



Edoardo Freddi International

Harvest Report 2023



A varied picture in Italy for the 2023 harvest

The 2023 vintage can be considered one of the most atypical, difficult and 'forgettable' of the last century. After years, we have lost the lead in world wine production, leaving the title once again to France (estimated 45 million hectolitres); Spain is still on the third step of the podium with 36 million (-12%). This was, and still is, a very challenging harvest year, in which there was no shortage of Peronospera, major reductions in the overall quantity and adverse and complicated weather conditions due to climate change. What has undoubtedly emerged in this harvest year is the vital role of the agronomist within the vineyards, to counter all

these problems that will be increasingly on the agenda in the coming years. For 2023, a total production of 44 million hectolitres is estimated, for an overall drop of -12% compared to 2022, and 1.5 million people will be employed. The situation is very varied in Italy: positive and even growing trends in the North, negative trends in Central Italy and dramatic in the South, where even -40% in production has been reached.



Region by region overview

Northern Italy

Piedmont. The harvest in Piedmont began at the end of August with the picking of grapes for the sparkling wine bases, followed by that of Moscato at the beginning of September. In the middle of the month it was time for Barbera, and in these days the Nebbiolo harvest is underway. Despite the unstable weather conditions (winter with no rainfall; spring months with abundant rainfall, especially in the Langhe area; hot summer, especially in July during which there were high temperatures and thunderstorms with hailstorms – mainly in the Roero and Bassa and Alta Langa areas) and varying according to the area, a good quality harvest is expected, with a drop in quantity of only -2%. In conclusion, a production of 2 676 thousand Hl is estimated.

Lombardy. The harvest in Lombardy is performing very well, with the exception of some areas that were heavily hit by hail such as the Lugana area. In general, production is estimated at 1 271 thousand Hl and thus an overall growth of +15% over the previous year. The harvest began in the first days of August in Franciacorta, where it started with the harvest of Pinot Noir and then continued with Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Erbatmat. It was then the turn of Oltrepò Pavese and now of Valtellina. The quality of the grapes is very good; consequently, excellent wines are expected.

Veneto. In Veneto, the harvest began a few days late: it started at the end of August with Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio, followed by Glera



and the red grape varieties. The weather conditions were not particularly bad in Veneto, with the exception of some areas; in fact, there was a mild winter with little rainfall until the month of May, when there were several rainfall events, which nevertheless helped the vines to recover at a vegetative level. In Veneto, the grapes are showing excellent health and good acidity; the quantities are slightly higher than last year. In fact, 13 232 thousand HI are expected for an overall growth of +5%.

Trentino Alto Adige. In terms of quantity, the harvest in Trentino is more or less in line with last year's – a +1.5% increase was recorded with 1 307 thousand HI – but the quality of the grapes is excellent. All varieties show important acidity and well-developed, broad aromatic frameworks. The harvest began a few days late, starting with the grapes of Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. What emerged from this harvest campaign is the excellent work of the agronomists, who managed to act preventively and with the most suitable techniques to counter the effects of Peronospera and other fungal threats.

Friuli Venezia Giulia. In Friuli, the grape harvest began in the first week of September, and unfortunately, due to the adverse weather conditions experienced during the year and fungal diseases, this is definitely a bad year.

In fact, 1 983 thousand HI are expected for an overall drop in production of -10%. Sprouting started earlier this year, but with the occurrence of adverse weather events this process was interrupted and slowed down to such an extent that veraison took place in mid-July. Due to the hailstorms of the summer months, it is difficult to speak of good grape quality.

Emilia Romagna. Emilia Romagna was unlucky in 2023: weather and other events hit the region hard and the wine sector was also affected. Due to the bad weather, veraison was delayed by about two weeks. Although a drop in production of about 5% – 6 884 thousand HI is expected – the quality of the wines is expected to be quite good.



Central Italy

Tuscany. The year 2023 in Tuscany was characterised by a very high level of rainfall and this definitely affected the grape harvest. Due to this, agronomists had to work hard to combat Peronospera and other fungal diseases. Despite the fact that there was no rainfall in July but high temperatures, the bunches of grapes grew a lot thanks, in part, to the water reserves accumulated in the previous months. The veraison took place at the beginning of August, and the grapes were harvested at the end of the month. Good quality is expected, but production is expected to drop by -20%, with 1 870 000 HI.

Marche. Although the winter in the Marche was mild for the fourth year in a row, the spring and summer brought a lot of rain; as a result, flowering and veraison were about two weeks late. This, however, was not the only problem; as in many other Italian regions, Peronospera (downy mildew) hit the vines hard, especially grape varieties such as Montepulciano, Passerina and Chardonnay. For this harvest year, a drop of -25% – 699 thousand HI – is expected, and the quality of the grapes and future wines will be fairly good.

