valley of the Okanagan. Everywhere you look, there's a combination of vineyards, mountains, and water. However, besides the abundance of breath-taking scenery, it's also a place of extreme excitement and development in terms of winemaking. It's a paradise for wine lovers and definitely an underestimated part of the wine world.

BC Wines are able to demonstrate their individuality and sense of place while providing impressive diversity. BC's wine industry has grown from 19 grape wineries in 1990 to more than 280 today. Not only that but there's also been a huge development in terms of grape varieties, geographical indications as well as wine tourism resources & offers.

It's about time the world understands that Canada IS making wine, and even more so, that BC makes GREAT wine.



PLACE OF WATER.

Okanagan is characterized largely as being one of the warmest regions within all of Canada. It's for this reason in particular that special attention in recent years has been given to wine production. Aside from it being warm, it's relatively dry and sunny which makes it ideal for growing a variety of grape varieties. The region has a continental climate, but its extremes are moderated by the presence of a series of deep, interconnected lakes—Okanagan Lake, Skaha Lake, Vaseux Lake, and Osoyoos Lake.

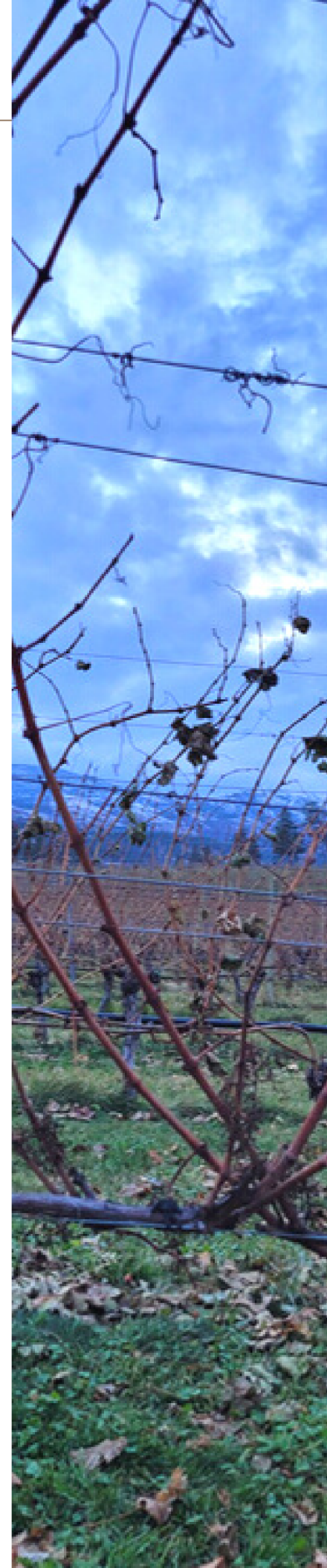
The extreme Terroir diversity and micro-climates present throughout the entirety of the region offer Vintners the ability to not only grow a wide range of grape varieties but also to produce them in a variety of styles. That diversity is the result of various aspects. First of all, the region experiences a pronounced diurnal cycle, especially during the harvest season, with warm days and cool nights combined to promote acidity as well as maximize hang time. The result is new world style, concentrated fruit-forward wines that retain a notable, vibrant acidity.

Also, The geology of the Okanagan Valley is particularly complex; presenting an array of soil types, which have been shaped by complex processes of mountain building, volcanic eruptions, glaciation, and erosion. Like many other places in the world, when there's a valley made from erosion & glaciation, it tends to show incredible complexity. The soils are mostly sandy with white clay-silt on top of gravelly glacial sands with limestone, granite, and other gravels of ancient volcanic origin.

From quiet family-run boutique vineyards to world-class operations, the Okanagan Valley wineries are rich in tradition and character, consistently ranking among the world's best at international competitions. There are 8 sub-regions in the valley, from North to South, you'll find:

KELOWNA/LAKE COUNTRY
PEACHLAND/SUMMERLAND/PENTICTON
NARAMATA BENCH
SKAHA BENCH
OKANAGAN FALLS
OLIVER
GOLDEN MILE BENCH
OSOYOOS

However, other locations are also starting to make waves like Similkameen Valley for example.





Keep in mind, there's another unique thing about BC wines. One that could make lots of winemaking regions jealous. Most of the wines produced in BC are sold locally. There's a high demand for local products, Food & Wine, all around British Columbia and lots of producers manage to sell all their production right out their front door or through wine club members. While this may be a blessing for the wineries, it's a pain in the ass for consumers around the world. It is hard to get the best of BC anywhere else than right there. This being said, isn't this the very best region to reach the Okanagan Valley and visit this stunning region? Skip the store and go directly to the cellar door.

WEST KELOWNA



WRITTEN BY JOANIE METIVIER

QUAIL'S GATE



Owned by the Stewart family, Quail's gate is a pioneer in the region. What started as a nursery business, when Richard Stewart Sr. first established in the region in 1908 as set up the family for decades of history in the wine industry. Quail's gate was for the first 30 years of the company, wine growers, to eventually become winemakers for the rest of their existence. The first grapes to be planted was Chasselas in 1962, while they taught it was riesling at the time, it became even today, one of their best sellers in their Chasselas, Pinot blanc blend. They now have 15 grape varietals planted all around the Okanagan. While they do have a good amount of vineyards right around the winery, 85 ha, they actually own 250 ha in 6 different spots from North to South of the valley. The modern and beautiful wine shop overlooking the vines was built in 2007 and makes for the perfect tasting setting.

Quails' Gate is known for its ideal site for growing varietal grapes, especially Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. In short order the Stewart Family realized the potential for premium wines from these varietals which have become the main focus of the winery. Other varieties include Riesling, Merlot, Gewurztraminer, Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Blanc, Marechal Foch and Chasselas.

Quail's Gate's Chardonnay

STEWART FAMILY VINEYARD CHARDONNAY 2019

Composed of clone 95 exclusively this is the estate's flagship white, grapes are grown on the volcanic slopes of Boucherie Mountain just above the winery. The Stewart Family Reserve Chardonnay is whole-cluster-pressed and 100% barrel fermented in new and neutral French oak. Full malolactic fermentation was carried out to enhance the mid-palate, with aging on lees and regular battonage. It shows a rich creaminess that relates its new world style. It's fragrant and opulent with a mature orchard fruit aromatic profile. Deliciously rounded.

ROSEMARY'S BLOCK CHARDONNAY 2019

Situated on the north side of Boucherie Road at Quails' Gate's Estate in West Kelowna, Rosemary's Block has a pristine view of Okanagan Lake and is recognized for the quality of its grapes. Part of the founder's reserve series, these are limited releases. Clones 76, 809, and 277 planted in 1996, whole-cluster pressed and 100% barrel fermented in a mix of new and old French oak. It's a very elegant, graceful expression, showing a perfumed style, delicate finesse as well as some phenolic bitterness that gives it length. It's a gorgeous wine with tension and freshness.

