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Vpliv grofa Silveria de Baguerja na modernizacijo vinogradništva in vinarstva v Goriških brdih konec 19. stoletja

IZVLEČEK

Članek prikazuje prispevek grofa Silveria de Baguerja k modernizaciji vinogradništva in vinarstva v Goriških brdih. Konec 19. stoletja so tako v Evropi kot tudi na območju Goriške grofije pustošile trtne bolezni, ki so zahtevale spremembo načina gojenja vinske trte. Prav tako so se pod vplivom francoskega enološkega modela spreminjali načini vinifikacije. Na podlagi zapiskov grofa Silveria de Baguerja lahko razberemo njegovo pot uspešne preobrazbe posestva v sodobni tržni obrat.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Silverio de Baguer, vinogradništvo, modernizacija, Goriška brda, trtne bolezni

ABSTRACT

COUNT SILVERIO DE BAGUER'S IMPACT ON THE MODERNIZATION OF WINE-GROWING AND WINE-MAKING IN THE GORIŠKA BRDA AT THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The article describes Count Silverio de Baguer's contribution to the modernization of wine-growing and wine-making in the Goriška brda region. At the end of the nineteenth century, vine diseases that plagued Europe and the County of Gorizia prompted changes in the methods of vine cultivation. Methods of vinification changed as well, following the French oenological example. The notes of Count Silverio de Baguer make it possible to trace his path towards a successful transformation of an estate into a modern business.

KEY WORDS

Silverio de Baguer, wine-growing, modernization, Goriška brda, vine diseases

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S U M M A R Y

Count Silverio de Bager's impact on the modernization of wine-growing and wine-making in the Goriška brda at the end of the nineteenth century

Through marriage to a Gorizia noblewoman Cecilia Catterini, Spanish diplomat Count Silverio de Bager undertook the administration of vast estates encompassing the seigniories of Dobrovo and Blankič. At that time, wine was the most important cash crop in the area. Bager took over the estates after

1872, when diseases, such as *Oidium*, *Peronospora*, and *Phylloxera*, wreaked havoc on local vines. This was also a period in which the taste of Austro-Hungarian wine consumers began to change and French dry wines became the new standard bearers of quality. Rather than merely administer the estates, the educated and intelligent Count Silverio de Baguer decided to modernize them. To this end, he consulted numerous individuals from agricultural associations, studied professional literature that was being published at the time, and sought opinions of nobles from the County of Gorizia who had already modernized their estates. On the other hand, many other members of Gorizia landed nobility still insisted on traditional methods of cultivating vines supported by trees as well as preserving local wines of different qualities. In collaboration with a few others, Count de Baguer began to introduce single-variety vineyards, with vines supported by stakes, which ensured a more effective fight against vine diseases. In 1880, he planted the first modern vineyard in the western

and central parts of the Goriška brda region. That same year, he also planted the first 1,500 seedlings of the acacia tree, whose wood continues to be used in making vine-stakes today. In collaboration with savvy administrators, he likewise endeavoured to modernize the processing of grapes and the production of quality wine, which was sold at high enough prices to cover the full cost of modernizing his winery. Despite objections raised within his wife's family and scornful reactions from peasants, his example, coupled with successful results, gradually attracted the attention first of his leaseholders and then other landowners across the Goriška brda. Baguer's records, entitled *Kronika upravljanja (Administration Chronicle)*, demonstrate that the successful modernization of an agricultural business depended as much on monetary funds as on knowledge and the change in mentality. Drawing on Baguer's *Kronika*, our aim is to determine ways in which the count put into practice the latest agricultural knowledge, published in contemporary professional literature.