

Constantly improving MALAVAZIJA.

Kras PRIMORSKI district. Several TERAN producers. Inc Čotar, Lisjak Boris, RENČEL. Remarkable improvements with whites, especially MALAVAZIJA, also Vitovska.

Kupljen Jože *** Dry wine pioneer near Ormož. Pinot N labelled Modri Burgundec; in better years POZNA TRGATEV. Premium red and white Star of Stiri.

Laški Rizling Welschriesling. Slovenia's most planted variety, but now in decline.

Ledeno vino Icewine. Only in exceptional years and can be sublime.

Ljutomer *→*** Traditionally top wine district with neighbouring Ormož. Co-op called Ljutomerčan will see better times: vineyards among Slovenia's best.

Malvazija Slightly bitter yet generous flavour, which goes very well with seafood. **M by VINKOPER is incredible value.** Also very good from Pucer, Rojac. In recent years successfully grown in GORIŠKA BRDA and KRAS.

Mlečnik *** Disciple of Italy's Joško Gravner from VİPAVA. The closest anyone in Slovenia comes to organics.

Modra Franjka Austria's Blaufränkisch. Fruity reds mostly in POSAVSKI, best as Metliška črnina by the Metlika co-op in the Bela krajina district.

Movia **** Best-known Slovenian winery. Releases only mature vintages of its top wines: Veliko Rdeče (red) after 6 years and Belo (white) after 4. Varietals usually very good. New Lunar (REBULA) from 05 and sparkling PURO.

Ormož *→*** Top wine district with neighbouring Ljutomer. Co-op named Jeruzalem Ormož. Premium brand Holermuus.

Podravski Traditionally most respected Slovenian region in the northeast. Recent comeback with aromatic whites and increasingly fine reds, mostly Modri Pinot.

Posavski Conservative wine region in the southeast, best known for CVIČEK. Quality producers starting to emerge: look for ISTENIČ, PRUS, Šekoranja.

Pozna trgatve Late harvest. See PREDIKAT.

Predikat Wines made of botrytis-affected grapes with high sugar content. Term is taken from the German tradition and is used mostly in the PODRAVSKI region as POZNA TRGATEV, IZBOR, JAGODNI IZBOR, SUHI JAGODNI IZBOR, LEDENO VINO.

Primorski Region in the southwest from the Adriatic to GORIŠKA BRDA. The most forward-looking Slovenian wine region for both reds and whites.

Prus Recent star from the Bela Krajina district in POSAVSKI. Best known for PREDIKATS, also very good reds.

Ptujski klet *→*** Winery in Ptuj with a collection of vintages from 1917. Recent vintages less notable, but the 80s were fantastic (and still great value).

Radgonska Gorice *→*** District near Austrian border, and co-op home to Radgonska Penina, Slovenia's best-known sparkling. Vintage Zlata (golden) is drier and fuller, also ages well; NV Srebrna (silver) often off-dry. Also very popular sweet TRAMINEC and white blend Janževc by Kapela.

Rebula Traditional white variety of GORIŠKA BRDA. Can be exceptional.

Refošk Italy's Refosco. Dark, acidic red; oaked and unoaked. Best: SANTOMAS.

Renčel **** Outstanding producer of TERAN (tiny quantities); also good whites.

Riški Rizling Ries. PODRAVSKI only. Best: JOANNES, ORMOŽ, KOGL, KUPLEN, Skaza Anton.

Santomas *** KOPER. Good mature REFOŠK and international-style Cab Sauv.

Sauvignonasse White grape in GORIŠKA BRDA until 03 known as TOKAJ. Some believe it may become the most exciting grape in GORIŠKA BRDA.

Ščurek *→*** Very reliable GORIŠKA BRDA producer (Chard, REBULA, Tokaj, Sauv Bl, Cab Fr). Very particular red (02) and white blends (04) Stara brajda and classy white Dugo. Since 02 excellent premium red blend Up.

Simčič Edi *** Highly reputed GORIŠKA BRDA producer. In particular look for Chard, REBULA, SIVI PINOT. Outstanding red blend Duet Lex 02 (Lex replacing outlawed term "reserva").

Simčič Marjan **** Excellent GORIŠKA BRDA producer (Chard, SIVI PINOT). REBULA-

based blend Teodor is outstanding. A particular gem is Sauv Bl. Exceptional Modri Pinot. In selected years heavenly sweet Leonardo from dried grapes.