Quail's Gate's Chenin Blanc

CLONE 220 CHENIN BLANC 2020

Clone 220 originates from Loire valley and is characterized by its thicker skin. Mostly fermented in concrete eggs for 9 months, this is a top-tier expression of this varietal. Fully concentrated, it shows classic quince, honeydew, elderflower, and candle wax aromas with also some savory notes of sage. It's definitely one of the most complex and flavorsome Chenin in the valley.

CHENIN BLANC 2019

A fresh, lively, and stony Chenin Blanc. It shows floral notes, as well as crisp acidity and a mellow volume on the palate. Very recognizable as it is varietal accurate and simply pleasant. Honeysuckle and citrus are shining as the main aromas, but also pear and saltiness.



Quail's Gate's Pinot Noir



ESTATE PINOT NOIR 2019

Quail's Gate estate pinot noir profile shows very mature fruits, plum, and figs as well as an empyreumatic style with tar and coffee aromas. The lively acidity brings all the freshness and character to the juicy palate. It's aged 9 months in neutral oak, giving it some welcomed volume.

STEWART FAMILY RESERVE PINOT NOIR 2019

Sourced from our finest blocks on the Boucherie slopes just across from the winery with some vines dating back to 1970. This wine is made in limited quantities and shows great elegance and finesse. Opens very delicately to black cherry, truffle, plum, licorice, with vanilla oak presence. The palate is firmly structured with rich, concentrated volume and a slight bitterness to the finish.

DIJON CLONE PINOT NOIR 2019

This wine is an exclusive blend of the best and oldest Dijon Clones on the estate. Blended from 16-year-old Dijon clones 115 and 667, aged in gross lees in French oak for 10 months of which 60% are new and 40% are 1 year old. Only 55 cases of this wine were produced. It is very Burgundian in style with earthy tones, forest floor, mushroom, and beautiful violet aromas. It's a very aromatic and fragrant wine. The palate is rich and supple, very elegantly soft.



WRITTEN BY JOANIE METIVIER

MISSION HILL



Anthony von Mandl, founder of the Mark Anthony group in 1972 surely become a powerful advocate for the Okanagan valley and played an important part in the development of the region. It is from the success of the Mark Anthony brand, that allowed him to create state-of-the art, meaningful wineries in the region. Mission Hill dates back to 1965, on the top of a gorgeous hill. It was in 1981, after various failures from previous owner, that von Mandl purchased the estate with big plans and major renovations for it. Now, this audacious project has proven to have a deep commitment to the region, and a relentless passion to produce world-renowned wines. Today, mission Hill is a masterpiece in itself, with breathtaking architecture and a touristic offer that surpasses any. Chef Patrick Gayler's harvest lunch is one to remember and his dedication to uses ingredients in close relationship with the wines terroir is inspiring.

MISSION HILL WINES



JAGGED ROCK SAUVIGNON SEMILLON 2020

Jagged Rock Vineyard, surrounded by steep rocky cliffs at 1,400 feet elevation, is a remarkable spot. This Sauvignon, Semillon blend offers great freshness as well as a delightful mix of white stone fruits, lemon confit, and passionfruit on the palate.

PERPETUA 2019

Harvested from their eastern Osoyoos vineyard estate, this chardonnay comes from historic French Burgundian Dijon clones. This is a rich, powerful and toasty wine. Aromas include ripe orchard fruit, zest, brioche, and crackers. On the palate, french oak is highlighted with also a malolactic influence but the boldness is well-integrated thanks to the striking acidity.

JAGGED ROCK SYRAH 2019

Dark and deep syrah, this wine was aged 14 months in French oak barriques (20% new). Generous in style with bountiful spices and pepper notes. It has a rich and concentrated style with great elegance, a voluminous palate, and drying tannins.

QUATRAIN 2016

A quatrain is a poetic stanza of four lines, especially one having alternate rhymes. It represents the four varietals of the blend, Syrah, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon. The nose opens on fragrant notes and has a very opulent intensity. This is a wine with dimension and plushness. Very mature, jammy black fruits rub shoulders with cedarwood, licorice, and oak spices. The palate is lengthy and fleshy with density and volume.



WRITTEN BY JOANIE METIVIER

MT. BOUCHERIE

Located on the slopes above Okanagan Lake in West Kelowna, Mt. Boucherie Estate Winery stands tall and grand. It first started as a grape growing business in 1968, but soon became one of the largest vineyard holdings in BC, farming 200 acres of land in both the Similkameen and Okanagan Valleys.

In 2020, following 20 years of running from a modest tasting room, they opened the doors to a brand-new luxurious wine experience center. The brand new building features a dining lounge, the modest Butcher, a tasting room, and multiple private event facilities with some of the best views in the valley.

The Modest Butcher serves up amazing, farm-to-table dishes without an ounce of retention. Featuring delicious and gigantic meats cuts as well as intricately delicate and detailed appetizers.



ORIGINAL VINES SEMILLON 2020

Intense nose of honey and lemon with a rounded body. This wine is crisp and fresh with flavors of peach, citrus, honey, and lemon. The texture of the palate brings a good complexity and mouthfeel.

MODEST WINES – BY JOVE, SANGIOVESE 2019

With quirky names and funky labels to go with them, the collection of Modest wines has been made in the "spirit of experimentation and risk taking while also paying homage to some of the classic regions of the wine world. Self-proclaimed as a "super-Okanagan", this Sangiovese is one of the very few made in the region. The vines come from the black sage vineyard and the result is quite pleasing. It shows fresh crushed plums, black cherries, herbs, savory notes, subtle cassis, and spice. It's bright and fun.



SUMMERHILL PYRAMID

Summerhill Pyramid might be one of the most visited wineries in South Kelowna, but it doesn't stop it from offering a tailored & welcoming experience. Expect one of the best views overlooking Okanagan lake, dedicated staff, and amazing food offer mostly from their own garden on-site as well as their organic wines with bright expression terroir-driven profiles and just a quiet elegance that makes them stand out.

Winemaker Michael Alexander is dedicated to Summerhill's cellar and views organically and biodynamically grown grapes as fundamental to its award-winning wines. Whether it's from their own vineyards or sourced from passionate grape growers with which they are very closely linked, fruits are always handled with the utmost respect. Don't let the touristic popularity fool you, the team really put everything in place to extract the grapes' true nature and nurture integrity, wines that can come from nowhere but the Okanagan.

Summerhill's passion runs from vine to cellar and from garden to plate. Their seasonal bistro will have you drool over flavorsome plates. Especially their cheese & Charcuterie boards.



CIPES ARIEL 2000

Made of 60% Pinot Noir, 38% Chardonnay, 2% Pinot Meunier, this aged vintage sparkling is showing great maturity. Creamy, zesty, and opulent with a very fulfilling mouthful. It's fully developed with aromas of biscuits, brioche, Meyer lemon, lees, and toasted hazelnuts. The effervescence is smooth and delicate with bright acidity and a lifting finish.

