

ZONING: A PROJECT FOR EVOLUTION

Zoning is the most advanced activity for the improvement and valorisation of wine-growing areas that the world of vine and oenological research has at its disposal. On the basis of this and with these aims, the Tutelary Consortium for Piave DOC Wines, with the financial backing of the Veneto Region and operational assistance of Veneto Agricoltura, has committed itself to zoning the entire Piave DOC area. Research will be carried out by the Conegliano Institute for Experimental Viticulture, which will activate the project by analysing the characteristics of the different soils and microclimates in the area, showing for each zone the most effective relationship between variety and growing methods to give the best results in terms of quality and success on the market.



The survey

The project will cover four years (2007-2010) and will be subdivided into different aspects that are strictly connected to each other. This will offer the Piave DOC territory and its operators new keys for interpreting the potential of soil and varieties, but also provide more functional working capacity and new visibility for both production and the territory from which it comes.

All this by:

- a) Analysing the pedological and climatic diversities of the area**
This is a basic matter and is compulsory in zoning. In this case the idea is to check principally the values of the night/day temperature range and the water factor as a result of the combination of rain and the hydrological nature of the soil;
- b) Checking the response of given varieties to soils and climates in sub-zones**
The interaction between growing areas, vine growing and wine production will be assessed by analysing the quantity and quality reactions of the varieties under observation;
- c) Studying vine models**
In each of the sub-areas identified (homogeneous for climate and soil) certain vineyards will be set up in which to demonstrate the economic sustainability of grape production through different growing systems (traditional and modern pruning) and different levels of quantities, in this way optimizing the use of soils and climates;
- d) Divulgation**
The project aims to keep wine grape farmers/wine producers regularly informed of the results of the survey. To this end frequent meetings will be arranged with wine grape farmers in which subjects relating to vine growing techniques linked to zoning will also be treated (i.e. defence, soil preparation and management, marketing, etc.);
- e) Training of an area expert vine grower**
The objectives of the research project provide for including a newly qualified graduate who can co-operate closely with the Institute for Experimental Viticulture experts, and over the four year period acquire scientific training to be used later in the Piave area for the benefit of wine grape farmers.
- f) Studying irrigation plans**
On the one hand water is an increasingly valuable asset and on the other a technical instrument able to greatly condition farming results. Irrigation methods (techniques, volumes, rotation) will be compared and proposed for the different soils.
- g) Communicating a territory**
The feasibility of producing an instrument that can be easily distributed throughout the territory will be looked into.