

ITALY HARVEST REPORT 2021

"Pino Sola"



PIEDMONT

2021 – Production 2.681.000 HL

Overall 2021 was a season within the norm-some April frosts with limited damage. The climate tended to be cold until May followed by a very hot and dry June. Beginning July thunderstorms and hail hit northern Piemonte, the Gattinara area, and further south in the Roero. A balanced vintage is taking shape even if the maturation of the Nebbiolo for Barolo is still a long way off.

LOMBARDY

2021 – Production 1.431.000 HL

Significant hailstorms followed the worrying frosts in March in the Oltrepo. Franciacorta also suffered from hailstorms in early April, then again in July with some damage to the famous land of classic sparkling wine.

On the contrary, the area of Lake Garda was spared from frosts and extreme thunderstorms, which occurred in the neighboring Verona area.



VENETO

2021 – Production 11.059.000 HL

The spring season was cold with scattered frosts, delaying shoots for about 10 days. Then abundant rains occurred causing fungal attacks. In the months of May and June there were severe thunderstorms especially in the east with production losses. The bunches of Pinot and Chardonnay are limited while Glera experienced average production. For this reason a harvest delay of about 15 days is expected.

TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE

2021 – Production 1.378.000 HL

The seasonal trend records a positive regularity. Minor damage from a spring frost is limited only to early varieties such as Chardonnay and Marzemino. Strong spring hailstorms affected the Rotaliana plain of Teroldego and the Val di Cembra. A positive harvest is expected.

On average the cold spring temperatures produced vegetative delays of about ten days in the low-altitude areas. This caused delays in the ripening of the grapes for about 10 days, with repercussions on harvest times.



FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

2021 – Production 1.624.000 HL

A rainy winter with abundant snowfall caused vegetative delays in the vine, which began its cycle in mid-April. In the flat areas, there were frosts with further delays. Flowering began in June with more favorable conditions. July experienced excellent weather. In August an intense drought in the flat vineyards necessitated emergency irrigation. A good harvest is expected.

LIGURIA

2021 – Production 44.000 HL

Sudden climatic changes are the enemies of the small Ligurian vineyard. The peaks of summer heat created problems of powdery mildew-a late vegetative season occurred both in the west and east rivieras and in the Genoese area.

Harvest expected (with a -10% compared to 2020) for Vermentino at the beginning of September followed by Pigato (native grape of western Liguria and unique in Italy) For the Rossese di Dolceacqua it will be necessary to wait until the end of the month.



EMILIA ROMAGNA

2021 – Production 7.975,000 HL

Winter with little rainfall and anomalous heat resulted in an excellent vegetative recovery of the vines in late March when the temperature went from 20 degrees to 26 degrees at the end of the month. In April frosts in the plains and hilly bottoms, coupled with cold night temperatures caused damage to some vines such as Grasperossa (Lambrusco) in the lower Modena areas and retardation of the vine for about 10 days. Overall the damage is limited and the grapes ripened without phytosanitary problems. In early August there were some drought problems, which raises doubts about a good harvest in a region of high production.



TOSCANA

2021 – Production 2.074.000 HL

At year-end and in the beginning of 2021, abundant rainfall was enjoyed, ensuring precious water supplies. At the end of March the first Sangiovese sprouted. In April a sudden drop in temperatures occurred, with some frosts even at -8 degrees in the valley floor and in lands below 100 meters above sea level. With the flowering around the end of May, a dry and breezy climate arrived which led to providential formation of the bunches. Very serene weather in June favored an enviable health in the vineyards. The winter water reserves have helped the growth of the grapes, but in August in some areas a scorching heat partially dried the bunches. A surgical selection of the bunches will be required in the cellar. The precious rains are expected to predict an excellent year.



UMBRIA

2021 – Production 383.000 HL

The situation was like Tuscany. In April there were some frosts with limited losses. Currently at the end of August while there is an excellent seasonal trend in the vineyards, some beneficial rain is needed to reach an optimal harvest.



LAZIO

2021 – Production 720.000 HL

The winter weather here had the effect of the homogeneous development of central Italy with a week late for vegetative advance. Limited losses from some April frosts occurred. As the harvest approaches, due to the strong heat, there are concerns of attacks on the vine such as powdery mildew. A good grape harvest can be expected.



MARCHE

2021 – Production 857.000 HL

As has been happening for some years, the winter was again unseasonably warm but with abundant rains which began in December and followed in January. From February there was little rainfall as with the whole of spring. This seasonal trend had not occurred since 1961. After June and July there were providential rains. The germination took place about 10 days later than in 2020. Then, thanks to the rains and the summer heat, regular version began, starting with the early grapes. Few interventions for vine diseases were needed.

ABRUZZO

2021 – Production 3.375.000

Lack of rain, until late spring, accounted for severe suffering in the vineyards where there was no emergency irrigation available. The delay in the vegetative development was offset by the vines ability to resist and adapt to extreme situations. The high temperatures in July slowed the growth of the grapes, with Verdicchio, Sangiovese and Montepulciano being retarded. The harvest, with quality in mind, for now is scheduled for late September.



CAMPANIA

2021 – Production 778.000 HL

A mild climate continued until the end of March with temperatures above the norm and with abundant rains that started the vegetative cycle. In April snow and frosts occurred at low altitudes. The May warmer temperatures helped a good flowering and fruit set. However cluster formation with floral residues made it sparser. In mid-July providential rains confirmed 7/10 days delay in the phenological phases of the vine. There were few sanitary problems in the vineyards suggesting a good harvest lacking any unforeseeable storms.



PUGLIA

2021 – Production 8.231.000 HL

2021 experienced the optimal situation in spring, with vines without phytosanitary problems. Excellent vegetative development continued despite the persistence of excessive drought in later spring. The current delay of 10 days in ripening had not occurred for 20 years. However projections are for an optimal harvest.

BASILICATA

2021 – Production 83.000 HL

Although with a very hot and dry April, the vegetative season was normal, with excellent ripening. At the end of August the harvest of Chardonnay began followed by Malvasia. The picking in September and October will be expected for the grapes of the prestigious Aglianico del Vulture. Expectations are for an excellent manual harvest.



CALABRIA

2021 – Production 110.000 HL

Some difficulties experienced were due to frosts, which fortunately did not have a great affect. In the middle of summer the vineyards showed an optimal vegetative state. The harvest forecasts, despite the differences from area to area, are positive and indicate picking perhaps a few days in advance.



SICILY

2021 – Production 3.129.000 HL

The island vineyard is in excellent health after a winter of abundant rains through February and March. Spring continues with a severe drought and again in April minimal rainfall. The torrid summer, starting from June, had peaks around 45 degrees in different areas of the island. This caused sunburn in the most exposed bunches. Rare phytological infections were carefully treated. An excellent harvest with a lot of quality is expected.

SARDINIA

2021 – Production 436.000 HL

The season started with good rains from January to March into April; when some frosts (8-9th of the month) created vineyard problems and especially in those without emergency irrigation. This particularly affected the north of the island in the Aighero and Gallura areas. The season started with normal summer heat with few rains into the month of August resulting in a regular veraison, followed by optimal ripening. A very positive quality and an excellent harvest are expected for August and September advanced by providential weather.