ESTATE GROWN BIODYNAMIC CHARDONNAY 2020

From their certified organic and biodynamic Kelowna estate vineyard, this chardonnay was taken off blocks 10 and 19, naturally fermented in a mix of stainless (75%) and new 500L oak. This creamy chardonnay offers a great balance between volume, texture, and freshness. Ripe orchard fruits, peach skin, spices, and zest are melting together with a mellow palate and pleasant acidity.



SPADEFoot TOAD SANGIOVESE 2017

Made in partnership with grape grower Ron Firman at his Spadefoot Toad Vineyard in Oliver, BC, along with the legendary Canadian artist and activist Robert Bateman, who has drafted an original illustration, especially for the labels, this Sangiovese really follows Summerhill's vision. With concentrated flavors of fresh cherries and blueberries with aromatic herbs, this wine shows character and a great concentrated flavor profile.

SPADEFoot TOAD SYRAH 2016

Firm and grippy Syrah from the same Oliver Vineyard and aged 35 months in mostly neutral oak barriques. Aromas include ripe blackberry, cedar, and minimal pepper presence. The palate is muscular and bold with full-body and scabrous tannins. Very concentrated and dark syrah but still feels quite balanced.

ORGANIC CABERNET FRANC 2019

85% organic Cabernet Franc, 15% organic Cabernet Sauvignon grown in southern Okanagan vineyards. The Cabernet Sauvignon portion was fermented in oak foudre before joining the Cabernet Franc for 12-18 months in oak barrels. Notes of cherry, cassis, cocoa, cedar, and a hint of smoke. This is a rich and smooth expression of this varietal with brightness and a final cinnamon taste.



CEDAR CREEK



CedarCreek is committed to providing guests an intimate and educational experience in an exceptional setting. With their new aspect house building dedicated to private, exclusive tasting areas for club members, they provide a very intimate and committed tasting experience. Impressive wines in an impressive setting.

They were one of the first 8 pioneering wineries of BC with their first wines produced in 1987, after having purchased the property in 1986. After 27 years in the Fitzpatrick family, the von Mandl Family, owners of Mission Hill Winery took the reins.

CedarCreek's 50-acre estate features organic, single-vineyard wines from 30-year-old vines. In fact, their Pinot Noirs are made from some of the oldest vines in British Columbia! Located on the shores of Lake Okanagan, you can enjoy award-winning Okanagan wine with beautiful lake views. They also benefit from another site down in Osoyoos of 53 acres.



ASPECT BLOCK 3 RIESLING 2020

Block 3 is an aged planting dating back to 1991. This wine was kept on the skins for 12 hours and aged half in stainless, half in German oak. Ripe and deeply aromatic riesling this wine is definitely characterized by its intensity. Bright lime dominates with floral and candied citrus to follow. The palate has a bit of grip and a perfectly balanced sugar to acidity ratio.

ASPECT BLOCK 3 RIESLING 2019

Block 5 is at the top of the Kelowna-based Home Block Vineyard. This Chardonnay is built on a ripe foundation with bright and clean acids as well as a creamy texture. Notes of apricot, starfruit, mango, with a persistent flint hint and moderate oak presence. The palate is light and pure with moderate volume and fresh acidity.

ASPECT BLOCK 2 PINOT NOIR 2018

The fruit is clone 115, fermented in concrete tanks, aged 14 months in French oak (18% new). This is a seductive wine, beginning with floral and strawberry aromas. On the palate, there's a silky touch with fruit-forward flavors and a savory finish. A classic Pinot Noir layered with elegance.

ASPECT BLOCK 4 PINOT NOIR 2018

This wine is a tribute to the unique blend of clones planted on clay, silt, and stone. Fermented with wild yeasts and aged in French oak for a year to allow the different expressions of Pinot Noir from three different clones (115, 667, and 777) to marry into this intricate wine. The style is very savory with forest floor, dark, rich black fruits, game and mushroom flavor. The palate brings texture and soft spices. Overall a bold and voluminous Pinot Noir.



MARTIN'S LANE

Martin's Lane Winery may be a newcomer to the winery scene in Kelowna but it's already making waves. With their intimate production (only 2000 cases/year) focused exclusively on riesling and pinot noir single-varietals, they're pushing back boundaries in the Okanagan Valley in terms of showing quality potential and site-specific character. The six-level, state-of-the-art, gravity-flow winery is quite breathtaking with attention to detail and modern design that is quite exquisite and artistic.

The first vintage was launched in 2014, but it already has so much personality and depth.

Winemaker Shane Munn is an artist in winemaking showing precision and passion in every detail of his work. With a world-class gravity-flow facility in his hands and sustainability in his sight, he's able to craft wines that display complexity, texture, and elegance as well as depict the rugged and freestyle of the Okanagan. With his determination and skills, Martin's Lane will surely bring Okanagan's international recognition to another level.

This is an exciting project for the Van Mandl Group, with a dynamic approach and a creative, forward-thinking vision.

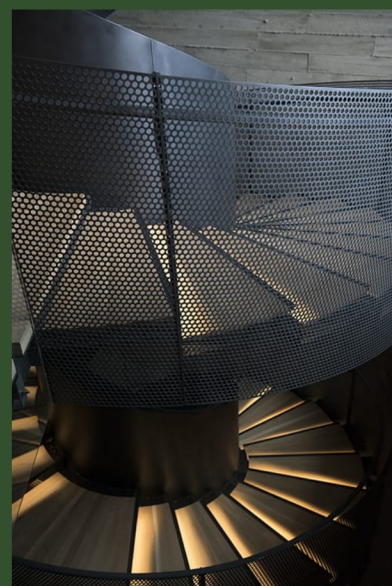


SIMES VINEYARD RIESLING 2017

This wine comes from the North-facing, Granite-based Simes Vineyard located in East Kelowna. This is quite the cool, northern location, and it shows in the character of the wine. This riesling made of clone 49 is vibrant and bone-dry with a very bright ciseled energy. It's lemon-focused with very integrated minerality and an acidity that leads & lingers for days.

DEHART VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2017

From the Dehart Vineyard in East Kelowna not far from the Simes Vineyard but planted to just two pinot clones, 777 and 667, this site is west-facing, high elevation and warmer in comparison to Simes. Precise expression with stern & tart fruit character and subtle oak spices. The palate is chewy and plush with softly grained tannins but an overall gentle mouthfeel.



SIMES VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2017

The cool Simes site is actually Pinot Noir dominant using clone. Fresh and appealing, this wine has finely-detailed aromas of cherry-fruit, underbrush and cedar, along with plum, savory herbs and baking spice. The palate is medium bodied, rich and firm in an effortless way.

NARAMATA RANCH VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2017

When talking with Shane Munn, he mentioned "Pinot likes to grow in beautiful places." Naramata bench graceful landscape and parcelled land surely applies to this. This is a textured, bold and pure expression with velvet-like mouthfeel. Sowing earthy tones and very mature fruit, and clove, this wine shows its true strength in its memorably soft and laced palate.



I had the pleasure of visiting the Joseph Drouhin oenotheque, a real historical treasure of the city of Beaune and Burgundy. It is located practically in the center of Beaune, capital of Burgundy with, among other things, its Hospices de Beaune, and adjoining Pommard to the west and Aloxe Corton to the east.

