



VERMENTINO OR PIGATO..... WHAT SAY YOU, TRUSTY FRIENDS ?

Well....in Sardinia you say **Vermentino**.

In Provence you say **Rolle**.

In Piemonte it's **Favorita**.

While in Liguria, grab a load of this, it's actually....

BOTH Vermentino & Pigato!!

AND IT'S PRETTY MUCH THAT WAY ALL ALONG THE ITALIAN RIVIERA.

Heading west from Genova to Savona and on down to Imperia, this rap forms a daily part of the local wine-making scene. Stretching the grapes identity one way and then the other...as outsiders forgive us people for thinking 'would the real Slim Shady please stand up!!'

Funny thing is, even when a wave of '90s researchers (Schneider, Mannini, Botta, Scott et al) identified ALL the above mentioned varieties as being 'genetically the SAME'

(i.e. VERMENTINO), there was no phazing seasoned Ligurian producers. "Vabbene"... no matter what the DNA might suggest, these varieties remain distinct. And so on the steep mountainous coastal vineyards, particularly those of the DOC zone **Riviera Ligure di Ponente**, these grapes continue to be grown and harvested as individuals.

To be fair, having a shared genetic identity doesn't necessarily equate to mean they'll be completely identical. Ask any non-identical twin! Oh yeah, and **Pigato's got speckles!** Keen as always to get our own handle on the 'rory', it's time to dip some toes.

For the record, our tasting turntable is set with two from the **TERRE BIANCHE** Winery in **Dolceacqua**, west of Imperia. Previously unknown to us, the winery and this part of Liguria are geographically a stones throw from the **French border** and the **Ligurian Alps** to the west, Piemonte to the north and the summer sun-drenched **Ligurian Sea** to the south.

Mountainous by location, we've learned **TERRE BIANCHE** has 4 separate vineyard parcels rising from 360 to 450mts above sea level. Surprise surprise, three of them are planted with BOTH VERMENTINO and PIGATO. All sites sound like they have an easterly aspect, with the oldest VERMENTINO vines dating from 1965 while their PIGATO vines are planted from 1991.

TERRE BIANCHE PIGATO & VERMENTINO 2015 DOC RIVIERA LIGURE DI PONENTE - STYLE EXPECTATIONS -


Bright lemon yellow sparkle with golden reflections that catch the eye. Intense nose of fresh crushed juices – of

TERRE BIANCHE –
PIGATO 2015 – DOC
RIVIERA LIGURE DI
PONENTE

TERRE BIANCHE – >
VERMENTINO 2015 –
DOC RIVIERA LIGURE DI
PONENTE

peaches and delicious apples – dripping on dry stone walls swathed in summer yellow blooms! Juicy salted stoney bed provides the perfect foundation under a fullsome body with crisp acidity and ripe golden delicious apples singing in harmony. Subtle herbal action with some retro heat too, this Vermentino is curved, rounded and balanced. Is that a little touch of lees contact adding some rich tones? Surely one of the best, most enjoyable young whites we've tasted this year. Totally worthy.

OF THIS LIGURIAN BACK-TO-BACK, WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY?

Well, the **Vermentino** certainly delivered a richer, broader structure. On the other hand the **Pigato** had that more definitive citrus zesty palate. Is this what sets these 2 siblings apart? Others we've read would suggest the complete opposite to us. As yet we haven't tasted anywhere near wide enough to make the call. But for sure both wines impressed equally with what we'd call a **trademark seasalt edge**. 

CURIOSITY... while no-one is disputing the Italian Riviera's hometown claim to **PIGATO**, our research trawl surprisingly netted a view from some who'd suggest that **VERMENTINO** is an ancient variety brought to Ligurian shores from Spain...even though no plausible evidence exists on the Iberian peninsula! Added to which the independent **Vitis International Variety Catalogue**, 'they who know their berries', bless Italy with the point of origin! If it is you're still not convinced about Liguria, then going on sheer numbers alone, perhaps we'd be swayed to consider Sardinia. Afterall it's home to Italy's largest combined Vermentino vineyard plantation at +3000 hectares. But hey, let's save **Vermentino di Gallura** for the next dance.

EITHER WHICH
WAY YOU SPIN
THEM, SEEMS
CLEAR, 'PIGATO'
& 'VERMENTINO'
SWING TO THEIR

WHERE IT'S AT – BECK

Beck - Where It's At



OWN DRUM BEATS...



So on the question of hometown's, for now, what we'd say is this... if you've got two white wines and a microphone then that's got to be **WHERE IT'S AT....**
Yeah yeah, we're sayin' **LIGURIA** is...**WHERE IT'S AT...**
Let's clap some hands!!
WOW...Lovin' where **BECK** is at right now :)

TERRE BIANCHE **BECK**



♡ 5

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