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How terroir influences Custoza wines

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How does the terroir influence the wines of Custoza...?



Custoza vineyards Credit: Custoza Consorzio

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A guide to Custoza terroir



Custoza white wine takes its name from the village of Custoza, the site of two Risorgimento battles, and part of the municipality of Sommacampagna in the province of Verona.

The DOC area lies between Verona and Lake Garda. Crossed by the River Tione, the area is bordered to the south west by the River Mincio, an emissary of Garda.

There are nine Custoza DOC municipalities:

- **Lazise**
- **Pastrengo**
- **Bussolengo**
- **Peschiera**
- **Castelnuovo del Garda**
- **Sona**
- **Sommacampagna**
- **Valeggio sul Mincio**
- **Villafranca di Verona**

The soils

The morainic amphitheatre that characterizes the production zone is marked by a closely-packed series of elongated hills with an altitude that ranges from 50 to 100 metres. These hills, created by deposits left by the glaciers that shaped nearby Lake Garda (the largest lake in Italy), are made up of a variety of mainly calcareous, gravelly, sandy and pebbly soils with some silt and clay but no rocky outcrops.

This morainic soil is what gives Custoza its characteristic salty and savoury note. The extreme diversification of the soils deriving from irregular glacial deposits is expressed in the fresh and vivacious nature of Custoza.

The climate

During the summer, the sun allows the grapes to ripen in a healthy climate, appeased by the influence of the lake. The breezes from Garda dry up any rain or dampness in the vineyards.

The area benefits from the close vicinity of the lake to the west while, lying at the gateway to the plain in the east, it is also influenced by a more continental climate. The conformation of the hilly slopes provides warmth during the day and an accumulation of cool air at night.



The temperature differences between day and night give constant acidity levels and allow the fragrances and characteristic aromas of the grapes to develop. This unique micro-climate, so well-suited for vine growing, is also ideal for the olives and cypresses that distinguish the territorial landscape. The morainic soil composition particularly contributes to a good germination for all the vine varieties.

Annual rainfall is between 750 and 800 millimetres and is more frequent in the autumn and spring. The lack of rain, sometimes for months at a time, during the vine's vegetative period, obliges growers to irrigate in order to guarantee the best yield results.

Culturally the area has maintained its principal identity linked to its rural tradition with its own particular and authentic country-farming charm.

Three wines to try

Le Vigne di San Pietro “San Pietro” Custoza Superiore Doc 2015

Captivating on the nose with hints of jasmine and medicinal herbs. Salty and mineral notes on the palate; this is a wine with class and elegance.

UK importer: £28 Thorman Hunt and Co. Ltd., Wine Shippers, 4 Pratt Walk, Lambeth, London SE11 6AR
USA importer: None

Tamburino sardo “La Guglia” Custoza Superiore Doc 2015

A late harvest that can be recognised in the ample nose, well-layered with hints of ripe fruit and hazelnuts. The intense flavour, structure and expressive force is revealed on the palate.

UK and USA importer: Taste Plus International Co.Ltd

Menegotti “Elianto” Custoza Superiore Doc 2015

Full and complex on the nose. Spices (mainly saffron), a balsamic touch with a hint of dried fruit. Round, pleasant, agreeable to the taste, right up to its hazelnut finale.

USA importer (NY): \$20 Enoclassica Selection price
UK importer: None

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Read a guide to Custoza vineyards and grape varieties