Cortaccia Rossa

MERLOT, CABERNET FRANC AND CABERNET SAUVIGNON

4th EDITION

09.09.2021

THE EVENT

Whilst Alto Adige's white wines have been in the limelight for some 30 years, the region's reds, especially, the Bordeaux style wines have got only very limited attention. In the very south of Alto Adige, however, in particular in the area around the village of Cortaccia, there are ideal conditions for growing varieties such as Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc.

The 4 producers Tiefenbrunner, Cantina Kurtatsch, Baron Widmann and Peter Dipoli strongly believe in the potential of these vineyard sites and the distinctive style of their wines, characterized by freshness and a bright, almost "alpine" seeming fruit in the nose. Thus, in 2015 they initiated the event *Cortaccia Rossa* to showcase the Bordeaux style wines of Cortaccia in a comparative blind tasting with a panel of distinguished experts.

The 2015 edition of *Cortaccia Rossa* had them pitting their wines against various prestigious Châteaux of the Bordeaux region and in 2017 they competed against highly rated wines from Bolgheri, Italy's most renowned appellation for Bordeaux varieties. Both tastings have shown that the Cortaccia does not need to shy away from comparisons with other, more prominent wine-growing regions, encouraging the 4 producers in 2019 to put their wines once more to test in 3rd edition of the event, with again fantastic results.

Results 2015: Cortaccia vs. Bordeaux

	Rating	Wine & Producer
Flight 1 1997	1°	BRENNTAL 1997 – Cantina Kurtatsch
	2°	Château L'Église Clinet 1997 – Pomerol
Flight 2 2002 & 1995	1°	IUGUM 2002 – Peter Dipoli
	2°	IUGUM 1995 – Peter Dipoli
	3°	Château La Dominique 2002 – St. Emilion
	4°	Château Canon La Gaffelière 2002 – St. Emilion
	5°	Château Figeac 1995 – St. Emilion
Flight 3 2002 & 1997	1°	AUHOF 2002 – Baron Widmann
	2°	AUHOF 1997 – Baron Widmann
	3°	Château Montrose 1997 – St. Estèphe
	4°	Château Canon 2002 – St. Emilion
Flight 4 2003 & 1997	1°	LINTICLARUS 2003 – Tiefenbrunner
	2°	FREIENFELD 1997 – Cantina Kurtatsch
	3°	Château Pichon Longueville 1997 – Pauillac
	4°	Château Cos D'Estournel 1997 – St. Estèphe
	5°	Château Brane-Cantenac 2003 – Margaux
	6°	LINTICLARUS 1997 – Tiefenbrunner

Results 2017: Cortaccia vs. Bolgheri

	Points	Wine & Producer
Flight 1 vintage 2012 & 2013	92	Guado al Tasso 2013 – Tenuta Guado al Tasso
	90	Ornellaia 2013 – Ornellaia
	90	Grattamacco 2013 – Podere Grattamacco
	89	Cabernet-Merlot Riserva Linticlarus 2013 – Tiefenbrunner
	89	IUGUM 2012 – Peter Dipoli
	88	Camarcanda 2013 – Ca' Marcanda
	87	Merlot Riserva BRENNTAL 2013 – Cantina Kurtatsch
	87	AUHOF 2012 – Baron Widmann
	83	Centa 2012 – Weingut Milla
	80	Sassicaia 2013 – Tenuta San Guido
Flight 2 vintage 2007 & 2009	91	Ornellaia 2007 – Ornellaia
	90	Cabernet-Merlot LINTICLARUS 2007 – Tiefenbrunner
	89	Merlot Riserva BRENNTAL 2007 – Cantina Kurtatsch
	89	Camarcanda 2007 – Ca' Marcanda
	88	AUHOF 2009 – Baron Widmann
	88	Sassicaia 2009 – Tenuta San Guido
	88	IUGUM 2007 – Peter Dipoli
	88	Guado al Tasso 2007 – Tenuta Guado al Tasso
	87	Grattamacco 2007 – Podere Grattamacco
	81	Centa 2007 – Weingut Milla