During your visit to the wine museum, expect a historic mosaic where Roman and Gallic ruins rub shoulders with the Notre-Dame church built in the 11th century, remains of the Dukes of Burgundy and the kings of France. In addition, the cellars extend over almost one hectare and for this reason alone represent a visit that any lover of Burgundy wines must make. Following this visit, you can taste the wines of the house and buy some.

DOMAINE JOSEPH DROUHIN NEW OENOTHÈEQUE IN BEAUNE.

ARTICLE BY
CLAUDE LALONDE

And as soon as this visit begins, we learn that the history of Beaune is around 1,800 years old and we can already see the influence of the Roman era. Moreover, at Drouhin, there are cellars including several walls of Roman origin which were built between the 3rd and 4th centuries. At Drouhin, we are lucky to have this exceptional heritage that you have the chance to visit.

We also find the influence of the Cistercian monks and later that of the Dukes of Burgundy to the kings of France. The Drouhin family knew how to protect this heritage, restore it if necessary and pass it on to future generations.

At the very beginning of our visit outside is a small orange and red building which is currently the shop. But at the time, the parliament of the Dukes of Burgundy was located there. This testifies to the period when Burgundy was independent of the kingdom of France until the 15th century when Louis XI monopolized Burgundy. Next door is the Notre-Dame church, which dates from the 10th century. The Drouhin's have owned the old cellar of this church since 1961.

Because of the complexity of the historic sites, the vinification of the house wines is done outside, about 5 minutes from the wine museum. In fact, there is only one producer left who still vinifies in Beaune. The Drouhin house moved its operations in the 1970s.

Our visit continues and we face a 16th-century winepress (1570) built entirely of oak by the monks of the Notre-Dame church. Surprisingly, it is still functional. Moreover, it was used for the centenary of the house in 1980, then in 2000 for the millennium, and in 2005 to celebrate the fact that Véronique Drouhin became the new oenologist of the house. For that occasion 2,000 bottles of Clos des Mouches were produced to pay tribute to the women oenologists at Drouhin.



The building where it is located dates from the 11th – 12th century and there are two old chimneys from the period. We descend to the 13th-century cellars of the Notre-Dame church. Their architecture is very special because they were built like a church. We are completely surrounded by barrels and casks.

Talking about wines barrels, let's mention that the Drouhin house does not use wood excessively in its aging process. There's a balance between the elegance and the naturalness of the wine. Wood is an essential tool to "praise the Burgundian terroirs", but wood shouldn't command. The wood should not take precedence over the terroir, the freshness, and the crunchy and fleshy side of the wine. At Drouhin, they never add more than 30% new wood.

During our visit, we saw barrels identified as Hospices de Beaune, which led us to learn about an incredible and most important story about the Drouhin family. The Hospices de Beaune, created in 1443, now have access to around 60 ha of vines, the wines of which are sold on the third weekend of November. The Drouhin house has a particularly emotional link with the Hospices thanks to Maurice Drouhin and his epic.

You should know that Maurice Drouhin was the son of the founder and that he brought an important impetus to the future of the house. He was of the opinion that it was necessary to focus on quality and to concentrate on a grape variety (Pinot Noir) and a terroir. To do this, therefore, it was also necessary to become more and more landowners. He was a war hero as a soldier in WW1. And in the 2nd he became resistant in Beaune. When the Germans got to Beaune they tried to arrest him and he managed to escape. He went into hiding at the Hospices de Beaune hid and protected him for more than 6 months. He was released at the end of the war. To thank the Hospices de Beaune, he gave them 2.75 ha of Beaune 1er Cru, hence the name of the Maurice Drouhin cuvée.

The house continues to buy this cuvée every year in order to perpetuate the name of Maurice Drouhin and thereby support the Hospices de Beaune.

After crossing the cellars we go to the bottles that contain these fabulous nectars. The cellars contain around 50,000 bottles. Part of it is in the private collection of the family, of which there are a few bottles from the 1911 vintage! The vast majority of barrels end up elsewhere for operational optimization reasons.

There is a beautiful Gothic stele from 1561 which contains a religious text. It is believed to come from the church. On this stele, we thank a family for helping to finance the construction of this church. Nearby are several bottles of Clos des Mouches from the 90s. The house's emblematic wine comes from the first vineyard purchased by the Drouhin family in 1921. This locality has a total area of approximately 23 ha. and the family owns 14 ha. The Drouhin family are therefore the most important owners.

We arrive at the "library" of house wines and a place called the prison. There are old bottles completely covered with mushrooms, which in no way affects the quality properties of the wines. And there we lick our "eyes". Anthology bottles sleep until one day a lucky one will open them!

Then it is the old Gallic Castrum of the 3rd and 4th centuries which is a wall of limestone stones that protected the city of Beaune against possible attacks from the Barbarians. The floor is from Roman times and all around there are vestiges of the 11th century.

A little further on is the place where the most beautiful bottles were hidden from the Germans during the 2nd World War. It is a false wall that has been built, the presence of which can be seen by the white trace left by its construction. This is what allowed the house to resume its business with a stock of interesting bottles after the war.

FOR MORE INFORMATIONS, VISIT DROUHIN-OENOTHEQUE.COM/



NARAMATA BENCH



POPLAR GROVE

One of the first wineries established in the Naramata Bench region just outside Penticton, Poplar Grove was founded in 1993. This is such a lovable family-run, with Tony Holler and his three sons all in charge of farming. Tony Holler purchased the winery in 2007 and brought with him 110 acres of prime vineyard sites located throughout the Southern Okanagan Valley, appropriately named Holler Estate Vineyards.

The family is widely recognized for crafting benchmark Pinot Gris and Cabernet Franc as well as multiple varietals and exceptional blends. Their flagship Okanagan blend of red Bordeaux varieties, The Legacy, first produced in 2003, is quite famed, but I was personally impressed by their Syrah. Holler's wanted to start with quality fruit, so they purchased nearly 100 acres of land, half in Naramata and half on the Osoyoos East Bench. This initial investment has enabled Poplar Grove to make wine using 100% estate grown fruit.



Poplar's story is closely linked to Penticton and Naramata's expansion and has the chance to overlook the whole region with stunning views.

The stunning winery and tasting room and restaurant that sits on a perch overlooking beautiful Okanagan Lake in the southern half of the Valley. Tony talks with pride of everyone involved in the winery, from Stefan Arnason at the head of the winemaking team, consultant Alain Sutre, and all the farming team led by his sons. You can definitely feel a passion and joy in what they're doing.



PINOT GRIS 2020

Zesty and quirky Pinot Gris with aromas of ripe pear, pink grapefruit, clementine, freshly-pressed lime, and ginger spice. It's a very easy-going wine, perfect to enjoy as an aperitif or sitting in the sunshine. The palate is light and effortlessly fresh.

VIOGNIER 2020

Pristine grapes are sourced in Osoyoos, Skaha Bench, and Penticton. Very aromatic, yet lean viognier with notes of honeysuckle, ripe peach, candied apricot, and ginger. It's a light and balanced expression that shows volume and freshness.

