

VITICOLTORI ALTO ADIGE

Viticoltori Alto Adige is a co-operative representing and operating as a co-ordinating and consulting agency to 7 Cantine Sociali of the Alto Adige. By grouping together highly specialized and highly qualified producers, Viticoltori has initiated the most fruitful quality-oriented oenological innovation of the region, for it finally allows the very finest crus of Alto Adige to be known in their integrity.

The process is simple and effective. The oenologist of the co-operative works closely with the oenologists of the various wineries and chooses only the best lots of wine to be bottled (at the co-operative winery of St. Michael, Eppan) thus ensuring the highest quality possible. And here it must be added that the Trentino Alto Adige boasts the finest white wine oenologists in Italy and the best school of oenology of the nation. All aspects concerning viticulture are supervised by a provincial committee that collaborates with the agronomists of the seven wineries.

As of beginning of 2006 Viticoltori has developed a new selection of wines especially for me that groups the most representative varieties grown in South Tyrol - Pinot Grigio, Lagrein, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir and Schiava (Vernatsch) - from the very best crus.

Remarkable to the neophyte will be the recognition that there is no single cru where all varieties thrive at their best. Rather, each variety has a particularly felicitous cru of its own which, due to geophysical aspects of soil, exposure and microclimate, yields the finest wine of its kind.

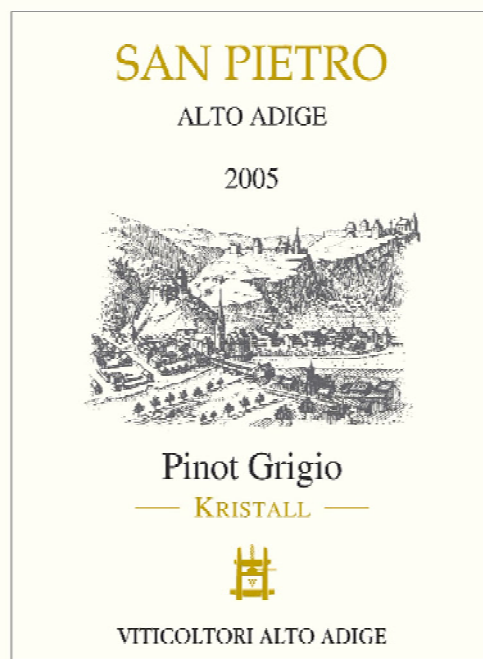
Pinot Grigio is presented in two bottlings in the new selection: a "base" version from vineyards of the Bassa Atesina hills and a top line wine from vineyards in the Oltradige region. Both areas are long known for their superb

white wines and offer the ideal growing conditions for this particular variety. These wines are fuller in colour than other wines of the Alto Adige, they are full but soft to the palate with a good acidic balance with a slight note of ripe fruit. The aroma is of tropical fruit and honey. Truly lovely wines!

Lagrein is a typical variety of Alto Adige and it is mentioned in XVII Century documents of the Benedictine Monastery of Muri near Bolzano. It produces full-bodied wines, with red berries and violet notes. Schiava (Vernatsch) is another grape often found in this region. Viticoltori bottle this light and fruity wine produced from a number of small vineyards in the township of Appiano (Eppan).

Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir give superb results in this part of Italy and these wines are among the best one can taste.

I am extremely happy to be able to present this interesting and well-priced range and all the wines are definitely worth a try!



Alto Adige Pinot Grigio "Kristall"

Zone: *Oltradige/Alto Adige*
 Vineyard Ext: *8 hectares*
 Varietal: *Pinot Grigio*
 Average Prod.: *70,000 bottles*