Results 2019: international comparison

	Rating	Wine	Producer	Varieties		Awards	
Flight 1	1°	FRAUENRIEGEL 2016 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Weingut Peter Dipoli	Merlot Cabernet Franc	57% 43%		
	2°	CAMARCANDA 2016 DOC Bolgheri	Soc. Agricola Cá Marcanda	Merlot Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon	50% 25% 25%	Robert Parker	97/100
	3°	CHÂTEAU CANON LA GAFFELIÈRE 2016 AOC Saint-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Classè		Merlot Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon	55% 40% 5 %	Robert Parker James Suckling Wine Spectator	95/100 96/100 95/100
	3°	ORENO 2016 IGT Toscana	Tenuta Sette Ponti	Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Petit Verdot	50% 40% 10%	James Suckling Robert Parker Wine Spectator	99/100 94/100 93/100
Flight 2	1°	GUADO AL TASSO 2016 DOC Bolgheri Superiore	Tenuta Guado al Tasso Marchesi	Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	60% 20% 20%	James Suckling Robert Parker Wine Spectator	98/100 98/100 94/100
	2°	CABERNET SAUVIGNON IGT Toscana 2016	Az. Agricola Isole e Olena	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%		
	3°	AUHOF 2016 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Weingut Baron Widmann	Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Merlot	60% 30% 10%		
	4°	LA CHAPELLE DE LA MISSION HAUT-BRION AOC Pessac-Léognan 2016		Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc		Robert Parker Wine Spectator	94/100 93/100
Flight 3	1°	DARMAGI 2016 DOC Langhe	Az. Agr. Gaja	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%	James Suckling Wine Spectator	99/100 93/100
	2°	FREIENFELD Riserva 2016 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Kellerei/Cantina Kurtatsch	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%		
	3°	CHÂTEAU COS d 'ESTOURNEL 2016 AOC Saint Estèphe		Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	76% 23% 1 %	Robert Parker James Suckling	100/100 100/100
	4°	SASSICAIA 2016 DOC Bolgheri	Tenuta San Guido	Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc	85% 15%	Robert Parker James Suckling	100/100 98/100
Flight 4	1°	CH. PICHON LONGUEVILLE BARON 2015 AOC Pauillac Grand Cru Classè		Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot	77% 23%	Robert Parker James Suckling	97/100 95/100
	2°	Vigna TOREN Riserva 2015 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Tiefenbrunner Schlosskellerei Turmhof	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%	Robert Parker Falstaff Decanter	93/100 95/100 91/100
	3°	SASSICAIA 2015 DOC Bolgheri	Tenuta San Guido	Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc	85% 15%	Robert Parker James Suckling	97/100 98/100
	4°	SAN LEONARDO 2015 IGT Vigneti delle Dolomiti	Tenuta San Leonardo	Cabernet Sauvignon Carmenère Merlot	60% 30% 10%		

Edition 2021: international comparison

	Sample Campione Probe	Wine Vino Wein	Producer Produttore Produzent	Variety Vitigni Rebsorten		Awards Riconoscimenti Auszeichnungen	
Flight 1	1	CHÂTEAU PAVIE-MACQUIN 2015 Saint-Émilion AOC 1er Grand Cru Classé		Merlot Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon	84% 14% 2%	JS WS WE RP	98/100 96/100 97/100 94/100
	2	CHÂTEAU CLINET 2015 Pomerol AOC		Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc	90% 9% 1%	JS RP	99/100 97/100
	3	IUGUM 2015 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Weingut Peter Dipoli	Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon	80% 20%		
	4	IUGUM 2002 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Weingut Peter Dipoli	Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon	74% 26%		
Flight 2	1	REDIGAFFI 2018 IGT Toscana	Tua Rita	Merlot	100%	JS RP Decanter	98/100 97/100 97/100
	2	BRENNTAL Riserva 2018 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Kellerei Cantina Kurtatsch	Merlot	100%		
	3	CHÂTEAU L'EVANGILE 2018 Pomerol AOC		Merlot Cabernet Franc	80% 20%	JS RP Vinous	98/100 97/100 96/100
	4	BRENNTAL Riserva 2007 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Kellerei Cantina Kurtatsch	Merlot	100%		
Flight 3	1	Vigna TOREN Riserva 2016 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Tiefenbrunner Schlosskellerei Turmhof	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%	Decanter JS	97/100 92/100
	2	COLLEZIONE PRIVATA 2016 IGT Toscana	Isole e Olena	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%	RP DW Vinous	96/100 94/100 98/100
	3	CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES 2010 Saint-Julien AOC		Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	82% 10% 8%	WE WS RP JS	100/100 99/100 96/100 96/100
	4	LINTICLARUS Riserva 2011 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Tiefenbrunner Schlosskellerei Turmhof	Cabernet Sauvignon	100%	JS DW	92/100 95/100
Flight 4	1	ARGENTIERA 2018 DOC Bolgheri Superiore	Tenuta Argentiera	Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	50% 40% 10%	JS RP	95/100 94/100
	2	CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE BARTON 2018 Saint-Julien AOC 2ème Grand Gru Classé		Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	74% 23% 3%	JS RP	97/100 94+/100
	3	AUHOF 2018 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Baron Widmann	Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	75% 20% 5%		
	4	AUHOF 2007 DOC Südtirol/Alto Adige	Baron Widmann	Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc	75% 20% 5%		