CABERNET FRANC 2018

Dark and robust-looking, Poplar Grove's Cabernet Franc is quite fragrant with complex fresh red fruits aromas as well as a decadent dark chocolate presence and dried herbs. It's elegant and docile with very integrated tannins and a soft, supple mouthfeel.

SYRAH 2018

15% of the 2017 Syrah was kept in new French oak barrels, while the remaining 85% was kept in one and two-year-old French oak barrels for 15 months. This is a prime example of this varietal capacity in the valley. Tarragon, crushed red berries, forest floor, tobacco. It's just so complex and seamless. It's bold and full-bodied, yet silky at the same time.

LEGACY 2016

For this vintage, the composition of the blend has been altered to give the lead to Cabernet Franc. It's a very savory wine showing tobacco, dried herbs, pencil shavings and dark cherries. On the palate, it's full-bodied yet with gentle tannins, and a generous concentration & intensity.



LE VIEUX PIN & LA STELLA



LE VIEUX PIN

With the first vintage released in 2005, Le Vieux Pin is situated on the famed Black Sage Bench in Canada's only pocket desert in the South Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. Le Vieux Pin is named after the majestic old pine tree in their Oliver vineyard.

Le Vieux Pin's vineyard strategy is an acknowledgment of the Old World with a gust of New World. Le Vieux Pin's focus is to make wine representative of its terroir. While both estates are under the same ownership, their identity and style couldn't be more different. Le Vieux Pin is French/Rhône oriented. The grapes are sourced from six properties spread throughout the Okanagan, with those for Le Vieux Pin tending to be more northerly (cooler), and those for La Stella further south. This favor for Rhône-style varietals comes with a lot of passion, but also some constraints. With a short growing season, Syrah which is Le Vieux Pin's main focus needs low yields and lots of Canopy management. It's tricky, yet the results are outstanding vintage after vintage.

Winemaker Severine Pinte says she appreciates these differences in the different vineyards, and the blending potential of it, but also the very apparent vintages variation brings a need for constant adaptation. Le Vieux Pin practices low input viticulture and sustainable farming to achieve very low yields and complex, concentrated flavors in their grapes. The winemaking philosophy is non-interventionism in approach. Old-World style, made in the New World.

AVA 2020

With deep white rhône roots, this blend of viognier, Roussanne, and Marsanne couldn't represent the estate style better. Its very aromatic nature and rich structure gives it lots of personality. Apricot, fresh peach juice, fennels, and exuberant floral tones show the distinctive viognier's majority. The firm and dense volume is flattering.

SYRAH CUVÉE VIOLETTE 2019

Cuvée Violette's aim is to showcase the elegance potential of Syrah in the Valley, and has succeeded this goal tremendously. All aspect of this wine is intricately laced, from the very accurate & complex cherry, cracked peppercorn, plum, sage, and violets notes to the masterly polished tannins and structure. This is a truly elegant and refined Syrah.



ÉQUINOXE SYRAH 2018

Équinoxe is the flagship Syrah of Le Vieux Pin. The 2018 Équinoxe Syrah is comprised of fruit grown in various sub-appellations in the South Okanagan Valley. This cuvée is meant to combine elements of both old world and new world styles. It's a bold and ripe expression of Syrah, with powerful, intense aromas of red & black fruits, petals, aniseed, spices, new leather, and olive tapenade aromas. It is full-bodied with soft, integrated tannins. Bold, but with restraint.

ÉQUINOXE MERLOT 2018

Équinoxe Merlot is a single vineyard wine sourced from La Feuille d'Or vineyard on the Golden Mile Bench from about 20 years old vines. This wine boasts of ripeness, with mature plums, blackberries, cedar, dark chocolate, and licorice. The palate is structured and voluminous, with firm tannins and outstanding intensity of flavors.

LA STELLA

FORTISSIMO 2019

Merlot-dominant tuscan blend with supporting Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc & Sangiovese Grosso. This wine is a stunning tribute to the super-tuscan movement that changed the Tuscan heritage forever. Flavorful and rich, the blend is complex and savory with overripe cherries and earthy tones, tobacco and oak presence. The palate is silky smooth, yet full-bodied and concentrated. Overall, an effortlessly pleasant wine.

ALLEGRETTO PIE FRANCO MERLOT 2017

Single vineyard Merlot expression, from vines that are franc de Pied (Pie Franco) on the east bench Osoyoos' Le Faucon vineyard and its distinct sandy, white silica soils. This 2017 is quite expressive with a deeply aromatic nose and a firm structure. Dark-fruited aromas are joined with aromatic herbs. The tannins are granulous, and the wine can seem tight at first. It will benefit from decanting to soften & open up.

MAESTOSO SOLO MERLOT 2018

Flagship wine of LaStella, Maestoso is epitome of the orchestra, the highest peak of the Crescendo. Sourced from Lumeno Vineyard in Osoyoos Lake District & La Feuille d'Or on the Golden Mile, this wine is very dense-colored, almost pitch-black. It's generous and powerful in style. It's opulent, with complex notes of brambleberry, forest floor, dark plums, coffee and cigar box. The palate shows boldness, firm tannins and good length.

Compared to its Rhône-inspired counterpart, La Stella was created to capture the vision of the Italian Dolce Vita. La Stella's inspiration is the Tuscan sun, lifestyle, and architecture. Each wine has its own story, and an orchestra-related name to express the emotions that the wine wants to convey. Just as a symphony has its tempo, so do the musically inspired LaStella wines: Leggiero, Vivace, Allegretto, Fortissimo, and Maestoso.

Located in southern Okanagan, with its prime location on the rolling slopes facing the Osoyoos lake between the town of Oliver and Osoyoos.

This high-end Villa is not only for show, the wines they're producing are seriously note-worthy and are among the Okanagan's boldest, most intense wines. Combining Sangiovese, Super-Tuscan wines, and other Tuscan-heritage practices such as the use of 500 L and 1,000 L oak puncheons for aging, the winery identity and direction is cristal-clear.

Along with le Vieux Pin, the total vineyards span is 50 hectares. in Oliver's Golden Mile and Black Sage Bench, as well as South Osoyoos and Osoyoos Lake district. In their commitment to excellence, LaStella practices low input viticulture and sustainable farming to achieve very low yields and complex, concentrated flavors in their grapes.





RÍAS BAIXAS: THE LAND OF ALBARIÑO

Article by Kristine Mansuy

Immerse yourself in the fascinating wine destination of Rías Baixas and discover Albariño: One of the world's most prominent indigenous wine grapes!

Located in the North-West of Spain, in the region of Galicia, Rías Baixas D.O (Denominación de Origen) is a pretty recent appellation in the world of wine. Officially recognized in the 1980s, the D.O represents today an average of 4000 ha of vines divided into more than 20 000 plots of vines. Yes, that is correct! Typically, in Galicia, the parcels are extremely small and are owned by many small growers. Winegrowing can be very complex but it is a great challenge for making unique wines that reflects very specific micro-climates. Don't be surprised to see vines everywhere in Galicia! On every corner of every street, in the backyard of a hotel or a restaurant, the vineyards are part of the landscape.

