

Italy Enjoys Another Promising Vintage

Despite high temperatures causing issues for growers, the Italian harvest has wine makers optimistic.



© [Passopisciaro](#) | Pickers in Sicily had a long shift, with the harvest covering 100 days on average.

Whether they want to admit it or not, wine producers every year ponder what the weather will be like during the growing season. This is true everywhere wine is produced, but it is especially so in Italy, where hailstorms often intervene, damaging plants and limiting quantity.

Add in rising temperatures over the past 15-20 years (or longer) and vintners have even more to worry about. Italian growers and producers have learned to deal with just about anything Mother Nature throws at them, but even with know-how, the harvest of 2022 throughout Italy was unlike any over the past two decades.

We spoke with producers in several regions of Italy from north to south to learn the difficulties of this year's growing season, one that was characterized in most areas by above average temperatures and far too little rain, resulting in drought conditions for many estates.

(...)

Sicily

2022 will be the longest harvest in Italy – averaging over 100 days – according to Assovini Sicilia, a group representing most of the island's producers. For Filippo Buttafuoco, agronomist of Cantina Settesoli in Menfi, "despite the heat, the quality of the grapes are excellent". Interestingly, while the heat throughout much of Sicily did play a factor, recorded temperatures for 2022 were in line with those of 2020 and 2021.

In the Etna district, Vincenzo Lo Mauro, director of [Passopisciaro](#) states that the first pickings began on August 19 with Chardonnay. He is pleased with the season, especially since the August rains. "We have had outstanding quality grapes and excellent yields, far better than last year." He notes that the red varietals (Nerello Mascalese, Cesanese and Petit Verdot) have benefitted from the extreme temperature changes between day and night. "This year reminds me a bit of 2003."

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