Abruzzo. Abruzzo is witnessing the worst grape harvest in recent years and in the whole of Italy: a 40% drop in production is expected, with 1 851 thousand HI. Because of the bad weather that has hit the region hard this year, the quality of the grapes is also expected to be mediocre; only the few grapes that have escaped the fungal diseases present a good quality with a well-balanced acidity. In 2023, there was above-average rainfall while temperatures remained below seasonal averages until the end of July; this certainly did not help the vines and grapes. Given the heavy rainfall, Peronospera spread like wildfire, which affected Montepulciano grapes the most.



Southern Italy

Campania. In 2023, Campania experienced a mild winter without much rainfall, which occurred intensely in May and June, bringing with it various fungal diseases to the vines. Heat waves occurred in July, causing great stress to the plants, which was then mitigated by the wind and lower temperatures towards the end of the month. However, these extreme weather conditions certainly did not help the vines and grapes to grow in the best possible way. The 2023 grape harvest differs from area to area, but in general a drop in production of around -30% is expected (375 thousand HI); despite this, the grapes are of good quality.

Apulia. The harvest in Apulia started around mid-August with a slight delay and began with the picking of Chardonnay for the sparkling wine base. This was followed by the other white varieties and towards the end of September by the red varieties. The winter was mild in this region too, but spring brought significant rainfall that delayed the ripening of the grapes and brought Peronospera and Oidium. For this reason, a drop in production was also recorded in Apulia, of around -25%, for a total of 7 600 thousand HI; the quality of the grapes, however, is good, also thanks to the aromatic heritage.

Basilicata. 2023 is not a particularly favourable year for Basilicata: the intense rainfall throughout the spring and early summer hit the vines and grapes hard. In fact, in this region there has been a significant proliferation of Peronospera (downy mildew), which has greatly damaged the work of agronomists. These, due to the bad weather, had limited access to the vineyards and could not implement pesticide treatments. Unfortunately, a significant drop in production is also expected here, of around -30%, for a total of 68 thousand HI; the quality expected is average.

Calabria. In Calabria, the climatic conditions have been extreme: we have gone from a mild winter, to intense rainfall during the spring and June months, and to a dry summer, where at times we have had to intervene with emergency irrigation. Thanks to this alternation and the temperature fluctuations, the grapes show good quality and, above all, an important aromatic heritage, which will lead to the production of noteworthy wines. However, due to the heavy rains, Peronospera has spread, which has led to a considerable reduction in production; a loss of -33% is expected for a total of 88 thousand HI.



Sicily. The grape harvest in Sicily began a few days later than in recent years and consequently returned to 'normal'. It started with the harvesting of international varieties such as Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio at the beginning of August, and then moved on to native varieties such as Nerello Mascalese and Nero d'Avola for the sparkling wine bases. The year 2023 was certainly a very difficult one for Sicilian agronomists, as they had to fight back against Peronospera attacks and very high temperatures during the summer months. Although the quality of the grapes was very good, there was a significant drop in production – 2,460 thousand HI – for -30%.

Sardinia. Sardinia certainly could not be excluded from the extreme weather conditions that have affected the whole of Italy: in the winter there were above-average temperatures and very little rainfall; in the spring, from mid-May, there were heavy rains that brought with them fungal diseases, such as Peronospera; while in the summer, high temperatures led to the fall of leaves and sunburn on the grapes. Fortunately, the Mistral arrived in August, which lifted the situation and allowed the vines to recover from the heat shock. However, due to these adverse weather conditions, a drop of -20% is expected for a total production of 427 thousand HI.

This report is based on data provided by Wine News, Nomisma, Ismea and Uiv.





The harvest of our partner wineries

Tenuta San Leonardo

Trentino Alto Adige

The harvest began on September 19 with Merlot, followed by Cabernet Sauvignon and finally Carmenere in mid-October. The forecast is very good in terms of quality while in terms of quantity there is a rather important drop, between 20 and 30 percent on the red grapes and a 10 percent drop on the white grapes due to Downy mildew. However, the winery expects some really interesting wines: September favored a splendid ripening of the grapes, which are giving truly magnificent colors and aromas to the fermenting musts.



Pictures by Tenuta San Leonardo

Lea Winery

Friuli Venezia Giulia

Lea Winery's vineyards were fortunately only partially affected by the bad weather and the great heat of the second half of August provided a restorative action. Anyway, it can face the challenges of extreme weather conditions thanks to its drip irrigation system, organic farming, and an overall sustainable production concept.

Lea's experienced team started harvesting Pinot Grigio at the beginning of September and continued in the following weeks with the other white grape varieties (Ribolla Gialla, Glera,



Pictures by Lea Winery

Traminer, Chardonnay...).

Immediately after collection, the grapes were processed on three separate production lines, using one crusher-destemmer and two different horizontal pneumatic wine presses, in order to avoid oxidative phenomena, early and unwanted fermentation, volatilization of aromas that would otherwise compromise the quality of the wine.

Despite the weather conditions of this summer, the winery has great expectations for this vintage's orange wines: although the production yield has been lower, the quality is always excellent.