Albariño is the most planted grape variety and was first introduced in the Salnés Valley by the French Cluny Monks in the 12th century. Its cultivation then spread to the rest of Galicia and to the north of Portugal. The challenging local climate, along with centuries of viticultural experience, make Albariño wine from the Rías Baixas a unique wine with a distinctive Atlantic character that can't be found anywhere else in the world!



THE CLIMATE

Unlike the rest of Spain, Galicia is cool, rainy, and green. Vines are mostly trained in the traditional pergola, allowing for maximum sunshine, while keeping the vines away from the humidity of the soil. The vines are located at an altitude between 10m and 50m on mostly granite and sandy soils.

The influence of the Atlantic Ocean allows the wines to express great minerality with a hint of saltiness. Albariño from this part of the world, expresses exotic fruit, citrus, floral notes, and tangy acidity. Some wine lovers would say it has similarities with some Chablis or older Rieslings from Germany. Albariño plantations are growing significantly in other parts of the world such as New Zealand, Uruguay, and North America, making it one of the most prominent indigenous grape varieties in the world.

THE WINES

Rías Baixas D.O is divided in 5 sub-regions:

Val do Salnés, Condado do Tea, O Rosal, Soutomaior and Ribeiro do Ulla. Discover some of the leading wineries of the 3 main appellations

SALNÉS VALLEY

Near the town of Cambados, Val do Salnés is considered the birthplace of Albariño. It represents over 60% of the annual Rías Baixas grape production. The area is generally moist, cool, and windy. The coastal location on granitic soils gives wines a lot of fruity character, aromas of citrus, sharp acidity, and salinity.

PAZO DE SEÑORANS

Pazo Señorans is a family-owned world-renowned producer focusing on low-yield Albariño wines. Based on a historical site of a rural 14th-century manor, the estate is around 55 hectares of vines divided into over 300 different plots. Surrounded by beautiful gardens and architectural monuments, the winery is a dream location for private venues such as weddings, anniversary parties, and corporate events. Their wines are a benchmark of well-balanced, elegant, and age-worthy Albariños from Rías Baixas. Don't miss their delicious Aguardiente spirits, it's absolutely divine!



PAZO SEÑORANS, ALBARIÑO, 2019

Floral, herbal, and mineral nose. Saline acidity, clean and dry palate.
Very classic and elegant Albariño. Enjoy it with a fresh seafood platter!

PAZO SEÑORANS, ALBARIÑO, COLECCIÓN, 2017

Rich and smoky nose of exotic fruits (peach and mango). Round on the palate with a delicate chalky texture. Hints of floral, citrus, and grapefruit aromas.

PAZO SEÑORANS, ALBARIÑO, SELECCIÓN DE AÑADA, 2012

Smoky and mineral nose with delicate aromas of candied apples. Complexity and richness on the palate, with a lot of smoky minerality and a long lingering finish. fruit aromas.



ATTIS BODEGA



Attis Bodega is the project of two brothers, Robustiano and Baldomero Fariña, along with French winemaker Jean François Hebrard. Their vision is to elaborate different wines from single varietals, from a specific winemaking method or a specific vineyard, reflecting all aromas and nuances of their Atlantic terroir. From skin contact whites to barrel and amphora aging Albariños, they also cultivate various indigenous grapes including red varietals such as Sousón, Pedral, and Caño Tinto. Beyond all limitations, Attis wines are audacious, with a lot of personalities, expressing a more bold and masculine side of the Albariño grape.

RÍAS BAIXAS, ALBARIÑO, LIAS FINAS, 2020

Beautiful aromatic, herbaceous and floral nose. Powerful and creamy mouthfeel with stone fruit aromas and a touch of bitterness on the finish. Good aging potential. Open the bottle a few hours before serving.

RÍAS BAIXAS, ALBARIÑO, EMBAIXADOR, 2018

Exotic nose of mandarin, cooked apples, and hints of smoky minerality. (Bee's wax). Powerful, bold, and rich on the palate with a delicate and salty finish. Good aging potential. Open the bottle a few hours before serving.

CONDADO VALLEY

Located in the southern part of Galicia, next to the Portugal border and the Miño River, Condado do Tea is the second largest sub-appellation. The soils are a mix of granite and slate and as it is further from the coast, the wines tend to have less acidity with more herbal and floral aromas. Along with Albariño, we can find Treixadura and Loureiro grapes in the white blends.

SEÑORIO DE RUBIOS

Señorío Rubiós was founded in 2003 by 100 shareholders with one main purpose: To recover and maintain the precious wine legacy of the Condado region. They are committed to red indigenous grapes such as Sousón and Pedral as well as cultivating the classic white varietals of the area. Their wines are a great balance of modernity and tradition showcasing the diversity of Condado's micro-climates. Señorío de Rubios is also an oenotourism destination as they have a 4-star hotel, spa, and restaurant on-site with a 3 hectares organic farm. Everything you need for a relaxing getaway in a beautiful natural environment.

CONDADO DO TEA, BLANCO BRUT NATURE, VINO ESPUMOSO DE CALIDADE

A unique sparkling wine with a blend of Albariño, Godello, Torrontes Loureira, and Treixadura. 9 months on the lies. Elegant floral nose with hints of brioche and grilled nuts. The bubbles are creamy and lively with a lot of yellow stone fruits and floral notes on the mid-palate.

RÍAS BAIXAS, ALBARIÑO, COUPAGE PREMIUM, 2020

Herbaceous, floral and mineral nose with aromas of white pears and green apples. Dry on the palate with fresh acidity and a saline clean finish.

MANUEL D'AMARO, PEDRAL, 2015

Interesting delicate nose of dried flowers, dark chocolate, and licorice. Fresh on the attack with vibrant acidity. The mouthfeel is round and silky with a delicious minerality on the finish.



BODEGAS MARQUÉS DE VIZHOJA

Established in 1968 by Mr. Mariano Peláez, Bodegas Marqués de Vizhoja is now run by his two sons, Javier and Jorger Peláez. They are continuing the work of their father who has been a great defender of the region's native grapes heritage and engaged the evolution of the local industry. Dedication and tradition are at the heart of their winemaking philosophy. Made from 100% white varietals such as Albariño, Treixadura, and Loureira, the wines are a pure expression of the coastal sandy-granitic terroir of Condado, with a great balance of freshness and acidity. Every year, they receive an important number of people to visit the beautiful historical estate of "La Moreira," a 16th-century manor house. A must-see!



MARQUÉS DE VIZHOJA, 2021

A Fresh and mineral nose of citrus and green apples. Mouthwatering acidity with a round mouthfeel and herbaceous flavors. An excellent wine for an aperitif!

RÍAS BAIXAS, TORRE LA MORENA, ALBARIÑO, 2020

Very mineral and fruity on the nose with a touch of saline notes. Fruity and fresh with a great balance and vibrant acidity.

