



• ITALY AT VINISUD

Italian vineyards cover a 925,000 hectare surface, second in Europe (along with France), behind Spain that counts more than 1,200,000 hectares.

Production for 2000 reached 54,088,000 hectolitres, and predictions for 2001 are around 51,000,000 hectolitres (5% less than the 2000 vintage). The most highly productive region is Venetia (8,825,000 hl), followed by Apulia (7,782,000 hl), Sicily with 7,106,000 hl, Emilia Romagna (6,915,000 hl), Latium (3,733,000 hl), Abruzzi (3,689,000 hl), Piedmont (2,983,000 hl) and Tuscany (2,540,000 hl).

• Italian régions in the north and centre :

Regions to the north, which include Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta, Liguria, Lombardy, Venetia, Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli, together produce some 16,000,000 hectolitres. The centre, with its regions Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria, Marche and Latium, accounts for a production of 15,100,000 hectolitres.

• **Piedmont**

Piedmont (total production: 2,938,000 hectolitres in 2000) is without doubt one of the most well-known regions of the north and centre, thanks to a series of AOC wines (DOC in Italian) that repose on the noble variety Nebbiolo with the appellations "Barolo," "Barbaresco," "Ghemme," "Gattinara" (fine wines to cellar for a long time), with the variety Barbera with the denominations "Barbera d'Asti," "Barbera d'Alba" and "Barbera del Monferrato," with the variety Dolcetto (denominations "Dolcetto d'Alba," "Dolcetto di Dogliani," "Dolcetto d'Acqui and d'Ovada"). Another very popular variety is Moscato, from which excellent dessert wines are made: "Moscato d'Asti" and "Asti" (Charmat method) DOCG. The oldest and most famous of the white wines is "Gavi" made from the variety Cortese.

• **Tuscany**

In Tuscany, also a well-know region overseas, the dominant variety is Sangiovese, with the denominations "Brunello di Montalcino," "Chianti Classico," "Chianti Rufina," "Chianti Colli Senesi," "Chianti Colli Fiorentini," "Vino Nobile di Montepulciano," "Carmignano," "Morellino di Scansano" and "Bolgheri." Among white grape varieties, the most traditional is without doubt Vernaccia, from which the DOCG "Vernaccia di San Gimignano" is made in the splendid area around the medieval market town of San Gimignano. It must be emphasized that all over Tuscany, viticulture is undergoing extraordinary development and that several varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah have given excellent results, sometimes blended with Sangiovese. In the Anglo-Saxon world, these wines are called "Super Tuscan Reds."

• **Venetia**

Venetia is the most productive region in Italy (8,825,000 hl). It includes famous appellations such as "Soave" (white wine) that repose on the varieties Garganega and Trebbiano di Soave, "Bardolino," "Valpolicella," and "Amarone della Valpolicella" that repose on native varieties such as Corvina, Rondinella, Molinara and Oseleta. One of the finest raisined wines in Italy, "Recioto di Soave," is made in the Soave area, and in the region of Breganze (in the province of Vicenza), "Torcolato," which resembles an Italian straw wine, is made. Venetia also produces a very popular sparkling wine, "Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene."

• Southern Italy:

Essentially along the coast, 22,300,000 hectolitres are produced in Abruzzi, Molise, Basilicata, Campania, Apulia, Calabria, Sicily and Sardinia, with 40% of the overall Italian wine output in 2000. Thanks to its rich patrimony and to renovation work, southern Italy today is experiencing a veritable vinicultural renaissance. Seventy to

eighty percent of the most honoured AOC wines from this New South are exported (North America, Northern Europe...) but remain little known in Italy and throughout a major part of Europe.

- **Abruzzi**

The sixth viticultural region, with 3,689,000 hectolitres and two dominant varieties: Trebbiano in white and Montepulciano d'Abruzzo in red.

- **Campania**

Farther to the south, Campania produces excellent wines (2,013,000 hl in 2000). Among the whites are "Greco di Tufo," "Fiano di Avellino," "Penisola Sorrentina" and "Campi Flegrei," which are made from Falanghina grapes. The "king" of red varieties is the famous Aglianico, which makes "Taurasi," an authentic wine that can be cellared for a long time, and gives excellent results with "Falerno del Massico." The varieties Piediroso, Forastera and Biancolella should be mentioned. They produce very interesting whites, particularly on the island of Ischia.

- **Apulia**

In this region, the provinces of Bari, Brindisi and Lecce have chosen the route of quality. In addition to the principal DOC "Castel del Monte" from the Bari region, a very interesting white wine, the DOC "Gravina," is produced in the Murges area (from Greco, Malvasia and Bianco d'Alessano grapes). The "pearls" of Apulian viticulture are found in the provinces of Brindisi and Lecce. The noble variety, Negroamaro, used alone or associated with a small percentage of Malvasia Nera, makes the DOC "Salice Salentino," "Brindisi," "Copertino," "Alezio"... , plus they make reds with the simple denomination IGT (Indicazione geografica tipica), considered to be the best from southern Italy.

- **Calabria**

Like Campania, Calabria has a rich patrimony (about 500,000 hectolitres). Produced on the Ionian Sea, the DOC "Ciro," a hearty, rather tannic red wine, is elaborated with the prince of Calabrian grape varieties, Gaglioppo. On the other hand, the DOC "Savuto," elaborated on the Tyrrhenian Sea, is a blend of Gaglioppo and native varieties such as Magliocco Canino and Nerello Cappuccio.

- **Sicily**

As the Italian viticultural region of the future, this island is attracting much investment from large Italian wine houses, as well as from around the world, from Australia to California. Sicily signifies above all else "Marsala," a sweet wine brought up in wooden barrels. But it is also a region with fine white wines produced with Carricante and Catarratto grapes, red wines elaborated with Nerello Mascalese and Cappuccio grapes, the extraordinary straw wine "Passito di Pantelleria," a little-known but much appreciated red wine, "Cerasuolo di Vittoria," and a sweet or fortified wine, "Malvasia" from Lipari Island. Among red grape varieties, the most important and the most noble is without doubt Nero d'Avola. (Total production: 7,106,000 hectolitres in 2000).

- **Sardinia**

Today, three dominations of origin are the most famous: "Vermentino di Gallura o di Sardegna," the best among Sardinian white wines; "Carignano del Sulcis" and finally "Cannonau di Sardegna," whose original grape variety is the Spanish Garnacha and the French Grenache. "Malvasia di Bosa" and "Vernaccia di Oristano," produced in the province of Nuoro, remain very traditional wines. Today, Sardinia, like Sicily, is experiencing a "veritable cultural revolution." For red wines, the finest native grape varieties mix with a pinch of Sangiovese de Toscana, Cabernet Sauvignon or Montepulciano. For white wines, Vermentino is searching for a new style with a bold marriage with Chardonnay and Sauvignon. (Total production: 693,000 hectolitres in 2000).

Contact VINISUD

Pascale FERRANTI - Email : pferranti@adhes.com

Tel : +33 1 41 86 41 55 / Fax : +33 1 46 04 57 61