Sivi Pinot Italy's Pinot Gr. Increasingly fine, fruity, yet full-bodied wine.

Steyer ** Top name from RADGONSKE GORICE. Best known for TRAMINEC, recently also very good Chard, RENSKI RIZLING, SIVI PINOT.

Šturm **** Long-established, yet lone star of the Bela Krajina district in POSAVSKI. In recent years not as outstanding.

Suhi Jagodni izbor Trockenbeerenauslese (see p.135).

Teran REFOŠK from KRAS. Locally the most popular Slovenian wine after CVIČEK.

Tokaj Italy's Tocai Friulano grape in GORIŠKA BRDA. In 04 and 05 widely rebranded as Tocaj, re-branded as SAUVIGNONASSE (aka Chile's Sauvignon Vert) since 06.

Traminec Gewurz, only in PODRAVSKI. Generally sweet – also as PREDIKAT.

Valdhuber *** Dry wine pioneers in PODRAVSKI. Top wine is (dry) TRAMINEC.

Vinag *→*** One of largest co-ops in Slovenia, with HQ and immense cellars in Maribor. Many older vintage PREDIKATS. Recently shaky.

Vinkoper *** Large company with own vineyards in KOPER. Many very good varietals: Chard, MALAVAZIJA, Muscat (dry and sweet), Cab Sauv, REFOŠK. Premium brands: Capo d'Istria (varietals), Capris (blends).

Vipava *→*** PRIMORSKI district. Many fine producers: BATIČ, Lisjak Radivoj, MLEČNIK, Sutor, Tilia. Co-op of same name with premium brand Lanthieri **.

Croatia

Few Croatian wines are exported, though the country seems to be doing well with all styles of wine, from dry and sweet whites, to reds and sparkling.

Agrolaguna *→*** Co-op at Poreč, ISTRIA. Cab Sauv can be very good.

Babič Dark, long-lived, native red from Primošten (north DALMATIA). Can be of high quality. Best by VINOPLod. Unique vineyard site.

Badel 1862 *→*** Biggest wine producer in the country with wineries from all over. Usually best: IVAN DOLAC, (PZ Svirče), DINGAČ (PZ i Vinarija Dingač).

Coronica, Moreno *** Top MALAVAZIJA (DYA) and Gran Malvazija 02 03' 04' 05' and Gran Teran 03 from ISTRIA. Also Cab Sauv 03 Grabar. Classic.

Dalmacija-vino * Giant co-op at Split: very good Faros.

Dalmatia Dalmacija The coast of Croatia is a grower's paradise. Traditionally high in alcohol. Whites struggling, reds improving fast.

Dingač Vineyard designation on PELJEŠAČ's steep southern slopes. "Grand cru" for PLAVAC MALI. Made from partially dried grapes: full-bodied robust, dry red. Look for: Kiridžija, Radovič, and Skaramuča.

Enjingi, Ivan **** Producer of excellent sweet botrytized and dry whites from Požega. GRAŠEVINA, Sivi Pinot, and superb white blend Venje.

Graševina Welschriesling. Best in SLAVONIA. Look for Adžić, ENJINGI, KRAUTHAKER, Vinarija Daruvar, Djakovačka vina, KUTJEVO. From dry and light to top botrytis wines.

Grgič, Miljenko *** "Paris tasting" winner (see Grgich Hills, California) produces PLAVAC and POŠIP back home on PELJEŠAČ peninsula.

Grk Rare white of Korčula. Oldest Croatian native. Try: Cebalo Branimir.

Hvar Beautiful island in mid-Dalmatia. Good reds from PLAVAC MALI from steep southern slopes. Interesting native wines from plateau. Look for: ZLATAN PLAVAC, IVAN DOLAC, Carič Faros, Tomić, PZ Svirče, PLANIČ.

Istria North Adriatic peninsula. MALAVAZIJA and TERAN reign here. Great for Cab Sauv. Look for CORONICA, Degrassi, Kabela, KOZLOVIČ, MATOŠEVIČ, Pilato. IQ (Istrian Quality) is a new quality designation.

Ivan Dolac Area on south slopes of HVAR. "Grand cru" for PLAVAC MALI.