Serre

Veneto

The harvest began in mid-September, later than in previous years, due to moderate temperatures during the summer period. These allowed, however, for grapes with good acidity. Despite the bad weather phenomena that have characterized the areas in the last period, the winery still has very good expectations for its wines. The harvest began with the selection of the most suitable vineyard for the production of 58, a reference of great importance for the winery and with the most particular production process. It continued, then, with the cutting of the head to fruit.



Picture by Serre

Santa Lucia

Franciacorta

The Santa Lucia harvest began in mid-August and ended on the 2nd of September. Despite the adverse weather events of early summer – floods and hailstorms – the grapes are of excellent quality and healthy, with good acidity and flavor profile.

Excellent harvest in terms of quantity as well. In the coming weeks the winery will see the results on the wines, but it is expected to be an exceptional vintage, even for the Millesimato and Riserva wines.



Picture by Santa Lucia

Pratello

Lombardy

This year the weather was not magnanimous and extreme weather conditions affected Pratello and consequently damaged some vineyards. The harvest began on the 30th of August, a few weeks later than in previous years due to continuous rains in the previous months that did not facilitate the ripening of the grapes. September's warm and dry weather allowed the grapes to stay on the vine longer and reach a good level of ripeness.

The Valtenesi area, thanks to the skill of Nathan, Nicolò and the other guys in the campaign,

brought good results despite the weather difficulties. Very good red wines are expected, thanks to the September weather, and also a good Lugana, although production will be slightly lower than in previous years.



Picture by Pratello

Vallebelbo

Piedmont

The 2023 harvest was certainly a poorer vintage in terms of quantity; an expected drop, considering the long period of drought that affected the area. From a qualitative point of view, on the other hand, 2023 is a prestigious year: wines of excellent quality are expected to be produced.

The harvest began with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, followed by Moscato Bianco, Dolcetto and Barbera; these are the main grape varieties used by the winery to produce its wines. Harvest ended in mid-September.



Picture by Vallebelbo



Picture by La Madonnina

La Madonnina

Tuscany

The 2023 harvest for La Madonnina was a year to remember; the results were exceptional in terms of both quality and quantity. The grape harvest began around mid-September and ended two weeks ago; the forecasts are very good.

In the highest and least sun-exposed areas, where the youngest vines are located, the harvest has been exceptional; while in the most vocated and fertile areas, where the oldest and most historic vines are grown, the grapes will be used to produce wines to remember.

Santavenere

Tuscany

The 2023 harvest for Santavenere began with Chardonnay in late September, continued with Merlot, and ended these days with Sangiovese. Despite the climatic difficulties, the harvest quality and quantities are good.

Therefore, it promises to be a wine with excellent freshness and a really important aging potential.



Picture by Santavenere

Cantine del Notaio

Basilicata

The harvest began in September with white grape varieties and continued with Aglianico del Vulture in mid-October. Due to the drought, the winery suffered a loss of about 40 percent in terms of quantity; until a few days ago, in fact, there were quite high temperatures. In spite of this, the grapes are of very high quality; therefore, exceptional wines are expected.



Picture by Cantine del Notaio

Mottura

Apulia

The heavy and continuous rainfall that characterized the spring resulted in pathogenic diseases in the vineyard, starting with downy mildew. This resulted in an average drop in production of about 30%. However, the damage was contained from a quality point of view with careful scientific management of the vineyard. For some years, in fact, Mottura has been resorting to precision viticulture through field technologies that can monitor the microclimate of the vineyards and thus predict, based on climatic conditions, pathogen attacks.



Pictures by Mottura

Cantine Europa

Sicily

For Cantine Europa, but in Sicily in general, the 2023 harvest was rather unusual compared to other vintages, the extreme weather conditions encountered this year altered the normal growth and ripening of the grapes.

This year it was a great challenge for the Sicilian winegrowers to maintain a vineyard in healthy conditions, but thanks to careful dedication and hard work, they managed to obtain good fruit.

The grape harvest of the winery's winegrowing members began during the last week of July, and the first grapes to be picked were Pinot Grigio

and Grillo; the latter is used for the production of sparkling and semi-sparkling organic wines.

The harvest will certainly not be the same as in previous years in terms of quantity, however, the long ripening period has resulted in the right balance between sugar and acidity; therefore, Cantine Europa is very positive about quality.



Picture by Cantine Europa

Palmento Costanzo

Sicily

Palmento Costanzo's vineyards were affected by Peronospera and heavy rains in May. As a result, the winery lost about 30 percent of its production compared to other years; nevertheless, it suffered less damage than other wineries due to its optimal location. The harvest began in late August with Nerello Mascalese for the sparkling wine bases, continued with the other white and red varieties, and ended a few weeks earlier than in other years. The grapes are of good quality, so interesting wines are on the horizon.



Picture by Palmento Costanzo

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' and 'F' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Edoardo Freddi, CEO & Founder

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