RÍAS BAIXAS, SEÑOR DA FOLLA VERDE, 2020

A blend of Albariño, Treixadura and Loureira. Aromatic nose of pineapple and cooked fruits. Beautiful saline and smoky mouthfeel with a touch of bitterness. A great gastronomic wine!



ROSAL VALLEY

Located on the south coast of the city of Vigo, O Rosal is the hottest appellation of the Rías Baixas. The vineyards are mostly planted on terraces facing the Atlantic Ocean with south exposure. The soils are a mix of alluvial, granite, and slate, giving wines that are fuller-bodied with an intense aromatic profile.



TERRAS GAUDA



Terras Gauda was founded in 1989 by the Fonseca Family and is considered to be one of Rías Baixa's most emblematic wineries. With an average of 160 hectares, they only produce white wines made from estate-grown fruit. The winery has been a leader in the development of the appellation as well as sustainable practices. They are dedicated to quality and to preserving the native grape varieties of Galicia. Winemaker, Emilio Rodríguez Canas, has been part of the adventure for more than 25 years. His wines are well structured and precise, full of character and great aging potential.

RÍAS BAIXAS, ABADIA DE SAN CAMPIO, ALBARIÑO, 2020

Very elegant nose with aromas of mango and citrus zest. Juicy on the palate with an explosion of tropical fruits. Fresh and well-balanced.

RÍAS BAIXAS, TERRAS GAUDA, (BLACK LABEL)2019

A blend of Albariño, Caíño Blanco and Loureiro. Fermented in oak cask. Smoky nose with aromas of grilled nuts and mineral undertones. Creamy mouthfeel with intense fruity flavors. A palate pleaser!

RÍAS BAIXAS, LA MAR, 2019

A blend of Caíño Blanco (95%) Albariño and Loureiro. Aromatic nose of vanilla, honey, and apricot. Fresh palate with a subtle tannic structure and a long mineral finish. A very elegant wine.

ALTOS DE TORONA

The winery is located over the slopes of Mount Galeno, occupying a single plot of 95 hectares, which makes it the largest Rías Baixas vineyard. The estate is mainly planted with Albariño, Caíño Blanco, Godello and Loureiro. The winemaker, Pablo Ibanez Simon, is from a third-generation family winemaker and a master in viticulture. Owned by the HGA Bodegas y Viñedos de Altura group, Altos de Torona was born in 2003 to market high-altitude wines from the best wine-growing areas of Galicia, extending to the regions of O Rosal, O Salnés and in the Ribeira Sacra.



RÍAS BAIXAS, ALBARIÑO, 2020

Very mineral and saline nose with a touch of pears and herbaceous notes. Fresh and dry palate with aromas of green apples and a grassy texture on the finish.

RÍAS BAIXAS, ALBARIÑO, PAZO DE VILLAREI, 2020

Floral, mineral, and herbaceous on the nose. Mouth-watering acidity on the palate with a vibrant, dry, and clean finish. Very classic Albariño.

RIAS BAIXAS, ROSAL, 2020

A blend of Albarino, Caíño and Loureiro. Wet rocks on the nose with beautiful stone fruit aromas. Full-bodied, fruity, and elegant palate with a delicious saline aftertaste.

GASTRONOMY



Galicia also referred to as “Green Spain” is a fertile and abundant land with amazing biodiversity. You can find the traditional Galician Tapas in many restaurants in the historic town of Pontevedra, such as Bar Estrella or Tintanegra in the cute little fisherman’s village of Combarro. This part of Spain is a seafood paradise, and the best way to discover its gastronomy is to drive around the coast and visit all the small villages of the rías (low rivers).

In the fall, enjoy the seafood festival in O Grove and fine dining at Beiramar or d’Berto. Go for a walk on the beach in the famous village of Sanxenxo and eat delicious food at Restaurante Sabino.

For a more urban experience, the city of Vigo offers a great diversity of restaurants from hip wine bars to classic tavernas. Try Casa Samaniego for a great selection of international wines and fresh local products.

Looking for the ultimate culinary experience? What about a cooking class at the Quinta de San Amaro Hotel?

This boutique hotel in the heart of the Salnés Valley offers private cooking classes with the renowned local chef, Rocío Garrido. Learn the art of Galician cooking and discover Rías Baixas’s best-kept culinary secrets.

Nature, tradition, and gastronomy, the fascinating wine route of the Rías Baixas is an adventure in the mystical green hills of Galicia. From north to south through the beautiful landscape of vineyards, white sand beaches, and valleys, smell the Atlantic breeze and enjoy a glass of delicious Albariño,

“The wine of the sea”.
Salud!



COLLIO, A SMALL YET RICH WINE TREASURE IN THE NORTHEAST OF ITALY

Article by Flippo Magnani

Hidden in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, Collio is a gentle series of slopes where some of Italy's best white wines are produced. It is a small wine area within the province of Gorizia, near the Italian-Slovenia border. It was my great pleasure to be one of the fortunate writers, who participated in the press tour last November, majestically organized by the Consorzio Collio DOC. Four days of intensive exploration and discovery, all dedicated to a protagonist of the Italian wine scene. I was thrilled and curious to dive into the tiny but rich world of this wine gem and my expectations were completely fulfilled.

A SMALL WINE TERRITORY WITH SURPRISING COMPLEXITY AND RICHNESS.

Collio is a bright place where prestigious wines have been produced since ancient times. Vineyards and wineries are spread over harmonious hills between 80 and 270 meters in height where, for over 2000 years, winemakers have found a special place for the production of a wide range of great wines in terms of style and grape variety. This ideal microclimate is generated by the presence of the Julian Alps to the north, which protects the valley by ensuring continuous ventilation from the "bora" that blows continuously over the vineyard. To the south, on the clearest days, you can admire the Adriatic Sea. The presence of the sea is fundamental for the health of the plants, the proximity to the Mediterranean (30 km away) gives the area milder seasons, warmer air currents, and a dry climate.



These factors combined with the many variable soil compositions allow each corner of this DOC to express itself with its own character and charm in the wine. The so-called "Collio Goriziano" wine area is a half-moon-shaped territory bordered to the West by the river Isonzo and to the East by the river Judrio. It brings together the same DOC wines from 1500 hectares of vineyards positioned in eight different municipalities: Capriva, Cormòns, Dolegna del Collio, Farra d'Isonzo, Gorizia, Mossa, San Floriano del Collio, and San Lorenzo Isontino.

The Collio valley is home to about 200 producers who, with vision and great dedication, have succeeded in tracing a well-defined common path which is able to maintain a strong link with traditions, and to open in an enthusiastic way to developments and innovations. Not surprisingly, for decades now, the famous native varieties and pillars of this wine area, such as Friulano, Ribolla Gialla, Malvasia Istriana and Picolit, have been accompanied by international varieties due to the great versatility of the land for the production of elegant white wines. In particular, the Pinot Grigio finds an absolutely suitable place for its maturation here, with its characteristic straw yellow colour, its ash hints, structure and length. To complete the wide range of white international grape varieties cultivated in the DOC we find the Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Muller Thurgau, Traminer Aromatico, Pinot Bianco and Riesling. Despite the region of Collio being a well-known and renowned DOC for the production of a wide range of white wines, the surprising red wines also deserve to be mentioned. The trend is towards international grape varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot used predominantly for the most important vintages. The character of these wines very much reflects the territory in which we are: great drinkability, freshness, with an acidity that will allow these wines to express themselves at best in the battle with time.