RP = Robert Parker | JS = James Suckling |WE = Wine Enthusiast | WS = Wine Spectator

THE WINES

Flight 1 (from left to right): CHÂTEAU PAVIE-MACQUIN 2015, CHÂTEAU CLINET 2015, IUGUM 2015, IUGUM 2002

Flight 2 (from left to right): REDIGAFFI 2018, BRENNTAL Riserva 2018, CHÂTEAU L'EVANGILE 2018, BRENNTAL Riserva 2007

Flight 3 (from left to right): COLLEZIONE PRIVATA 2016, Vigna TOREN Riserva 2016, CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES 2010, LINTICLARUS Riserva 2011

Flight 4 (from left to right): ARGENTIERA 2018, CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE BARTON 2018, AUHOF 2018, AUHOF 2007

CORTACCIA

The village of Cortaccia is located in the south of Alto Adige, on the hillside that confines the valley of the Adige river to the west. There's evidence of viticulture in this area dating back to Roman Times. In the 13th century the wine-growing acreage increased significantly by means of numerous forest clearings. The Bordeaux varieties were introduced in Cortaccia already in the 19th century. The first document planting of Cabernet Sauvignon was carried out by the local wine-growers and producers Otto Carli and Baron Widmann. However, just like in the rest of Alto Adige these varieties have played only a marginal role for a long time. Mostly, they were used for blending and not bottled separately. This only changed substantially from the mid-1980ies on, when the whole region took a turn towards quality wine making.

The total acreage in the greater area around Cortaccia comprises more than 305 ha. The vineyards range from elevations of 220 m above sea level to 900 m above sea level. They generally face east and, as a result, benefit from morning sunlight. In the higher ones mainly white grape varieties such as Sauvignon blanc, Pinot blanc and Müller-Thurgau are cultivated. The Bordeaux varieties grow in the lower ones, up to a limit of 350 m above sea level. Nonetheless, many of these sites are steeply sloped. Merlot is usually planted at higher elevations than Cabernet Franc and especially the rather late-ripening Cabernet Sauvignon. North of the historical center of the village the soils contain a high percentage of clay, whereas south of it they are sandier and, consequently, significantly lighter.

About a third of the 305 ha planted to vines in Cortaccia have the necessary conditions for growing Bordeaux varieties. As of 2019, the vineyards actually planted to Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon make up only 45 ha. It is, however, foreseeable that the Bordeaux varieties will increase considerably, as due to global warming the cultivation of aromatic white varieties becomes very difficult in the lower sites of Cortaccia.

CABERNET & MERLOT IN CORTACCIA

	1982	1994	2001	2005	2014	2020
Cabernet S.	3,00 ha	no data	5,40 ha	14,60 ha	16,50 ha	17,00 ha
Cabernet F.	Cabernet in total – no differentiation possible	no data	8,30 ha	11,80 ha	8,03 ha	10,62 ha
Merlot	1,40 ha	14,7 ha	5,50 ha	14,00 ha	14,70 ha	16,28 ha

THE PRODUCERS

Baron Widmann

Family Widmann, founded 1824

Acreage: 16 ha
Annual production: 40.000 bottles
Wines in degustation: A.A. Cabernet-Merlot DOC AUHOF 2018 & A.A. Cabernet-Merlot DOC AUHOF 2007 (technical sheet attached)

Tel. +39 0471 880092
info@baron-widmann.it
www.baron-widmann.it

Cantina Kurtatsch

Founded 1900

Acreage: 190 ha
Annual production: 1.500.000 bottles
Wines in degustation: A.A. Merlot Riserva DOC BRENNTAL 2018 & A.A. Merlot Riserva DOC BRENNTAL 2002 (technical sheets attached)

Tel. +39 0471 880115
info@cantina-kurtatsch.it
www.cantina-kurtatsch.it

Peter Dipoli

Founded 1987

Acreage: 6,5 ha
Annual production: 45.000 bottles
Wines in degustation: A.A. Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon DOC IUGUM 2015 & A.A. Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon DOC IUGUM 2002 (technical sheet attached)

Tel. +39 0471 813400
info@peterdipoli.it
www.peterdipoli.com

Tiefenbrunner

Family Tiefenbrunner, founded 1848

Acreage: 75 ha
Annual production: 700.000 bottles
Wine in degustation: A.A. Cabernet Sauvignon Riserva DOC TOREN 2016 & A.A. Cabernet Sauvignon Riserva DOC LINTICLARUS 2011 (technical sheet attached)

Tel. 0471 880122
info@tiefenbrunner.com
www.tiefenbrunner.com