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Po sledeh zapisov o preteklosti trte, grozdja in vina na stičišču Alp in Jadran

IZVLEČEK

KLJUČNE BESEDE
vinogradništvo na Slovenskem v preteklosti, trta in vino na Slovenskem v preteklosti, trta in vino v zgodovinskih zapisih, teran, refošk

ABSTRACT
The article presents records that follow the trail of viticulture and winemaking in documents and codices, as well as historiographical and scholarly writings from the early Middle Ages to the nineteenth century in the territory between the Alps and the Adriatic. Emphasis is on references to varietal wines, especially Terrano and Refosco. It was already centuries ago that the name Terrano appeared in records in relation to the vines and wines produced in the Littoral, Inner Carniola, and Istria. From the end of the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, the above-mentioned name as the designation of a vine variety gave way to the name of the similar vine Refosco. There are diverging expert opinions regarding the characteristics, differences and similarities between the two varieties of vine and grape. In terms of their substantial differences, the lawsuit over the Karst or Istrian Terrano thus remains unsettled.

KEY WORDS
viticulture in the Slovenian territory in the past, vines and wines in historical records, Terrano, Refosco

SPLETNE STRANI

http://www.vace.si/kastelic_situla_si.htm
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SUMMARY

Following the trail of records about the past of vines, grapes, and wines at the juncture of the Alps and the Adriatic

Grape vines have been around for as long as humanity. The use and processing of their fruits for human consumption have a long history as well. The remnants of wild grape vines used by humans from the fourth millennium BC were discovered by archaeologists in the Ljubljana Marshes. Viticulture was widespread in the Roman Empire and after their settlement in the area, the predecessors of the Slovenes adopted the culture from both the Romanized and Roman natives. The written tradition – charters and codices – of the territory between the Alps and the Adriatic contains mentions of vineyards and wine from the early Middle Ages onwards. In Istria, wine is mentioned in a record on the judicial Assembly of Rijana dating to 804; Venice had the right to collect annual tributes in wine from Koper from the tenth century onwards. Since the thirteenth century, wine is mentioned in notary and vicedominus' codices. Ottokar’s »Austrian Rhymed Chronicle« from the second decade of the fourteenth century states no fewer than seventeen different varietal wines, known in the territory of the Venetian Republic and the Holy Roman Empire. The variety of wines in the area between the Alps and the Adriatic is also mentioned in medieval records from the interior parts of the continent, primarily urbaria and account books. A splendid source not only for wines but also for a wider culinary offer of the late Middle Ages is the itinerary by the Aquileian Chancellor Paolo Santonino, who in the second half of the 1480s accompanied Bishop Pietro Carli from Caorle on his visits through the provinces of the Drava Valley, Gail and southern Styria. The predominant varieties of wine mentioned in medieval sources are Ribolla, Malvasia, and Terrano, followed by Moscato and Pinella, and there are also references to wine from the Slovenian March. Viticulture and winemaking are also described by the seventeenth-century polymaths Giacomo Filippo Tommasini and Johann Weichard Valvasor. In the second half of the eighteenth century, wine and winemaking were studied by the provincial physician for Gorizia, Antonio Musnig. In the nineteenth century (1844), Matija Vertovec published a manual for Slovenian winemakers, mentioning a great number of wines and their characteristics. Crucial to the knowledge of varietal wines in the nineteenth century was Das Weinbuch [The Book of Wine], written by a German authority on agriculture Wilhelm Hamm and containing descriptions of numerous wines that were produced and consumed around the world, including the territory of present-day Slovenia. Terrano was featured frequently in sources and among wines until the seventeenth century, when the first mentions appeared of similar Refosco. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Refosco became a recognised name for the variety of vine, grape and wine, and the label Terrano became a »generic« name for its widespread relative. The twentieth century, again, distinguished and emphasised the differences between the two varieties, which have yet to be clearly defined.

As a side note to the winemakers' and political lawsuit over the (non)exclusive right to use the name Terrano in reference to the variety of wine from the Karst (and Istria), it may be established that the name Terrano in reference to the vine and wine produced in the Littoral, Inner Carniola, and Istria had already appeared in records centuries ago. From the end of the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, the name Terrano as the designation of a vine variety gave way to the name of the similar vine Refosco. There are diverging expert opinions regarding the characteristics, differences and similarities, even the authenticity of these two varieties of vine and grape, and numerous synonyms that they inconsistently use in reference to them overlap. The lawsuit over the Karst Terrano (Refosco) and Istrian Terrano seems to be very complex and unsettled in terms of the substantial difference between the two varieties of vine and grape. Nevertheless, the said question concerns more the seller or buyer, who does not care as much about the name of the vine and wine as its taste, effect and, most certainly, price.