THE “PONCA”, COLLIO’S SOIL SIGNATURE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ELEGANT WINES.

Taking a leap back 56 million years ago, the area of Collio was covered by the sea, the land emerged only after 20 million years. The hills of Collio hide the characteristics of the marine environment in their depths. It is precisely the soil, called Ponca or flynch, that is a protagonist in the great character and complexity of the wines of this territory. This particular type of soil is composed of layers of marl and sandstone of Eocene origin. It is the “heart of the hills” that yields the characteristics of salinity and minerality of the wines from the Collio DOC. Furthermore, the composition of “Ponca” varies drastically in the different vineyards’ locations, giving an incredible array of wines, depending also on the type of vine planted in it. It is therefore the hand of man that has to understand the land, shape it, and work it, to enhance the potential complexity and aging of the wines.



FOUR DIVERSE SUBZONES IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.

The wine region of Collio regroups a mix of grape varieties, soils, and types of wine made by growers with strong personalities. During our trip we had the chance to appreciate the peculiarities and the differences between those four main wine areas, spread between the eight different municipalities:

CAPRIVA DEL FRIULI

Capriva is an area totally covered by vineyards that vest the hills around the wine estates. This subzone, in the northern tip of the province of Gorizia, is among the most beautiful views of the Collio. In the first morning of our trip, the consorzio had majestically organised the first tasting, covering the productions of different estates between Capriva del Friuli and Farra d'Isonzo. The producers who presented the wines were: Castello di Spessa, Russiz Superiore, Tenuta Villanova, Tenuta Borgo Conventi, Colmello di Grotta. All wines displayed intense and beautiful aromas in the nose. Furthermore, they all had lively acidity, maintaining great balance and a fresh finish.

CORMONS

In the central area of Collio, stands the town of Cormòns, surrounded by the hills that give life to the wine crus of Pradis, Plessiva, Brazzano and Zegla. Here, pleasant wines are made from Pinot Grigio, Malvasia Istriana and Sauvignon Blanc, and the well-known Friulano. It is a lower elevated area characterized by alluvial soils with a major presence of clay. During the afternoon of our first day, I had the pleasure to taste the wines of the following wineries: Tenuta Baroni del Mestri, Zorzon, Kurtin, Bolzicco, Carlo di Pradis, Bracco, Tenuta di Angoris. In general, they all expressed great texture with a good aromatic nose. They were vibrant and structured to the palate with a harmonious end.



DOLEGNA

The territory of Dolegna is the closest to the mountains. The vineyards are positioned at an elevation ranging between 50 and 90 metres. Here, the wind never stops blowing. The area is characterized by a cold and humid climate, particularly suitable for certain vines such as Sauvignon Blanc. The wine seminar with focus on Dolegna, on the second day, was very well organized and led by these estates: Tenuta Stella, Tenuta la Ponca, Fruscalzo, Pascolo, Casa delle Rose, Livon. I found the wines well made, characterized by intense flavours and aromaticity. Dry, fragrant palate with good acidity. Rich and elegant aftertaste.



OSLAVIA

Oslavia is considered the homeland of the orange wines. This wine corner is the cradle of visionary winemakers who represent first class pioneers of the production of skin-macerated white wines. Ribolla Gialla is the signature native grape variety of Oslavia's wine identity. During the afternoon of the second day, I was lucky enough to sit side by side with the great interpreters in the Collio wine scene and all of them were able to reveal their individualism: Dario Princic, Fiegl, Gravner, Il Carpino, La Castellada, Primosic, Radikon. I tasted a wide range of great wines, showing high intensity and complexity of aromas. I tasted well balanced wines with body and finesse, signs of great potential for aging.

SAN FLORIANO

From San Floriano you can see the entire Collio region. It is the highest subzone. The hamlets of San Floriano are the easternmost territories of the DOC and they receive the benefits of dry and milder winds from the Adriatic Sea. The microclimatic conditions allow slow ripening, and the wines gain characteristics that well communicate their aging potential. Here we had the final dinner of the trip with a great tasting of San Floriano's wine representatives. The wine growers which presented their wines were: Korsic, Marcuzzi, Manià, Humar, Formentini, Gradis'ciutta. The wines in general were vibrant, with good fruit and crispy acidity. They had a common elegance and good persistence. All lovely long-lasting wines.

COLLIO

WINE DESTINATION, BEYOND THE WINE

Collio is an astonishing spot, tucked away with wine-themed castles and hamlets like Ruttars, Spessa, GradisCietta, Oslavia, and picturesque villages like Dolegna del Collio, Capriva del Friuli, Cormons, Farra d'Isonzo, and San Floriano del Collio, all bordering one another. A particular destination for wine connoisseurs and oenophiles who love to discover the secrets behind the scenes of some of northern Italy's finest micro-wineries. The roads and knowledge of wine tourism seem to end on the imaginary line drawn by Venice, but this land preserves a bountiful cradle of Italian culture and Northern European subcultures due to the proximity with Austria and Slovenia. It's a fascinating place.

Around the town of Gorizia, a city designated as the European Capital of Cosmopolitan Culture for the year 2025 by the European Commission, there are wineries with distinctive souls. It brings together great visionary producers, family, and independent productions, modern and traditional wineries, revolutionary winemakers, who have made this territory one of the richest and most precious nests of white wines in Italy.

Along with the increasing success of wine production, this strip of land has developed a great attitude towards reception and hospitality. The services related to hospitality are various and the experiences are many, you can choose to stay in a cozy B&B or in one of the charming country farms, or a hotel with luxury facilities. It is a perfect destination both for visitors that want to deep themselves in the authentic local culture and also for those looking for a wild adventure.

Even the local Mittel European cuisine shows how the territory has been enriched by the different coexisting cultures. It is the meeting place of Hungarian and Austrian dishes with traditional Italian style. It is an extremely refined and elegant cuisine, which combines wild game with wines of incredible character and complexity.



To give a general overview of the territory and to better understand the wine region of Collio, the Consortium in collaboration with the Italian Sommelier Association, created "Enjoy Collio". It is an event held in the autumn, addressed to international professionals and journalists and it is a unique opportunity to dig deeper into the immense and sometimes dispersive wine landscape of Friuli, tasting wines of exceptional craft but also combining experiences in authentic locations. The event brings together many facets of the territory, starting from the food and wine up to the hospitality, open-air, and sports activities. Enjoy Collio aims to show the thriving potential of the Collio region. The road has been traced, and this represents the first great steps of a territory that is and will become more and more a great pride for the Italian wine and tourism scene.