

Outstanding Vintage for Südtirol/Alto Adige Wine

An Extraordinary Vintage that will Remain in the Memory for a Long, Long Time

Alto Adige's winegrowers and winemakers are extremely pleased about the outstanding 2015 vintage for both red and white wines. The quality is inspiring: the harvested grapes were healthy in every respect, with excellent extract and sugar levels. In 2015, Alto Adige's vineyards remained protected from illnesses to the greatest extent possible. In keeping with the dedication to integrated cultivation, the use of pesticides could be reduced to a minimum. And even the high temperatures in the record dry summer did not damage the grapes. The heat stress even had positive effects upon the red varieties. For the white grape varieties, the weather shortly before the harvest was decisive. The moderate temperatures and the cooler nights starting from the second half of September 2015 were ideal for the white wine grape varieties.

So what exactly is it, then, that makes 2015 such an outstanding vintage in Alto Adige? For each grape variety, the ideal time for the harvest could be chosen at will! In the winegrowing regions of Alto Adige/Südtirol, the harvest began in general in mid-September, and for the first white wine varieties, even as early as the first days of September. By the middle of October, the harvest was completed in nearly all of the wine cultivation areas. And the harvest quantities also provided reason to celebrate: they are now once again in line with the average over many years.

What are the wine aficionados and connoisseurs expecting? The 2015 vintage in Alto Adige/Südtirol presents itself with fabulously beautiful, mature aromas which are full of body and which emphasize the fruit with the white wines – above all else with the Pinot Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, and Gewürztraminer. That can only be confirmed by Rudi Kofler, winemaker at the Cantina Terlano: "Lovely fruit aromas as well as a bold, harmonious structure characterize the 2015 white wines." The Schiava (Vernatsch) wines show themselves as accessible and full of body with luminescent colors. The other red wine varieties are powerful, well-structured, and harmonious, in particular with the Lagrein, Pinot Noir, Merlot, and Cabernet standing out. Christian Werth, winemaker at the Muri Gries Monastery Winery is convinced, "After 2011, 2015 is once again a great Lagrein vintage with ripe fruit and spices, intense, dark hues, and stimulatingly concise tannins." Wine lovers everywhere can look forward to top-quality Alto Adige wines that will impress drinkers with their longevity, structure, and elegance.

Bassa Atesina – Othmar Donà, Kurtatsch Winery:

Profound, Long-lasting Red Wines

Othmar Donà, winemaker of the Kurtatsch Winery, looks back on an outstanding 2015 in the Bassa Atesina: “In the vineyard, the year was unproblematic in every respect, and for that reason, it was all the more exciting, with excellent quality.” For him, the Gewürztraminer in the Bassa Atesina presents itself as very typical and fruity, with fragrant aromas and excellent ripeness, while the Chardonnay there is exotic and filled with character. But the winemaker from Kurtatsch was especially taken by the reds from this vintage. “In 2015, the Merlot and Cabernet had time to ripen to peak quality in the vineyard, and they prove themselves with perfect physiological ripeness, with intense color nuances, and with excellent extract values.” The best preconditions for profound, long-lasting wines.

Oltradige – Wolfgang Tratter, St. Pauls Winery:

Complex, Fruity White Wines

For Wolfgang Tratter, winemaker at the St. Pauls Winery, healthy grapes, above-average sugar levels, and a crispy acidity structure lead him to already conclude that it will be a special vintage as early as the cellaring. “In Oltradige, the 2015 white wines present themselves with very complex aromas, they’re very fruity and creamy. The red wines prove themselves with luminous colors, they are powerful and, as a result of their mature tannin, they are very balanced and structured. This extraordinary vintage will certainly remain in the memory for a long, long time and delight us in years to come because of its long-lasting wines.”

Bolzano – Christian Werth, Muri Gries:

Lagrein with Fruit, Power, and Spice

For Christian Werth, winemaker of the Muri Gries Monastery Winery, a year shaped by heat characterized the 2015 harvest – with ideal conditions above all else for Alto Adige’s red wines. “After 2011, 2015 is once again a great Lagrein vintage with ripe fruit and spices, intense, dark hues, and stimulatingly concise tannins.” It was also a similar case for Santa Maddalena. “Healthy, ripe Schiava (Vernatsch) grapes guarantee fruity, full-bodied, bold wines, and as a result of the high degree of ripeness, they may have somewhat lower acidities, but nevertheless they are fresh and appealingly quaffable.”

Adige Valley – Rudi Kofler, Terlan Winery:

Big White Wines and Exciting Red Wines

Rudi Kofler, winemaker at the Terlan Winery, speaks of a very good vintage in general. “Lovely fruit aromas as well as a bold, harmonious structure characterize the 2015 white wines right across the board. That holds true for Pinot Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc just as much as for Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, or Müller-Thurgau.” For Kofler, the red wines of this vintage present themselves as very exciting, with “velvety, high-quality tannins, intense color expression, and powerful, harmonious structure. After 2011, 2015 is once again a fantastic, typical vintage for Alto Adige red wine with top-quality Pinot Noir and Lagrein, Merlot, and Cabernet.”

Val Venosta – Franz Pratzner, Falkenstein:

Wines with Character and Profile

Also very satisfied with the 2015 vintage is Franz Pratzner of the Falkenstein Winery in the Val Venosta. “Ideal ripeness of the grapes as well as a very good, balanced acidity-to-sugar ratio guarantee a promising vintage. The wines all present themselves with outstanding qualities, with character profile.” In the Val Venosta, the Riesling and Pinot Blanc are convincing with a pleasant freshness and mineral-richness as well as with prominent aroma structure. And with Pinot Noir, Pratzner is confident and hopes for elegant, fruity, well-structured wines.

Isarco Valley – Andreas Huber, Pacherhof:

Fruity, Juicy Isarco Valley Wines that are Typical of the Variety

The weather in the Isarco Valley was characterized by a warm summer in 2015 with sufficient precipitation. The ideal temperature fluctuations between day and night provided intense aromatic qualities and the optimal ripeness of the grapes. Andreas Huber of the Pacherhof expects an expressive 2015 vintage with “intensely fruity Sylvaner, Veltliner, Riesling, and Müller-Thurgau that are all typical of their varieties, with fine, pleasant acidity, wines that are juicy and full-bodied, inviting, and easily drinkable.”