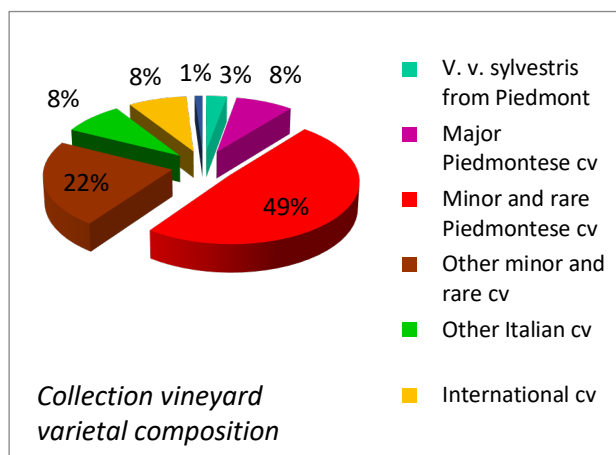


THE GRINZANE CAVOUR GRAPEVINE COLLECTION

Located in the property once owned by the Benso di Cavour family, the collection vineyard maintains more than 500 grape varieties, mostly minor and neglected, often endangered of extinction if not already disappeared from commercial vineyards. The collection hosts grape varieties from north-western Italy (mainly from Piedmont, Liguria and Valle d'Aosta), as well as national and international cultivars used as references. With its over 800 accessions cultivated on 1.5 ha of surface, the Grinzane collection is one of the most important in Europe among those oriented to the safeguarding of genetic resources severely threatened. For almost all accessions, varietal identity was verified using morphological and / or genetic tools.



The collection was born in 1992 to preserve neglected grapevines recovered over the years by the CNR - Institute for the Sustainable Plant Protection, with its own resources and thanks to the recommendations of winegrowers, nurserymen, enthusiasts. In 2012-2013 a new vineyard was planted with the material already collected and with new introductions, gradually decommissioning and then uprooting the old vineyard.



Vines are trained on vertical system and Guyot pruned. All accessions are grafted onto the same rootstock and 5 plants are grown for each of them. For about fifteen varieties with promising enological potential, plots of 70-80 vines allow medium-scale vinification of the grapes. The accessions infected with harmful viruses are separated from the healthy ones by a buffer zone, in order to hinder the possibility of infections.

In addition to serving the preservation of often unique genetic resources, now unavailable elsewhere, the collection is used for teaching, for agronomic experimentation and for studies on genetics, genomics, pathology, microbiology, virology, nutraceuticals, wine technology, and all those disciplines that benefit from a broad base of grapevine genetic diversity. The ability to vinify some accessions has made it possible to register numerous neglected varieties in the National Register, and to make them again suitable for cultivation by farmers. The collection is also the first source of propagation material of these rediscovered grape varieties.

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